



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
Health Service Executive

HSE Board Briefing Template

Subject: HSE donating surplus PPE to low resource countries

Submitted for meeting on: 10 March (ARC), 25 March (Board) 2022.

Name & title of author: Dr Philip Crowley, National Director of Strategy and Research

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

To seek approval for the continued donation of surplus PPE stocks in response to requests from low resource countries.

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

This donation was approved at EMT and ARC, it is recommended that the HSE Board approve the proposal for the continued donation of surplus PPE stocks in response to requests from low resource countries.

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; **X**
- 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. **X**

Brief summary of link to Board objectives.

- i. This presents an opportunity for the HSE to show solidarity with other countries and support Ireland's policy approach to address those 'furthest behind first' and support achievement of the UN Sustainable Development Goal 3 (SDG 3). The HSE will be in a position to respond promptly to emergency requests and improve public and international confidence.
- ii. The current book value of surplus PPE is €5.5m; based on the value at 1 January 2022. Donating surplus PPE is of no additional cost to the HSE and is putting unused product to good use, donating it to those who really need it.

Background - provide context in order to ensure that the Board fully understand the issue.

As part of Ireland's international development programme in health, the HSE has been donating used medical equipment from Irish hospitals to countries in Africa since 2014 under the EQUALS Initiative, managed by the HSE Global Health Programme. During 2021, the HSE responded to a range of requests for humanitarian assistance in the COVID-19 pandemic. In coordination with the Department of Foreign Affairs and Department of Health, the HSE donated medical equipment, PPE, drugs, vaccines and vaccine supplies to India, Nepal, Brazil, Zambia, Uganda and Lebanon.

Towards the end of 2021, the HSE still had large stocks of surplus PPE which will not be used in Ireland within the expiry dates. This includes gowns, protective suits, surgical masks, face shields and goggles with a total book value of €5.5 million (1 January 2022). The HSE's Global Health Programme function coordinates with HSE procurement to organise donations of PPE to countries in Africa in response to specific requests. This began in

October 2021 with the shipping of two 40-foot containers to Zambia, funded by the Royal College of Physicians of Ireland.

The HSE Service Plan 2022 has committed to continuing to donate equipment and surplus PPE to less developed countries in response to COVID-19. There are plans in place for donations to Tanzania and Kenya in Q1 2022, and requests from other countries will be addressed throughout the year.

The HSE's Global Health Programme function will coordinate with HSE Procurement to make suitable arrangements with governmental and non-governmental organisations that will be responsible for the collection, shipping and delivery of PPE to beneficiary countries in Africa. Only surplus PPE that will not be used in the Irish context is made available for donation; individual donations range in value from €5k to €500k. HSE procurement maintains an up to date list of surplus items. The HSE does not pay for the cost of collection, shipment or final delivery of donations. The HSE's Global Health Programme function has established a transparent process to ensure donations meet humanitarian principles and adhere to HSE procedures and regulations.

This donation presents an opportunity for the HSE to show solidarity with other countries and support Ireland's policy approach to address those 'furthest behind first' and support achievement of UN Sustainable Development Goal 3 (SDG 3), which is better health and well-being for all.

Humanitarian donations are also part of the HSE agreement with Irish Aid (Department of Foreign Affairs) to provide aid in response to requests from low resource countries via the EU Civil Protection Mechanism and other channels.

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

- **Current status**
Awaiting Board Approval
- **Budget**
There are no additional budgetary costs. Donation will free up storage and disposal costs.
- **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 approve the continued donation as outlined above.