Mali: Supporting young people through unrest

Meet Oumar. At just 11 months old, he is the youngest person cared for by our local partner in Mali, Santé Diabète.

For a number of years, Mali has been struggling to contain an armed uprising that has claimed thousands of lives across the country. Many issues contribute to unrest in the country; rebel groups, Islamist extremism and, more recently, an upsurge of ethnic violence. The conflict poses a number of logistical difficulties for our partner center, whose staff work tirelessly to ensure young people can access insulin and supplies.

Life for a Child provides increased assistance to help them in this work. In addition to the provision of insulin, syringes, blood glucose meters, strips and HbA1c testing, we offer support with transportation, diabetic ketoacidosis and hypo kits, database support and help with customs clearances.

We could not provide this level of reliable care for Oumar, and the other 800 young people supported by Life for a Child in the country, if it wasn’t for donations from people like you.

Special thanks to the Association Luxembourgeoise du Diabète, Soroptimists Luxembourg, The Shirley Greathed Foundation and the Colgan family for their generous support of young people living with type 1 in Mali.
Landmark study: Cost-effective care

A Life for a Child / University of Pittsburgh study published in Pediatric Diabetes, shows how low-income countries can cost-effectively reduce the rate of mortality and complications from type 1 diabetes.

The study looks at the cost of diabetes care in six countries- Mali, Tanzania, Pakistan, Bolivia, Sri Lanka and Azerbaijan and, using a mathematical model, compares the difference in outcomes for people receiving minimal and intermediate care.

The outcomes for those receiving minimal care are often bleak and include high mortality and the premature onset of devastating chronic complications. Conversely, those receiving intermediate care have marked reductions in complications rates and mortality. It was noted that providing intermediate care is a little more costly, however, acute and chronic complication costs were reduced.

“Overall, these findings could greatly strengthen local efforts made by health care professionals, policymakers and advocates who are working toward provision of acceptable type 1 diabetes care by their national health systems.” Dr. Graham Ogle.

To find out more visit the news and stories page on lfacinternational.org

Gahan’s story

Gahan is eight years old and lives in a small village near the capital of Bangladesh. When he was three years old he became seriously ill and was diagnosed with type 1 diabetes.

Gahan’s father is a fisherman and mother is a homemaker. They worried how they would afford the insulin and supplies that he would now need every day to ensure he could survive his new diagnosis.

Thanks to your donations, Life for a Child can provide Gahan with a reliable supply of insulin, a blood glucose meter and test strips and diabetes education - thank you.

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