

WEEKLY BULLETIN | 9-15 March 2026



Spotlight

Africa CDC, ECDC Formalise Partnership with First-Ever Memorandum of Understanding

A memorandum of understanding between Africa CDC and the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC) marks a significant deepening of cooperation on global health security.

Signed in Addis Ababa by Africa CDC Director General Dr Jean Kaseya and ECDC Director Pamela Rendi Wagner, the agreement formalises a decade of collaboration and establishes a framework for enhanced joint action in disease surveillance, risk assessment and emergency preparedness. It also expands cooperation on

vaccine preventable diseases, emerging health threats, data analytics, laboratory capacity and public health workforce development.

The MoU builds on a recently completed five year EU funded partnership that strengthened preparedness, surveillance and training across Africa. This work will continue through a new five year Team Europe initiative launching in May 2026, focused on combating antimicrobial resistance and advancing the One Health approach.

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Africa Charts Path to Scale Up Vaccine Manufacturing by 2040

Africa's market for medicines and vaccines is worth more than US\$50 billion annually, yet less than 1% of the vaccines used on the continent are produced locally. Opening the African Manufacturing Pre Marketplace Forum - co organised by Africa CDC and Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance - Dr Kaseya described the event as a concrete step in shifting this reality.

Health sovereignty, he noted, requires more than ambition. Predictable demand, strong and trusted regulatory systems, sustainable financing and committed buyers willing to procure African made health products are all

essential building blocks. The continent's goal remains clear: to manufacture 60% of its vaccine needs by 2040.

With 574 active health product manufacturers already operating across Africa, including 25 involved in vaccine production, the foundations exist to achieve this vision. According to Dr Kaseya, the priority now is to connect supply with demand, unlock investment and build a resilient, sustainable market capable of supporting African manufacturing at scale.

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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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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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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 its data and lead in global health.

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Investing in the Next Generation of Public Health Journalists

During health emergencies, misinformation can spread as quickly as disease. Addressing this challenge requires not only strong public health institutions but also journalists equipped to inform, educate and empower communities with accurate, evidence-based reporting. Africa CDC has expressed a commitment to strengthening this capacity. By establishing a Public Health track within the African Union Media Fellowship, the health agency is investing in journalists who can report

on outbreaks, health systems and Africa's public health priorities with depth, accuracy and credibility. As part of this effort, fellows visited Africa CDC headquarters in Addis Ababa, marking the beginning of a 16-month programme. The initiative includes masterclasses and direct engagements with Africa CDC technical experts on outbreak response and the Africa Health Security and Sovereignty Agenda.

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Africa CDC Epidemic Intelligence Weekly Report: 13 March 2026

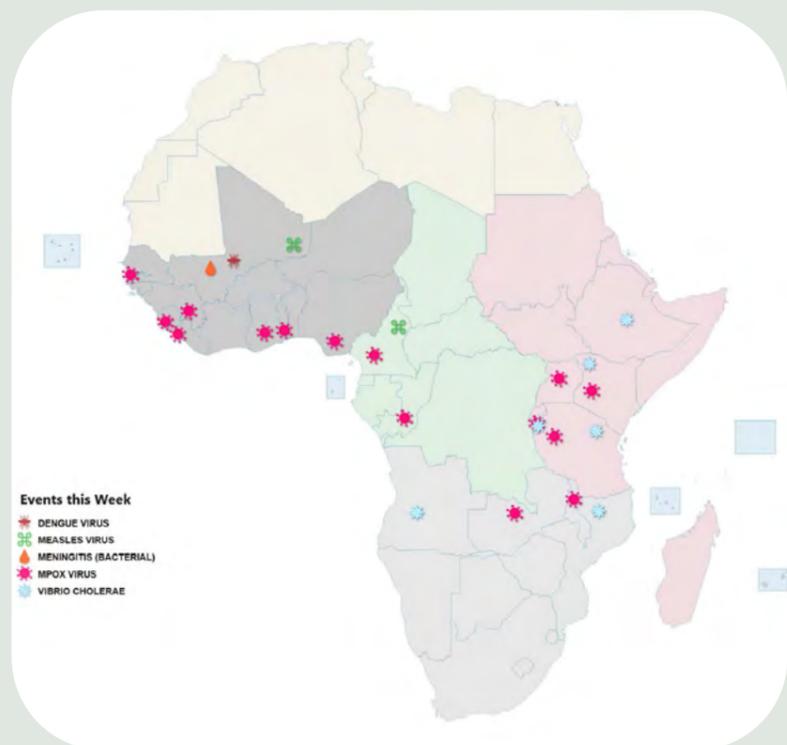
Weekly real-time insights on public health threats across the continent

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.

Events range from 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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DIRECTOR GENERAL'S ENGAGEMENTS

Strengthening Primary Health Care Through Digitalisation in Ethiopia

Strong primary health care systems were recognised as the foundation of healthier and more resilient communities. At Africa CDC headquarters, Dr Kaseya, together with Ethiopia's Minister of Health Dr Mekdes Daba Feyssa, opened a Primary Health Care Digitalisation Framework Validation Workshop.

The event underscored the transformative role of digital tools in equipping frontline health workers with timely data, strengthening disease surveillance and ensuring essential services reach all communities.

The workshop came as Africa CDC, in collaboration with African Union Member States and partners, is advancing an ambitious goal to digitalise 90% of primary



health care systems across the continent by 2035. The gathering in Addis Ababa reaffirmed that strong partnerships and coordinated action are central to accelerating digital transformation and building more resilient primary health care systems across Africa

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From 3 to Almost 40: Africa Marks Major Progress in Genomic Preparedness

A few years ago, only three countries in Africa had the capacity to conduct genomic sequencing; today, nearly 40 possess this capability. Africa CDC has been instrumental in helping to build stronger laboratories, faster detection systems and more effective use of data to enable timely responses to future health threats.

According to Dr Kaseya, this progress reflects the momentum driving the Africa Health Security and Sovereignty Agenda, which is strengthening the continent's ability to prevent, detect and respond to public health emergencies.

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From Response to Readiness: Africa Moves to Institutionalise the IMST

In Kinshasa, DRC, Africa is advancing the transition of the continental Incident Management Support Team (IMST) into a permanent platform - shifting from reactive emergency response to sustained preparedness and stronger health sovereignty.

Marburg, cholera and other outbreaks across the continent. Guided by the "4 Ones" principle - one strategy, one coordination mechanism, one budget and one monitoring framework - the transition aims to institutionalise coordination gains and reinforce Africa's preparedness for future health threats.

Co-chaired by Africa CDC and the World Health Organization, the IMST was established to coordinate the continental response to the mpox outbreak and align the efforts of governments, public health institutes and partners. Through joint surveillance, laboratory coordination, risk communication and vaccine deployment, it has strengthened outbreak detection while ensuring countries operate from a shared operational picture.



The IMST has since expanded beyond mpox to support responses to Ebola,

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Meningitis Outbreak in DRC Highlights Need for Stronger Surveillance

A meningitis outbreak in the DRC's Mangambo Health Zone underscores the critical need for strong surveillance systems. Africa CDC experts, working with national health authorities, are strengthening monitoring to more precisely track the circulating strain and ensure that vaccination and response measures are tailored to the pathogen driving this outbreak.



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