

IDF Child Sponsorship Program

life for a child with diabetes



International Diabetes Federation

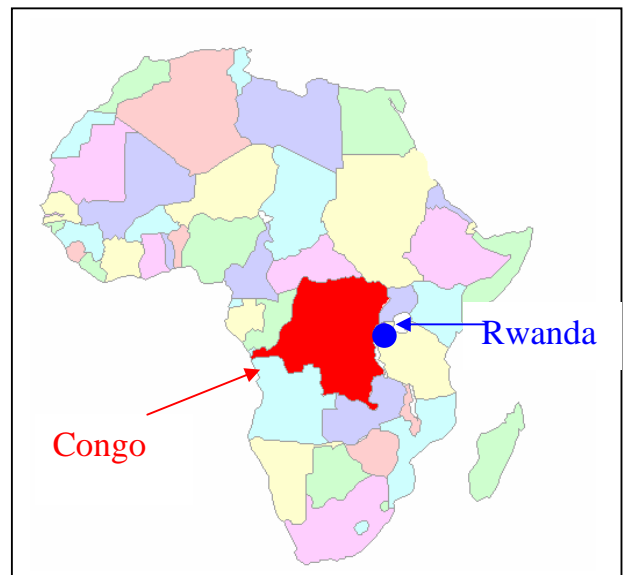
In partnership with Diabetes
Australia and HOPE *worldwide*

Update 8 – April 2005

We are pleased to announce that the program has now expanded to Africa. Thirty-four of the world's 49 "Least Developed Countries" are in this continent. Some have also had recent devastating civil wars and political turmoil. Two of these are Rwanda and the Democratic Republic of the Congo. This expansion has been funded by employees of Eli Lilly and Company.

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

The Democratic Republic of the Congo is one of the largest countries in Africa, and in many ways reflects the classic image of Africa with tropical climate, jungle, and tribal diversity. It has a population of 56 million. The 1970-1980s were decades of corruption and economic stagnation (during this time the country was known as Zaire). Following the fall of the dictator Mobutu in 1997, the country was plagued by civil strife and wars. In the last couple of years, the political situation has stabilised somewhat, but parts of the country are still utterly lawless. Kinshasa is the capital, a teeming metropolis of 6 million.



The plight of the 200+ children and adolescents with diabetes in and around Kinshasa is desperate. Capable medical care is provided by a joint Catholic Church/Salvation Army program. However resources are very limited, and there is extreme poverty. Some children quickly die because the family cannot afford supplies or come to clinic. Others are seen irregularly and have poor control. The Program is supporting 30 children directly, providing funds for insulin, syringes, needles, and two blood glucose meters for the clinics and 60 testing strips per child per year (home monitoring is not a priority). We also indirectly support the other 170+ children - providing funds for education materials and a nurse educator. Thanks to the generosity of Metrika, we also arranged for 30 single-use HbA1c kits, as there is no capacity for measuring HbA1c in the Congo.



Kifutu, one of the adolescents benefiting from the program in Kinshasa.

RWANDA

Rwanda is a small country to the east of the Congo in Central Africa, with a population of 8 million. In 1994 this poor but previously peaceful country was torn apart by strife between the Tutsi and Hutu tribes, resulting in the genocide of 800,000 people. Massacres and maimings occurred all over the country. Hundreds of thousands of children were orphaned, and whole communities were uprooted and became refugees. Stability is gradually returning, but the psychological and economic effects of the genocide period are profound.

There are 33 children and adolescents with diabetes known to be alive in Rwanda. The capital Kigali looks after most of these. We are working with the Association Rwandaise des Diabetiques to provide insulin for all these young patients. Insulin costs US\$15-18 per 100U/mL vial in Rwanda.



Hertier is seven years old and is one of the children we support in Rwanda

AZERBAIJAN



Child and mother in Ganja learning about self-monitoring with visual glucose strips

The program continues to support self-monitoring for all children with diabetes in Baku, the capital. The second city in Azerbaijan is Ganja, in the west, close to the border with Armenia. With funds from Division of Endocrinology staff at the Hospital for Sick Children in Toronto, Dr. Gunduz Ahmedov and some of his colleagues travelled to Ganja to assess the situation. They conducted a seminar for children with diabetes and their parents, with reports on treatment, complications and self-monitoring. This was followed by a group workshop with training in techniques of insulin injections, self-monitoring and discussion of diet issues. Clinical situations were also reviewed. It was noted that many children had signs of chronic, and some already have complications. We will extend further assistance to Ganja later this year.

WEBSITE

The program now has a new website at www.lifeforachild.idf.org, which has all updates and other information on the program. It now is possible to donate over the web, and we thank MedDay AB (in Sweden) and others who have contributed in this way.

*Thank you for your support
Graham Ogle, Martin Silink, and Anne Rogers*

IDF Child Sponsorship Program - Life for a Child with Diabetes
GPO Box 9824, Sydney, NSW 2001, Australia
Ph 61 2 9552 9955 Fax 61 2 9660 3633
e-mail anner@diabetesnsw.com.au, web www.lifeforachild.idf.org