



**EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY
SECRETARIAT**

**EAC AD-HOC REGIONAL COORDINATION COMMITTEE
(EARCC) FOR COVID-19 RESPONSE**

TERMS OF REFERENCE

1. Introduction

The Global COVID-19 pandemic has spread to Africa and the EAC region with the first case having been confirmed in Kenya on 15th March, 2020. Since then, the number of confirmed cases and deaths continue to rise. Nevertheless, there are recorded cases of recoveries in some Partner States.

Partner States have undertaken several measures to curb the spread of COVID-19, including personal hygiene measures, social distancing or community mitigation measures and risk communication and community engagement. Other measures include lockdowns, containment, curfews and mandatory wearing of masks.

To consolidate efforts of Partner States, the 19th EAC Sectoral Council of Ministers of Health directed the EAC Secretariat to strengthen multisectoral collaboration and coordination and strengthen interdisciplinary collaboration to embrace the One Health approach in preparedness and response to infectious diseases outbreaks (**EAC/SCHealth/19/Directive/044**). In addition, the Joint Meeting of Ministers responsible for Health and EAC Affairs directed the EAC Secretariat, in collaboration with Partner States, to establish a linkage between the national task forces, EAC Secretariat, and, EAHRC to coordinate and monitor the implementation of the EAC Regional COVID-19 Response Plan (**EAC/JMHE/Directive/003**).

In line with the directive of Ministers, the EAC has strengthened the EAC Adhoc Regional Coordination Committee (EARCC) to include other key sectors to better coordinate and consolidate the region's preparedness and response to the Coronavirus threat.

2. Objectives of the EAC Adhoc Regional Coordination Committee

The main objective of the EARCC is to have a coordinated regional response to COVID-19 pandemic.

The specific objectives will be:

- a. Effective coordination and harmonization of the regional response to combat COVID-19 pandemic in a holistic multisectoral approach;
- b. Developing the EAC Emergency Instruments and coordination of the implementation of the EAC Regional Contingency Plan¹;
- c. Supporting the region to develop adequate capacity to combat COVID-19;
- d. Coordinating the mobilisation of financial and human resources, and equipment for the response against COVID-19 pandemic;
- e. Monitoring, evaluating and reporting on the effectiveness of implementation of the EAC COVID-19 regional response measures with a view of instituting remedial actions; and

¹The EAC Regional Contingency Plan For Epidemics Due To Communicable Diseases, Conditions And Other Events Of Public Health Concern 2018 – 2023)



- f. Enhancing coordination with regional and international bodies on combating COVID-19 pandemic.

3. Scope and functions of the EAC Adhoc Regional Coordination Committee

The scope of work of the EARCC will be to assess, initiate, develop and coordinate the implementation of response measures and actions to combat the COVID-19 pandemic at the regional level. The functions of the EARCC are to;

- a. Prepare a multisectoral regional response plan to combat COVID-19;
- b. Convening regional meetings to coordinate the response to the COVID-19 Pandemic;
- c. Develop and coordinate the implementation of harmonised measures and existing instruments to combat COVID-19 pandemic in EAC;
- d. Develop and coordinate the implementation of capacity building programmes to combat COVID-19 pandemic;
- e. Mobilise and utilize resources to implement the multisectoral regional response plan to combat COVID-19;
- f. Coordinate surveillance, collect data and share information at the regional level;
- g. Develop and issue regional Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) and guidelines required for continuity of essential services/sectors in the context of COVID-19;
- h. Coordinating with regional and international bodies on combating COVID-19 pandemic; and
- i. Prepare reports and briefs.

4. Composition of the EAC Adhoc Regional Coordination Committee

The EARCC shall be lean and composed of:

- a. A representative from each Partner State who will be the focal point (preferably from the national task force).
- b. Representatives from the EAC Secretariat and institutions
 - i) Health;
 - ii) Trade and Customs;
 - iii) Labour and Immigration;
 - iv) Infrastructure (Transport and Communication);
 - v) Productive sectors (Agriculture and industry);
 - vi) Peace and Security;
 - vii) CTC office;
 - viii) Resource mobilization; and
 - ix) ICT and corporate communication.
- c. The East Africa Health Research Centre (EAHRC)
- d. Private Sector Representative (EABC)

The Chairperson may designate experts from the Secretariat and other EAC institutions when need arises.



5. Sub-Committees of the EAC Adhoc Regional Coordination Committee

The following are sub-committees of the EARCC which will perform their duties as assigned;

- a. Health;
- b. ICT and Corporate Communication;
- c. Agriculture, Immigration, Industry, Trade and Transport;
- d. Resource mobilisation; and
- e. Operations and Logistics (Administration, Finance, Procurement).

The EARCC may establish additional sub-committees as necessary.

Each sub-committee will have a chairperson and rapporteur appointed among themselves.

6. Meetings of the EAC Adhoc Regional Coordination Committee

- a. The EARCC will meet once a week either virtually or face to face;
- b. The EARCC may convene an emergency meeting when necessary; and
- c. The Health department shall coordinate in liaison with the Directorate of Customs and Trade.

7. Chairperson of the EAC Adhoc Regional Coordination Committee

The meetings of the EARCC will be chaired by the Deputy Secretary General (PSS), with the Director General (DG) Customs and Trade as an alternate.

8. Reporting mechanism for the EAC Adhoc Regional Coordination Committee

The EARCC shall report to the Joint Sectoral Council of Ministers responsible for Health, Trade, Finance and EAC Affairs, through the EAC Executive Management.

9. Rules of Procedure for the EAC Adhoc Regional Coordination Committee

The EARCC shall adopt its own rules of procedure.