



HSE Board Briefing Template

Subject:

- I. HSE Report on Global Health Programme 3-year Plan, 2022-2024 (Annex 1)
- II. HSE Policy on Donation of Medical Equipment and Supplies to Developing Countries and Other Countries in Crisis (Annex 2)

Submitted for meeting on: 8 December (ARC), 13 December (EMT), 16 December 2022 (Board).

Name & title of author: Dean Sullivan, Chief Strategy Officer, Dr Philip Crowley, National Director, Strategy and Research, Dr David Weakliam, Programme Director, Global Health Programme.

Why is this information being brought to the Board's attention?

- i. The HSE Report on the Global Health Programme 3-year Plan, 2022-2024 was previously considered by ARC and EMT and is provided for Board member's information.
- ii. The HSE Policy on Donation of Medical Equipment and Supplies to Developing Countries and other Countries in Crisis was previously considered by ARC and EMT. The ARC recommended that the policy was amended to reflect that donations in a cumulative financial year above €2m require Board approval. The updated policy at Annex 2 is provided for Board members information.

Is there an action by the Board required, if so please provide detail?

- I. **Note** the HSE Report on Global Health Programme 3-year Plan 2022- 2024 and
- II. **Note** the HSE Policy on Donation of Medical Equipment and Supplies to Developing Countries and Other Countries in Crisis.

Please indicate which of the Board's objectives this relates to;

- The development and implementing of an effective Corporate Governance Framework, incorporating clinical governance and a performance management and accountability system;
- Developing a plan for building public trust and confidence in the HSE and the wider health service;
- Ensuring the HSE's full support for and implementation of the Government's programme of health reform as set out in the Sláintecare Implementation Strategy;
- Exercising effective budgetary management, including improving the value achieved with existing resources and securing target saving, with the objective of delivering the National Service Plan within Budget.

Brief summary of link to Board objectives.

- i. The Global Health Programme 3-year plan facilitates the fulfilment of global health priorities in the HSE Service Plan 2022.
- ii. The Donations Policy enables good practice in donations of surplus equipment and PPE to countries in Africa as part of the response to COVID-19 and to strengthen health services.

HSE Global Health Programme 3-year Plan, 2022-2024

Since 2010, the Global Health Programme has led a global approach in the HSE, developing and implementing initiatives aimed at improving health in developing countries while also learning from other countries to improve healthcare in Ireland. The main focus of the programme is technical cooperation with developing countries in Africa to improve health services. Building on previous achievements, including recent responses to the COVID-19 pandemic and Ukrainian crisis, the programme has developed a new strategic framework and 3-year implementation plan for 2022-2024 (see attached at Annex 1).

The HSE has a Memorandum of Understanding with Irish Aid, Department of Foreign Affairs to contribute to Ireland's international development policy, 'A Better World'. In September 2022, the Global Health Programme

entered into a funding agreement with Irish Aid, Department of Foreign Affairs for €700k over three years, based on the 3-year implementation plan.

HSE Policy on Donation of Medical Equipment and Supplies to Developing Countries and Other Countries in Crisis

The Global Health Programme leads and coordinates HSE donations of surplus medical equipment and supplies to other countries in need. Up to 2021, this was limited to decommissioned equipment which was sent to countries in Africa under the EQUALS Initiative. In 2021, in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, donations of equipment, PPE, vaccines and other supplies with a book value of more than €18m were made to India, Nepal, Brazil, Uganda, Lebanon and Zambia. This year, donations to Ukraine are expected to exceed a book value of €6m.

While all HSE donations are from surplus stocks or decommissioned equipment which would not have a future use in the HSE, there has been no previous HSE policy regarding such donations, including governance arrangements and levels of financial approval required for donating items which have a book value.

The policy attached at Annex 2 seeks to clarify these arrangements. In the policy, it is proposed that approval by the EMT is required for donations with a cumulative book value above €1m and donations with a cumulative book value above €2m in a financial year require Board approval. Decisions will be reported to the ARC/Board for information and monitoring purposes.

The policy applies to donations of medical equipment and supplies by the HSE to support development of health services in low and middle income countries, mainly in Africa. It also covers requests for humanitarian assistance from countries affected by health emergencies and other crises.

Subject to approval, it is proposed that the policy will be implemented from January 2023.

Highlight any implications that the Board should be made aware of in its consideration such as;

- **Current status**
For consideration
- **Budget**
There are no additional budgetary costs with this proposal.
- **Resources**
Not applicable
- **Impact to delivery of services**
Not applicable
- **Corporate Plan**
Aligned with HSE Corporate Plan & Service Plan
- **Sláintecare**
Aligned with Sláintecare
- **Social factors (e.g., impact on specific area such as the elderly, disabilities)**
This will have a beneficial impact on the lives and health of people in low resource countries, and contribute to better health for all.
- **Technological factors**
Not applicable
- **Legal factors**
Not applicable

Conclusion

Not applicable.

Recommendation

It is recommended that the HSE Board note the HSE Report on Global Health Programme 3-year Plan 2022-2024.

It is recommended that the HSE Board note the HSE Policy on Donation of Medical Equipment and Supplies to Developing Countries and Other Countries in Crisis.