

WEEKLY BULLETIN | 15 - 19 April 2025



Spotlight on

Health Financing

Africa at a Crossroads

Africa's health systems are facing increasing pressure. According to Africa CDC's new Concept Paper on Health Financing, Official Development Assistance (ODA) for health in Africa has declined by over 70%, placing essential services at risk and exposing vulnerabilities in health system resilience.

This decline comes at a time when the continent is experiencing a 40% increase in reported public health emergencies between 2022 and 2024. Outbreaks of climate-sensitive diseases, zoonotic infections, and viral haemorrhagic fevers—including Ebola and Marburg—continue to challenge overstretched national health budgets.

"Africa is at a financing tipping point. The next decade must prioritize sustainable domestic investment and regional coordination to safeguard public health gains and build resilient health systems."
-Africa CDC Concept Paper on Health Financing

The paper calls for stronger political leadership, innovative financing mechanisms, and enhanced public-private collaboration to implement the Lusaka Agenda and advance the continent's health security priorities under Agenda 2063.

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Mozambique's Health Budget Commitment

As part of its continued engagement with African Union Member States, Africa CDC held high-level discussions with His Excellency Daniel Chapo, President of the Republic of Mozambique, to acknowledge and support the country's efforts in advancing health financing and peace-driven development.

Africa CDC commended Mozambique's commitment to increasing its national health budget—an essential step toward building a resilient and sustainable health system. Africa CDC also recognized the role of sustained peace in driving economic growth and enabling stronger partnerships and remains committed to working closely with Mozambique to strengthen health systems and advance health security for its people.



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STRATEGIC UPDATES



Mpox Continental Response Plan 2.0

Africa CDC and WHO have updated their joint response plan to address the changing dynamics of the Mpox outbreak. The revised plan focuses on scaling up vaccination, enhancing surveillance and laboratory capacity, and strengthening long-term outbreak preparedness. It also outlines a transition toward a sustainable response model rooted in regional coordination and community engagement.

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Africa CDC Annual Report 2024

Africa CDC's 2024 Annual Report highlights major strides under its 2023–2027 Strategic Plan—from stronger labs, surveillance, and emergency response to local manufacturing and resilient health systems. Key milestones include the Mpox PHECS declaration, launch of the Joint IMST with WHO, support to outbreaks like Marburg, and integration of digital health, research, financing, and regional coordination.

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Africa Public Health Podcast



Africa's Health Revolution: Ethics, Innovation, and the Power of R&D

Dr. Mosoka P. Fallah, Acting Director of Science & Innovation at Africa CDC, explores how ethical, African-led research is transforming public health on the continent.

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HIGH-LEVEL ENGAGEMENTS THIS WEEK



Strategic Dialogue with AUC Chairperson

Following his mission to Mozambique, Dr. Jean Kaseya held a high-level exchange in Addis Ababa with H.E. Mahmoud Ali Youssef, Chairperson of the African Union Commission. The discussion focused on accelerating Africa's progress toward sustainable health financing through the Lusaka Agenda.

Dr. Kaseya commended the Chairperson's visionary leadership, which remains critical in mobilizing greater domestic investment and strengthening AU-wide coordination. Together, they explored actionable pathways to reinforce country ownership, align continental priorities, and build resilient, self-reliant health systems that can withstand future shocks.

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Africa's Health Gains at Risk: A Call for Urgent Investment

At the G20-AfCFTA Dialogue held in South Africa, Africa CDC emphasized the urgent need to safeguard two decades of hard-won progress in public health. With Official Development Assistance (ODA) for health in Africa declining by 70%, and countries facing mounting debt and increasingly frequent disease outbreaks, the continent stands at a critical crossroads.

Dr. Jean Kaseya called for bold political leadership, increased domestic investment, and greater continental solidarity to build self-reliant health systems and reduce dependency on external aid. The dialogue reinforced the need to accelerate the implementation of the Lusaka Agenda and prioritize sustainable health financing to secure Africa's health future.

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Kenya's Bold Health Reforms

On Friday, 18 April, Dr. Jean Kaseya met with Hon. Aden Duale, Cabinet Secretary for Health of the Republic of Kenya, for a high-level dialogue on the country's ambitious and forward-looking health reforms.

The discussion highlighted Kenya's leadership in rolling out digital social health insurance, advancing domestic manufacturing of health products, and promoting sustainable health financing as a pillar of long-term public health resilience.

Dr. Kaseya commended CS Duale for his clarity of vision, political will, and commitment to results-driven reform. Kenya's efforts are not only transforming its own health system but are also contributing to shaping Africa's New Public Health Order.

Africa CDC stands firmly with Kenya in its pursuit of universal health coverage and a healthier, more resilient continent.

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Abu Dhabi Global Health Week (15–17 April)

During Abu Dhabi Global Health Week, Dr. Jean Kaseya joined global health leaders for a strategic session hosted by the Department of Health Abu Dhabi, where he reaffirmed Africa's commitment to leveraging artificial intelligence for healthcare transformation across the continent.

Dr. Kaseya also met with His Highness Sheikh Khaled bin Mohamed Al Nahyan, Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi and Chair of the Executive Council, to discuss the growing collaboration between the UAE and Africa CDC. The meeting underscored the importance of strategic partnerships to strengthen Africa's health security and support innovation-driven systems.

This engagement reflects a shared vision to accelerate the use of technology, improve health outcomes, and promote sustainable investments in Africa's health sector.

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Deepening Collaboration with Ethiopian Airlines

Dr. Jean Kaseya met with Mr. Mesfin Tassew Bekele, CEO of Ethiopian Airlines, to strengthen collaboration in advancing Africa's public health resilience and logistics preparedness.

Ethiopian Airlines has played a vital role during major public health emergencies—including COVID-19 and Mpox—by supporting timely delivery of essential supplies across the continent. As external health aid continues to decline, the discussion focused on new areas of collaboration, including enhanced logistics coordination, joint emergency response strategies, and innovative health financing.

Both parties agreed to explore the use of Ethiopian Airlines' warehousing infrastructure, develop a formal Memorandum of Understanding, and engage further through Africa CDC's Continental Task Team on Innovative Health Financing. This partnership reflects a shared vision of African institutions working together to secure the continent's health sovereignty through leadership, innovation, and coordinated action.

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Leadership Recognition

Dr. Jean Kaseya has been named one of "The 10 Influential Healthcare Leaders Driving Change Toward 2025" by CIO Look Media.

This recognition underscores the collective efforts of Africa CDC and its partners to build a healthier, more resilient continent—driven by visionary leadership, innovation, and a shared commitment to equity.

As highlighted in the feature, Dr. Kaseya's mission remains steadfast: **"The goal is to ensure no African is left behind in accessing quality healthcare."**

This honor affirms Africa CDC's growing role as a continental and global leader in public health, advancing sustainable systems and African-led solutions to meet the needs of over 1.4 billion people.

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