

WEEKLY BULLETIN | 9-15 June 2025



Spotlight

One Million Community Health Workers Deployed, One Million to Go

It's been eight years since African Union leaders committed to deploying two million community health workers (CHWs) by 2030. Today, Africa has reached a major milestone. Over one million CHWs have been trained and deployed across the continent.

This progress was revealed through the "Continental Survey on Community Health Worker Programmes", led by the Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC) and UNICEF. The findings were shared in May on the sidelines of the 78th World Health Assembly in Geneva.

CHWs are central to delivering health services where they are needed most. They support maternal and child health, immunisation, and the management of diseases like malaria, HIV, and

tuberculosis. In many countries, their responsibilities are expanding to include non-communicable diseases and public health emergencies.

"We have 1,005,007 community health workers already deployed. That means we have achieved 50% of the target in just eight years," said Dr Ngashi Ngongo, Principal Advisor to Africa CDC's Director General. "What lies ahead is that, in the remaining five years, African Union Member States need to recruit, train and deploy the remaining one million."

The survey drew responses from 51 of 55 African Union Member States. It paints a clearer picture of the scale, structure and scope of CHW programmes.

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Health Ministers Commit to Boosting Africa's Health Manufacturing

African Union health ministers have reaffirmed their commitment to strengthening local vaccine manufacturing during the Africa CDC Ministerial Consultations on Local Manufacturing, held on 20 May 2025, on the sidelines of the Health Health Assembly in Geneva.

They acknowledged significant progress in the sector since their 2024 pledge, which focused on the purchase of locally made vaccines to build a sustainable African industry capable of producing vaccines at scale, including those needed for outbreaks and pandemics.

The ministers recognised the advancement of vaccine manufacturing initiatives, with eight antigens expected to enter the market between 2025 and 2030. They also highlighted Africa's robust capabilities in producing medicines, therapeutics, diagnostics and medical devices, with over 570 pharmaceutical manufacturers across the continent.



WE, the Ministers of Health of the African Union Member States, meeting at the Africa CDC Ministerial Consultations on Local Manufacturing on 20th May 2025, in Geneva, Switzerland on the sidelines of the 78th World Health Assembly;

REAFFIRM the commitments we made in 2024 to purchase locally made vaccines to build a sustainable African industry capable of producing vaccines at scale, including vaccines in response to outbreaks and pandemics

RECOGNIZE the strides the continent has made in accelerating vaccine manufacturing initiatives with eight (8) antigens expected to enter the market between 2025 – 2030;

FURTHER RECOGNIZE the continental capabilities in manufacturing of medicines, therapeutics, diagnostics and medical devices with more than 570 pharmaceutical manufacturers spread across the continent;

ACKNOWLEDGE the call by the AU Heads of State and Government for Member States, Regional Economic Communities, and Regional Mechanisms (RECs) to adopt measures to promote resilience against future pandemics, including investment in domestic vaccine manufacturing capacity (Assembly/AU/Dec. 829(XXXV));

NOTE the recommendations outlined in the Communiqué of the 2nd Vaccines and other Health Products Manufacturing Forum for African Union Member States "The Manufacturing Forum", held earlier in 2025;

FURTHER NOTE the challenges African health products manufacturing ecosystem face as well as the opportunities it presents to strengthen our health systems as well as economic and developmental benefits.

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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



Africa CDC Hosts India's Ambassador Anil Kumar Rai

It was a pleasure for Dr Jean Kaseya to welcome H.E. Ambassador Anil Kumar Rai, Ambassador of India to Ethiopia and Permanent Representative to the African Union, for a courtesy visit at Africa CDC Headquarters. During the meeting, they discussed deepening collaboration in public health, pharmaceutical production, and workforce development—critical areas for advancing health sovereignty across Africa.

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Exploring New Frontiers in Africa-India Health Partnerships

Dr Jean Kaseya met with H.E. Dammu Ravi, Vice Minister for African Affairs at India's Ministry of External Affairs. The discussions focused on strengthening Africa-India health cooperation through local manufacturing, technology transfer, digital health and workforce development. Africa CDC stands ready to build a partnership grounded in shared priorities and mutual growth, supporting Africa's health security and self-reliance.

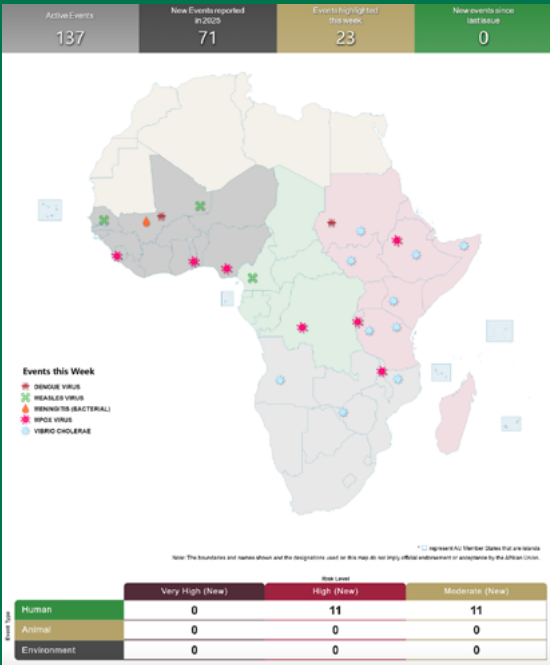
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Africa CDC Epidemic Intelligence Weekly Report: 15 June 2025

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

The Africa CDC Epidemic Intelligence Weekly Report 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.



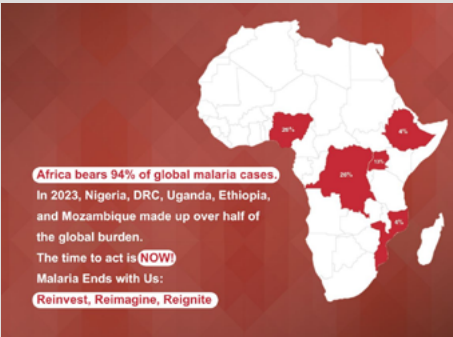
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How Africa Can Eliminate Malaria by 2040

Malaria continues to devastate Africa, where it remains a leading cause of illness and death, despite being preventable and treatable with effective public health measures and medical interventions.

In an op-ed article, Dr Jean Kaseya, Director-General of Africa CDC, argues that the continent has the opportunity to eliminate malaria by 2040 with well-targeted public investment in several key areas, including strengthening surveillance systems, building a well-trained health workforce, enhancing vector control strategies, and improving rapid outbreak-response mechanisms.

He highlights the success of countries like Algeria, Cabo Verde and Egypt, where sustained political commitment, alongside targeted investments in health systems and disease surveillance, has led to substantial progress in controlling malaria.



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Africa Health ExCon: Driving Local Innovation with Global Allies

In just a few days, Africa's largest health convening will return to Cairo—a moment to reflect, connect and lead. Africa Health ExCon is where ideas turn into action, local innovation finds global allies, and the vision for a healthier, stronger Africa takes shape. This is an opportunity to invest in Africa, by Africa, for Africa. Join the journey at africahealthexcon.com.

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Outbreaks Spur Push for Vaccine Sovereignty in Africa

As Africa responds to ongoing outbreaks of mpox and cholera, the urgent need for vaccines highlights the critical importance of building local manufacturing capacity. Progress is being made, with two African Union Member States taking the lead in advancing local production of cholera vaccines. In the meantime, to address the current mpox outbreak alone, an estimated 3.5 million additional vaccine doses must still be mobilised globally.

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