

## WEEKLY BULLETIN | 14-20 July 2025



### Spotlight

## New Continental Plan to Bring Lab Testing Closer to Communities in Africa

A new framework aimed at decentralising laboratory services and enhancing early outbreak detection has been launched by the Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention. Developed in Yaoundé, Cameroon, in collaboration with partners and funded by the EU-backed PAMTA programme, the framework outlines steps to expand diagnostics beyond national laboratories. It emphasises workforce training, sample transport, data integration and quality assurance, drawing on mpox testing experiences in Burundi and the DRC.

“Member States cannot respond effectively to outbreaks if diagnostic capacity is limited

to national reference laboratories. Detection capabilities must be decentralized to sub-national levels and below to enhance early warning surveillance and timely confirmation of disease threats,” said Dr. Yenew Kebede Tebeje, Acting Director, Centre for Laboratory Diagnostics and Systems, Africa CDC. “Decentralized laboratory services are also essential for achieving Universal Health Coverage.”

Dr. Kakambi Christelle, a senior official from Cameroon’s Ministry of Public Health, shared the country’s approach to decentralizing diagnostics for epidemic-prone diseases.

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## Africa Public Health Podcast: Season One Recap



Public health in Africa is evolving—and so is the conversation. Season one of the Africa Public Health Podcast, powered by Africa CDC, brought together expert voices from across the continent to unpack Africa’s most pressing health challenges and home-grown solutions.

Over six compelling episodes, the series explored emergency preparedness, digital innovation, health workforce development, ethical research, and the power of genomics—highlighting African-led strategies that shaped the public health response across the continent.

All episodes are available now on YouTube, Spotify, Apple Podcasts, and the Africa CDC website

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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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## Partners Join Forces to Expand Mpox Protection



Africa CDC, through its Mpox Incident Management Support Team’s vaccine pillar, convened a high-level strategic meeting with 19 African Union Member States and key partners, including the World Health Organization, Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance, UNICEF, GIZ, the European Commission’s Health Emergency Preparedness and Response Authority (HERA), and CEPI.

This engagement focused on reviewing progress, sharing lessons learned, and charting next

steps to expand vaccine access, integrate mpox response into primary health care, and mobilise funding for future health emergencies.

The meeting was convened almost a year after Africa CDC declared the current mpox outbreak a public health emergency of continental concern — its first such declaration since the agency’s establishment — highlighting the critical need for a unified and sustained regional response.

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DIRECTOR GENERAL'S

ENGAGEMENTS



### Africa CDC and Canada Forge Stronger Collaboration

A visit to Africa CDC by Honourable Randeep Sarai, Canada’s Secretary of State for International Development, and Cheryl Urban, Assistant Deputy Minister, reaffirmed Canada’s strong commitment to multilateralism and global health solidarity.

In discussions with Africa CDC Director General Dr Jean

Kaseya, the delegation focused on strengthening strategic collaboration, particularly in biosafety, biosecurity and disease surveillance across the continent. Africa CDC is looking forward to deepening this partnership in pursuit of a healthier, safer Africa.

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### AU Health Commissioner Visits Africa CDC to Boost Collaboration

Dr Jean Kaseya welcomed H.E. Ambassador Amma Twum-Amoah, the African Union Commissioner for Health, Humanitarian Affairs, and Social Development, on her first official visit to the Africa CDC headquarters since assuming office earlier this year.

Discussions focused on strengthening collaboration and enhancing coordination between Africa CDC, the African Medicines Agency, and the African Union Development Agency-NEPAD, with a shared commitment to advancing Africa’s health priorities.

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### Continental Collaboration to Fast-Track Safe, Effective Medicines



In Abuja, Nigeria, the heads of Africa’s WHO ML3 National Regulatory Authorities convened to operationalise the Memorandum of Understanding on Regulatory Reliance, marking a major milestone toward faster and more coordinated approval of quality health products manufactured on the continent.

With support from Africa CDC, the African Union Development Agency-NEPAD, and the African Medicines Agency, the initiative seeks to reduce duplication, bolster local manufacturing, and accelerate equitable access to safe and effective medical products across Africa.

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### Africa CDC Epidemic Intelligence Weekly Report: 15 July 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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### Gambia Advances One Health Governance

Africa CDC supported the development of The Gambia’s National One Health Governance Guidance Manual — an important step toward building integrated, multisectoral health systems. In partnership with the World Health Organization and other stakeholders,

the workshop focused on enhancing coordination to address zoonotic diseases, antimicrobial resistance, food safety and health threats linked to climate change.

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