

WEEKLY BULLETIN | 26 January - 1 February 2026



Spotlight

Swift Action Ends Ethiopia's First Marburg Outbreak

Ethiopia has successfully declared its first-ever Marburg virus outbreak over in under three months, following a rapid, transparent and highly coordinated response supported by Africa CDC. The outbreak ended after 42 consecutive days with no new cases and remained largely confined to the country's southern region.

Africa CDC Director-General Dr Jean Kaseya praised the Government of Ethiopia for decisive leadership and openness, highlighting an integrated, community-centred approach that combined routine vaccination with door-to-door screening. This strategy enabled early detection, protected public trust and ensured continuity of essential health services.

A strong laboratory response underpinned decision-making, with over 3,800 tests

conducted, resulting in 14 confirmed cases, nine deaths and five recoveries. Ethiopia's early notification to Africa CDC - prior to formal outbreak declaration - was cited as a demonstration of trust and commitment to continental health security.

Beyond emergency response, Africa CDC's partnership with Ethiopia has focused on long-term system strengthening. This includes significant investments in laboratory equipment, workforce training and infrastructure for the Ethiopian Public Health Institute (EPHI), as well as a major regional initiative with the World Bank to expand laboratory and office capacity. EPHI has since been designated a Regional Centre of Excellence.

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New Data System Enhances Early Detection and Response to Health Risks

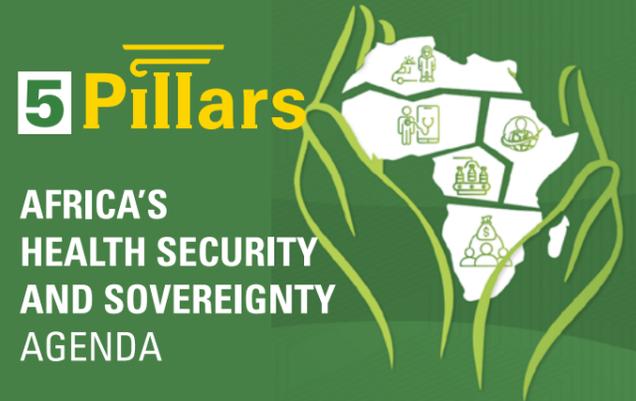
The new Central Data Repository (CDR) launched by Africa CDC is designed to improve the sharing and use of public health data across Africa. It brings key surveillance, laboratory and programme data into a single secure system.

By reducing data gaps and fragmentation, the CDR helps identify health risks earlier, supports better analysis and forecasting, while also improving coordination between countries, including through the One Health approach. This comes as public health emergencies on the continent continue to rise sharply.

Developed over more than a year and validated in November 2025, the system is ready for use. Funded by the Global Fund with technical support from the Public Health Informatics Institute, it allows countries to keep control of their data while enabling faster, evidence based decisions at the continental level.

Over time, the CDR is expected to strengthen preparedness and response by supporting routine monitoring, emergency response planning and long term health system strengthening.

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AFRICA'S HEALTH SECURITY AND SOVEREIGNTY AGENDA

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



High Level AU–US Engagement on Pandemic Preparedness

Dr Kaseya joined H.E. Mahmoud Ali Youssouf, Chairperson of the African Union Commission, in a high-level dialogue with US Deputy Secretary Landau, marking a moment of renewed partnership.

the United States and Africa CDC - strengthening public health security, reinforcing pandemic preparedness, and advancing resilient health systems for communities across the African continent.

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The engagement underscored a shared vision to deepen collaboration between

Africa CDC Epidemic Intelligence Weekly Report: 28 January 2026

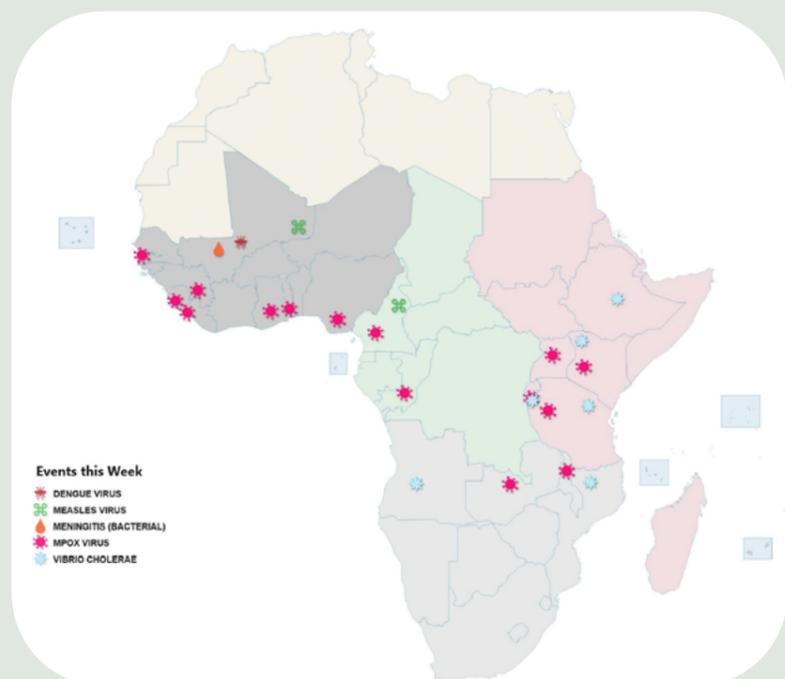
Weekly real-time insights on public health threats across the continent

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.

ease 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.

Focusing on moderate to very high-risk events, the report tracks a range of threats-from emerging infectious dis-

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Courtesy Visit Highlights Strong Kenya–Africa CDC Partnership

Africa CDC hosted H.E. Ambassador Galma M. Boru, Ambassador of the Republic of Kenya to the Federal Republic of Ethiopia and Permanent Representative to the African Union and the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa, during a courtesy visit.



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The meeting included constructive discussions with Dr Kaseya on deepening collaboration between Kenya and Africa CDC to strengthen public health security and resilience across Africa. Kenya's leadership and sustained commitment to the continent's health security, solidarity and sovereignty were warmly acknowledged.

Using Health Data to Improve Care in Ethiopia

Under the Sovereign Data for Health (SD4H) initiative, Africa CDC and Ethiopia's Ministry of Health are working together to strengthen health data systems, improve data management and facilitate the sharing and use of information.



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This partnership shows how connected, reliable health data can improve primary health care, sexual and reproductive health and maternal and child health. It supports better, evidence-based decisions and more responsive health services, helping countries use health intelligence to improve outcomes across the continent.

How Africa Is Transforming Genomic Surveillance for Faster Outbreak Response

Did you know that Africa has expanded its genomic sequencing capacity from just seven to 46 African Union Member States?



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Dr Collins Tanui, programme lead at the Africa Pathogen Genomics Initiative, housed at Africa CDC, explains how this progress is helping countries detect and respond more quickly to outbreaks such as Ebola, mpox, cholera and Marburg, strengthening Africa's health security through timely, locally generated data. Beyond technology, Africa PGI is shaping policy and preparedness. Six Member States have launched national genomics strategies, with 11 more in progress, signalling a shift toward sustainable, African-led systems

AU–EU Visit Strengthens Health Collaboration

A delegation from the AU–EU Health Partnership, led by Ms Deirdre Lennan of the European Commission, visited the Africa CDC Southern Regional Coordinating Centre (SARCC) to strengthen alignment between regional and continental health priorities.



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The visit reinforced cooperation under the Africa Health Security and Sovereignty Agenda, with a focus on surveillance, health workforce development, health security and emergency preparedness, reaffirming the AU–EU commitment to building resilient and sustainable health systems across Africa.