

DELIVERING ESSENTIAL VACCINES TO THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO

PHARMA
CASE STUDY

/// THE SITUATION

One of the largest pharmaceutical trading companies in the Netherlands, and an existing Rhenus client, needed a partner it could trust to safely transport vaccines from the Netherlands to the Democratic Republic of Congo. The company, which is a preferred supplier to UNICEF and the WHO and manages regular shipments to remote corners of Africa, demanded a solution that guaranteed temperature controls throughout the journey, including at Kinshasa airport in DRC.

Temperature excursions are a significant issue in the transportation of medical and pharmaceutical supplies. Not only do they lead to wastage and increased costs but crucially, in this case, they can delay vital vaccines from reaching the people who need them most.

/// HOW RHENUS HELPED:

The vaccines were collected by a qualified haulier that could maintain temperature controls of 2-8°C, before being stored at the same temperature at the Rhenus Logistics warehouse in the Netherlands. Specially trained and certified staff at Rhenus then secured a RAPE2 envirotainer and managed the pre-cooling process to a set temperature of 4°C.

Rhenus managed the airport transfer of the RAPE2 envirotainer and worked closely with the airline to monitor it during the flight to the hub airport, before continuing on its journey to Kinshasa.

Upon arrival in the Democratic Republic of Congo, consignments of approximately 10 pallets per shipment are offloaded from the RAPE2 and placed in a Pharma TC facility at the correct temperature, prior to final delivery to the consignee.

/// WHY RHENUS?

The client demands excellence which is why working with Rhenus was the obvious choice. Rhenus is trusted by some of the world's leading pharmaceutical and medical device companies.

Rhenus conducts a Route Risk Assessment for all clients. This close examination of every stage of the journey identifies where improvements can be made. In this case, it is essential that the shipment process is managed seamlessly, to ensure that vaccines arrive on time and in perfect condition.

Rhenus communicates with the client at every stage of the journey and has put additional checks in place to guarantee quality – for example, making it mandatory for the airline to send proof that the vaccines have been placed in a temperature-controlled room in Kinshasa, and that no temperature excursions have occurred on the tarmac or during any clearance checks.

It is this level of reassurance that proves so valuable to companies looking to ship lifesaving supplies across the globe.