



PRESS RELEASE

Abuja, Nigeria, 3rd of November, 2025

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Directorate of Communication

DECLARATION OF THE ECOWAS REGIONAL ONE HEALTH COORDINATION MECHANISM ON WORLD ONE HEALTH DAY.

On the occasion of World One Health Day, the Regional Centre for Surveillance and Disease Control, on behalf of the Regional One Health Secretariat, reaffirms ECOWAS commitment to safeguarding the health of people, animals and ecosystems across our region.

Thanks to the joint efforts of the Regional Centre for Surveillance and Disease Control (RCSDC), the Regional Animal Health Centre (RAHC), the Directorate of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) and our dedicated partners, the region has achieved significant progress: technical validation of the One Health strategic plan and governance manual, activation of the Regional One Health Coordination Mechanism, conduct multi-level simulation exercises, strengthened risk communication, leadership training, and designing of interoperable digital surveillance platforms. These achievements provide a solid foundation for implementing the ECOWAS Regional One Health strategic Plan 2025–2029, structured around six thematic areas: One Health Coordination, Surveillance and Laboratory Systems, Preparedness and Response, Workforce Development, One Health Research Needs, Advocacy and Sustainability.

However, the persistence of zoonotic outbreaks and ongoing structural challenges — fragmented surveillance systems, limited data sharing, sectoral silos, and the absence of harmonized protocols and indicators — underscore that much work remains to be done. To ensure rapid detection, joint risk assessments and integrated responses, it is essential to continue building an efficient, harmonized regional architecture.

On this day, we call consolidation of gains through:

1. Strengthening political commitment and securing sustainable financing for One Health mechanisms at national and regional levels.
2. Fully operationalizing the Regional One Health Strategic Plan 2025–2029 and Manual Governance.
3. Deploying interoperable surveillance systems and harmonizing indicators, protocols, Memorandum of Understanding (MOU's) and data flows for coordinated response.
4. Intensifying multisectoral training and capacity building, including national and cross-border simulation exercises.
5. Promoting joint research and transparent data sharing to inform policy decisions and guide interventions.



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6. Reinforcing public-private partnerships and international cooperation to support the scaling up of sustainable One health solutions.

Through coordinated, inclusive and sustainable action, ECOWAS and its Member States will continue to protect lives, enhance food security, strengthen resilience to climate change and advance progress toward the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG).

Happy One Health Day 2025!

Regional One Health Secretariat — ECOWAS

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About ECOWAS

The Heads of State and Government of fifteen West African Countries established the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) when they signed the ECOWAS Treaty on the 28th of May 1975 in Lagos, Nigeria.

The Treaty of Lagos was signed by the 15 Heads of State and government of Benin, Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, The Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Liberia, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, Sénégal and Togo, with its stated mission to promote economic integration across the region. The Senegalese President was represented by the Minister for Foreign Affairs. Cabo Verde joined the union in 1977. The only Arabic-speaking Member Mauritania withdrew in December 2000. Mauritania recently signed a new associate-membership agreement in August 2017. On January 29, 2025, Burkina Faso, Mali and Niger officially withdrew from ECOWAS.

The current Member States of ECOWAS are Benin, Cabo Verde, Côte d'Ivoire, The Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Liberia, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, Sénégal and Togo.

Considered one of the pillars of the African Economic Community, ECOWAS was set up to foster the ideal of collective self-sufficiency for its member states. As a trading union, it is also meant to create a single, large trading bloc through economic cooperation.

Integrated economic activities as envisaged in the area that has a combined GDP of \$734.8 billion, revolve around but are not limited to industry, transport, telecommunications, energy, agriculture, natural resources, commerce, monetary and financial issues, social as well as cultural matters.

In 2007, ECOWAS Secretariat was transformed into a Commission. The Commission headed by the President, assisted by a Vice President, five Commissioners and the Auditor-General of ECOWAS Institutions, comprising experienced bureaucrats who are providing the leadership in this new orientation.

The ECOWAS budget is essentially financed by revenue collected through the Community tax. The tax was introduced to finance its activities. The rate of the Community levy is set at 0.5% of the CIF value of goods imported from non-ECOWAS countries.

As part of this renewal process, ECOWAS is implementing critical and strategic programmes that will deepen cohesion and progressively eliminate identified barriers to full integration. In this way, the estimated 300 million citizens of the community can ultimately take ownership for the realization of the new vision of moving from an ECOWAS of States to an "ECOWAS of the People: Peace and Prosperity to All". by 2050.