PROTECTING GHANA’S ELECTION: 
INSTANT AGILITY WITH ZIPLINE’S AUTONOMOUS DELIVERY NETWORK

THE CHALLENGE  
EMERGENCY PPE FOR GHANA’S POLLING STATIONS

On December 5th 2020, Ghana’s Eastern Region Electorate faced a seemingly impossible logistics challenge. Polls were opening in 48 hours for the presidential election, and poll workers lacked masks and personal protective equipment (PPE). Tens of thousands of face masks needed to be distributed to over 33 districts over an area of 19,323 km². By traditional ground transportation, planning and executing this distribution would take 48-72 hours and would deliver just 50% of the required supplies, assuming vehicles were even available.

ZIPLINE’S SOLUTION  
AN AGILE AND INSTANT SUPPLY CHAIN

The Eastern Region Electorate immediately reached out to Zipline to request the rapid distribution of PPE in order to ensure that polls were able to open and keep its workers protected. Zipline agreed and the 18,000+ face masks were picked up and dropped off at Zipline’s Distribution Center in Omenako.

In a matter of hours, Zipline coordinated with district directors to select local health facilities as delivery sites. Just 16 hours after the initial request, the Zipline operations team began deliveries. Over the next 15 hours, Zipline dispatched over 160 flights to 29 delivery sites. At the peak, there were 18 Zipline aircraft delivering simultaneously and the operation averaged 15 deliveries per hour of operation.

By 9AM the next day, election day, Zipline had distributed all of the inventory and polling officers had distributed them to polling sites. Every polling station in the Eastern Region was able to open on time with all personnel receiving the appropriate PPE, enabling hundreds of thousands of Ghanians to vote.
EMERGENCY DISTRIBUTION: GROUND VS. AERIAL LOGISTICS

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<thead>
<tr>
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<th>Traditional Ground Delivery</th>
<th>Aerial Logistics with Zipline</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total time in delivery</td>
<td>48 hours for 1 truck</td>
<td>15 hours (45 minute max delivery time per flight)</td>
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<td>36 hours for 2 trucks</td>
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<tr>
<td>Delivery risk</td>
<td>High risk (traffic, weather, personnel)</td>
<td>Low risk (all weather, remote locations, continuous operation)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ability to scale</td>
<td>Low</td>
<td>High</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dispatch speed</td>
<td>Dependent on drivers and trucks</td>
<td>Instant</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cost savings</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>40%</td>
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BENEFITS OF ZIPLINE SUPPLY CHAIN SERVICES

- **Instant resource mobilization**
  Zipline’s autonomous system can respond to surges or changes in demand in minutes and can immediately scale to meet new requirements.

- **Real time visibility & tracking**
  Get full visibility into your supply chain with real-time tracking - all orders are GPS-tracked and all events are timestamped.

- **Continuous & resilient operation**
  Zipline reduces risk and increases operational continuity with autonomous delivery capable of simultaneous delivery to dozens of locations.

SUPPLY CHAIN RESILIENCE AND FLEXIBILITY:
LESSONS LEARNED FROM AUTONOMOUS DELIVERY AT SCALE

Medical supply chains are evolving to become faster, more flexible, and more resilient - and they are turning to on-demand systems to give them all three. While it will almost always be more cost effective to send routine shipments of large, low cost, cargo via ground based transportation, the application of autonomous aerial logistics is far broader than the emergency delivery of high cost, perishable goods.

As Ghana looked for a scalable solution capable of delivering PPE prior to election day, Zipline’s on-demand delivery was able to deliver more efficiently on all fronts: a faster, cheaper, and more flexible solution that provides real-time tracking with greater visibility.