

**WEEKLY BULLETIN | 30 March-5 April 2026**



**Spotlight**

## Plugging the Leaks: Africa Could Unlock Billions in Health Without Raising a Dollar

An estimated 40% of health resources in Africa are lost to inefficiency and poor governance - a reality that, if corrected, could unlock billions for health without requiring a single additional dollar. This was a central point emphasised by Dr Jean Kaseya at the High Level Forum on Sustainable Health Financing in Tangier, Morocco.

He highlighted the significant progress underway in the Democratic Republic of Congo, which is moving toward allocating 14.5% of its national budget to health and edging closer to the Abuja target. This momentum, he noted, demonstrates the power of strong political will.

Yet Dr Kaseya stressed that raising more resources is only part of the solution. Equally critical is how those resources are used. In his view, stronger governance, improved efficiency and accountable public financial management are the foundations of real transformation.

He reaffirmed that Africa CDC remains committed to supporting Member States in advancing sustainable financing, strengthening accountability and driving the long term investments needed to achieve true health sovereignty.

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## New Initiative Set to Transform NCD Surveillance Across the Continent

A new initiative to strengthen surveillance and response to non-communicable diseases (NCDs) signals major progress toward more resilient public health systems on the continent.

The SPARK–NCD programme was officially launched by Africa CDC in Zanzibar, Tanzania, in collaboration with African Union Member States and partners.

The programme will support countries in reinforcing surveillance systems for NCDs, injuries and mental health; building a skilled and

responsive public health workforce; integrating high-quality NCD data into national policy and planning; and advancing coordinated, people-centred models of care.

Evidence presented from Tanzania and Uganda demonstrated that integrated HIV and NCD services are safe, equitable cost effective and capable of expanding access without compromising health outcomes.

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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

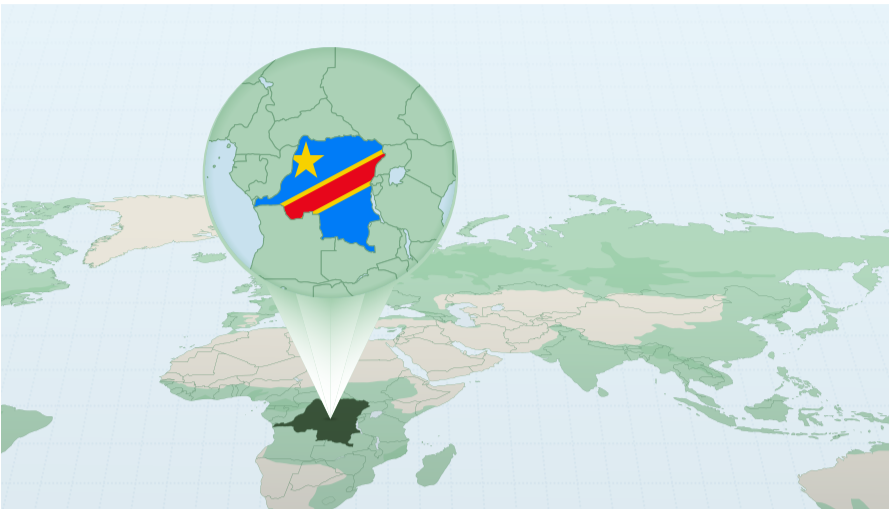
### AFRICA'S HEALTH SECURITY AND SOVEREIGNTY AGENDA



**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**



**From Epicentre to Recovery: DRC Ends Mpox Outbreak**

The DRC has officially declared the mpox outbreak over. After more than 161,000 suspected cases and 37,000 confirmed, a nationwide effort driven by strong political leadership and deep community engagement helped turn the tide.

Once the epicentre of the outbreak, the DRC has now transitioned from emergency response to routine management, marking a significant public health milestone. This is a strong example of coordinated action, resilience and partnership in protecting communities.

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**Africa CDC Epidemic Intelligence Weekly Report: 23 March 2026**

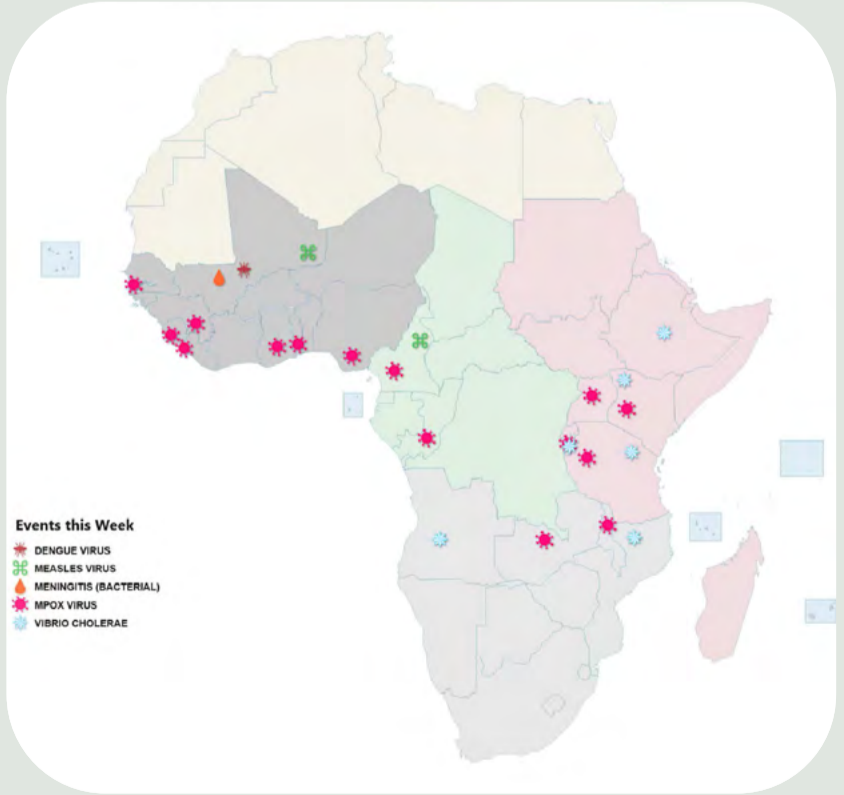
**Weekly real-time insights on public health threats across the continent**

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 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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**Why the Continent Must Make Its Own Diagnostics and Vaccines**

Africa currently produces less than 5% of the diagnostics and only about 1% of the vaccines it uses - a dependency that undermines emergency response, drives up costs, and puts lives at risk. In a recent paper published in The Lancet Group, co-authored by Dr Kaseya and colleagues at Africa CDC, the writers underscore the urgent need to strengthen local production across the continent.

They highlight how initiatives such as the Africa Collaborative Initiative to Advance Diagnostics (AFCAD) are demonstrating the power of strategic investment, regulatory harmonisation

and pooled procurement to expand local manufacturing capacity. These efforts, they argue, are essential to building a more resilient and self-sufficient health system for Africa.



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**Namibia Hosts Regional Learning Visit on Digital Civil Registration Systems**

Digital civil registration systems are emerging as a cornerstone of legal identity, stronger public health systems and inclusive development.

the Minister of Health emphasised that digital transformation is ultimately about delivering timely, coordinated and data-driven services.

A joint learning visit on e-Birth Notification and Civil Registration and Vital Statistics (CRVS) systems brought together Africa CDC, the Government of Namibia, and technical teams from Ethiopia, Senegal and Botswana. Namibia's leadership underscored the transformative potential of robust CRVS systems: the Minister of Home Affairs highlighted their foundational role in legal identity and national development, while



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**A New Mandate for Global Health: Build with Africa, not for Africa**

Global health architecture is undergoing a profound transformation, and Africa must play a defining role in shaping what comes next, said Dr Kaseya.

Africa CDC is working closely with African Union Member States and partners to align financing, strengthen public health institutions, and ensure that global health governance reflects Africa's priorities and perspectives.

In an era of shifting global priorities, the continent cannot afford to operate within systems it does not fully see, track, or influence, he emphasised.

"The next phase of global health must be built with Africa - not for Africa," Dr Kaseya added.

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**Mpox Response Intensifies as Vaccination Drive Accelerates in Madagascar**

Mpox vaccination efforts are progressing in Madagascar, where 7,233 people have been vaccinated to date in hotspot districts and among key populations.

of critical medical supplies and capacity-building for frontline responders and community health workers.

Led by the Ministry of Health and supported by the Continental Incident Management Support Team (IMST) - which brings together Africa CDC, WHO and key partners - the response extends far beyond vaccination.

It includes strengthened surveillance, case investigation, contact tracing, laboratory testing, risk communication and community engagement. Support also includes the surge deployment of the African Health Volunteers Corps (AVoHC), the provision



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