

CROWN AGENTS
COVID-19
PREPARATION & RESPONSE

UPDATE

UNPRECEDENTED TIME IN HISTORY

On 11 March 2020 the World Health Organisation officially declared the COVID-19 outbreak a pandemic. The world now faces an unprecedented time in our history where coronavirus is spreading human suffering, infecting the global economy, and upending people's lives.

Without significant action for the most vulnerable countries we could face an even more damaging second phase of the pandemic.

CROWN AGENTS IS RESPONDING

As a leading not for profit international development company with 187 years of history, including responding to the 2014 Ebola epidemic, we are on the frontline of efforts responding to coronavirus.

Whilst we rapidly adapt our existing health programmes across Africa and Asia and respond to the new and increasing demands as a result of coronavirus, we are also ensuring that we continue to develop the resilience and self-sufficiency of countries' health services, governance and leaders - an approach which has always been at the heart of the Crown Agents' mission.

We quickly established an emergency COVID-19 team of over

40 staff who are working round the clock,



based in **UK, UKRAINE, DUBAI, SINGAPORE, JAPAN, MYANMAR, AUSTRALIA, AND NEW ZEALAND** to respond to the rising global needs, working with the

450 strong global Crown Agents movement.



Since we began our Crown Agents COVID-19 response in early March we:



have procured and delivered to destination over

275 TONNES

of life saving medical equipment and supplies



We are currently working with

45

countries to support them in their response to COVID-19.



OUR EXPERIENCE

With 21 international offices and a global network we have a deep knowledge and a well-established presence in the local contexts where we work.



We work in
50
countries



reaching
120
million people

TIMES OF CRISES

Between 1992 and 2017 Crown Agents managed the UK Government's humanitarian response facility. During the Ebola epidemic, Crown Agents was called upon to establish and manage a supply chain network and health care platform in Sierra Leone. We rapidly scaled up a global health supply network to stock and re-supply seven 100 patient Ebola Treatment Centres across the country. We also responded to the frequent hurricanes in the Caribbean and South East Asia where we supported the construction of temporary shelters, hospitals and health facilities and the 2018 cholera outbreak in Zimbabwe where we kept health services going and ensured treatment and infection prevention control.

COVID-19 RESPONSE ACTIVITIES

We will work with low and middle income governments on their specific needs, including:

- Sourcing, procuring and transporting to destination essential equipment and supplies e.g. testing kits, personal protective wear, disinfectant, thermometers, laboratory equipment and respirators
- Scaling up our existing health programmes where possible e.g. erecting screening tents
- Inspecting and providing quality assurance on goods and supplies
- Training health workers and providing health personnel
- Advising on response plans, health messaging and campaigns
- Technical assistance in value for money audits, budgeting and how to manage the economic impacts

Crown Agents is uniquely placed to respond to COVID-19 with our global footprint, existing health programmes and specialist health and procurement capabilities. We are already on ground and ready to scale-up.

HEALTH AND DISEASES

Crown Agents is currently delivering at-scale health programmes in Sierra Leone, South Sudan and Zimbabwe. We are also delivering a programme in 12 countries across Africa and Asia to Accelerate Sustainable Control and Elimination of Neglected Tropical Diseases, funded by the UK Department for International Development in partnership with the World Health Organisation. These diseases – lymphatic filariasis, onchocerciasis, schistosomiasis, visceral leishmaniasis and trachoma – affect 1.6 billion of the world's poorest people, causing disability, disfigurement, stigma and death.





THE IMPACT OF CROWN AGENTS



SOUTH SUDAN

Preparing for COVID-19 in the most challenging environments

With UK Aid funding, in South Sudan we deliver health services and essential goods and medicines to over 80% of the South Sudanese population, reaching 10 million people. Critically as part of this work we maintain the pharmaceutical supply chain serving over 800 health facilities across the country.

Now with the threat of COVID-19 we are adapting our existing programme and expanding our procurement of IV fluids, paracetamol, and consumables such as surgical gloves to prepare them for COVID-19. Our team is training health care workers to provide palliative care, erecting COVID-19 screening tents, sourcing personal protective equipment to keep staff safe and strengthening 19 health facilities in Juba with enhanced water, sanitation and hygiene activities.



UKRAINE

Using our specialist health procurement expertise to support Governments to respond

Since 2015 we have been a trusted partner to the Government of Ukraine Ministry of Health, acting as procurement agent for a cumulative total of over \$280m-worth of medication and equipment. In response to COVID-19 we are sourcing and purchasing \$2.5m worth of 47 different items from testing kits, personal protective equipment to sanitisers. This is directly using some of the \$26m in savings we made for the Ukraine Ministry of Health in 2019 on their oncology procurement, to help diagnose and prevent the spread of coronavirus in Ukraine.



MYANMAR

Ensuring refugees and vulnerable people are protected

Working with over 23 local partners and national organisations we deliver a programme, funded by UK Aid, to provide humanitarian assistance and build resilience for refugees and internally displaced persons affected by conflict in one of the poorest countries in Asia.

Through this programme we reach 400,000 people with essential water, sanitation and hygiene services, nutritional support and healthcare. We have earmarked specific funding and activities to ensure these essential services continue to protect displaced persons from both the direct as well as indirect impacts of coronavirus.



GLOBAL

Ensuring financial integrity, safety and security

The nature of Crown Agents work means often we are not able to publicly share the details of our activities in order to ensure safety, security and the ability to operate in the most challenging of contexts. Often, we must act as a trusted but silent implementor and deliverer.

Across the globe we are currently drawing on our decades of specialist experience:

- As a procurement agent and health and humanitarian programme manager and implementor
- Using our in-house freight forwarding company to source, procure and air freight to destination drugs, lab equipment and personal protective equipment
- Providing medical staff and technical assistance in health messaging, awareness and response activities
- Offering our expertise in value for money audits, where we saved the Government of Ghana over \$31million in public funds in 2019, to governments who are faced with responding to COVID-19 with limited resources.