

WEEKLY BULLETIN | 26 - 31 May 2025



Spotlight

New Strategy to Strengthen Africa's Biosafety and Biosecurity Efforts

The Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC), in partnership with the African Society for Laboratory Medicine (ASLM), has completed a five-year review of its Biosafety and Biosecurity Initiative (BBI), paving the way for a new strategy to strengthen Africa's response to biological threats and improve health security and economic stability.

The BBI, supported by Canada's Weapons Threat Reduction Program, the World Bank and African Union Member States, is aligned with the Global Partnership Against the Spread of Weapons and Materials of Mass Destruction (GP) and the

Signature Initiative to Mitigate Biological Threats in Africa (SIMBA). Through this partnership, Africa aims to enhance its capacity to detect and respond to biological threats effectively.

To develop the new strategy for 2025–2030, representatives from African Union Member States, technical working groups and international health organisations gathered to discuss priorities. Africa CDC's Dr Raji Tajudeen emphasised the importance of building a continent-wide framework to address biological incidents that can rapidly affect multiple countries.

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Seven More Countries Join Disease Surveillance Initiative



An initiative to strengthen disease surveillance across Africa, the Health Security Partnership to Strengthen Disease Surveillance in Africa (HSPA), has expanded to seven additional countries, building on its success since its launch in 2023.

Led by the World Health Organization (WHO), the Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC) and the Robert Koch Institute (RKI), the partnership is designed to enhance disease surveillance and epidemic intelligence to better detect and respond to health security threats.

Supported by the Government of Canada's Weapons Threat Reduction Program (WTRP) and the Government of the United Kingdom, the initiative aligns with global health security goals to address biological threats.

Originally launched in six countries - The Gambia, Mali, Morocco, Namibia, South Africa, and Tunisia - the initiative will expand in its second phase (2025-2028) to include additional nations, including Rwanda.

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Africa Public Health Podcast: Episode 6



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

In this powerful finale, Dr Wessam Mankoula, Regional Director of Northern RCC and Head of Emergency Preparedness and Response Division at Africa CDC, shares how the continent is turning pandemic lessons into lasting change: From vaccine access to emergency preparedness, from data politics to cross-border trust and a new public health order.

Tune in to hear clear insights on what worked, what didn't, and what must come next to build a stronger, more health-resilient Africa.

[Listen in...](#)

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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DIRECTOR GENERAL'S

ENGAGEMENTS

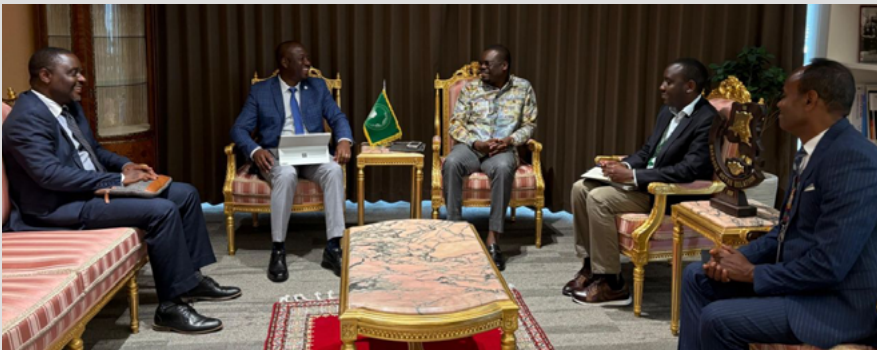


Supporting Dr Tah’s Vision for a Healthier Africa

30 May 2025: Dr Jean Kaseya congratulated Dr Sidi Ould Tah on his election as President of the African Development Bank Group, affirming Africa CDC’s readiness to support Dr Tah in advancing their shared vision of a stronger, healthier and more prosperous Africa.

Dr Kaseya also expressed gratitude for the leadership of H.E. Mohamed Ould Cheikh El Ghazouani, President of Mauritania and former Chairperson of the African Union, and the support of H.E. Mohamed Mergouz, Mauritania’s Minister of Foreign Affairs. He acknowledged H.E. Ambassador Khadija Mint Mbarek Vall, former Permanent Representative of Mauritania to the African Union.

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Building Stronger Labs: A Partnership in Action

26 May 2027: In a meeting with Mr. Nqobile Ndlovu, CEO of the African Society for Laboratory Medicine (ASLM), Dr Jean Kaseya discussed strategies to strengthen Africa’s laboratory systems. Together, they reflected on their long-standing partnership and celebrated their shared progress. Dr Kaseya also expressed gratitude to Mr Ndlovu for his ongoing commitment to advancing laboratory medicine across the continent.

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Farewell to Dr Akinwumi Adesina

29 May 2025: Congratulating Dr Akinwumi Adesina, the outgoing President of the African Development Bank Group, Dr Jean Kaseya thanked him for his exceptional service and the strong collaboration with Africa CDC in advancing Africa’s health security.

Dr Adesina, formerly the Nigerian Agriculture Minister, was first elected President of the AfDB on 28 May 2015 and served a 10-year tenure at the bank

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The Power of AI and Telemedicine in Africa

28 May 2025: Revoking memories of when he began his career as the only medical doctor for 250,000 people in rural Angola during a civil war, Dr Jean Kaseya emphasised the need for Africa to harness AI and telemedicine to transform healthcare.

The experience in Angola shaped his conviction that if action is taken now, an AI-driven, people-centred health system can be built to serve not only Africa but the world.

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Eradicating Malaria by 2040

27 May 2025: Malaria still claims nearly 600,000 lives annually, with 95% of these deaths occurring in Africa, mostly among children. However, with strategic investments in surveillance, vector control, and robust health systems, it is possible to aim to end malaria by 2040.

In his latest article for Project Syndicate, Dr Jean Kaseya outlines how Africa CDC is collaborating with countries to turn this vision into reality

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Investing in Africa’s Potential for Growth

30 May, 2025: With over 240 disease outbreaks across Africa in 2024 alone, there is an urgent need for autonomy, domestic financing, and regional manufacturing. At the 2025 Annual Meetings of the African Development Bank Group, Dr Jean Kaseya emphasised that resilient health systems should be viewed as investments, not costs.

Africa CDC’s “New Deal” showcases what can be achieved when governance, financing, innovation, and political will align. Dr Kaseya highlighted the critical need to mobilize and allocate capital to unlock Africa’s full potential.

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