

WEEKLY BULLETIN | 10 - 16 November 2025



Spotlight

Africa Public Health Podcast: Season One Recap

Marburg Virus Confirmed in Ethiopia's Southern Region

Ethiopia has confirmed that the suspected outbreak in its southern region is Marburg virus disease. Dr Jean Kaseya praised the swift and transparent response of the Federal Ministry of Health and the Ethiopian Public Health Institute (EPHI).

He emphasised that Africa CDC's in-country team is working closely with national authorities, providing technical support and monitoring the situation. "We stand with Ethiopia to contain this outbreak quickly and protect communities," he affirmed.

Africa CDC has had a long-standing partnership with EPHI to strengthen Ethiopia's molecular diagnostic and genomic surveillance capacity - critical capabilities that were immediately deployed in response to the current outbreak.

Through this collaboration, Africa CDC provided genome-sequencing equipment, sequencing reagents, PCR detection kits (including Marburg-specific assays), and extensive training for laboratory personnel in genome sequencing, bioinformatics, biosafety, PPE use and safe sample handling.

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Malaria Study to Support Elimination Efforts in Southern Africa



Africa CDC has launched a malaria operational research project in Lesotho, Namibia and Zimbabwe, funded by a US\$150,000 World Bank grant. Running from 14 November to 12 December 2025, the initiative aims to strengthen malaria

control and elimination efforts in Southern Africa, where outbreaks remain a major public health challenge.

The study will assess larvicide options, integrated vector control strategies and outbreak response mechanisms. Researchers from Africa CDC, national health ministries, and academia will use advanced tools such as vector bionomics and mathematical modelling to understand transmission dynamics and identify gaps in healthcare delivery during epidemics.

Lesotho, Namibia and Zimbabwe were chosen due to high vulnerability and existing research protocols. Recent surges underscore the urgency: Namibia reported nearly 6,000 cases and 28 deaths in early 2025, while Zimbabwe saw a 180% rise in cases and a 218% increase in deaths. Findings will inform policy updates, optimise interventions, and strengthen regional capacity for malaria elimination.

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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

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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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Managing Mpox at Home: Lessons from COVID-19

Lessons from COVID-19 are shaping Africa's mpox response. Across several African Union Member States, home-based care is proving effective for managing mild mpox cases, easing pressure on health facilities while keeping communities safe. This approach, built on strong infection prevention, community engagement, and clear guidance, is helping countries adapt, respond and save lives.



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Africa CDC Partners with Nigeria to Strengthen Health Systems

Arriving in Abuja, Nigeria, at the invitation of Prof Muhammad Ali Patel, the Coordinating Minister of Health, Dr Jean Kaseya joined the 2025 Joint Annual Review. He commended Nigeria's bold adoption of the Sector-Wide Approach (SWAp), which is already strengthening coordination, improving governance and accelerating impact - an impressive demonstration of leadership and commitment.

Looking ahead, Dr Kaseya announced that in 2026, Africa CDC will convene other African Union Member States to learn from Nigeria's experience and collectively build stronger, more resilient health systems.

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Africa CDC Epidemic Intelligence Weekly Report: 6 November 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 dis-

eases 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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At Chatham House, Africa CDC Champions African-Led Health Security

Dr Kaseya expressed gratitude to Chatham House and fellow panellists for a timely dialogue. He highlighted that Africa continues to move forward with one clear message: health security must be rooted in strong systems, reliable financing and African-led action.

While partnerships are valued, he stressed that they should reinforce - not replace - national priorities. Dr Kaseya reaffirmed that Africa CDC will continue working with African Union Member States to advance a unified vision for a healthier, more resilient continent.

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Meeting with Baroness Chapman to Advance Health Security

In London, Dr Jean Kaseya met the Rt Hon. Baroness Chapman of Darlington, UK Minister of International Development and Africa. Their discussion celebrated the strong partnership between Africa CDC and the United Kingdom in advancing health security.

He congratulated her on the UK's leadership in securing funds for the replenishment of Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance, The Global Fund, and The Pandemic Fund. Looking ahead, Dr Kaseya reaffirmed the commitment to advancing the shared goal of health security and sovereignty across Africa.

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Mpox Research in DRC to Deliver Real-World Vaccine Data



In the wake of the ongoing mpox outbreak, the Democratic Republic of the Congo will launch a study to evaluate the LC16m8 vaccine's effectiveness and safety in African populations. LC16m8, a long-established smallpox vaccine also used for mpox, has a WHO Emergency Use Listing. Japan is donating three million doses for emergency use to protect high-risk groups.

aims to strengthen outbreak response and health security while informing global preparedness. Africa CDC, WHO, and the DRC Ministry of Health stress that the findings will be critical for protecting vulnerable populations and shaping future vaccination policies.

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Supported by up to USD 10.4 million from CEPI, this first-of-its-kind effort in Africa