

Imperial logistics

Solar project resolves power problems in Malawi hospitals



A solar energy project that is ensuring that patients at hospitals in Malawi are not compromised by power outages is the latest healthcare supply chain solution delivered in the country by Imperial Logistics company, Resolve.

As part of its plan to develop healthcare infrastructure in Malawi, the country's Ministry of Health embarked on a US\$3,7-million project to install solar energy at 85 health facilities nationwide. "The Ministry of Health contracted non-profit organisation PFSCM (The Partnership for Supply Chain Management) to procure and install the solar panels, and PFSCM awarded a subcontract to Resolve Solution Partners for the installation and a three-year maintenance programme," explains Cobus Rossouw, chief strategy officer at Imperial Logistics. "This solar initiative aims to ensure the seamless delivery of healthcare services in the face of prolonged power outages that the country is currently experiencing," he states.

"District hospitals and health centres in remote areas of Malawi have been the worst affected by power outages," Rossouw notes. "Big city hospitals have been less affected, although they have had to use generators to maintain operations at times, which are costly to run."

According to Malawi's Ministry of Health, the goal of this solar project is to prioritise saving lives and curbing power disruptions, especially in key hospital sections like theatres, maternity wings, intensive care units and the section for children under five.

This project marks the third healthcare supply chain solutions project that PFSCM and Resolve have partnered on in Malawi. "Last year, PFSCM and Resolve installed 115 prefabricated storage units across the country using Resolve's unique Storage-in-a-Box solution. After the success of this project, PFSCM and Resolve were awarded the roll-out of a further 95 Storage-in-a-Box units, which were completed at the end of October 2017," Rossouw reveals.

Resolve's innovative Storage-in-a-Box solution consists of prefabricated 70m² modular storage units that are pharmaceutical-compliant, validated, fully outfitted and can be deployed immediately. Delivered in 40 ft containers, Storage-in-a-Box brings supply chain solutions to both remote and urban settings with ease, allowing supply networks to develop where they are needed, not just where they have traditionally been able to be deployed.

"We look forward to the completion of our solar undertaking in Malawi, and are proud of the ongoing role that Resolve is playing in improving healthcare in Malawi," Rossouw concludes.

The hospitals that are benefiting include Bwaila Hospital in Lilongwe, Queen Elizabeth Central Hospital in Blantyre, Zomba Central Hospital and Mzuzu Central Hospital. Each of these facilities will be equipped with:



solar panels, panel arrays and photovoltaic systems providing 100 kW of power



solar powered streetlights



solar geysers and



air conditioners



Heat-reflecting paint will also be added to 16 facilities.