

PRESS RELEASE

European Union Announces €11.5 million Euros to support Africa CDC's response to Ebola Outbreak

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia | 8th June 2026: The Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC) today received €11.5 million renewed commitment from the European Union Commission (EU) to support a stronger preparedness and coordinated response to the Ebola outbreak.

The package is aimed at reinforcing the EU Commission's support through the Africa CDC emergency response to the Ebola crisis, within the long-standing and comprehensive [AU-EU health partnership](#). This demonstrates the central role of Africa CDC in coordinating the continental response to health emergencies, as well as the EU's action as the world's largest humanitarian contributor.

This includes €6.5 million to strengthen the Africa Pathogen Genomics Initiative, to help equip frontline teams train healthcare workers and improve surveillance through diagnostics and in-kind contribution of €5 million worth of testing equipment, including rapid diagnostic devices and lab test kits, to be deployed quickly where they are needed most.

Hadja Lahbib, European Commissioner for Equality, Preparedness and Crisis Management made the pronouncement during a special visit at Africa CDC offices in Addis Ababa.

"Strong partnerships save lives. This €11.5 million package will help Africa CDC strengthen our response to the Ebola outbreak by equipping and training healthcare workers, strengthening surveillance systems, and improving detection and response capacities" she said.

This engagement intensifies the two continents joint efforts to address current and future health threats while advancing Africa's health sovereignty and broader sustainable development objectives.

Dr. Jean Kaseya, Director General, Africa CDC described the partnership with the European Union as respectful, and without any conditionality, a type of partnership the continent needs. "We want to assure you that we'll use this money to make impact. And we'll use this money to ensure that humanitarian corridors will be considered in our response. We don't want to see, again, health workers dying because we are not providing necessary support" he noted.

The European Commission supports the Africa CDC Pathogen Genomics Initiative 2.0, dedicating €6 million to strengthen genomic sequencing and molecular diagnostic surveillance across Africa. This effort enhances outbreak response and cross-border health threat monitoring.

The broader AU-EU Health Partnership is a long-term shared commitment to advancing health security, pandemic preparedness, and equitable access to healthcare across the African Continent, in line with the EU's Global Gateway initiative and the Africa Health Security and Sovereignty agenda. Safeguarding public health remains an absolute priority as diseases do not stop at borders and cooperation is essential. The EU's partnership with Africa CDC spanning technical expertise, capacity-building, and policy dialogue continues to play a key role in building resilient health systems.

Media Contacts:

- Africa CDC: KolyS@africacdc.org | Communications@africacdc.org
- European Union Delegation to the African Union: Rita.FORTUNATO-BAPTISTA@eeas.europa.eu and Biruk.FELEKE@eeas.europa.eu

About EU Global Gateway Initiative

The EU's Global Gateway initiative, with its €150 billion investment package for Africa, was highlighted as a critical enabler of these efforts, supporting infrastructure projects, vaccine manufacturing, and health technology advancements that align with Africa CDC's strategic goals. The AU-EU Health Partnership is implemented in a Team Europe format, twinning projects such as the cooperation between the Africa CDC and the European CDC and the African Medicines Agency (AMA) and European Medicines Agency (EMA).

About Africa CDC

The Africa centres for Disease Control and Prevention is the health agency of the African Union. As an autonomous Institution, Africa CDC supports public health initiatives of Member States and strengthens the capacity of their public health institutions to detect, prevent, control and respond quickly and effectively to disease threats. More: <https://africacdc.org/>