

**WEEKLY BULLETIN | 19 - 25 May 2025**



**Spotlight**

## Africa CDC Signs Pivotal Agreements to Advance Health Outcomes

On the sidelines of the World Health Assembly 2025 in Geneva (19-27 May), Africa CDC signed four crucial Memoranda of Understanding to enhance efforts in key areas. The event also included numerous bilateral discussions with various partners and collaborators.

### Expanding Local Manufacturing of Essential Health Products

First to be signed on 18 May 2025 was the MoU with Unitaid, to expand the production of essential health products in Africa and improve sustainable access to medicines, diagnostics, and medical oxygen across the continent.

The second agreement was with Brazil's Oswaldo Cruz Foundation (Fiocruz) on 12 May 2025. It outlines joint efforts to build stronger National Public Health Institutes (NPHIs), expand translational research and disease surveillance through the One Health

approach, boost local manufacturing of essential health products, and strengthen research, knowledge, management and policy translation.

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### Keeping Children Free from Sickle Cell Disease

The third agreement was with Texas Children's Global Health Network, the global health arm of Texas Children's Hospital, one of the largest and most respected children's hospitals in the United States, which works in collaboration with Baylor College of Medicine to strengthen maternal and child health in over a dozen countries.



Signed on 22 May 2025, the partnership with Africa CDC will initially focus on the control of sickle cell disease (SCD). Africa bears the brunt of SCD, comprising 85% of the global burden. Through a jointly developed action plan, Africa CDC and Texas Children's Global will integrate an essential SCD care package, namely, infant screening, vaccination, penicillin prophylaxis, and hydroxyurea therapy into primary health services across endemic countries.

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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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## Boosting the Fight Against Outbreaks

The fourth MoU was with the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) on 23 May 2025. It will enable both organisations to jointly respond more effectively to public health emergencies,

strengthen primary health-care systems, support epidemic and pandemic preparedness, enhance legal preparedness for public health emergencies and scale up community-based health services.

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## Strategic Action for a Healthier Future



**A**t a high-level meeting hosted by Africa CDC and chaired by Dr Jean Kaseya on 18 May 2025, the focus was on health financing. Dr Kaseya emphasised the urgent need for the continent to take charge of its health future by reducing dependence on external aid and unlocking sustainable, domestic, and innovative financing.

The clear message was that Africa must lead its own health future through strategic action, investment and bold political leadership. This approach aims to ensure long-term sustainability and self-reliance in the health sector.

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## Cross-border Collaboration on Mpox and other Diseases



**T**welve African countries have come together to strengthen cross-border collaboration in the fight against disease outbreaks, with a major focus on mpox.

The disease is surging in West Africa, with Togo confirming its first cases. Ghana has also reported four new cases, while Sierra Leone is grappling with an increase in affected individuals.

The agreement aims to tackle challenges related to cross-border transmission, improve data-sharing between countries, and manage the movement of affected populations. It also seeks to strengthen the availability of financial and technical resources for a sustainable mpox response.

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## Morocco and Africa CDC Discuss Health Sovereignty



**A** productive discussion held with H.E. Amine Tehraoui, Morocco's Health Minister on 24 May 2025, centred on ramping collaboration, advancing health financing, and boosting local manufacturing to reinforce Africa's health sovereignty.

As a leader in safeguarding the health of its citizens, Morocco continues to set an example for strengthening health systems across the continent.

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### DIRECTOR GENERAL'S ENGAGEMENTS

## Stronger Health Ties with Norway

An interaction with Norway's Health State Secretary Usman Ahmad Mushtaq on 22 May 2025 allowed Dr Kaseya to continue the momentum from their earlier discussions in Oslo. They explored impactful collaboration in shaping the new global health architecture. Together, Africa CDC and Norway are committed to empowering Member States to build strong and resilient health systems.



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## Collaboration Key to Africa CDC's Mission

On 22 May 2025 at a side event on "The Role of Regional Institutions: EU and AU Perspectives", Dr Kaseya emphasised the strong mandate entrusted to Africa CDC by African Union Heads of State and Government to protect the health of 1.4 billion people across the continent.

Fulfilling this mandate requires collaboration not only with AU Member States but also with partners around the world.



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## Prioritising the Health Workforce

A meeting between Dr Kaseya and Dr Vanessa Kerry of Seed Global Health on 19 May 2025 sought to advance ongoing collaboration in support of African Union commitments to address the continent's health workforce crisis through a social compact. The discussion also explored shared priorities, including innovative health financing, scaling up local manufacturing, and improving outbreak response. Both leaders reaffirmed the need for stronger partnerships to build a safer, healthier Africa.



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**DIRECTOR GENERAL'S ENGAGEMENTS**



**Partnering for Health Preparedness**

A productive meeting with Winnie Byanyima of UNAIDS on 23 May 2025 focused on strengthening the Africa CDC–UNAIDS collaboration. The discussion set the stage for a new cooperative agreement centred on high-impact HIV interventions aligned with the Global AIDS Strategy and HIV Sustainability Planning. Together, both organisations are committed to acting against AIDS and ending HIV.

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**Engagement with the WHO Director-General**

Director General Dr Jean Kaseya held in-depth discussions with his counterpart at the World Health Organization on 20 May 2025, focusing on health funding—a critical priority for Africa CDC.

Dr Kaseya expressed gratitude for WHO's ongoing collaboration and urged global stakeholders to align with the continent's vision of establishing resilient health systems.

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**Discussing Africa's Health with Dr Peter Piot**

Health financing was a key topic of discussion when Dr Kaseya met with Dr Peter Piot, the renowned Belgian microbiologist known for his pioneering work on Ebola and AIDS, and his wife Heidi Larson.

During their interaction on 24 May 2025, they engaged in a thoughtful conversation on pressing health challenges across the African continent and the future of novel health financing methods, emphasising the need for sustainable and innovative funding solutions.

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**Epidemic Intelligence Weekly Report: Released 18 May 2025**

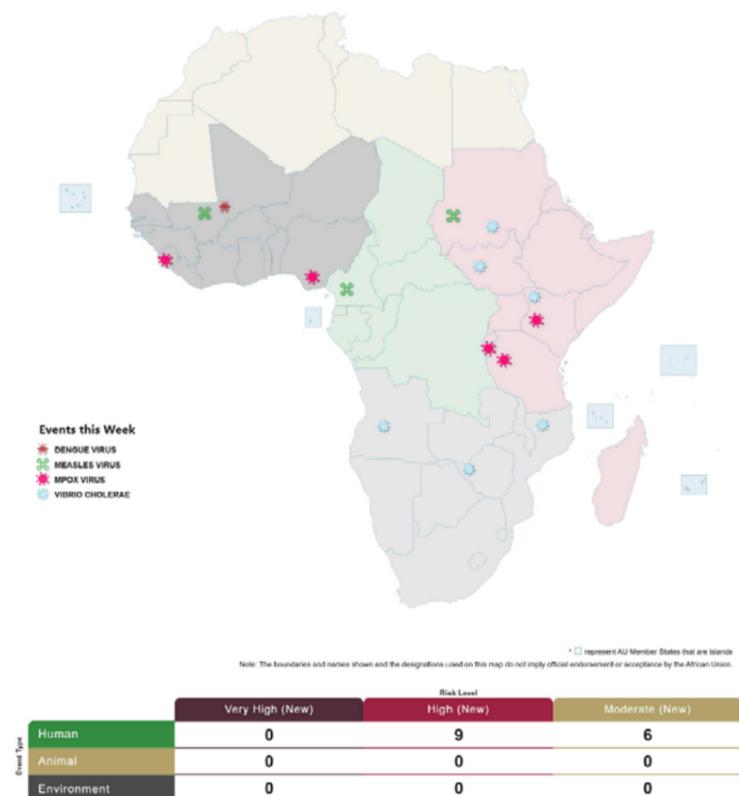
**Real-time insights on public health threats across the continent**

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 Epidemic Intelligence Report			
Date of Issue: 3 May 2025			
Active Events	New Events reported in 2025	Events highlighted this week	New events since last issue
125	60	15	0



**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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