CAPSCA AFRICA UPDATE
Second ICAO CAPSCA Global Coordination Meeting and
CAPSCA –Africa Second Steering Committee Meeting and Third Regional Aviation Medicine and Public Health Team Meetings

Abuja, Nigeria, 10 – 13 October 2011

Ms Nancy Onyedim
ICAO Technical Cooperation Officer,
ESAF Office CAPSCA Regional Focal Person
CAPSCA – Africa

- CAPSCA–Africa was initiated by means of an aviation medicine seminar in Libreville, Gabon, in November 2007, organized by the African Civil Aviation Commission (AFCAC) and jointly organized by ICAO, WHO, IATA and ACI.
- Growth in terms of numbers was slow but has picked up since 2011.
- There were 3 member States by September 2010.
- There are presently 17 member States in CAPSCA Africa.
List of CAPSCA – Africa Members as at 30 September 2011

WACAF
- CAPE VERDE
- CHAD
- COTE D’IVOIRE
- DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO
- GABON
- GAMBIA
- MALI
- NIGERIA
- TOGO

ESAF
- ANGOLA
- KENYA
- LESOTHO
- MOZAMBIQUE
- SOUTH AFRICA
- TANZANIA
- ZAMBIA
- ZIMBABWE
The Workshop on Pandemic Preparedness Planning, similar to the one held in Nairobi, Kenya in June 2010 was aimed at providing the participants the necessary tools for the development of their public health emergency preparedness measures and plans as required by ICAO in the various related Annexes and by WHO in the International Health Regulations of 2005.
28 February – 1 March 2011: Workshop on Pandemic Preparedness Planning

2 March 2011 – Meeting of Regional Aviation Medicine and Public Health Team (RAMPHT)

3 March 2011 – Training of Airport Advisors

4 March 2011 – Assistance Visit to Bamako Senou International Airport
Notable outcomes of the workshop,

- the RAMPHT meeting and the Airport Advisor training session was the collaboration between the aviation and public health sectors both at Regional and National levels.

- exposure of the participants, some for the first time, to the various guidance materials available from ICAO, WHO, IATA, and ACI on the subject.
Workshop and subsequent events demonstrated:

- the importance of communication between stakeholders, and of integration of preparedness plans including the private sector stakeholders.

- importance of having in place appropriate legislation and procedures as well as providing training on the implementation of plans and procedures was emphasized.
The Airport Assistance visit demonstrated that exercises and assistance visits are very helpful in revealing gaps in preparedness plans.

Aircraft operator agents should be trained by the operator in recognition of unwell passengers. Coordination with the airport operator and national public health authority is recommended.

Exercises involving aircraft are very helpful in revealing gaps in pandemic preparedness plans.
Both the public health and aviation sectors need to be familiar with the procedure for managing an on board case of communicable disease and the use of the air traffic control system for notification of the public health authority at destination, in accordance with the ICAO Procedures for Air Navigation Services – Air Traffic Management (PANS – ATM).

A Memorandum of Understanding between the authorities of both the health and aviation sectors, with clear terms of reference, can be a useful method of facilitating the coordination between both sectors.
Overall, there was increased awareness that the CAPSCA project exists to support the effective implementation of the WHO International Health Regulations (2005) and the ICAO health related SARPs in Annexes 6, 9, 11, 14 and 18.

Communication and collaboration between the public health and aviation sectors is strongly encouraged at regional, sub-regional and national levels.
Airport Assistance visits can only be carried out for States that have formally joined the CAPSCA Project.

Standardized method of preparation for the Assistance visit

- Documentation package including an outline of the steps to be followed
- Selected ICAO/CAPSCA guidance material
Tracking Sessions were facilitated by:

- ICAO Airport Assistance Team
- KCAA, KAA, Kenya Airways
- Port Health, Ministry of Health
Kenya State and Airport Assistance Visit

- Capacities assessed with responses captured in the Checklist/Questionnaire and based on full, partial or incomplete compliance – no verification
- Verbal report on major findings relative to the Checklist/Questionnaire and on the Airport Visit to attendees for during the debriefing session. Written Report to follow
Kenya State and Airport Assistance Visit

General Observations:

- Good understanding of pandemic preparedness planning plan and roles of the various parties concerned facilitates cooperation and team work.

- Need for reinforcement of capacity of regulator. Update of regulations and awareness campaigns for inspectors and for industry.

- Difficulties in implementing the International Health Regulations (2005) in Africa include the challenges involved in implementing a multi-sector approach, the different organizations of State legislation and the requirement, in some States, to change national law.
Conclusions:

- Need more involvement of public health officials at CAPSCA events at national and regional level to expand scope of checklist to include assessment of IHR requirements.
- Synchronizing events Regional WHO IHR POE Related events and CAPSCA, particularly training opportunities.
- Need for further assistance in the development of contingency plans.
Conclusions cont’d:

- Personnel from both public health and civil aviation would benefit from additional awareness of requirements in the National and the Aviation public health emergency preparedness plan.
CAPSCA – Africa Steering Committee and RAMPHT Meetings

- First CAPSCA Africa Steering Committee meeting was held in Abuja, Nigeria 12 February 2009
- The Second Steering Committee meeting is co-scheduled with the present meeting
- 1st CAPSCA–Africa Regional Aviation Medicine Team (RAMT) Meeting was held in Johannesburg, South Africa on 23 October 2009
- The Second RAMPHT meeting is co-scheduled with the present meeting
Next Steps:

- Continue drive for more States to sign up as participants in CAPSCA
- Train more State/Airport Visit Advisors
- Schedule more visits. Meeting of DGCAs of WACAF and ESAF States in Swaziland in December 2010 targeted at least six State visits by October 2011.
- Only two accomplished so far – Mali and Kenya.
- Visit to Lesotho planned for 1–2 November 2011, and to Cote d’Ivoire in March 2011
Thank You for your Attention!

Merci de Votre Attention!