

**WEEKLY BULLETIN | 19-25 January 2026**

**Spotlight**

## Mpox Emergency Lifted as Africa Strengthens Health Security

Mpox is no longer a Public Health Emergency of International Concern, following the Africa CDC's decision to revoke this status, based on the recommendation of its Emergency Consultative Group. This marks an important step forward for the continent and reflects stronger preparedness and coordination across countries.

The emergency was declared in August 2024 after mpox cases rose sharply to more than 80,000 suspected infections and 1,340 deaths, mostly in the Democratic Republic of Congo. Limited access to vaccines, diagnostics and treatments had left African countries especially vulnerable to the outbreak.

In response, Africa CDC led a coordinated effort that mobilised over US\$1 billion, strengthened community-based surveillance, expanded

laboratory and genomic capacity, delivered more than five million vaccine doses to 16 countries, and advanced joint research with thousands of scientists. These actions helped reduce suspected cases by 40%, confirmed cases by 60%, and sharply lowered the fatality rate.

With the emergency phase over, Africa CDC is shifting focus to long-term control and eventual elimination. Mpox remains present in some areas, so continued vigilance is needed. A new Mpox Transition Roadmap will support countries in maintaining strong surveillance, vaccination, and research systems, while also helping shape broader efforts to improve health security across Africa.

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## Checklist Defines Standards for Conducting Vaccine Trials in African Countries

Africa CDC has developed a continent-wide checklist detailing the requirements external companies must meet before conducting a vaccine clinical trial in an African country. The guidance is designed to ensure that all trials are safe, ethical, legally compliant and aligned with national priorities.

Coming in the wake of heightened scrutiny over a clinical trial for hepatitis B in Guinea-Bissau, the checklist outlines all essential steps: regulatory and ethics approvals, government authorisation, legal agreements and insurance, informed consent, and adherence to international standards. It also emphasises strong local

partnerships, responsible data governance, robust safety monitoring and proper importation procedures.

This framework seeks to strengthen participant protection, supports greater transparency and promotes high quality research. It also encourages sponsors to invest in local capacity, engage communities meaningfully, and guarantee post trial benefits - ensuring that vaccine research conducted in Africa delivers clear value to African populations.

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**Africa's Health Security and Sovereignty (AHSS)** agenda builds on the New Public Health Order adopted in 2022 after COVID-19. It addresses reduced aid, recurring outbreaks and fragile supply chains. Centred on five pillars - governance, preparedness, financing, digital innovation and local manufacturing - AHSS seeks to strengthen resilience and cut external dependence. By 2040, Africa aims to produce 60% of essential health products, secure its data and lead in global health.

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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 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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**DIRECTOR GENERAL'S  
ENGAGEMENTS**



**Angolan President's Message on Health Security Welcomed**

Dr Jean Kaseya welcomed Angolan President João Lourenço's reflections on Africa CDC's role in advancing the continent's health security and sovereignty.

President Lourenço's remarks, delivered in his capacity as Chair of the Africa CDC Committee of Heads of State

and Government, underscored the importance of the agency's mandate in strengthening preparedness and response across Africa.

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**Africa CDC Epidemic Intelligence Weekly Report: 17 January 2026**

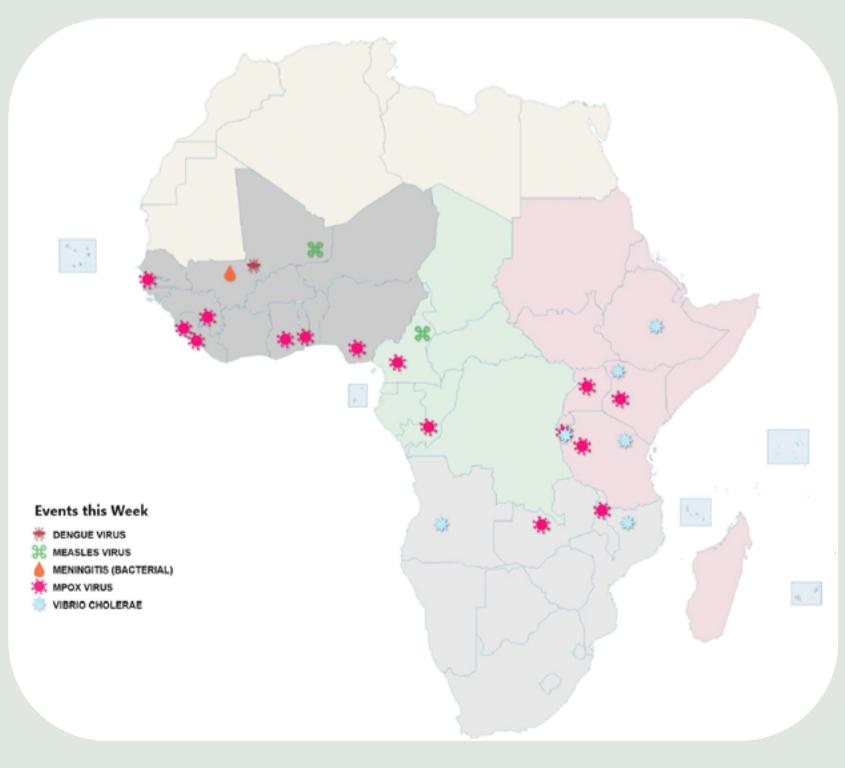
**Weekly real-time insights on public health threats across the continent**

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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Follow Africa CDC on social media for updates and insights from across the continent:

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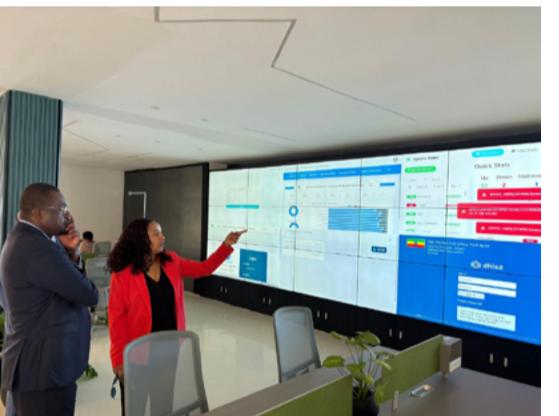


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**Kaseya Underscores Value of AU Health Systems Coordination**

Having participated as a special guest at the handover of the African Union Development Agency-NEPAD's Medicines Regulatory Programmes to the African Medicines Agency in Lusaka, Zambia, Dr Kaseya underscored the strategic importance of strengthened collaboration across the African Union ecosystem.

He highlighted that coordinated engagement among AUDA NEPAD, Africa CDC, the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) Secretariat, and the African Medicines Agency is essential to advancing resilient health and regulatory systems across the continent.

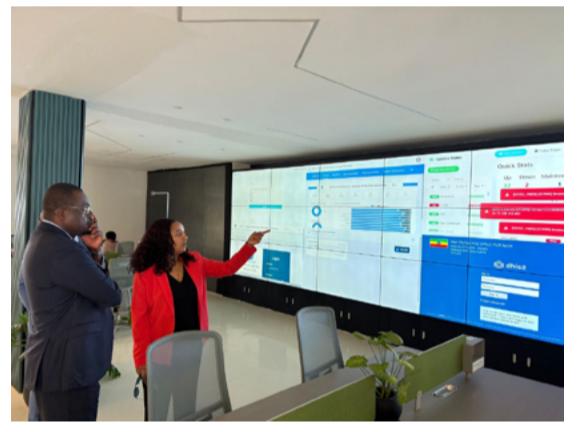


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**Ethiopia's Homegrown AI Solutions Impress**

At the invitation of Dr Mekdes Daba Feyssa, Ethiopia's Minister of Health, Dr Kaseya visited the Ethiopian Artificial Intelligence Institute in Addis Ababa. He expressed his appreciation for the impressive level of innovation, creativity and forward-looking work underway at the institution.

Dr Kaseya noted that the integration of AI and homegrown technologies into health and development efforts reflects Africa's growing strength in technological leadership. He added that such experiences highlight the continent's remarkable potential and its rising position in global innovation.



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**Africa CDC Deepens Partnership with Gabon in Support of the AHSS Vision**

While enroute from Morocco to Addis Ababa, Dr Kaseya made a stop in Libreville to meet and extend his congratulations to Gabon's newly-appointed Minister of Health, Prof Elsa Nkana Joséphine Ayo. Their discussions centred on strategic opportunities to enhance cooperation between Gabon and Africa CDC, in line with the institution's renewed vision for Africa Health Security and Sovereignty (AHSS).

During the visit, Dr Kaseya also engaged with colleagues from Africa CDC's Regional Coordinating Centre for Central Africa, based in Libreville, to reinforce ongoing regional collaboration.



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**Promoting Well Being and Unity at AFCON 2026**

As he joined African and international leaders at the Africa Cup of Nations 2026 final - at the invitation of the Government of Morocco - Dr Kaseya underscored the important role that sport and health play in promoting unity, well-being and resilience across the continent.

He conveyed his appreciation to Morocco and to the Confederation of African Football (CAF) President, Patrice Motsepe, for the successful organisation of the event.



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