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### **African airlines' performance updates by AFRAA – February 2022**

The BA.2 Omicron variant of COVID 19 continues to be considered a variant of concern, though global circulation of all variants is currently declining. The WHO urges countries to remain vigilant as they continue to monitor and report sequences. Globally, the number of cases reached 426 million and 11.5 million in Africa as of February 2022.

The air travel industry continues to experience strict travel advisories, insistence on full vaccination before travel, forceful vaccination at ports of arrival, repatriation of passengers not meeting entry travel requirements and quarantine of passengers at their own cost including some other unusual measures being enforced by some governments.

In the month of February 2022, AFRAA estimates that African airlines' capacity reached 64% compared to same month in 2019. Similarly, traffic is estimated at 49.6%.

Domestic market maintained the biggest share for capacity deployed though traffic share saw a small dip. Domestic demand however at 45.3% outperformed intra-Africa and intercontinental which remained subdued at 31.2% for intra-Africa and 23.5% for intercontinental. On the actual number of passenger seats offered, domestic, intra-Africa and intercontinental accounted for 49.4%, 24.7%, and 26% respectively.

Four African airlines continue their international routes expansion and by end of the year 2021 had exceeded the number of international routes operated pre-Covid. 11 other African airlines also either re-open routes or launched new international routes. As at the end of January 2022 African airlines had reinstated approximately 78.7% of their pre-Covid international routes, though frequencies remained low.

The Intra-African connectivity reached 76% of the pre-Covid level in January 2022, and is forecast to fall to 72% in February because of the closure of some routes.

The connectivity decreased in West African airports (Félix-Houphouët-Boigny International Airport (Abidjan), Murtala Muhammed International Airport (Lagos), Léopold Sédar Senghor International Airport (Dakar) and Lomé-Tokoin Airport.) due to the political situation in Mali that was banned by ECOWAS.

Across Africa in general, passenger traffic volumes remained depressed in February due to the unilateral and uncoordinated travel health restrictions imposed by some governments following the outbreak of the Omicron variant of COV-2.

Airline revenues remained low with many operators battling with cash-flow issues. Full year revenue loss for 2022 is estimated at US\$4.9b, equivalent to 28.2% of the 2019 revenues. In 2021, African airlines cumulatively lost \$8.6b in revenues due to the impact of the pandemic, representing 49.8% of 2019 revenues.

**Other government regulatory Developments:**

- Effective February 7, 2022 Moroccan air borders reopened after more than two months of closure due to severe restrictions to curb the expansion of the Omicron variant. All adult passengers arriving in the country effectively need to present a valid certificate of COVID-19 vaccination. They are also required to take both a Rapid Antigen test and PCR on arrival. All passengers exiting Morocco will also need to present a valid certificate of COVID-19 vaccination.
- The Ugandan ministry of Health announced that the mandatory COVID-19 testing of all incoming travellers at Entebbe International Airport upon arrival has been stopped with effect from 16 February 2022. However the requirements for COVID-19 testing 72 hours before boarding for both incoming and exiting travelers remain in effect. The health workers will continue to screen all travellers both at arrival and departure and verify their COVID-19 test certificates
- All vaccinated passengers travelling to Mauritius are required to take a COVID-19 testing on arrival as well as on day 5 of your stay. Non-vaccinated travelers will need to show a negative PCR test result 72 hours from the last point of embarkation, COVID-19 insurance health coverage, and proof of purchase of a stay package in one of the certified COVID-19 safe resorts for mandatory 14-day in-room quarantine
- Airlines for America (A4A) will be forming a coalition to push the United States Government to remove the pre-departure testing requirement for vaccinated passengers traveling to the US.
- Effective February 11, 2022, passengers entering England who are fully vaccinated are not required to book a day-2 arrivals test.
- Effective February 21, 2022 Australia opened its international borders to all vaccinated tourists, nearly two years after the island nation first imposed some of the world's strictest COVID-19 travel restrictions.

#### **About AFRAA**

*The African Airlines Association, also known by its acronym AFRAA, is a trade association of airlines from the member states of the African Union (AU). Founded in Accra, Ghana, in April 1968, and headquartered in Nairobi, Kenya, AFRAA's mission is to promote, serve African Airlines and champion Africa's aviation industry. The Association envisions a sustainable, interconnected and affordable Air Transport industry in Africa where African Airlines become key players and drivers to African economic development. AFRAA membership of 44 airlines cuts across the entire continent and includes all the major intercontinental African operators. The Association members represent over 85% of total international traffic carried by African airlines. Follow us on [Facebook](#), [LinkedIn](#), [Twitter](#) and [YouTube](#).*