

WEEKLY BULLETIN | 28 April-4 May 2025



Spotlight

Mpox Emergency Extended

New Continental Response and Legacy Plan Launched

On August 13, 2024, Africa CDC declared Mpox a Public Health Emergency of Continental Security (PHECS). The next day, WHO declared it a Public Health Emergency of International Concern (PHEIC). In response, Africa CDC and WHO co-led a six-month joint continental Mpox Preparedness and Response Plan, coordinated through a unified Incident Management Support Team (IMST), with participation from over 20 countries and global partners.

Despite major gains including streamlined coordination, ex-

panded testing, improved surveillance, community engagement, vaccination rollout, and stronger case management, Mpox remains a public health threat. As of February 2025, 22 countries have been affected: 7 are now in control, while 15 remain in active response, three of which (Burundi, Rwanda, and CAR) show a downward trend. However, rising cases in Uganda and Sierra Leone, and conflict-affected areas in DRC, are cause for concern.

On 25–26 February 2025, both the IHR Emergency Committee and Africa CDC's Emergency

Consultative Group unanimously recommended extending the declarations and launching a new response phase.

The new Mpox Continental Response and Legacy Plan 2.0 (March–August 2025) serves as a roadmap to complete the response and embed it into national health systems—leaving a lasting legacy of strengthened resilience.

[Read more...](#)

Africa Vaccination Week – Millions of Children Still Lack Access to Life-Saving Vaccines

To mark Africa Vaccination Week, Africa CDC issued a warning: over 500,000 children under five die every year in Africa from vaccine-preventable diseases such as measles, tetanus, polio, and whooping cough.

In 2023, just 16 African countries achieved over 90% coverage for essential childhood vaccines. The number of “zero-dose” children—those who've never received any vaccines—rose to 7.9 million, a 16% increase from 2019. Systemic inequities, funding gaps, conflict, and outreach barriers continue to undermine progress.



Africa currently produces less than 1% of the vaccines it uses. This is a challenge we are committed to changing.
Dr Jean Kaseya,
Director General of Africa CDC

The economic impact is staggering: vaccine-preventable diseases cost Africa an estimated USD 13 billion annually. Yet vaccines remain one of the most cost-effective health investments—with a return of up to 37 times the cost.

Africa CDC, in collaboration with AUC, WHO, UNICEF, GAVI, PATH, and others, is implementing the Continental Immunisation Strategy, aligned with the Addis Declaration and Immunisation Agenda 2030, to build a unified, resilient vaccine delivery system across Africa.

[Read more...](#)

Africa Public Health Podcast



New!! Public Health Podcast Episode 4 – Building Africa's Health Workforce, One Community Health Worker at a Time

In this powerful episode of the Africa Public Health Podcast, host Andisiwe Michelle May speaks with Dr. Raji Tajudeen, Acting Deputy Director General of Africa CDC and Head of Public Health Institutes and Research. Dr. Raji reflects on his personal journey—from pediatrician in northern Nigeria to continental leadership—and addresses one of Africa's most pressing challenges: workforce capacity. In 2017, African leaders committed to training and deploying 2 million community health workers—the backbone of universal care. Yet fewer than 1 million are currently active. Dr. Raji discusses how leadership development, data, and investment in people are essential to building stronger, fairer, and more resilient health systems.

[Listen in...](#)

We are nowhere near what's needed to drive the primary healthcare system across a continent of 1.4 billion people.
Dr Raji Tajudeen

DIRECTOR GENERAL'S ENGAGEMENTS

President Oligui Nguema's Inauguration in Gabon



At the invitation of the Gabonese authorities, Dr. Jean Kaseya attended the inauguration of H.E. President Brice Clotaire Oligui Nguema in Libreville. He personally congratulated the President on assuming the highest office and praised the peaceful, well-organized elections.

This moment marked Gabon's return to the African Union family—underscoring a shared commitment to peace, unity, and progress. Africa CDC reaffirmed its readiness to work alongside

the Government of Gabon to strengthen health security and promote the well-being of all citizens.

Strategic Engagement with U.S. Special Envoy

The Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS) hosted a high-level dialogue with Dr. Jean Kaseya and his team on "Africa's Health Financing in a New Era."



The discussion emphasized Africa CDC's leadership in building a sustainable, African-led health financing architecture in

response to declining global development assistance.

[Read more...](#)

[Read more...](#)

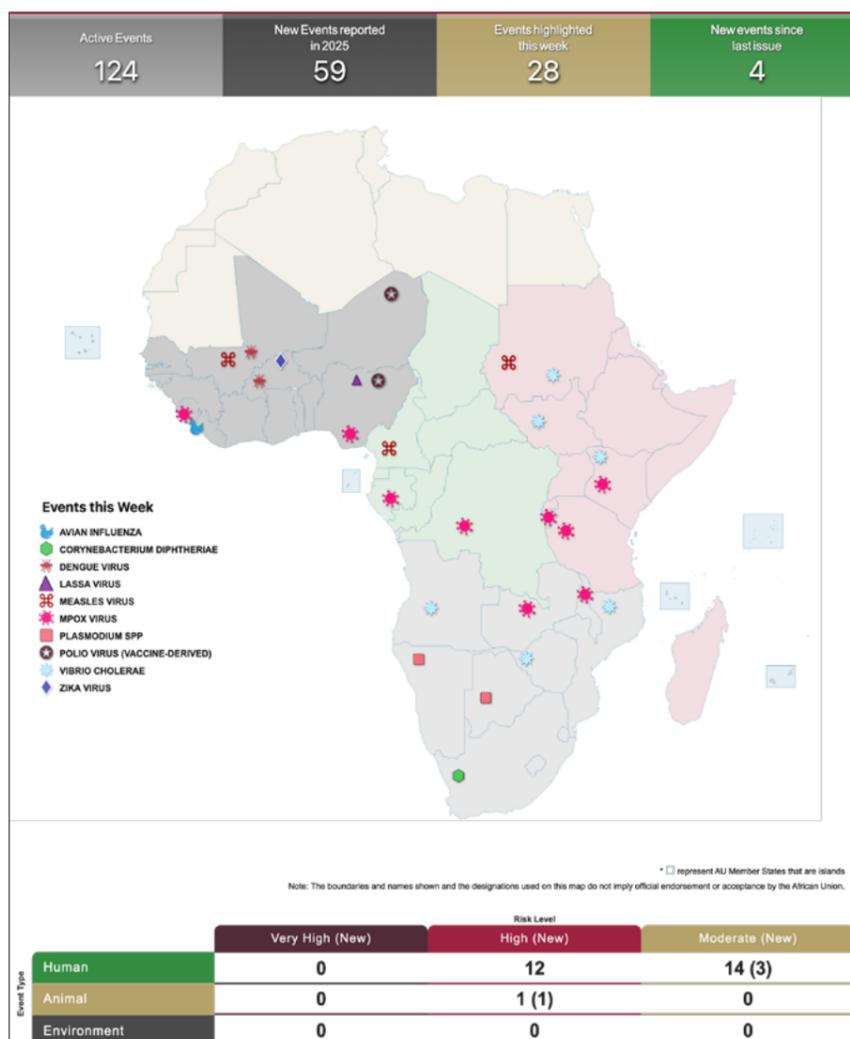
Africa CDC Epidemic Intelligence Weekly Report: 30 April 2025

Weekly real-time insights on public health threats across the continent

The Africa CDC Epidemic Intelligence Weekly Report provides real-time updates on priority public health events across the continent. Each edition highlights the epidemiological situation, risk assessments, and public health interventions by affected Member States, partners, and Africa CDC.

Focusing on moderate to very high-risk events, the report tracks a range of threats—from emerging infectious diseases to natural disasters—through a One Health, multisectoral lens. Events affecting both single and multiple countries are covered, empowering Member States and partners with the latest intelligence for timely, effective response.

[Read more...](#)



Africa CDC's call on Health Financing



Find out more from the Africa CDC Concept Note on "Rethinking Africa's Health Financing in a New Era: Toward Sustainable, Resilient, and Self-Reliant Health Systems."



[Read more...](#)

Follow Africa CDC on social media for updates and insights from across the continent:

www.africacdc.org [X](#) [f](#) [+](#) [@](#) [africacdc](#)

Email: communications@africacdc.org