

LINKING MEDICINES WHEN IT MATTERS MOST: A LOOK AT EBOLA IN LIBERIA

Each link in a country's integrated supply chain plays a critical role in bringing medicines to as many people as possible. During the Ebola virus disease (EVD) epidemic of 2014, Liberia's young healthcare system and developing supply chain struggled to respond to the number of people exposed.



THE JOURNEY



TREATMENTS FOR DISEASES ARE RESEARCHED AND DEVELOPED.

CHALLENGE

There were few approved countermeasures and treatments for Ebola virus disease when the outbreak of 2014 began.



SOLUTION

Many companies, like Merck and NewLink, began working on advancing the development of promising potential vaccines and treatments.



APPROVED MEDICINE IS MANUFACTURED.

CHALLENGE

The demand for medicines and equipment was greater than the supply Liberia's manufacturing industry could produce.



SOLUTION

Private companies like Johnson & Johnson and GlaxoSmithKline donated money and supplies to equip medical professionals with the resources needed to fight the outbreak.



THE MEDICINE AND SUPPLIES ARE DISTRIBUTED TO REGIONS IN NEED.

CHALLENGE

Liberia did not have the bandwidth to stage and transfer the immense amount of Ebola treatments.



SOLUTION

The government of Senegal provided an International Staging Base to hold products and assist with transport.



PROVIDERS USE THE MEDICAL PRODUCTS TO TREAT INFECTED PATIENTS.



The Ebola epidemic added pressure on the limited health worker populations, who were already strained managing malaria, TB and neglected tropical diseases.



SOLUTION

Private sector and NGO partners began to donate supplies to ensure hospitals would function and receive non-EVD patients.



FINDING SOLUTIONS

Integrated supply chains are necessary to bring medicines to the people who need them.

By partnering with experienced organizations, Liberia can use these partnerships to strengthen each link in its supply chain:



SHARING RESEARCH OF PROMISING TREATMENTS



RECEIVING DONATED PRODUCTS TO FILL BACKLOGS



CREATING PARTNER-SUPPORTED HUBS TO HOLD PRODUCTS AND ASSIST IN DISTRIBUTION



BUILDING NEEDED INFRASTRUCTURES