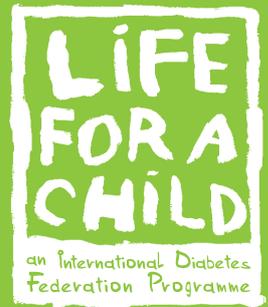
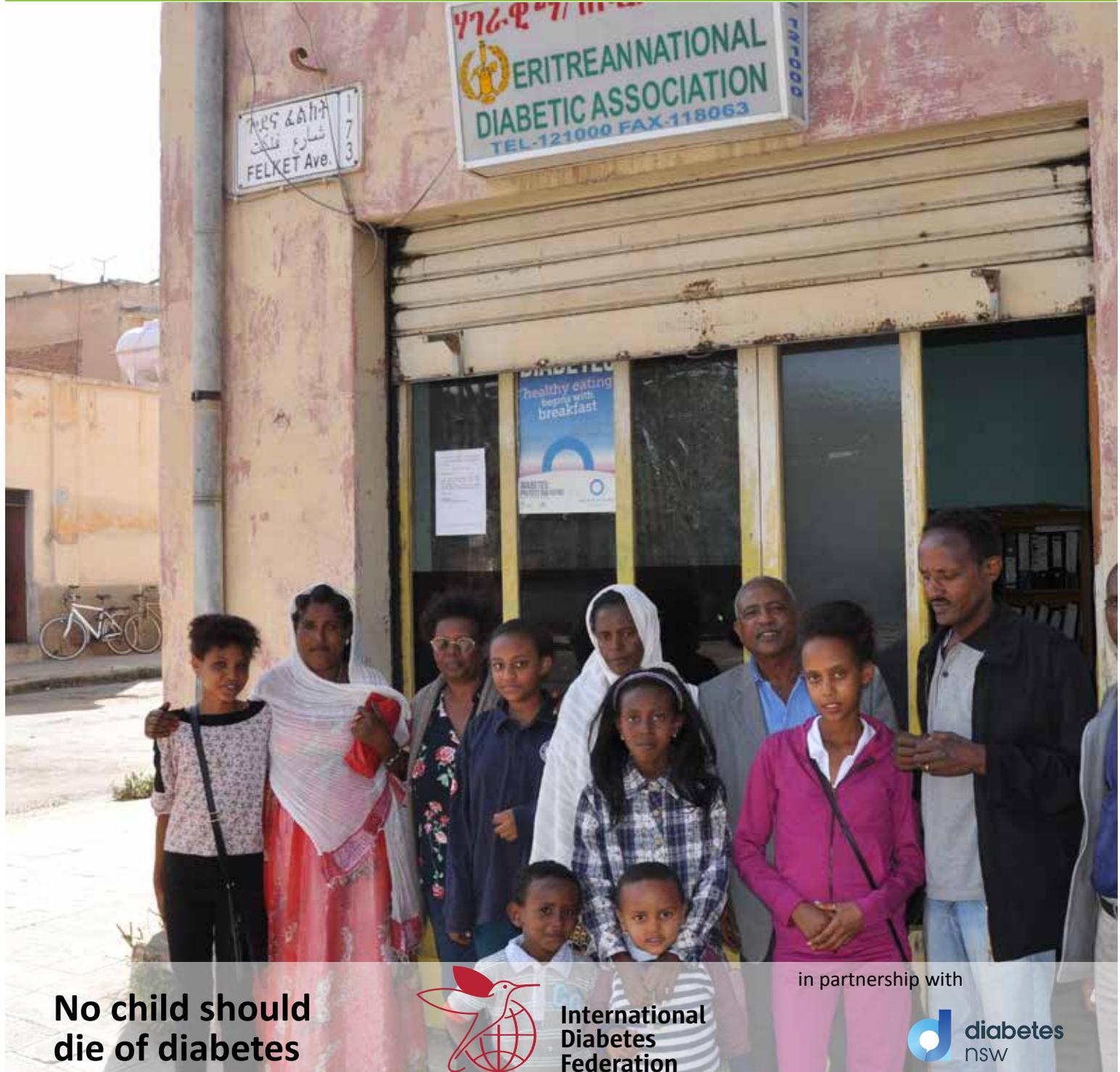


# LIFE FOR A CHILD WITH DIABETES

the International Diabetes Federation's child supporting programme



Update n° 28 | July 2015 | Eritrea



**No child should die of diabetes**



**International Diabetes Federation**

in partnership with



## IN THIS UPDATE:

**Very many children with diabetes**

**ERITREA**

**Helping refugees**

**SYRIA**

**Care across the country**

**Bolivia**

The IDF Life for a Child Programme would like to thank its major donors:



## ERITREA

Eritrea is a nation of 5 million people in the Horn of Africa. Type 1 diabetes appears to be unusually common in this region, and in émigré populations in Western countries. It is estimated that well over 2,000 young Eritreans have diabetes. The Eritrean National Diabetes Association works in close partnership with the Eritrean Department of Health. Free medical care is provided to people with diabetes, but insulin supplies are inadequate to cover all the needs, and meters and strips cannot be provided. LFAC is helping these needs, and expert technical support is being provided through the German organisation Archemed by Dr. Christian Kastendieck.



3 year old boy with diabetes in Asmara, Eritrea pictured with his sister

## BOLIVIA

The Centro Vivir con Diabetes in Cochabamba is a comprehensive multidisciplinary clinic which generously reaches out across the country to help around 160 children and youth with diabetes - likely well over half of the young people in need. LFAC helps with insulin, meters and strips, HbA1c, and educational materials. LFAC also arranged for Dr. Stuart Brink (Boston) to visit in 2014 – giving lectures in various cities and expert advice during clinics.



Group in Cochabamba, Bolivia.

## SYRIA

Syria is sadly a country in chaos, with devastating armed conflict. Millions of refugees are either fleeing to safer areas within the country or overseas. Before the troubles, the country was able to provide adequate care for children and youth with diabetes. This is no longer the case in many parts of Syria, with these young people not just in peril from violence but also lack of insulin and medical care. The Syrian American Medical Association (SAMS) provides extensive support in North-East Syria and approached LFAC for assistance. The first insulin shipment for 735 children and youth was sent in October 2014 and distributed to four centres: Kansafra, Saraqeb, Senjar and Kafar Thkhareem.

These centres are spread over a large geographic area, and travel is difficult and dangerous due to fighting, road closures, checkpoints and shelling. Consequently sub-centres are now being used to mitigate these issues and to make the insulin more accessible to patients. A shipment of meters and strips is also about to be sent, and the next insulin shipment is being planned.

SAMS has advertised the programme to create awareness through posters and flyers at local mosques and in the street, as well as through Facebook. They are hoping to expand the programme to additional centres in the future.



Receiving treatment at one of the health centres in Syria.

## LAST SIX MONTHS IN REVIEW

- ▶ Now supporting over 17,000 children and youth with diabetes in 46 countries
- ▶ Diabetic Ketoacidosis Awareness Campaign was conducted in Tajikistan.
- ▶ A LFAC Review and Strategy Meeting was conducted at the 75th American Diabetes Association meeting in Boston – attended by colleagues from supported countries and also various advocates and partners. Many productive side-meetings were also held discussing programmatic issues, training, research and sponsorship.
- ▶ The 2015 Spare a Rose Save a Child Campaign raised almost US \$25,000.
- ▶ Charles Toomey and Jerry Gore held a fundraiser recently in Bangkok and raised almost \$10,000 to assist LFAC's work in four centres in Nepal. Jerry, who has type 1 himself, recently achieved a record breaking climb up the north face of the Eiger.
- ▶ LFAC/ISPAD Training Workshop conducted in Dushanbe, with faculty from Norway and Azerbaijan.

## THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT

*Programme Steering Committee:* Prof Martin Silink (Chairman), Dr. Graham Ogle (General Manager), Mr Sturt Eastwood (Co-Chairman and CEO, Diabetes NSW), Dr. Lilian Jackson (retired, ex Diabetes NSW).

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