# MANAGEMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH-RELATED MATTERS

**Session 4**

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**Moderator**

Dr. Bargo **YOUSIF**

**Panelists**

Dr. Lesego **BUGATSO**

Dr. Djamila **BELLO**

Mr. Komla **ADONKO**

Mr. Patrick **BEMBA**

# Setting the Scene

- **Public Health & Aviation: A Critical Intersection**
- Regulatory Framework: ICAO & WHO
- Key Challenges in Public Health & Aviation
- **CAPSCA:** Enhancing Public Health in Aviation
- Emerging Infectious Diseases and Their Impact on Aviation
- Panel discussion

# Public Health & Aviation: A Critical Intersection

- Aviation plays a vital role **in public health.**
- While aviation **facilitates disease spread**, it is also essential in **emergency response efforts.**
- Enhancing cooperation between ICAO, WHO, and national authorities is **fundamental** to global health security.
- Preparedness and swift response are critical to ensuring safe and efficient international air travel.

# The ICAO-WHO Public Health Framework

- **ICAO Annex 9 – Facilitation:** Requires member states to have **public health contingency plans** at airports.

- **WHO IHR (2005):** Mandates **early detection, reporting, and response** to public health emergencies, specially in aviation and points of entry.

- **Airport Preparedness:** Importance of National Air Transport Facilitation Committees (NATFCs) and the role it plays at emergency response.

# Challenges in Public Health Management in Aviation

1. **Inconsistent Implementation** – Not all airports apply WHO & ICAO health standards effectively.

2. **Slow Response Mechanisms** – Bureaucratic delays in responding to health threats.

3. **Passenger Experience and Rights** – Balancing health measures with minimizing travel disruptions.

4. **Inclusivity Gaps** – Persons with disabilities/vulnerability often overlooked in emergency planning.

CAPSCA

# CAPSCA
## A Model for Regional Cooperation

**Collaborative Arrangement for the Prevention and Management of Public Health Events in Civil Aviation (CAPSCA)**

**Why it matters:**

- A global platform fostering communication between aviation and health sectors.
- Helps harmonize public health emergency responses at the national, regional, and international levels.
- Strengthens preparedness and response coordination between states.

- Conducts airport and airline health assessments.
- Promotes best practices in outbreak response.
- Enhances state capacities for health crisis management.
- Strengthens compliance with international standards.
- Developing region-specific standards tailored to the needs of states, airports, and airlines.

# CAPSCA AFRICA
## Collaborative Arrangement for the Prevention and Management of public health events in Civil Aviation

Angola

Benin

Botswana

Burkina Faso

Burundi

Cabo Verde

Cameroon

Central African Republic

Chad

Congo

Côte d'Ivoire

Democratic Republic of the Congo

Equatorial Guinea

Eswatini

Ethiopia

Gabon

Gambia

Ghana

Guinea

Guinea Bissau

Kenya

Lesotho

Liberia

Mozambique

Mali

Mauritania

Namibia

Niger

Nigeria

Rwanda

Senegal

São Tomé e Príncipe

Sierra Leone

South Africa

United Republic of Tanzania

Uganda

Seychelles

Somalia

South Sudan

Togo

Zambia

Zimbabwe

# Innovative Strategies for Public Health Resilience

## 1. Digital Health Passports & AI-driven Screening
- Reduces waiting times & improves detection of health risks.

## 2. Contactless & Accessible Health Checkpoints
- Voice-enabled kiosks, sign-language avatars, and **braille-based screening procedures**.

## 3. Universal Airport Design for Health Emergencies
- Health screening areas that **accommodate mobility-impaired passengers**.

## 4. Multi-Sector Collaboration
- ICAO, WHO, governments, air travel stakeholders and **disability advocacy groups** to work together.

# 5. Addressing the Needs of Older, Disabled, and Vulnerable Passengers

**The reality:**

- Elderly, disabled, and passengers with chronic illnesses **face disproportionate challenges** in health crises.
- **Health screenings, quarantines, and evacuations** often **fail to consider their needs**.

**Innovative solutions:**

- **Priority access** at health checkpoints for **elderly and vulnerable passengers**.
- **Accessible medical assistance** at airports with trained health responders.
- **Specialized evacuation procedures** to assist disabled and sick travelers.

# Overview of Current Emerging Infectious Diseases Affecting Aviation

# Ebola-Like Virus Disease (Sudan Virus)

- **Epidemiological update:** Recent outbreaks and affected regions.
- **Transmission:** Human-to-human via bodily fluids.
- **WHO recommendations:** Screening, rapid response, contact tracing.
- **Aviation measures:** Exit screening, travel advisories, and crew training.

# Lassa Fever

- **Epidemiological update:** Endemic in West Africa, sporadic outbreaks.

- **Transmission:** Rodents to humans, human-to-human in healthcare settings.

- **WHO recommendations:** Early detection, infection control in airports.

- **Aviation measures:** Awareness campaigns, quarantine procedures.

# Mpox Virus

- **Epidemiological update:** Global cases, travel-related risks.

- **Transmission:** Close contact with lesions, respiratory droplets.

- **WHO recommendations:** Surveillance, case detection, and risk communication.

- **Aviation measures:** Travel health notices, in-flight precautions.

# Cholera, Dengue, Marburg and Chikungunya

- **Cholera:** Active outbreaks reported worldwide, specially in conflict zones.

- **Dengue:**
  - Recent cases in Portugal, but risk of transmission remains low.

- **Chikungunya:**
  - First autochthonous case reported in Réunion after 10 years.

- **Marburg:**
  - Tanzania declared an outbreak, 10 cases with fatality of 100%. No new cases.

- **Aviation measures:** Vector control at airports, traveler advisories, and risk assessment.

# Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza A (H5N1)

- **Human cases** reported in USA (Nevada and Wyoming ),Cambodia and the United Kingdom.

- Virus mutation detected (E627K) linked to increased replication.

- A novel H5N1 strain, identified as D1.1, has been detected in **cows, dairy workers, wild birds, and poultry**.

- **WHO and CDC assessment:** moderate/low risk of human-to-human transmission, but caution for animal contamination and transport.

- **Aviation measures:** Biosecurity protocols, crew awareness, and reporting procedures.

# "Unknown Disease" in the DRC

- Two unlinked clusters in Équateur Province (431 cases, 52 deaths = 12% CFR).

- Negative for Ebola, Sudan and Marburg; ongoing investigation.

- Differential diagnoses include malaria, typhoid, flu, and possible water/food contamination.

- Aviation measures: Preparedness for unknown diseases, reporting mechanisms, and health monitoring at Points of Entry.

# WHO Recommendations for Civil Aviation Authorities

- Strengthen health screening at Points of Entry (PoE).
- Develop contingency plans for outbreaks.
- Improve cross-sector coordination between health and aviation sectors.
- Implement training for aviation personnel on health protocols.

# Call to Action – What Can We Do Today?

## Panel discussion

# Dr. Lesego BUGATSO

What are the key lessons learned from the COVID-19 pandemic regarding collaboration between public health and civil aviation authorities?

How can we ensure that these lessons translate into long-term resilience in the aviation sector?

Additionally, how should disinfection and disinsection measures be effectively integrated into routine aviation operations to enhance public health preparedness?

# Dr. Djamila Mohamadou BELLO

From a public health perspective, how do you assess the readiness of African airports to manage health emergencies, including disease outbreaks?

What capacity-building measures are most urgently needed to enhance preparedness and response?

## Mr. Komla ADONKO

Can you tell us about the latest developments in the international regulatory framework for managing public health events in civil aviation, and if there's any particularity of the Africa region?

Additionally, what are challenges that African states face in the implementation of Annex 9 public health Standards and Recommended practices (SARPs)

# Mr. Emmanuel HAMAN

Can you tell us about the role played by civil aviation authority of your country to counterpart global public health events? What key lessons have been learned?

# Discussion

Open floor for Q&A and Panel Discussion.

# Summary

# Key Takeaway

Ensuring public health resilience in aviation **requires proactive planning, strong regulatory frameworks, and inclusive emergency response strategies** (**Reinforcing CAPSCA**) to keep global travel safe.

Aviation is not just about movement; it's about responsibility.

Public health resilience is our shared duty.

# Thank You