

WEEKLY BULLETIN | 13-19 April 2026



Spotlight

African Union Recognises Dr Jean Kaseya's Contribution to Health Security

In the wake of the Chairperson of the African Union Commission's recognition of his leadership, Dr Jean Kaseya expressed his sincere appreciation for the honour. He emphasised that the accolade is not an individual distinction, but a reflection of the collective endeavour of African Union Member States, partners and Africans across the continent working together to strengthen Africa's health security.

Dr Kaseya reaffirmed that Africa CDC's work remains guided by a clear and unwavering principle: Africa's health security is Africa's responsibility - and the foundation of its resilience and leadership.

This acknowledgement, he noted, marks an important moment within a broader journey toward the Africa Health Security and Sovereignty Agenda, reinforcing a shared commitment to building resilient, self-reliant health systems across the continent.

Since assuming office in 2023, Africa CDC has expanded programme management and accelerated support to Member States, resulting in improved budget utilisation and strengthened capacity across National Public Health Institutes, public health emergency operations centres, and pathogen genomics.

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Ghana Advances Access and Equity with Free Primary Health Care

Dr Kaseya congratulated H.E. John Dramani Mahama and the Government of Ghana on the launch of free primary health care, marking an important milestone in advancing equity and access to health services across the continent.

He said this bold reform directly advances the Africa Health Security and Sovereignty Agenda, responding to people's health needs while also strengthening systems and resilience for Africa's health future.

Dr Kaseya emphasised that sustained progress would depend on strong domestic financing, alongside digitally enabled and accountable health systems that ensure no one is left behind.

Africa CDC, he said, was ready to support Ghana and all Member States in their pursuit of this transformative journey.

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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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DIRECTOR GENERAL'S ENGAGEMENTS



At Spring Meetings in Washington, Dr Kaseya Urges Action on Africa's Health

Having arrived in Washington, D.C. for the World Bank Group–International Monetary Fund Spring Meetings, Dr Kaseya began his engagements at the Milken Institute, where he joined global and US leaders, including Dr Jill Biden, former American First Lady, to discuss the urgent need - and real opportunity - to reverse maternal and child mortality in Africa.

The discussions underscored growing momentum across the continent, supported by the leadership of H.E. Samia Suluhu Hassan, the African

Union Champion for Maternal, Newborn and Child Health, whose commitment continues to galvanise coordinated action across the continent.

Attention also turned to geopolitical pressures affecting Africa's health systems. Dr Kaseya raised serious concerns about the immediate impact of the blockade of the Strait of Hormuz, warning of sharp increases in the cost of health commodities and critical supply shortages.

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Africa CDC Epidemic Intelligence Weekly Report: 8 April 2026

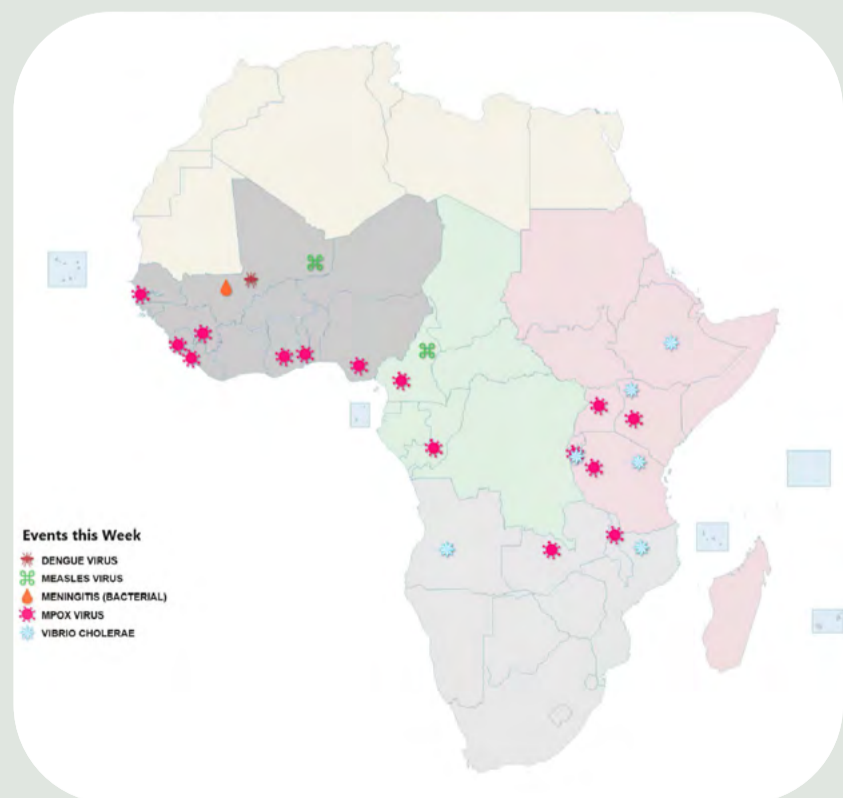
Weekly real-time insights on public health threats across the continent

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 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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Country Led Health Systems Signal a New Global Health Era

While also in Washington, D.C., Dr Kaseya joined Richard Hatchett of the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations and John Arne Røttingen of the Wellcome Trust at the Center for Strategic and International Studies Futures Summit. The discussion on the future of global health took place alongside the World Bank Group and International Monetary Fund Spring Meetings.



Dr Kaseya noted that as external financing declined, Africa did not wait, but instead built a new strategy and vision anchored in health sovereignty. He pointed to the DRC's rapid containment of its 16th Ebola outbreak as evidence of what country led action can achieve.

Looking ahead, Dr Kaseya challenged the global community to adapt. "The real question," he said, "is whether the global health system is ready to work differently."

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Dr Kaseya Recognised Among Africa's Top Health Leaders

Meridian Letters is the latest to recognise Dr Kaseya's work, naming him among the Top 20 Leaders Shaping Health Across Africa - a distinction that underscores the growing influence of his contributions in advancing the continent's health priorities on both regional and global platforms.

global affairs, with a strong focus on leadership that drives transformative change across Africa.

Dr Kaseya said the recognition reflects the collective effort behind these achievements, acknowledging the dedication of the Africa CDC team and partners who continue working together to strengthen Africa's health security and sovereignty through coordinated, impact driven action.

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Health as an Investment: Charting a New Path for Africa's Health Systems

Dr Kaseya joined Raj Kumar and H.E. Judith Suminwa Tuluka, Prime Minister of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, at Devex Impact House: The Capital Summit to reflect on the future of health financing in Africa.

for a clear break from fragmented approaches and a transition toward health systems that are coordinated, accountable and capable of delivering tangible, measurable impact for communities across the continent.

He highlighted that as external assistance declines and fiscal pressures mount, the way forward is unequivocal: stronger domestic investment, greater efficiency and closer alignment of financing with national priorities. As he stressed, health is not a cost - it is a strategic investment in resilience, security, and sovereignty. In Dr Kaseya's view, this moment calls



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Burundi Strengthens Cervical Cancer Prevention Through HPV Vaccine Scale Up

With support from Africa CDC and other partners, and under the leadership of Health Minister Dr Lydwine Baradahana, Burundi is scaling up the nationwide introduction of the HPV vaccine.

Following a successful pilot phase, the vaccine has been integrated into routine immunisation, strengthening efforts to prevent cervical cancer among girls aged 9–14. Africa CDC continues to support countries in building resilient immunisation systems to ensure equitable access to life saving vaccines across the continent.



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