




**CROWN AGENTS**  
ACCELERATING SELF-SUFFICIENCY & PROSPERITY

# THE LAB TO JAB COVID RESPONSE FACILITY

**Making COVID-19 vaccines and quality healthcare accessible for all**



With over 100 million infections worldwide, COVID-19 is threatening decades of progress in global health. As you are reading this, somewhere in the world someone is unknowingly contracting the coronavirus and is at risk of infecting many more.

**Together, we can prevent millions more from dying of the disease and build back better.**

Crown Agents has set up **The Lab to Jab COVID-19 Response Facility** that aims to raise **£20 million** which will help make COVID-19 vaccines available and improve access to quality healthcare for over **5 million people** living in some of the most disadvantaged communities in Africa, Asia and the Middle East.

**A CASE FOR SUPPORT**

# THE CURRENT PROBLEM

COVID-19 has had an unprecedented impact on all aspects of life across the globe. Millions of people have died from Coronavirus and the death toll continues to rise as countries are gripped by the second wave.

The availability of various vaccines provides a glimmer of hope in the fight against the coronavirus. **However, not everyone has access to the vaccines and for some help may come too late, or not at all.**

**Low-income countries face difficulties in accessing and delivering vaccines and therapeutics for COVID-19 to their populations. This is because:**

## 1 GLOBAL VACCINE DISTRIBUTION IS UNEVEN - AS DEMAND OUTSTRIPS SUPPLY, MANY COUNTRIES ARE PRICED OUT

The global vaccination race has meant that a number of developed countries have secured large orders of the COVID-19 vaccines. In fact, figures are showing **developed nations with only 13% of the world's population to have ordered 60% of the available vaccine supply.**

The World Bank estimates that 79% of vaccines will not be available until the second quarter of 2021, resulting in **delays for low-income countries who are at the back of the queue and will consequently pay higher prices.** Even then, according to the Africa Centre for Disease Control (CDC), it will take two to three years to vaccinate 60% of Africa's population, increasing the risk of new variants that could be resistant to the vaccines.

## 2 WEAK HEALTH SYSTEMS HAVING TO COPE WITH ADDRESSING LONGSTANDING DISEASES, ALONGSIDE THE PANDEMIC

Many low-income countries are fighting ongoing battles against existing diseases such as malaria, pneumonia, and schistosomiasis.

**With poor healthcare systems and limited capacity, they are struggling to cope with the added pressure to health services caused by the pandemic.**

Shortages of oxygen therapy and drugs, such as dexamethasone, that provide treatment of COVID-19 are further crippling stretched health systems in many countries and leading to further loss of lives.

“**Eight countries, including Nigeria, Uganda and Mali, recently recorded their highest daily case counts all year. The second wave is here”**

John N. Nkengasong,  
Head of the Africa Centre  
for Disease Control and Prevention



**Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, Director-General, World Health Organization says there will be no end to this pandemic unless every single person is safe.**

## LIMITED CAPACITY, RESOURCES AND ON-THE-GROUND LOGISTICS TO ROLLOUT THE VACCINE 3

COVAX is the global initiative co-led by the Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunisation (GAVI), the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations (CEPI) and World Health Organisation (WHO). It is accelerating the development and manufacture of COVID-19 vaccines, ensuring an equitable access for all. **Unfortunately, of the 92 countries COVAX plans to support, only ten have the ultra-cold fridges required to transport the Pfizer/BioNTech vaccine.** With 25% of health care facilities in sub-Saharan Africa lacking electricity, transporting the vaccine is a huge challenge for many low-income countries.

## UNEQUAL ACCESS AND DISINFORMATION AFFECTING ACCEPTANCE AND EFFECTIVENESS OF THE VACCINES 4

**In many countries, vulnerable groups such as refugees, and those in remote areas, struggle to receive health access.** Countries sharing borders with differing vaccination strategies and capacity could lead to regional tensions and continued infections as people move across porous borders. There are also increasing dissenting voices discouraging people from taking the vaccine, citing a lack of trust or the availability for alternative cures. The effectiveness of vaccination depends on universal coverage and any resistance to it puts people at risk.

# THE SOLUTION

**Without significant action for the most vulnerable countries we could face an even more damaging second wave of the pandemic. Crown Agents is committed to fair and equitable access to the COVID-19 vaccines for every person.**

We are determined that no one is left behind and are helping to make a difference in partnership with governments, ministries, institutions, private funders, philanthropists and the private sector.

## **WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP WITH COVAX**

COVAX pledged to provide 2 billion COVID-19 doses to 192 countries by the end of 2021 and UNICEF is helping to get them to health workers and the most high-risk people. This is a much needed and welcome undertaking that will make it possible for eligible countries to vaccinate 20% of their populations. We know that more players are needed to contribute to universal access to the COVID-19 vaccines.

**Crown Agents is in constant communication and collaboration with COVAX and UNICEF and helping to make COVID-19 vaccines accessible to all.**



## CROWN AGENTS INTERVENTIONS

### **1 PLANNING FOR ADULT VACCINATION PROGRAMMES**

Given Crown Agents' presence on the ground and knowledge of the health sector across many countries, **we are well-placed to advise and support governments roll out their vaccine programme.**

For example, through management of the UKAID's Neglected Tropical Disease programme across 12 countries in East and South Africa and Asia, we are already working closely with Ministries of Health to develop national health intervention plans, such as Mass Drug Administrations. We are on the ground and ready to scale up to support with vaccination planning - **from conducting vaccination readiness assessments, to training health care workers, to quantifying vaccines needed and mapping supply chains** - all whilst working closely with local partners to ensure the process does not affect health interventions of other diseases.

### **2 PROCUREMENT AGENT FOR VACCINES AND CONSUMABLES**

**Crown Agents are world-leading specialist procurement agents that have decades of experience working alongside governments to procure medical supplies.** Throughout the pandemic, we delivered over 625,000 kgs of supplies across the globe, including 17 million emergency medicines to the remotest areas of South Sudan. We are also continuing our support for the Government of Ukraine as their procurement agent for the COVID-19 vaccine. Long standing relationships with manufactures make it possible for us to offer our support and advice when accessing vaccines, as well as other consumables like Personal Protection Equipment (PPE), needles and syringes.

### **3 EARLY EDUCATION AND CREATING PUBLIC SUPPORT**

**To combat misinformation, scepticism and mistrust of vaccines, we plan to help low-income countries conduct publicity campaigns and community engagement to increase the acceptance for vaccination against COVID-19.** Our experience is demonstrated through the Health Pooled Fund (HPF) in South Sudan where Crown Agents has developed COVID-19 education communication materials in over 20 local languages with 19,000 copies placed in all supported health facilities.

### **4 PLANNING AND IMPLEMENTING THE VACCINE ROLLOUT**

Our holistic capability to support, plan and execute the deployment of a successful vaccine programme makes us best suited to support even the most vulnerable countries. **We plan to support countries set up robust supply chains that can transport and store the vaccine at the required temperature and are already in contact with solar fridge manufacturers and reefer companies.** On the ground, we can also help recruit and train healthcare workers in handling and tracking the delivery of the vaccine. As multiple winners of the **'Supply Chain Excellence Award for 'Extreme Logistics'**, Crown Agents are specialists in last mile delivery, and are ready to manage the supply chain and human resources challenges countries will face.

# WHY CROWN AGENTS

Crown Agents is a leading not-for-profit international development organisation with 187 years of history. We work across 64 countries and reach 36 million people annually, focusing on the most marginalised that often reside in the hardest to reach places. For decades, we have been trusted by governments across the world to work alongside them to support sustainable growth and deliver highly impactful projects in health, trade and renewable energy, as well as to strengthen good governance.

Crown Agents has also been on the frontline of major emergencies for the past 25 years, including the 2014 Ebola epidemic. Now, we are playing a key role responding to coronavirus in Africa, the Middle East and Asia. When COVID-19 first hit, we supported over 50 countries to achieve timely supply of quality assured PPE, diagnostic tests and other items. **It is this long and diverse experience that makes Crown Agents best placed and a reliable partner in ensuring COVID-19 vaccines reach the last mile.**



**\$3m**

entrusted to us by the Caribbean Development Bank to procure & ship PPE to 14 Caribbean countries

**\$81m**

managed by Crown Agents Japan as one of the Japanese Government's nominated procurement agents for their Official Overseas Development Assistance response to COVID-19

**\$45m**

saved through value for money audits for the Government of Ghana in the last 18 months

**\$62m**

saved through procurement of medical products for the Ukrainian Ministry of Health

**£560m**

managed across 5 key programme funds

## SINCE THE OUTBREAK OF THE PANDEMIC WE HAVE SUPPLIED:



Conducted 13 separate COVID-19 vaccine shipments to hard to reach regions in the last month alone  
609 shipments and procurements handled, including 625,000 kgs of medical supplies



4.5million items of personal protection equipment [PPE] procured



84,000 COVID-19 test kits supplied



2,861,710 COVID-19 commodities shipped to 10 Overseas territories as part of the UK Governments response

# THE IMPACT OF CROWN AGENTS

Through our HP3 programme, we deliver health services, essential goods and medicines to **80% of the population of South Sudan**



As a trusted partner of the Government of Ukraine we have saved the Ministry of Health **\$62 million since 2015 in the procurement of over \$280m-worth of medication and equipment**



Through the HARP-F programme in Myanmar, we have reached **537,000 people** with essential water, sanitation and hygiene services, nutritional support and healthcare



In the immediate aftermath of ISIS' withdrawal from the Deir Ezzor governorate in Syria, we have removed debris, rubble and solid waste from schools and other public spaces impacted by the conflict



WHAT MAKES US BEST PLACED TO HELP MAKE THE COVID-19 VACCINES AND QUALITY HEALTHCARE ACCESSIBLE FOR ALL

We are working alongside and in support of the COVAX mission – **global equitable access to COVID-19 vaccines**

Crown Agents' "lab to jab" service provides an **end-to-end supply chain** for countries seeking to procure and distribute COVID-19 vaccines

We are uniquely placed to respond to COVID-19 with **our global footprint**, existing health programmes and specialist health and procurement capabilities

We quickly established an **emergency COVID-19 team** of over 40 staff who are working around the clock based in the UK, Ukraine, Dubai, Singapore, Japan, Myanmar, Australia and New Zealand to respond to the rising global needs

We are one of a few organisations with **our own in-house freight forwarding unit, Greenshields Cowie**, which specialises in the warehousing and last-mile delivery of health-related goods, vehicles and emergency aid to some of the most challenging regions in the world

# WHY WE ARE SEEKING YOUR HELP

We have set up the **Lab to Job COVID-19 Response Facility** with the aim of raising **£20 million to help make COVID-19 vaccines available and improve access to quality healthcare for over 5 million people**, living in some of the most disadvantaged communities in Africa, Asia and the Middle East.

## HOW CAN YOU HELP?

- 1** As a **philanthropist**, we urgently invite you to make a personal donation to make our work possible. You can also make introductions to others who can support this worthwhile cause whilst also sharing your expertise on how we can ensure that the most vulnerable around us access the vaccine in the fastest, safest and most affordable way.
- 2** **Corporate partners** can make a financial contribution and offer technical support where possible. This could include guidance on supply chains, communications and information sharing. We also invite your clients and employees to get involved in raising resources to bring us closer to universal vaccination against the coronavirus.
- 3** **Trusts and Foundations** will make a difference to our work by donating, as well as introducing us to other like-minded organisations that can offer support and guidance on how to address the various health setbacks and challenges brought on by the pandemic.

## THE DIFFERENCE YOU WILL MAKE

- Improved livelihoods and health outcomes for over **5 million people across Africa, Asia and the Middle East.**
- **Strengthened health systems of several countries** across Africa, Asia and the Middle East.
- Helping us not allow COVID-19 to undo all the gains made towards the **United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).**
- Have **an impact for decades** across Africa, Asia, the Middle East and beyond.
- **Leverage your donation** encouraging others to give and match your gift.

## BENEFITS FOR YOUR SUPPORT

- Opportunities to meet and get to know the beneficiaries of your support when travel is possible.
- Invitations to our exclusive events to meet other supporters, staff and leadership.
- Regular updates to give you in-depth information of our progress.
- Global recognition across the 60 countries where Crown Agents works and alignment with our brand.

“Getting hold of the vaccine is only the half of the story. We know from our experience supplying emergency medicines to conflict zones and shipping millions of items of PPE around the world during this pandemic, that procuring it is one thing, but getting it to the beneficiaries is another story entirely with risks that include broken cold supply chains, poor workforce mobilisation, difficult and remote terrain and working in countries affected by conflict”.

Fergus Drake, CEO of Crown Agents



CROWN AGENTS ARE KEEN TO CO-CREATE COVID-19 RESPONSE PROGRAMMES WITH OUR DONORS THAT RESPONDS TO THE MOST PRESSING NEEDS OF SPECIFIC COUNTRIES OF INTEREST IN AFRICA, ASIA AND THE MIDDLE EAST



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### GET IN TOUCH

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