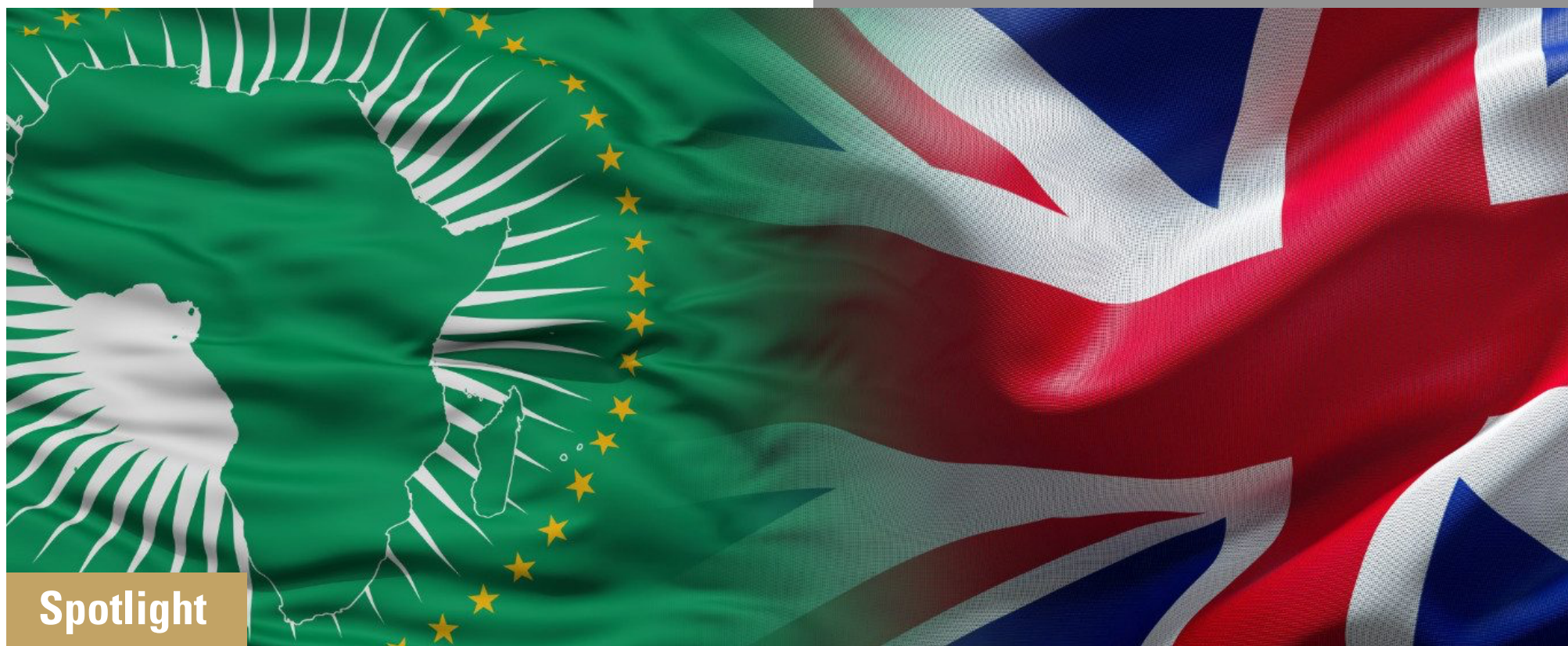


WEEKLY BULLETIN | 22 - 28 September 2025

Download: Africa CDC Epidemic Intelligence Weekly Report



Spotlight

UK Approves Direct Funding to Africa CDC

The United Kingdom has officially approved direct funding to Africa CDC, marking a major vote of confidence in the agency's governance and financial systems.

This milestone follows nearly a year of rigorous due diligence and reflects Africa CDC's institutional reforms since 2023 -including alignment with African Union financial regulations, strengthened internal oversight, and the adoption of robust ESG and anti-fraud policies.

[Click here for press-release](#)

The UK joins a growing list of global partners -including the World Bank, Gavi, CEPI and the EU -that now entrust the Africa CDC with direct financial management of major health programmes.

Director-General Dr Jean Kaseya welcomed the UK's decision as a powerful affirmation of Africa CDC's transformation and called on other partners to follow suit, highlighting the agency's commitment to African leadership and global accountability.

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Continental Action Begins to End Sickle Cell Disease in Africa



Every hour, 45 children are born with sickle cell disease in Africa -and tragically, most will not survive beyond their fifth birthday, despite the availability of low-cost, life-saving treatments.

In response to this urgent public health crisis, Dr Jean Kaseya joined the Republic of Ghana and Texas Children's Hospital to launch "A New Day for Children with Sickle Cell Disease", a continental initiative led by Africa CDC.

The initiative aims to integrate sickle cell care into primary health systems, expand access to affordable medicines, and ensure early diagnosis and prevention. It builds on Africa CDC's Non-Communicable Diseases Strategy (2022-2026) and a new partnership with Texas Children's Global

Health Network, which will help strengthen child health services, improve access to diagnostics and vaccines, and train health workers across the continent.

Sickle cell disease is the most common inherited blood disorder globally, with its highest impact in sub-Saharan Africa. Survivors often face chronic pain, disability and financial strain, while families and health systems bear a heavy burden. Yet proven, cost-effective interventions - such as newborn screening, immunisation, malaria prevention, and hydroxyurea therapy -can dramatically improve outcomes.

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Africa Public Health Podcast: Season One Recap



TELLING AFRICA'S HEALTH STORY FROM WITHIN!

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 homegrown solutions.

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

[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
AT UNGA80

The past week saw high-level engagements at the UN General Assembly, where Dr Jean Kaseya led Africa CDC’s delegation. Through partnerships and advocacy, the Africa CDC worked to promote Africa’s leadership in global health.

African Leaders Back Africa CDC to Lead Health Security



At the Africa CDC Extraordinary Session, African Heads of State reaffirmed Africa CDC’s role as the continent’s public health agency.

Leaders emphasised the need for stronger solidarity, sustainable financing and coordinated action to advance Africa’s health sovereignty and protect populations from current and future health threats.

Dr Kaseya reiterated Africa CDC’s commitment to working closely with African Union Member States and partners to strengthen preparedness, promote health sovereignty and safeguard the continent’s health security.

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Taskforce Champions Community Health for Epidemic Preparedness



Dr Jean Kaseya co-hosted the Continental Coordination Mechanism Taskforce on Community Health with UNICEF. The meeting reaffirmed the central role of community health in advancing primary health care, strengthening epidemic preparedness and achieving universal health coverage.

Africa has set an ambitious goal: to deploy two million community health workers (CHWs) by 2030. Realising this vision will require sustained political commitment, increased domestic investment and formal recognition of CHWs as integral to health systems.

Dr Kaseya thanked UNICEF and all participants for the thoughtful exchange, emphasising the collective responsibility to build resilient systems that deliver quality health services to every community.

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Health Sovereignty Starts with Smarter Funding, Says Dr Kaseya



Dr Jean Kaseya joined leaders for an event titled “The Tipping Point: A New Era for Global Health Leadership.”

He underscored the importance of anchoring innovative financing in strong governance of health systems, ensuring that every resource contributes to

resilience, equity and tangible impact for communities.

This, he noted, is central to Africa’s path from dependency toward true health sovereignty and the realisation of Universal Health Coverage.

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Africa CDC and UNAIDS Join Forces for Health Security and HIV Care



Dr Jean Kaseya signed a landmark Memorandum of Understanding with UNAIDS, marking a pivotal step toward strengthening community health systems across Africa. This strategic partnership aims to expand the continent’s health workforce, promote local manufacturing and ensure sustainable responses to HIV.

Despite ongoing challenges, HIV remains a major public health concern in Africa. Through collaborative efforts, there

is renewed hope to protect the most vulnerable, bring essential care closer to communities, and build a healthier, more resilient continent.

Dr Kaseya acknowledged the valuable leadership and vision of UNAIDS Executive Director Winnie Byanyima. He emphasised the importance of working together to drive meaningful progress and ensure that no one is left behind in Africa’s health journey.

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Global Leaders Unite to Harness AI for Pandemic Preparedness



A roundtable hosted by Foreign Policy magazine on “The 100 Days Mission: Harnessing AI to Protect Against Pandemics” brought together global leaders to explore how artificial intelligence can improve pandemic preparedness. The discussion highlighted the power of innovation in boosting Africa’s ability to respond to future health threats.

Contributing to the dialogue, Dr Jean Kaseya emphasised the importance of global solidarity in protecting communities worldwide and expressed appreciation to Foreign Policy and fellow participants for the timely and thoughtful exchange.

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Leaders Explore New Ways to Fund Global Health



A high-level roundtable on innovative finance in global health, convened by MedAccess, brought together leaders from government, the private sector and philanthropy to explore how new financing models can strengthen national health systems and accelerate progress toward Universal Health Coverage.

Participating in the discussion, Dr Jean Kaseya emphasised that innovative financing must be rooted in strong governance to ensure that every resource delivers resilience, equity, and meaningful impact for communities. Sustainable, inclusive, and resilient financing, he noted, is crucial to protecting and improving health for all.

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