

## PRESS RELEASE

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### **Aspen partners with South African Government to evacuate South African Students from the Ukraine conflict**

**Johannesburg, South Africa** - Aspen Pharmacare, Africa's largest pharmaceutical company, has partnered with the South African Department of International Relations and Cooperation (DIRCO) to assist in the emergency evacuation of South African students who have been studying at various Universities in the Ukraine. These students, many of whom have limited resources, were forced to flee Ukraine into neighbouring countries in the wake of the raging armed conflict.

The Students and other nationals crossed into neighbouring countries like Hungary, Poland, Romania and Slovakia. Most didn't have the means to return home.

After learning of the plight of these students, Aspen Pharmacare joined forces with DIRCO to expedite both the travel arrangements and funding required to assist with their safe return to South Africa. The first Group of 10 Student's will arrive this morning, 10 March 2022 on an Air France Flight at OR Tambo International Airport.

Stavros Nicolaou, Aspen Group Senior Executive Strategic Trade, said, "The Ukraine conflict has created a significant Humanitarian Crisis, from which a number of South African students studying abroad in the Ukraine have been severely impacted. After the weekend appeal to our Government and Corporate South Africa from many of these Students, Aspen who, has a presence in Ukraine and neighbouring territories decided join forces with South African Government to ensure the timeous and safe return of these Students to their home Country, so that they can be united with their loved ones. Our students are our future, and it is important that the Spirit of Ubuntu prevailed and that together with our Government, we were able to move swiftly to ensure their safe and timely return. We hope that they will be able to resume their studies in the not-too-distant future. Aspen is particularly privileged to have played a role at this time where we are witnessing a Global Humanitarian Crisis unfold before our eyes. We expect 23 of the 25 Student's to be safely home by the weekend and remaining 2 to return during next week".

Clayson Monyela, Deputy Director General DIRCO said, “We would like to thank Aspen Pharmacare for heeding the call of our government to partner with us and bring our citizens back home. We also want to extend a word of gratitude to all our Ambassadors, team of diplomats and South African volunteers (at home and abroad) who played a role in this project. This is the diplomacy of Ubuntu in practice”.

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#### **About Aspen**

Headquartered in Durban, South Africa, Aspen is a leading global specialty and branded multinational pharmaceutical company in both emerging and developed markets.

Aspen improves the health of patients in more than 150 countries through its high quality, affordable and effective healthcare solutions. The Group’s key business segments are Manufacturing and Commercial Pharmaceuticals comprising Regional Brands and Sterile Focus Brands that include anaesthetics and thrombosis products.

Aspen employs approximately 9 100 people and has 69 established business operations in over 50 countries. The Group operates 23 manufacturing facilities across 15 sites and holds international manufacturing approvals from some of the most stringent global regulatory agencies. Its manufacturing capabilities are scalable to demand and cover a wide variety of product-types including steriles, oral solid dose, liquids, semi-solids, biologicals and active pharmaceutical ingredients. For more information visit [www.aspenpharma.com](http://www.aspenpharma.com)

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