

Chain of life

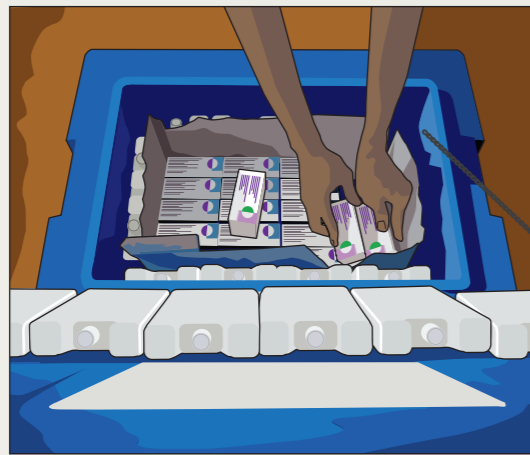
Getting the vital supplies to where they are needed

Ensuring that our teams in the field are properly equipped with medicines and equipment is a major logistical challenge. A breakdown in the delivery or supply chain can mean desperately ill patients are left without the drugs they need. As a result, we work hard to ensure materials get to our teams where – and when – they need them.

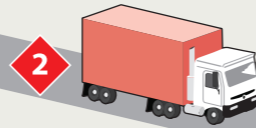
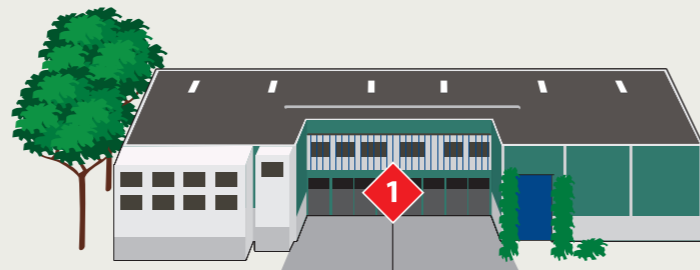
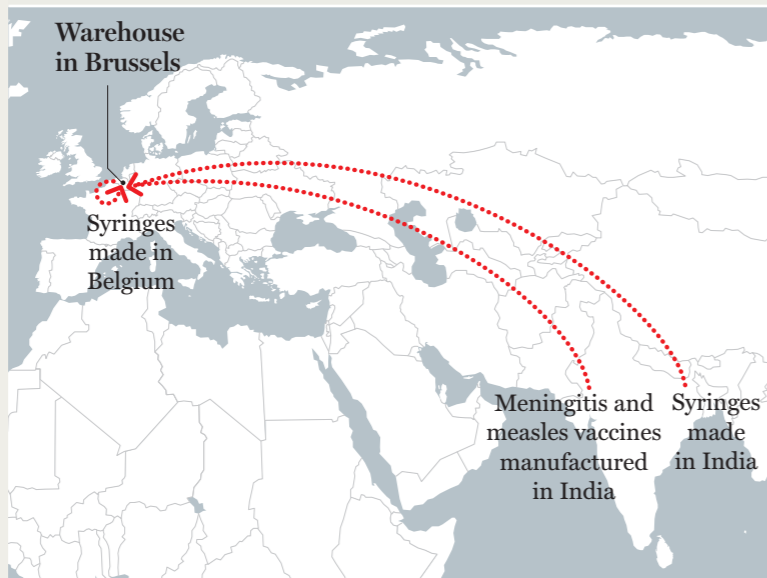
In 2010, we transported over 4,000 tonnes to our projects around the world by land, sea and air. Vaccines are a particular challenge. From the moment of manufacture to the point of injection in the field, they must be kept between 2 and 8 degrees Celsius to avoid spoilage. To ensure temperature stability, we have instituted the Cold Chain procedure.



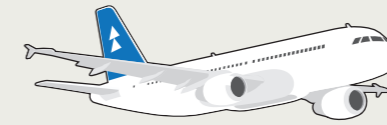
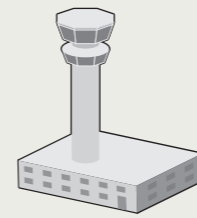
Vaccines are stored in a refrigerated area of our large stock warehouses. In Brussels, the warehouse is 7,000 square metres and contains everything from medicines and vehicles, through to surgical tents and clothing.



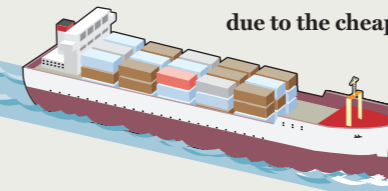
In the field projects, the team decides what they need, and the logistician creates a stock request.



The vaccines are transported by truck in an ice-lined fridge in case of a power failure.



Due to the difficulty of maintaining the cool temperature during transport, vaccines are sent to the field on cargo planes. Outside of emergencies, all other drugs and materials are shipped by cargo boat due to the cheaper shipping costs.



Vaccines are taken to the central MSF stores, which can be anything from a warehouse to a small shed. The vaccines are placed in a refrigerated area or large fridge powered by a generator.



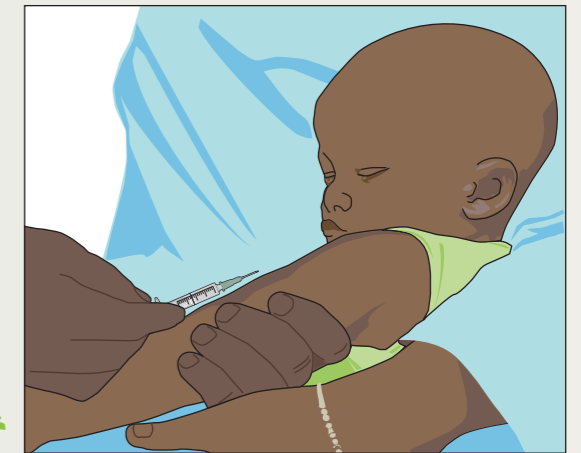
Plane lands in country and the vaccines pass through customs.



Stocks of vaccines are transported by MSF Land Cruiser to smaller MSF projects in towns and countryside in a coolbox.



In countries such as DRC, roads are often muddy and impassable for larger vehicles. In these situations, the coolboxes are placed on the back of motorbikes and taken deep into the countryside.



Vaccines arrive at target location and patients receive their injections.



Diseases such as measles, meningitis and yellow fever continue to kill large numbers of people in many parts of the world. Vaccination provides the best form of protection against these diseases, and is the fastest way of controlling and containing an epidemic once it has begun to spread. To aid in rapid deployment, MSF produces special kits for each emergency our field teams face. The standard Immunisation Kit contains everything from 10,000 doses of vaccine, 11,000 one-use auto disable syringes, sharps disposal containers and coldboxes for transportation and storage, through to gloves, immunisation cards, clipboards, pens, and boundary tape and megaphones in order to help facilitate crowd control.

The kit is packed in a series of boxes and provides up to five teams enough vaccine and equipment to vaccinate 10,000 people. This kit costs

£13,464.90

The surgical kit contains everything needed to carry out 100 operations a day over three months. This kit costs

£72,669.71

and a nutrition kit allows us to weigh, measure, register and feed 500 malnourished children for three months. This kit costs

£3,253



1 Auto-disable syringe, per 100
£5.46

2 Coolbox for the safe transportation of the vaccines
£30

3 Sharps disposal box to ensure that syringes are disposed of properly and not reused
£3.46



4 Immunisation cards: 500 cards
£18.93

5 Cotton wool rolls, 3 rolls:
£6.50

6 Tape used to demarcate the injection area and create an orderly queue.
£6.99 per 500 metres



7 Gloves, per 100
£3.67

8 Pen to mark the fingers of patients to show who has been treated

93p