



Aga Khan University partnership takes health services to EA mothers, children

BY JAMES KARIUKI

The Aga Khan University (AKU) is working with 100 government health centres in Kenya and Tanzania to enhance healthcare access to half a million mothers and children.

AKU's vice president in charge of Finance and the Chief Finance Officer, Mr Al-Karim Haji, said the exercise will include research to identify gaps in quality healthcare access enabling formulation of policies and mitigation measures for delivery of better services.

He said research findings will be shared among policy makers, the academia and management teams thereby enabling them to work together towards achieving UN sustainable development goals which include eradication of poverty, enhancing education, promoting development and healthcare access.

"We have provided students with access to quality training, thanks to our partners Johnson and Johnson's Corporate Citizenship Trust, the French Development Bank, Global Affairs Canada, the German Government and other supporters," he said.

Mr Haji spoke when he addressed an inter-professional healthcare conference in Nairobi commemorating AKU's 15-year partnership with Johnson and Johnson's Corporate Citizenship Trust last week.

The Trust's managing director Frank Welvaert hailed the partnership saying it had a long term impact on people's lives across East Africa and urged for closer company working to fund programmes with far reaching impact on society.

"The challenges we face today are complex and you cannot solve them alone via your products or service, you need to partner with like-minded organisations that will share knowledge, learn from them and create a new way to solve the problems," he said.

Dr Azim Lakhani, the Aga Khan Development



Clinical officers from Aga Khan University Hospital screen people attending a medical camp for blood sugar and cholesterol at Kaharo, Murang'a County.

MARTIN MWAURA

Network (AKDN) diplomatic representative, welcomed the partnership saying supporting health training facilities in East Africa had improved the quality of life.

AKDN is a network of private, non-denominational development agencies established by His Highness the Aga Khan.

Its aim is to improve lives through investments in health, education, culture, rural development, institution-building and the promotion of economic development.

Dr Lakhani said that AKDN emphasises inter-agency partnerships as they have great impact on society.

Mr Welvaert said the Trust had launched a professional skills sharing forum with AKDN.

Mr Haji said the Trust's sponsorship to the Aga Khan University's School of Nursing and Midwifery had helped them offer advanced training for 2,100 nurses in the last 15 years.

"A hundred of these former students hold senior positions in health ministries in East Africa. I applaud the partnership as it has enabled us to improve access to healthcare in East Africa," he said.

Health matters



Nairobi

Medical Services deputy director Pacifica Onyancha with Aga Khan University vice president Al-Karim Haji (right) and Aga Khan Development Network Kenya diplomatic representative Azim Lakhani (second left) during an inter-professional conference, themed “Health Care Quality Challenge: Making Quality Matter Now and in Future”, hosted by the Aga Khan Development Network, Johnson and Johnson, and the Aga Khan University at the Safari Park Hotel yesterday. DIANA NGILA

Talks focus on quality healthcare

Deputy director Medical services quality and training services Pacifica Onyancha with Aga Khan University vice president Al-Karim Haji (right) and Aga Khan Development Network Kenya (AKDN) diplomatic representative Azim Lakhani (second left) during the inter-professional conference themed 'Health Care Quality Challenge: Making Quality Matter Now and in Future' hosted by AKDN, Johnson and Johnson and the Aga Khan University in Nairobi yesterday.

DIANA NGILA | NATION



Nairobi >



Stakeholders meet on health care issues

Regional and global leaders in health care will meet to brainstorm on how to improve the health and well-being of East Africans. The event will be at Safari Park Hotel and starts tomorrow to end on Saturday. The conference dubbed: “The Health Care Quality Challenge: Making Quality Matter Now and in Future,” will be the first in a series on strengthening health systems in East Africa. Aga Khan University and the Development Network will add on global perspective.

— *Nation correspondent*