

WEEKLY BULLETIN | 9 - 15 February 2026



Spotlight

AU Ministers Unite Behind Major Push to Strengthen Africa's Health Workforce

African Union health and finance ministers, together with Heads of Delegations, have called for urgent and sustained investment in Africa's health workforce to strengthen health security and advance universal health coverage. The appeal was made at a High-Level Side Event during the 39th AU Assembly, co organised with Africa CDC and the AU Commission.

Leaders highlighted the essential role of community health workers and strong immunisation systems, warning that Africa's severe workforce shortage threatens outbreak detection and basic health services. Despite

that more than one million CHWs are now deployed, coverage remains well below global benchmarks, and most programmes still lack stable domestic financing.

The meeting underscored the strong economic returns of investing in health workers and urged countries to prioritise workforce financing, protect frontline spending and use AU accountability tools. Leaders concluded by endorsing a declaration committing to accelerated investment in Africa's health workforce.

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New Commitment Advances Local Manufacturing for Africa's Health Security

In a major step to strengthen Africa's health sovereignty, leaders committed to increasing the local production of essential health products. They endorsed a target for Africa to manufacture at least 60 per cent of its health products locally by 2040 and supported full operationalisation of the African Pooled Procurement Mechanism to improve access, affordability, and reliability across the continent.

Dr Jean Kaseya recognised the leadership of H.E. William Ruto, the African Union Champion on Local Manufacturing, noting that his sustained advocacy has kept local production

at the forefront of the continental agenda. The upcoming 2026 Extraordinary Summit on Local Manufacturing in Nairobi is expected to build on this momentum and turn political commitment into concrete progress.

Africa CDC reaffirmed its commitment to this shared vision, emphasising its role in driving implementation, strengthening partnerships and supporting countries in scaling up manufacturing capacity and long-term health security across Africa.

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5 Pillars

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 it 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

[Listen in...](#)

Financing Africa's Health Security and Sovereignty

Africa's health-financing landscape has entered a decisive transition. After two decades of progress supported by expanding development assistance for health (DAH) and disease-specific programmes, the continent now faces a convergence of fiscal pressures that threaten the sustainability of health systems and recent gains in coverage and outcomes.



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DIRECTOR GENERAL'S ENGAGEMENTS



Africa CDC and UNFPA Unite to Improve Sexual and Reproductive Health Across Africa

A new partnership between Africa CDC and UNFPA aims to strengthen women and adolescents' health across Africa by expanding access to sexual and reproductive health services, enhancing data-driven decision-making, and scaling innovative health solutions. Signed during the 2026 African Union Summit, the agreement establishes a framework for deeper collaboration to expand access to sexual and reproductive health and rights and to strengthen resilient, equitable health systems.

The partnership includes joint efforts to boost local manufacturing, pool procurement of sexual and reproductive health, maternal, newborn and adolescent health products, and advance digital health systems, while strengthening the capacity of health leaders and programme managers. It also underscores both organisations' commitment to African led innovation, sustainable financing and coordinated policymaking in adolescent, maternal and reproductive health.

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Sustainable Water and Sanitation Take Centre Stage at AU Executive Council

Dr Kaseya joined Africa's Ministers of Foreign Affairs at the opening of the 48th Ordinary Session of the African Union Executive Council, held ahead of the 39th AU Assembly in Addis Ababa.

He noted that this year's theme - sustainable water availability and safe sanitation - was fundamental to health. Without safe water, he emphasised, primary health care systems cannot function safely or effectively.



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Stronger Coordination Today for a Healthier Africa Tomorrow

Dr Kaseya convened Ministers of Health and Finance at Africa CDC to advance Africa's Health Security and Sovereignty (AHSS) Agenda.

He welcomed the opportunity to engage with Nardos Bekele-Thomas of the African Union Development Agency-NEPAD and Dr Sidi

Ould Tah of the African Development Bank Group, together with Member States and partners, to strengthen sustainable health financing and foster closer collaboration between finance and health leadership. His message was clear: stronger coordination today means stronger health security tomorrow.

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Africa CDC and Comoros Reinforce Cooperation on Health Security

Following a meeting with H.E. President Azali Assoumani of the Union of the Comoros, Dr Kaseya reflected on their discussion held on the margins of the 39th African Union Summit in Addis Ababa.

He welcomed the President's acknowledgement of Africa CDC's ongoing support to the Comoros, including the recent handover of essential laboratory equipment aimed at strengthening the country's diagnostic capacity.

Dr Kaseya reaffirmed that robust national health systems are the foundation of Africa's health security and sovereignty.



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Strengthening Primary Health Care Key to Saving Mothers' Lives



At a high level forum hosted by the Susan Thompson Buffett Foundation, Dr Kaseya participated in the launch of a new initiative focused on maternal health and sexual and reproductive health and rights. The forum highlighted the urgent and preventable reality that nearly 20 women in Africa die every hour from childbirth.

Dr Kaseya emphasised that Africa's Health Security and Sovereignty (AHSS) agenda

must focus on interventions proven to save lives. He underscored the need for stronger primary health care systems, a well supported health workforce - including community health workers - reliable access to essential maternal health commodities, and improved data systems to drive accountability and measurable results.

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NEW REPORTS

Africa Community Health Programme | Continental Landscape Survey Report 2024/5

The African Health Workforce Compact is a multi-stakeholder, evidence-based initiative designed to help African Union Member States strengthen their health workforce.



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African Health Workforce Compact, March 2025

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Communiqué: Continental Immunization Strategy Adoption

Immunisation is one of Africa's most effective health investments, yet coverage has stagnated, and millions of children remain unvaccinated amid growing financial, system, and equity challenges. In response, Africa CDC is developing a Continental Immunisation Strategy to strengthen primary health care, close equity gaps, and build resilient, self-reliant immunisation systems.



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Baseline Report on the Health Workforce Status of 55 African Union Member States, March 2025

The Baseline Report synthesises findings from an analysis of health workforce strategies, desk research, and economic scenarios across African Union Member States following the June 2024 Inception Meeting in Addis Ababa.



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Africa CDC Epidemic Intelligence Weekly Report: 4 February 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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