



OPERATIONAL ACTIONS TAKEN BY CAM IN RESPONSE TO COVID-19 PANDEMIC

Measures taken in Response to the COVID-19 Pandemic

The COVID-19 main vector is air travel hence the EAC CASSOA did examine methods of enhancement of Emergency and Response preparedness to the COVID-19 Pandemic at the main International Airports in the EAC Partner States.

The measures taken included:

- Having obtained funding from the German Government ,It Organized and conducted training programmes for airport Stakeholders and aviation Personnel who would later on act as Trainers of Staff , at 10 EAC major International Airports in Public Health Emergency Preparedness Response in relation to the COVID-19 Pandemic plus donation of PPEs to the Authorities.



Training

The training was meant to involve all Airport Stakeholders that included, Civil Aviation Authorities, Airport Health Services, Immigration, Cargo and Baggage Handlers, Security, Airline Operators, Rescue and Fire Fighters and Customs and its objectives were:

- Enhancement of the pandemic preparedness and response capacities of the staff working at EAC Airports
- Enhancement of awareness in National and airport emergency preparedness and response plans
- Enhancing capacity in surveillance and prevention of the COVID-19 spread through aviation
- Have the Trainees to turn into Trainers thereafter for continuity purposes



Training-continued

The training overall deliverables included:

- Enhanced pandemic preparedness and response capacities of all Airport Stakeholders at the international airports in the EAC Region;
- Reduced risk of spreading COVID-19 into and out of the EAC through Aviation;
- Reduced health risk for all airport staff through infected passengers / travelers
- Enhanced Capacity building in terms of an increased number of Trainers at the EAC Airports



Technical support:

- Development and regular review/amendment of Operational Guidelines for the management of Air Passengers and Aviation Personnel in relation to COVID-19. These are aligned to the WHO and ICAO CART(Council Aviation Recovery Task Force) Guidelines
- Conducting Technical Support visits for Monitoring and evaluation of Public Health Emergency preparedness response at all major International Airports in the Region and provision of corrective action plans for the identified gaps (This is in the pipeline)



Technical assistance

- ❖ Working with Partner States and other relevant stakeholders to encourage:
 - Standardization of Public Health Risk mitigation measures through Public Health Corridors for example the standardization and validation of testing, recovery and vaccination certificates.
 - States to promote the harmonized and inclusive approach to facilitate the international travel and entry of fully vaccinated and recovered passengers as vaccination plays an important role in aviation recovery and;
 - Collaborate with Public Health Experts to Establish key performance indicators to monitor the effectiveness of the risk mitigation measures especially with respect to aviation recovery.



Challenges

- Partner States' varying Testing Certificate Timelines and Quarantine times. This caused delays in the movement of the training facilitators.
- Lack of harmonization of the Operational Mitigation Measures in the EAC Region.
- Delayed follow up of the training program for continuity purposes



Lessons learned

- Future involvement of the Regional ICAO ESAF/WHO/CDC
- Extension of the training programme to Domestic airports.
- Collaboration, harmonization and cooperation of all partners is key;
- Promotion of measures to curb spread (SOPs) and vaccination is critical and essential for aviation recovery and public confidence growth.



Thank you
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