

COVID RESPONSE WASTE MANAGEMENT

WHAT IS THE PROBLEM?

Tens of thousands of tonnes of medical waste, PPE, test kits, syringes, boxes and needles, from the COVID-19 response have put tremendous strain on waste management systems around the world, threatening human and environmental health and exposing a dire need to improve waste management practices.

Not only does poor waste management expose health workers to needlestick injuries and pathogenic microorganisms, it also impacts communities living near poorly managed landfills and waste disposal sites through contaminated air from burning waste and poor water quality. Lack of effective waste management systems could also potentially lead to expired vaccines or medicines ending up in the black market and are at risk of reuse.



OUR SOLUTION



Crown Agents has been at the forefront of the fight against COVID-19, supporting governments in accessing and distributing vital vaccines, PPE and Test-Kits.

Our work includes distributing vaccines to some of the most remote areas on Earth, ensuring countries have strong in-country logistics, providing handling and storage systems to receive and manage the Pfizer-BioNTech Vaccine, and ensuring the safe management of medical waste.

We can provide guidance and expertise in the following areas:

- Engineering, procurement and construction of incinerator facilities
- Development, roll out and training of standard operating procedures, guidelines and infographics on the management of waste inclusive of vaccines, PPE, and needles
- Support in the management of waste products and appropriate reverse logistics
- Developing strategies for implementing a Waste Management Plan to improve processes
- Inspection of waste management processes using our Crown Agents Quality Assurance and Inspection services
- Effective and safe disposal of pharmaceuticals, vaccines and associated waste accessories to reduce the potential of expired medicines reaching the grey/black market.



**5.9 million
COVID-19
vaccines
delivered**

delivered to 31
countries and
territories on behalf
of FCDO in 2021



**16 million
doses**

to be delivered in
the first half of 2022

EXAMPLES OF OUR WORK

PROCUREMENT OF INCINERATORS THROUGH A PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP (BUILD, OPERATE, TRANSFER)



Medical waste incinerator PPPs are being procured and operated in Kenya and the Philippines utilising seed funding from JICA.

These projects involve engineering design, value for money procurement, construction, operation and maintenance of the incinerator facilities to treat medical and hazardous waste being generated by hospitals and other sources.



UNICEF ULTRA-COLD CHAIN LOGISTICS

Over the last 6 months, we've worked with UNICEF and Ministries of Health to provide technical assistance in 10 countries to ensure appropriate procedures and processes are in place for sufficiently strong in-country logistics, handling and storage systems to receive and manage the ultra-cold chain requirements of the Pfizer vaccines, from receipt to waste. We have developed standard operating procedures for the ultra-cold chain, specific to the needs of each country and trained the Ministry of Health and healthcare workers how to manage the systems.



REVERSE LOGISTICS

We've developed a reverse logistics plan for infectious waste for the Ministry of Health in Sierra Leone.



QUALITY ASSURANCE AND INSPECTION (QAIS)

Crown Agents has extensive experience inspecting and quality assuring medical goods and equipment in line with international standards (particularly WHO standards). The Crown Agents QAIS team has monitored and provided oversight of the destruction of medicines in accordance with international and local standards. For the Ministry of Health in Ukraine, we identified where drugs had expired and oversaw the destruction of 1558 Pfizer tablets, 632 vials of medicines and 8 packs of reagents.



OTHER RELEVANT EXPERIENCE

CENTRALIZED STORE FOR SAFE LONG-TERM STORAGE OF SPENT SOURCES OF IONISED RADIATION - CHERNOBYL

On behalf of the UK Department for Energy and Climate Change, Crown Agents was responsible for the overall management of the construction of the Centralized Store for Safe Long-Term Storage of Spent Sources of Ionized Radiation in Chernobyl. This included contracting designer and technical supervision, procuring equipment, hiring a general contractor, as well as the commissioning and handing-over of the facility.



SUPPLY OF SHARPS BOXES

We have supplied large quantities of Sharps Boxes to St Helena and several Caribbean Islands as a contracted Procurement and Logistics provider to the British Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office for their Overseas Territory COVID-19 Response Programme since March 2020.



70 million Pfizer vaccines

to be supplied to Ukraine between 2021 to 2023