Lynden has a long history assisting the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance (OFDA) responding to natural disasters and other emergencies around the world. In response to one such event, the West African Ebola virus epidemic, Lynden was selected to organize movement of mobile blood work vehicles to Guinea, Liberia, and Nigeria, along with transportation of all support equipment for medical response teams to operate those units.

Key to the Ebola response effort was Antonov AN-124 charter aircraft support provided by Lynden’s Seattle and Baltimore project teams. Following the first call from our customer, a Lynden project manager was immediately dispatched to North Carolina. After assessing the scope and requirements of the project, our project manager quickly recognized the consolidation point for the shipment required a move from Greensboro to Raleigh-Durham (RDU). Informed of the shipment’s urgency, RDU airport authorities donated use of an idle facility. The United Nations sponsor for the charter was then able to reschedule flights, with RDU serving as the operational origin for routing to West African airports.

With just seven days’ notice, Lynden’s team completed all the required prep work – inventory, crating, export declarations and vehicle titles – to ship the vehicles and medical equipment to Nigeria, Liberia and Guinea. Once the shipment arrived in West Africa, they also performed all destination services including customs clearance, arrival prep, warehousing and time-specific delivery to the hospitals. In a 10 day time span, Lynden consolidated and transported 53 metric tons of support freight from North Carolina to the destination locations.

Through this work Lynden coordinated the efforts of the World Food Programme, two private US firms, and local hospitals and Ministries of Health in-country, all while maintaining strict adherence to US export regulations and local customs authorities. We continue engagement with Ebola research today and provide logistics support for medical studies in the response countries, as well as in Sierra Leone, Cameroon, Kenya, South Africa and Ethiopia. Our use of cryogenic containers has also accelerated trials of ZMAPP vaccines in the drive for a cure.