

WEEKLY BULLETIN | 5-11 May 2025



Spotlight

New Momentum for Monoclonal Antibodies Manufacturing in Africa

To unlock regional potential and improve access to life-saving technologies, Africa CDC and the International AIDS Vaccine Initiative (IAVI) have launched a continent-wide dialogue series focused on monoclonal antibodies (mAbs).

This initiative promotes African-led solutions to ensure that mAbs are developed, produced, and delivered in alignment with the continent's health priorities.

With growing application in the prevention and treatment of in-

fectious diseases, including HIV, RSV, and malaria, mAbs represent a transformative opportunity to strengthen Africa's healthcare systems and reduce reliance on external supply chains.

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Integrating Mental Health into NTD Programmes: A Person-Centred Shift

Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTDs) affect over one billion people globally, disproportionately impacting the most vulnerable communities. A consortium of research and implementation partners has built a strong evidence base supporting person-centred mental health interventions for people living with NTDs.

In 2025, Africa CDC, Anesvad Foundation, CBM Global Disability Inclusion, and the Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine, alongside key global health actors, con-

vened an expert roundtable to translate this evidence into actionable policy. The aim: to integrate mental health into NTD programmes across Africa.

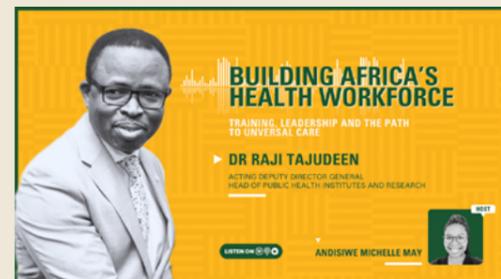
These approaches are now poised to be included in national strategies aligned with the WHO NTD Roadmap (2021–2030), the Africa CDC NTD Strategy (2024), and other regional frameworks, marking a vital shift toward holistic, dignity-driven care.

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A consortium of research and implementation partners has built a strong evidence base supporting person-centred mental health interventions for people living with NTDs

Africa Public Health Podcast



New!! 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

Strengthening Cholera Response

On May 10, I met with Dr. Chikwe Ihekweazu, Regional Director of WHO AFRO, and Ms. Etleva Kadilli, Regional Director of UNICEF ESARO, to discuss the alarming rise in cholera cases across Africa. Over 91,000 cases and nearly 1,900 deaths have been reported in 19 countries since January.

This urgent situation calls for unified continental coordination under a single Incident Management System, stronger multi-sectoral action, bold political leadership, and substantial investments in wa-ter, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH). We must act now to protect lives and reinforce health securi-ty across the continent.

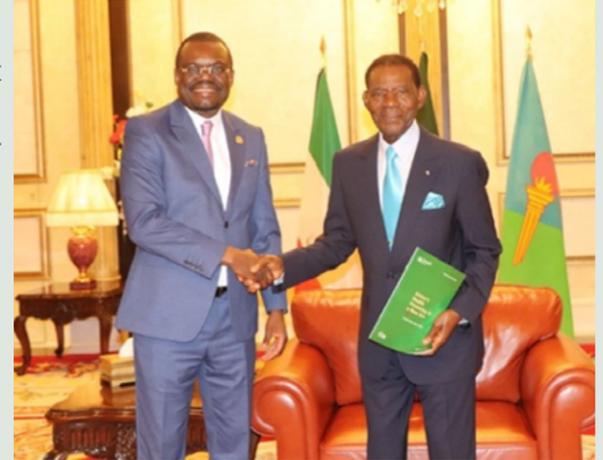
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Presidential Engagement | Equatorial Guinea

In Malabo, I had the honour of being received by H.E. President Obiang Nguema of Equatorial Guinea. I extend my sincere appreciation for his enduring political and financial support to Africa CDC and his commitment to our renewed vision for sustainable health financing.

Equatorial Guinea stands out as a model of self-reliance—financing nearly 95% of its health sys-tem domestically. I also visited the country’s state-of-the-art hospitals and commend the govern-ment’s leadership in prioritizing mental health and investing in modern, people-centred care.

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Advancing Africa’s Health Financing | Rwanda



As part of my ongoing engagement with Member States to advance Africa’s health financing agenda, I engaged in discussions with Dr. Sabin Nsanzimana, Minister of Health; H.E. Olivier J.P. Nduhungirehe, Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation; and Mr. Yusuf Mu-rangwa, Minister of Finance and Economic Planning of the Republic of Rwanda.

Our discussions focused on enhancing health financing mechanisms and aligning strategic priori-ties to strengthen national health systems and advance continental health security.

Africa CDC remains committed to fostering African-led action through strong political collabo-ration and impactful partnerships that deliver results for our people.

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The launch of the Kenya National Public Health Institute

KNPHI marks a significant milestone in advancing Kenya’s health security and strengthening the conti-nent’s collective public health architecture.

Africa CDC congratulates Hon. Aden Duale, Cabinet Secretary for Health, and the Government of Kenya on this achievement, which aligns closely with the shared vision under the New Public Health Order.

National Public Health Institutes (NPHIs) are central to Africa CDC’s mission, enabling effective disease surveillance, emergency preparedness, and research at the national level. Since 2018, Africa CDC has supported Kenya’s journey toward establishing KNPHI and remains committed to its continued growth and success.

KNPHI reflects Kenya’s strong leadership in institutionalizing public health functions and sets an example for other Member States working to build resilient and sustainable health systems.



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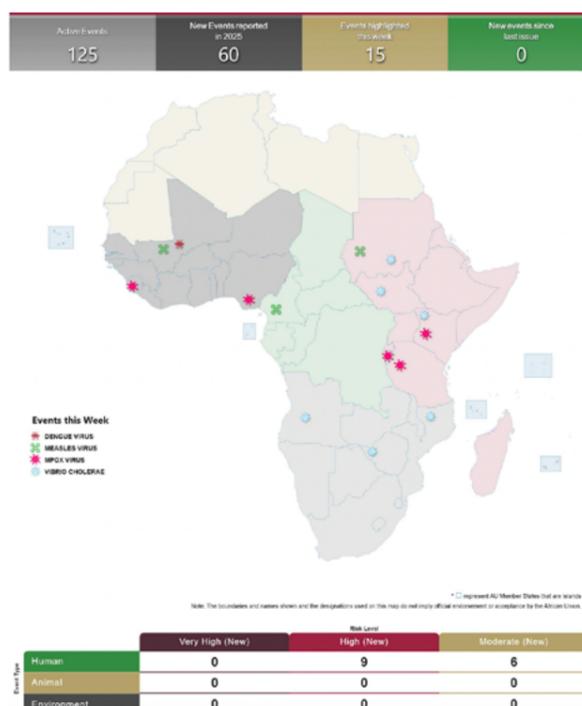
Africa CDC Epidemic Intelligence Weekly Report: 11 May 2025

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

The Africa CDC Epidemic Intelligence Weekly Report provides real-time updates on high-priority public health events across the continent. Each edition features current epidemiological trends, risk assessments, and ongoing response efforts by affected Member States, partners, and Africa CDC.

Tracking a wide range of threats, from emerging infectious diseases to natural disasters, the report applies a One Health, multisectoral lens. Events affecting both individual and multiple countries are highlighted to support timely, evidence-based action.

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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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