

Summary of the Statement of His Excellency the Minister of Health to the Shura Council

26–27 April 2026

In the name of Allah, the Most Gracious, the Most Merciful. Peace and blessings be upon the Prophet Muhammad, his family, and his companions.

**Your Excellency, Khalid bin Hilal bin Nasser Al-Maawali,
Chairman of the Shura Council,
Your Excellencies, Members of the Council,**

Peace, Mercy, and Blessings to Allah be upon You.

At the outset, we extend our profound appreciation and sincere gratitude to the esteemed Shura Council for its gracious hosting of the Ministry of Health under its auspices. We highly value your close cooperation with us in advancing the healthcare services provided by the health sector in the Sultanate of Oman. This is reflected in the fundamental partnership between the Ministry and the Council in advancing health development through the Health Committee, joint committees, and the active follow-up of Their Excellencies, members representing the wilayats, concerning healthcare services, programs, and events across all governorates.

We anticipate that this meeting will generate constructive ideas and meaningful proposals that support the development of the healthcare sector, serve the interests of citizens, and address their needs and aspirations. As we progress together in Oman's ongoing renaissance under the leadership of His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik, may Allah protect and preserve him, the human being remains the central pillar of development and its driving force.

Your Excellency, Chairman of the Shura Council

Your Excellencies, Honorable Members of the Shura Council

The Ministry has undertaken the implementation of a number of key strategic health projects within the Tenth Five-Year Development Plan. The key projects among these include:

- The adoption of the National Health Policy,
- The approval of the National Policy for Governance and Management of Health Information,
- The launch of the Omani Healthcare Accreditation System,
- The completion of the health system performance assessment in cooperation with the World Health Organization,
- and the completion of the National Survey on Non-Communicable Diseases.
- In addition, the premarital medical examination program came into effect on 1 January 2026 pursuant to Royal Decree No. (111/2025), to safeguard family stability and reduce hereditary health risks.

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In reviewing the major achievements of the Tenth Five-Year Development Plan (2021–2025), the health sector witnessed significant expansion in infrastructure. This includes the operation of:

- Hospitals of Al Mazyona, Al Suwaiq, Khasab, and Wadi Bani Khalid, bringing the total number of Ministry-run hospitals to fifty-six.
- The Central Public Health Laboratory,
- Four specialized centers: the Fertility Center at Khoula Hospital, the Muscat Recovery Center (Phase I) at Al Masarra Hospital, the Sohar Recovery Center, and the National Virtual Health Center.

- health complexes in Al Maabilah (Hay Al Salam) and Al Amerat (Hay Al Nahda), and Liwa Health Center was upgraded to a health complex.
- Several health centers were also inaugurated in al-Jarda, Sih al-Maashi, Barbazom, Maqshan, Marsoudd, Balad Seet, and Al-Halanyat.
- The expansion of the National Heart Center in the Royal Hospital, along with the expansion of Sohar Hospital, Nizwa Hospital, and Sur Hospital, aims to elevate healthcare services to the tertiary level.
- Introducing between 20 and 30 new specialized services in secondary referral hospitals across the governorates, as part of the Ministry's efforts to activate the decentralization of healthcare services.
- The development also included a wide range of health centers aimed at increasing their capacity, including the health centers of Somrah, Hafeet, Al Multqa, Al Tareef, Al Mashaiq, Abu Bqara, Al Awabi, Nakhal, Awqad, Salalah Al-Gharbiyah, Al Saada, Al Mabilah, Al Nahdah, Al Mdhaibi, Al Qabil, Ibra, Al Kamil, Falaj Al Mashayikh, the Medical Fitness Center in Ibra, and the Jalan Health Complex.
- Upgrading and enhancing the Thumrait Health Center, as well as the hospitals in the wilayats of Qurayat, Sinaw, Wadi Dima, and Al Tayyin, Duqm, Haima, and Adam.
- The operation of Nine dialysis units in the wilayats of Buhla, Al Khaboura, Sur, Al Amerat, Yanqul, Sohar, Barka, Mahout, and Al Jazir.
- The establishment and expansion of seven emergency units at Sohar, Nizwa, Yanqul, and Adam hospital, Izki Health Complex, Mahout, and Hamra Al Dure health centers.
- Maintenance budgets for directorates general of health services in the governorates were also strengthened by an amount of OMR 7 million during the Tenth Five-Year Development Plan.

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The Ministry's priorities for the upcoming phase focus on:

- The sustainability of comprehensive healthcare services at all levels across the Sultanate of Oman,
- Introducing new models of care and population-based health clusters,
- Improving access to secondary and tertiary services through decentralization,
- Enhancing the efficiency and adequacy of the national health workforce through localization, attraction, retention, and development.
- Improving infrastructure management through the completion, operation, and maintenance of health development projects to ensure sustainability and readiness for emergencies and risks.
- Keeping pace with modern technologies and artificial intelligence to deliver high-quality healthcare services.
- Empowering the private health sector, strengthening pharmaceutical security and local manufacturing, expanding investment opportunities, and implementing the Omani Healthcare Accreditation System.
- strengthening coordination and cooperation frameworks among health sector institutions and partners at the national and international levels.

The Ministry's Plan also includes many strategically significant projects within the Eleventh Five-Year Development Plan, which are currently in the planning and design phase. Key projects include:

- The National Women and Children's Health Center, in Sultan Haitham City,
- The National Ophthalmology Center aims to localize specialized services,
- The National Rehabilitation Center in South Al Batinah Governorate, implemented in partnership with the private sector

- The establishment of a genetic database (the Omani Genome Project), the expansion of research in this field,
- Completion of Al Nama, Samail, and Al Falah hospitals,
- Work is underway on the second phase of the Recovery Homes in Muscat, with a capacity of 250–300 beds, in addition to rehabilitation facilities and outdoor sports fields.
- In addition, several hospitals are currently in the planning and design phase.

We acknowledge and fully appreciate the requests submitted to the Ministry through various channels for the establishment and replacement of healthcare institutions. However, as you are aware, we operate within a five-year plan and established standards and methodologies for setting priorities. These priorities are defined by the relevant authorities for the annual submission of projects according to priority levels, in coordination with Their Highnesses, Excellencies, and the Honourable Governors, through the Ministry of Economy's matrix system. The implementation of construction projects is also contingent upon the availability of the required financial allocations for both execution and operation.

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Health system performance indicators remain vital tools for assessing efficiency and effectiveness. In this regard, the Ministry has achieved notable progress.

- The under-five mortality rate declined to 9.9 per 1,000 live births in 2024, compared to 10.3 in 2021, while infant mortality decreased to 8 per 1,000 live births. This reflects the success of early medical interventions, placing the Sultanate of Oman in an advanced position in international reports issued by organizations such as UNICEF.
- Maternal mortality also improved significantly, declining from 17.3 per 100,000 live births in 2021 to approximately 11.5 in 2025.

- Community satisfaction with healthcare services rose to 82.4% in 2025, achieving an increase of 12.3%, compared to 73.4% in 2023.
- Waiting times for new outpatient appointments were also reduced as the rate decreased from 32% in the frontline to 24% in 2025.
- Tertiary national hospitals have recorded a notable improvement, as the waiting rate of more than four weeks has decreased from 50% to 30%.
- Concerning surgical interventions, the Ministry has successfully increased the proportion of patients waiting less than 18 weeks for non-urgent surgical procedures, reaching 83%.

Furthermore, Oman achieved pioneering medical milestones, including its first heart transplant from a brain-dead donor and the successful implantation of an advanced artificial heart device (HeartMate 3).

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The Ministry of Health has received several important awards, including:

- Physician Leader Award from Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME International), USA.
- Dr. LEE Jong-wook Memorial Prize for Public Health in Communicable Disease Management.
- Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah Award for Research in Health Care for the Elderly.
- Ihsan Doğramacı Family Health Foundation Award.
- Selection of the Central Public Health Laboratories as a Collaborating Center for Emerging and Re-emerging Infectious Diseases, marking the first laboratory to obtain this designation at the Eastern Mediterranean Region level.

- The Sultanate of Oman achieved a global milestone by receiving a certificate from the World Health Organization for the elimination of mother-to-child transmission of the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) and syphilis.
- Certificates of competence from WHO (Levels 1 and 2) in the microscopic test for Malaria parasite within Malaria elimination plans.
- The National Polio Laboratory of the Central Public Health Laboratories achieving an evaluation score of 100% in the 2022 polio laboratory proficiency test conducted by WHO.
- International recognition for patient safety, with seven primary healthcare centers receiving international recognition under the "Patient Safety-Friendly Institutions" initiative.
- WHO Excellence Award 2023 for Combating Noncommunicable Diseases.
- The 2021 Sasakawa Health Prize.
- The Government Digital Excellence Award 2024–2025 for Best Innovation Initiative for the Medical Fitness Screening System for Non-Omani.
- The Gold Award for Excellence in Patient Experience – "Star of Excellence in Patient Experience," organized by the Arab Hospitals Federation in Abu Dhabi.
- The Gold Certificate in the "Digital Transformation for Patient Safety" category for the "Aman" system on recording medical incidents, presented by the Arab Hospitals Federation.
- Three Omani Shopping Malls receiving Diamond -level recognition under the "Mu'azez" program, Healthy Cities Program initiatives.
- The Government Digital Excellence Award for Best Innovation Initiative and Deployment of Advanced Technologies (Early Screening of Retinopathy in Diabetic Patients Using Artificial Intelligence).
- The Best Electronic Government Services Platform Award for "Shifa" application.

- The Best Integrated Digital Initiative for Digital Transformation award for developing the "Digital Medical Fitness Examination" system.

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Human resources form the backbone of any health system. Retaining, attracting, and developing health human resources plays a vital and important role in achieving the objectives of this sector. Therefore, one of our priorities has been to review previous policies and procedures related to the regulations of jobs for medical and allied medical professions, in order to ensure the retention and enhancement of the efficiency of health human resources in light of the major global challenges affecting the shortage of health human resources worldwide.

Among the Ministry's most prominent achievements in human resources are the following:

- The total number of employees increased from (37,732) in 2021 to (44,534) in 2025.
- Omanization rates improved, reaching approximately (71.0%), particularly in the nursing, allied medical professions, and administrative positions.
- Omanization rate in the governmental health sector for pharmacists and medical equipment engineers reached (97.7%), while the rate for administrative, financial, and other positions reached (99.8%).
- Health assistants and medical orderly categories recorded a rate of (100%).

- A total of (12,602) individuals from all categories were appointed within the Ministry of Health during the years of the Tenth Five-Year Development Plan.
- (216) financial grades were provided to regularize the status of Omani nationals' temporary contract employees.
- A total of (2,335) employees were appointed under the on-job training system; in addition, (640) individuals are currently undergoing training.
- (850) on-job training opportunities for the year 2026 were announced in collaboration with the Ministry of Labour.

In line with the Ministry's commitment to contributing to the National Employment Program, a (Governance Committee for Employment in the Private Health Sector) was established two years ago. The committee has succeeded in identifying all job seekers in health specialties in the Sultanate of Oman registered on the Ministry of Labour's platform. The proportion of job seekers has been recorded in a range of health specialties, with dentists accounting for (1.7%), pharmacists and assistant pharmacists (1.1%), and less than half of one percent for nursing alone, confirming that the market is near full employment for Omani job seekers in these specialties registered on the Marsad platform. The Employment Governance Committee is working with the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Labour to align health specialties with labor market needs, geographical distribution, and the requirements of the health sector.

Furthermore, the Ministry is implementing a plan for development projects, which was addressed in the introduction to this statement. Consequently, the Ministry will contribute extensively to the national employment program by offering a large number of job opportunities. These opportunities are not limited to medical and allied medical specialties but will also include numerous administrative, financial,

and technical positions. Moreover, these projects will contribute to governorates' development initiatives by introducing various public and logistical services for small and medium enterprises, as well as creating training opportunities for graduates of medical and allied medical specialties.

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The Ministry is working on developing pharmaceutical and medical supplies supply chains by introducing modern technologies into supply chains and conducting studies on the current situation and the need for outsourcing for improvement and transportation in the field of medical supplies and pharmaceuticals.

The Ministry has increased the strategic stock budget to ten million Omani Rials for pharmaceuticals and medical supplies. This is to ensure their availability to face emergency circumstances, mitigate the effects of epidemics and disasters to protect the health of citizens, and to cover the needs of health institutions under the Ministry of Health in emergency situations to address crises and global problems that may arise in the production and availability of medical supplies.

In general, the Ministry maintains a reserve stock covering approximately three months' consumption of vital and life-saving items. A study is also underway to establish medical warehouses in the governorates, similar to the warehouses in the Dhofar and Al Dakhiliyah Governorates. Work is further in progress to establish a regional stock in Musandam Governorate.

We wish to affirm that we are monitoring and tracking regional geopolitical developments in the region and their potential impact on supply chains, particularly pharmaceuticals, medical supplies, and laboratory materials, as well as the possibility of their shortage in health institutions. To ensure their availability, the Ministry is proceeding to take a range of measures aimed at securing their availability for a period of no less than six months and working to identify alternatives and rapid supply and financing practices.

- In this context, the medical industry sector in Oman has witnessed gradual and organized growth from 1997 until the beginning of 2026. A number of medical factories have been established in successive phases, with a notable acceleration in the pace of expansion in recent years, reflecting growing investor confidence and the attractiveness of the medical industrial sector in the country. The current number of existing medical factories is twenty (20), distributed as seven pharmaceutical factories, two factories for pharmaceutical raw materials, and eleven factories for medical supplies. Fifteen (15) factories are engaged in full manufacturing, while five (5) factories are engaged in repackaging activities within transitional grace periods ranging from two to three years, after which they will convert to full manufacturing in accordance with approved regulatory frameworks.

There are eighteen (18) industrial projects currently under construction and implementation, including eleven (11) pharmaceutical factories, one (1) pharmaceutical raw materials, and six (6) factories for medical supplies and devices.

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The private health sector is an essential partner in the health system of the Sultanate of Oman. The health sector across the governorates is supported by (36) private hospitals, (191) Medical Fitness Centers, and (2322) private health establishments. The private health sector receives more than (4) million visits annually, performs approximately (45,124) surgical operations, and comprises more than (22,655) health and administrative staff, as well as (623) visiting physicians from government cadres to the private health sector, distributed across various specialties, thereby contributing to the transfer of expertise.

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To the extent that the achievements outlined in this statement serve as a source of pride for all of us—for the indications they carry, reflecting the success achieved by the nation in the field of health development as part of comprehensive development—they nevertheless place upon us the responsibility of preserving and enhancing these achievements. This is the real challenge we face now.

Maintaining and improving the current health indicators, which are at satisfactory levels at present, requires the concentrated efforts of all sectors, along with strengthening and activating the role of the community and the private sector. The participation of community members in safeguarding their health is essential. From this standpoint, and in our belief in the significant role of advancing health promotion in the wilayats, I invite you to oversee

health promotion projects in the wilayats and to reinforce the importance of health endowment as one of the key enablers and social contributions for delivering high-quality health services.

In appreciation of the tremendous and distinguished efforts made and being made by health sector employees in delivering high-level humanitarian services around the clock, and in recognition of their invaluable sacrifices, it is my pleasure and duty to extend my sincere thanks to all employees, medical, health, technical, and administrative teams in the health sector for all they have done, the great responsibility they have shouldered, and their struggle to sustain and provide health services to citizens and residents on this land.

In conclusion to this statement, I cannot but express my sincere gratitude to His Excellency Khalid bin Hilal bin Nasser Al-Maawali, Chairman of the Council, for granting me the opportunity to speak about the health development efforts undertaken by the Ministry of Health. I also extend my profound thanks to the esteemed members of the Honorable Council for their attentive listening.

I would like to take this opportunity to express to His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tariq, may Allah protect him, the high standing of our nation, my sincere thanks and gratitude for his special attention to the development of the health sector. We pledge to His Majesty to continue working and following the same path to achieve the high level of health to which His Majesty aspires for his loyal people and residents, so that our dear nation may reap the fruits of health development across various domains of social and economic progress.

Thanks are also extended to all entities providing health services, all government units and supporting sectors, the World Health Organization, the United Nations Children's

Fund (UNICEF), and citizens and residents of Oman for their cooperation with the Ministry of Health.

We ask the Almighty to grant us all success in serving our dear nation under the wise leadership of His Majesty.