

Science Only Protects Us When It Reaches Us

By Albashir Ismail

On World Health Day, we are reminded that standing with science goes beyond innovation; it is about ensuring that science reaches the people who need it most.

Because the truth is simple: science only protects us when it reaches us.

Every vaccine developed, every life-saving medicine produced, carries with it a promise. But that promise can only be fulfilled if those products move safely, quickly, and reliably from where they are made to where they are needed. That journey, often unseen, is what turns scientific breakthroughs into real-world impact.

At Kenya Airways, we see ourselves as part of that journey.

Through KQ Cargo and our specialised solution, KQ Pharma, we play a critical role in ensuring that essential medicines and vaccines move across borders and into communities across Africa. It is a responsibility we carry with precision, care, and a deep understanding of what is at stake.

"On World Health Day, we recognize that Kenya Airways' role extends far beyond flying passengers. Through KQ Cargo, we are a vital link in the global health ecosystem. We translate scientific breakthroughs into accessible healthcare solutions for the African continent by ensuring these life-saving products arrive safely, swiftly, and with absolute precision. To 'stand with science' is to ensure science can do its job in the real world," says George Kamal, Ag. Group MD & CEO, Kenya Airways.

Across the continent, the challenge is not just access; it is reliability. Pharmaceuticals are highly sensitive, and even the slightest variation in temperature can compromise their effectiveness. This is why the cold chain is not just a technical requirement; it is a life chain.

With KQ Pharma, we have built a system designed to protect that chain end-to-end. From advanced temperature-controlled solutions such as Envirotainers to real-time monitoring that ensures conditions remain within required thresholds throughout the journey, every detail matters. Every second counts, every degree matters.

Because when a shipment arrives, it must do more than just reach its destination; it must still work.

"The 'science' of saving lives doesn't end in the lab; it includes the complex logistics of maintaining the pharmaceutical cold chain on the ground and at 30,000 feet. Our specialized 'KQ Pharma' product is engineered to manage this delicate journey. When we transport vaccines or essential medicines, we aren't just moving cargo; we are transporting hope and health across our network, ensuring that communities, even in

remote areas, can rely on the integrity of the medical supplies they receive," says Fitsum Abadi, Kenya Airways Cargo Director.

Much of this work happens quietly. It does not always make headlines, yet it is essential. Without it, the impact of science is limited. With it, the reach of healthcare expands across cities, across borders, and into communities that depend on it the most.

For us, connecting Africa is not just about movement, it is about access. It is about ensuring that no matter where you are, you can benefit from the progress being made in global health.

So on this World Health Day, as the world calls on all of us to stand with science, we reaffirm our role in making that possible.

Because standing with science also means standing behind it, carrying it, protecting it, and delivering it where it matters most.

And in that journey, every shipment is more than cargo.

It is health. It is hope. It is life.