

Keeping the Ebola supply lines moving

An update on activities from our **Publishing Partners**



Supporting Sierra Leone through the Ebola crisis

Crown Agents' supply chain and procurement expertise has been at the forefront of the UK's Ebola response work of over the last few months, with operations intensifying significantly during September and October.

We already had a team on the ground in Sierra Leone due to our development and management of the country's central medical stores, the National Pharmaceutical Procurement Unit. With the stepping up of international action to tackle the deadly virus, our presence and experience in the country has been effectively harnessed to work on new emergency initiatives being put in place.

One of the biggest pieces of work that our supply chain unit has been working on is putting together a brand new hospital facility in Kerry Town, Sierra Leone, to cope with the increasing medical demands of the situation. We're having to source and procure more than 600 different items – all vital to the basic functioning of an effective hospital – and have them in Sierra Leone in time for the scheduled opening at the end of October. Because of the extremely short timescales involved, we've had to source items from all over the place; the NHS supply chain, various manufacturers around the world, second-hand auctions (for equipment to be re-engineered) and even the online superstores.

Our work on the Ebola response is being well received and our teams – in the UK and in Sierra Leone – expect to be kept on their toes for months to come, with all hands on deck to try to stem the advance of the disease.



Gaining global insights – online Master of Public Health

Interaction with other students from around the world is one of the highlights of the University of Liverpool's online Master of Public Health (MPH) programme, says medical doctor and MPH graduate Cecilia Bartels (pictured right).

'It really makes a big difference that you can learn from each other's experiences,' said Cecilia, who

worked in Tanzania and Kenya after qualifying in tropical medicine. 'As it's an online programme, everyone is sharing their opinions and their expertise with you.'

'The students on my programme were not only medical doctors. They were nurses, pharmacists, one was even a pilot! There were all kinds of people participating in the programme and they came from all over – from New Guinea, to the Bahamas, Africa and Japan. There was one classmate who was actually working in a place where I had done a consultancy in Kenya,' she said.

Currently working as a locum in an embassy clinic in Jakarta, Indonesia, Cecilia comes from the Netherlands and first worked as an intern in Tanzania before moving to Kenya where she met her husband and had her children. 'I worked as a doctor in rural Kenya and later as a medical manager for an epilepsy programme. That was really public health – developing clinics, raising awareness, teaching and treating people.'

It was her wish to return to public health that was behind Cecilia's decision to study for a MPH. 'I was ready for a new move, new challenges. Although I was back in clinical medicine, I wanted to move forward, to grow again. I want to go back into public health,' she said.

She chose to study online so that she could continue working. To learn more about the programme and see Cecilia on video, please visit:

<http://www.university-liverpool-online.com/programmes/health/master-of-public-health>

