The Caribbean is a unique and diverse region composed of 13 individual islands. Renowned for its beauty, the Caribbean is a global travel destination for 32 million individuals annually. Even considering the large tourism industry, the region is still one of the poorest in the world, with an average of 32% of the population living at or below the poverty line – with the extreme being 88% in Haiti.

Each country faces its own challenges with regards to healthcare, food insecurity, crime, and instability, but the resounding and consistent challenge is the impact of extreme climate events. The Caribbean is the most susceptible region for climate events such as earthquakes, landslides, floods, tropical storms, and hurricanes, all of which have drastically impacted, and will continue to impact, these countries. Annually, the Caribbean spends at least $3 billion dollars on losses and damage caused by environmental disasters, more than 1/3 of the total GDP of all countries combined.

For more than 20 years, Logenix has provided the Caribbean with crucial aid in several capacities – healthcare, disaster relief, education, power, and agriculture – but in more recent years, Logenix has been fundamentally involved supporting the countries with life-saving medicines and health supplies. In the past 5 years, Logenix has delivered nearly $200 million in medicines and crucial health/laboratory supplies to combat HIV, Malaria and COVID, as well as providing critical assistance for disaster recovery.
Logenix is one of the few providers entrusted with temperature-controlled medicines and supplies to the Caribbean. In 2021, Logenix was tasked with delivering frozen and hazmat medical supplies and pharmaceuticals from Asia to Dominica, St. Lucia, Grenada, St. Vincent, St. Kitts, and Antigua and Barbuda. There was no scheduled service to the region, as passenger planes were not operating, and to accomplish the project we chartered flights – essentially creating service – to guarantee cost efficient and temperature secure delivery; the 30 individual shipments were pivoted globally up to 4 times to ensure temperature requirements.

Upon arrival in the Caribbean, we then faced the challenge of storage and distribution as there was little access to cold storage and inter-island flights were scarce. To store goods while waiting for flights – sometimes encountering weeks of delays – Logenix coordinated enclosed vans with temperature control devices and insulation. Once flights were secured, we often had to unpalletized and repack materials into smaller, lighter boxes due to the various sizes of small aircraft on these routes.

The temperature expertise of Logenix has been especially crucial for deliveries throughout Haiti. As featured in our March 2023 Issue, due to the pervasive gang violence in Haiti Logenix was one of the few operators capable to reliably supply essential oxygen equipment (oxygen compressor and PSA plant equipment) and pharmaceuticals. Logenix was involved every step of the way, to ensure materials were held safely and securely, at the correct temperature if applicable, and delivered as requested.

The Caribbean needs continued support and our efforts, in collaboration with our worldwide partners, have been a reliable source of humanitarian aid delivery. With our innovative routes, cold-chain expertise, and commitment to maintain access, Logenix will continue to aid the Caribbean as it perseveres through challenges.
"A RIDDLE, WRAPPED IN A MYSTERY, INSIDE AN ENIGMA"

This famous line of Winston Churchill’s, describing the inability to understand the Soviet intentions at the beginning of World War II, is a perfect description of the most complicated logistics for a power infrastructure program Logenix has ever completed, and with great success. Logenix has been a partner to governments and international organizations – such as USAID, the World Bank, and the Asian Development Bank – to assist in worldwide efforts to increase access to electricity. Throughout Africa, Asia, the Middle East, the Pacific Islands, and the Caribbean, Logenix has played a crucial role over the last 20 years in dozens of large-scale electricity generation projects.

The enormous complexity of this operation arose in 2021 when the Taliban took control of Afghanistan, just as the US government was beginning the construction of a solar power plant in Kandahar. Equipment, some of it enormous, would wind up stranded across two separate ports in Pakistan. Logenix would be faced with a riddle – where were all the pieces; a mystery – how to get it out of a country that had no standing bureaucratic process in place to allow re-export; and an enigma – how to get the equipment to Tajikistan without transiting Afghanistan; there was real concern the equipment could be seized by the Taliban.
Logenix was tasked with solving all the overwhelming complexity and delivering the equipment safe and intact to Dushanbe, Tajikistan. The Logenix Karachi office began the search to locate the equipment, roughly half in the South Asia Pakistan Terminal Port and the other half in the Pakistan International Container Terminal. After 3 months of effort, 59 separate units were located, 19 oversized units – of which over half weighed between 39-69 tons – and 40 containers with a gross weight over 2.5 million pounds and valued approximately $5 million USD.

With the riddle solved, we then faced the mystery of the Pakistani export regulations. Due to a quirk in the development of the Pakistani customs IT system, there was no process in place to allow for re-exportation of the cargo. Logenix, working in collaboration with the US Consulate in Karachi, had to lobby the Pakistani government to reprogram the customs IT management system to process re-exportations. This process took over 2 months of continuous requests and negotiations. Once the Pakistani IT system challenge was overcome, the equipment had to be readied, the oversize pieces inspected, and many of the containers transloaded due to damage, for transit to Dushanbe.

The enigma was transporting the materials. The route chosen to avoid transiting Afghanistan would take the equipment through five different countries on a journey of approximately 7,000 miles – by ocean freight through the Red Sea, across the Mediterranean, to Georgia then trucked to Baku, Azerbaijan, barged to Kazakhstan and Turkmenistan, and finally trucked and railed to Dushanbe. The huge challenge was the permitting and routing of the enormous oversize pieces – what could have presented an insurmountable obstacle. Applications for specialized carriage, loading, and routing had to be made with all five governments. Once permissions and routing were finally obtained, taking another 2 months, the equipment began the journey.
The transit was besieged with challenges that had to be overcome one by one. High winds in the Caspian Sea delayed and cancelled the ferry bookings arranged from Baku. These delays forced on-the-fly changes to routings requiring utilizations of multiple ferries going to different ports in Turkmenistan and Kazakhstan. From the initial sailing of the first pieces of equipment from Karachi, the journey took 6 months for all equipment to be delivered in Dushanbe. In order to provide complete visibility, Logenix utilized GPS trackers on each piece of equipment thus enabling our Dubai Control Tower to keep USAID constantly up to date on the transit progress.

Upon arrival to Tajikistan, there were even further challenges. The consignee had underestimated the sheer volume of the equipment so upon arrival Logenix was asked to deliver to three separate locations within Dushanbe. What would normally be a significant logistical challenge, and was due to the changing of the oversized permits, paled in comparison with the other challenges successfully managed and overcome in this project operation.

The 12 month, incredibly complex logistics operation required extensive planning, research, and know how – what we at Logenix are proud to call our ‘steely-eyed’ forwarding expertise. The equipment was delivered, successfully and cost effectively to the Tajik Ministry of Energy and Water Resources. During the official handover the US Ambassador to Tajikistan, Manuel Micaller Jr was in attendance (pictured right).

Consistent with our corporate mission and in keeping with our commitment to bring evolutionary change to the neediest regions, Logenix was able to provide innovative solutions and overcome unprecedented challenges to repurpose valuable power equipment that would have otherwise been abandoned; further enabling the expansion of the power grid across the developing world.
Industry News

Reefer Shipping Remains Resilient Despite 2022 Trade Contraction

“Reefer container freight rates continue to outperform the dry cargo trade, despite an unprecedented contraction in reefer seaborne trade last year, and this divergence is forecast to continue over the next few years.”

Read Article

Air Cargo Tonnages Fall Further While Rates Hold Firm

“Average global air cargo rates have stabilized in the last five weeks at around -37% below their levels this time last year – still being more than +30% above their comparable pre-Covid levels – while the decreasing trend in global tonnages continued into the first full week of August, with volumes around -4% year-on-year, according to the latest figures.”

Read Article

Yang Ming Settles US Shipper’s Claim that Carrier Broke its Contract

“Yang Ming has reached an out of court settlement with a shipper that claimed it was a victim of pandemic-era price manipulation.”

Read Article

UN seeks Niger sanctions relief amid aid blockages

“Trucks with food and humanitarian aid have been piling up at Niger's land borders since a military coup on July 26, driving up food prices, in a sign of the impact of the sanctions. The blockade is designed to pressure the junta to restore ousted President Mohamed Bazoum to office.”

Read Article
Thank You

We would like to thank all of our clients and partners for the impactful collaborations both featured and not featured in this newsletter.

Connect with us to learn more

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