

WEEKLY BULLETIN | 12 - 18 May 2025



Spotlight

Africa CDC and Unitaid: Advancing Health Equity and Regional Manufacturing

This week marks a significant milestone in Africa's health security agenda.

On 18 May 2025, the Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC) and Unitaid have signed a new Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to expand the production of essential health products in Africa and improve sustainable access to medicines, diagnostics, and medical oxygen across the continent.

Signed on the margins of the 78th World Health Assembly (WHA78), the agreement positions regional manufacturing as a cornerstone of Africa's health autonomy and resilience. It reflects a shared commitment to shift from dependency toward sustainability by ensuring critical health commodities are produced closer to the point of care.

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Together with Unitaid, we are building on African expertise, expanding our regional manufacturing capacity, and strengthening our ability to produce essential health products reliably, affordably, and closer to where they are needed.

H.E. Dr Kaseya

Africa CDC and Ghana Strengthen Surveillance and Data Sharing

On 14 May 2025, Africa CDC signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Government of Ghana to bolster cross-border surveillance and data sharing—two key pillars of epidemic preparedness and early warning systems. The agreement aims to enhance Ghana's capacity to

manage and respond to health emergencies effectively.

Dr Jean Kaseya, Director General of Africa CDC, joined Hon. Kwabena Mintah Akandoh, Ghana's Minister of Health, to reaffirm their joint commitment to reinforcing primary health-care systems and enhancing

Africa's collective capacity to respond to public health threats. The MoU also encompasses collaborative efforts to ensure vaccine access, diagnostics, and emergency supply readiness.

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Africa Public Health Podcast: Episode 5



Advancing Digital Health in Africa: Powering Innovation, Skills, and Access

Africa's digital health revolution is reshaping the way healthcare is delivered across the continent.

In Episode 5 of the Africa Public Health Podcast, Jean Philbert Nsengimana, Chief Digital Advisor at Africa CDC, explores how digital innovations—from mobile health solutions to artificial intelligence—are transforming service delivery and scaling impact.

This episode presents practical examples of how digital tools are expanding access to care, reducing healthcare costs, enabling real-time data use, and strengthening health systems from the ground up.

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AFRICA CDC AT WHA78
WHOAFRO Regional Director Nominated | 18 May 2025



Prof. Mohamed Janabi, nominated by the Government of Tanzania, has been selected as the next Regional Director of the World Health Organization African Region (WHOAFRO) during a Special Session of the WHO Regional Committee for Africa held on 18 May 2025 in Geneva.

His formal appointment will be confirmed by the WHO Executive Board during its upcoming session on 28–29 May 2025, after which he will officially assume office.

Africa CDC congratulates Prof. Mohamed Janabi on his nomination. His leadership comes at a critical time, as the continent intensifies efforts to strengthen health systems, improve regional collaboration, and advance African-led solutions for public health challenges.

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Africa CDC Health Financing Side Event at WHA78 | 17 May 2025



On 17 May 2025, during the 78th World Health Assembly (WHA78), Dr Jean Kaseya chaired a high-level side event convened by Africa CDC to advance the continental agenda for sustainable health financing.

The event brought together African Ministers of Health, finance experts, multilateral institutions, and private sector leaders to explore bold strategies for financing Africa’s health priorities. Discussions centred on the urgent need to reduce reliance on external aid and shift toward domestic resource mobilization, innovative financing mechanisms, and regulatory reforms as foundations for resilient health systems.

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Africa must lead its own health future through strategic investment and bold political leadership.

Dr Jean Kaseya

Unitaid Side Event at WHA78 | 18 May 2025

At the Unitaid-hosted side event during the 78th World Health Assembly (WHA78) on 18 May 2025, Dr Jean Kaseya underscored the urgency of advancing African-led solutions to shape the future of global health.

He emphasized that long-term investment in local manufacturing, research, and innovation is essential for building resilient, self-reliant health systems. Dr Kaseya called on international partners to align with Africa’s priorities and work in close partnership with African institutions to shift the paradigm from dependency to sustainability.

This intervention builds on the growing momentum around regional manufacturing and follows the strategic partnership formalized between Africa CDC and Unitaid during WHA78.



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37th Commonwealth Health Ministers Meeting | 17 May 2025

Africa CDC participated in the 37th Commonwealth Health Ministers Meeting, held on 17 May 2025 in Geneva on the sidelines of WHA78.

During the session, Dr Jean Kaseya reaffirmed Africa CDC’s commitment to strengthening collaboration with Commonwealth Member States and institutions. He emphasized the importance of co-developing joint financing platforms, expanding health workforce training and development, and enhancing collaborative research to address shared public health challenges and advance global health security.

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HIGH-LEVEL POLITICAL ENGAGEMENTS ON HEALTH FINANCING



Meeting with H.E. John Dramani Mahama, President of Ghana

On 14 May in Accra, Dr. Jean Kaseya and H.E. Commissioner Amma Twum Amoah, African Union Commissioner for Health, Humanitarian Affairs, and Social Development, met with H.E. President John Dramani Mahama to discuss long-term political and financial support for Africa's public health agenda.

President Mahama reaffirmed his strong commitment to Africa CDC and expressed support for strategic initiatives to expand local manufacturing, strengthen domestic health financing mechanisms, and reinforce national public health systems. He also highlighted the role of national programmes such as Mahama Cares in advancing sustainable health development across the continent.

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Africa CEO Forum – Abidjan | 12–13 May 2025

At the Africa CEO Forum 2025, held on 12–13 May in Abidjan, Dr. Jean Kaseya delivered remarks emphasizing the critical role of the private sector in transforming Africa's health systems. He highlighted that domestic investment and innovation, not external aid, must drive the continent's health future.

Dr. Kaseya called on industry leaders to collaborate with public institutions to close health equity gaps and accelerate access to essential health services. Africa CDC continues to engage the private sector to localize pharmaceutical production, strengthen regulatory frameworks, and promote inclusive and sustainable health financing models.

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Meeting with the Prime Minister, Côte d'Ivoire | 12 May 2025

On 12 May 2025, Dr. Jean Kaseya held a high-level meeting in Abidjan with H.E. Prime Minister Robert Beugré Mambé and H.E. Minister of Health Pierre N'Gou Dimba to advance shared priorities for sustainable health financing in Côte d'Ivoire and across the continent.

During the meeting, Dr. Kaseya presented Africa's Health Financing in a New Era—Africa CDC's strategic roadmap built on three key pillars:

- Mobilizing domestic resources
- Introducing innovative mechanisms such as the 5-5-7 Solidarity Levy
- Engaging the private sector to drive long-term investment in health

The discussion also explored actionable solutions to reduce outbound medical tourism, expand access to quality healthcare within the continent, and position Côte d'Ivoire as a regional leader in pharmaceutical manufacturing and digital health innovation.

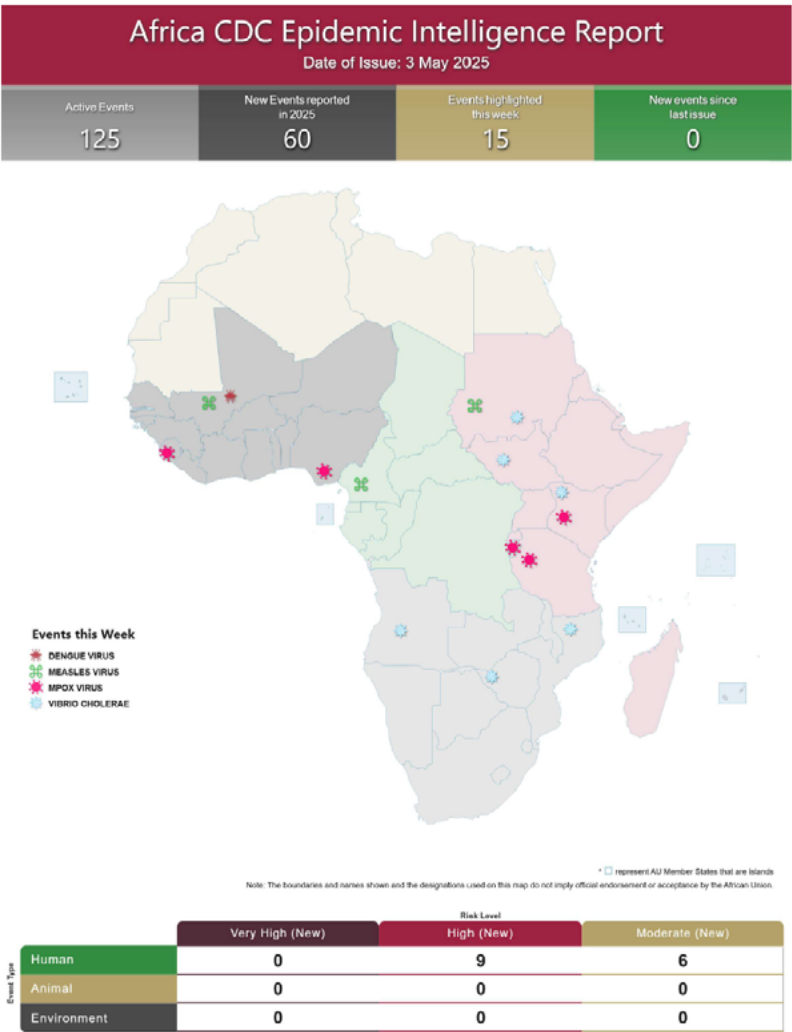
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Epidemic Intelligence Weekly Report: Released 18 May 2025

Real-time insights on public health threats across the continent

The Africa CDC Epidemic Intelligence Weekly Report provides timely updates on ongoing and emerging public health threats across the continent. It highlights current disease trends, risk assessments, and public health response actions implemented by affected Member States, partners, and Africa CDC. Focusing on moderate to very high-risk events, the report adopts a One Health and multisectoral lens to monitor outbreaks, natural disasters, and cross-border health emergencies. It includes both single-country and multicountry events, offering actionable intelligence to support early warning, coordinated response, and evidence-based decision-making.

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Africa CDC's call on Health Financing



Africa CDC is advancing its strategic agenda on sustainable health financing. Read the latest concept note, "Rethinking Africa's Health Financing in a New Era: Toward Sustainable, Resilient, and Self-Reliant Health Systems", outlining the core pillars for transforming Africa's health financing architecture.

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