Delivery of supplies in Kota, India during COVID-19

This is just one of many stories of volunteers around the world working to overcome the challenges imposed by the coronavirus pandemic.

Life for a Child is currently supporting 50 young people in Kota, but due to local lockdowns, the delivery of type 1 diabetes supplies has proved near impossible. Many have been unable to access essential insulin and blood glucose monitoring supplies.

Young Puneet has been supported by Life for a Child for close to a decade, but he ran out of insulin and strips when he was unable to travel to his local clinic. Residing deep in one Kota’s “red zones” he was not allowed to leave.

Luckily, Puneet’s doctor, Dr. G.D Ramchandani, intervened, applying for special permission for his son, Raunak, to deliver the supplies in person. After traveling through the locked-down city in scorching 47°C (116.5°F) heat, Raunak passed the supplies through the barricade of Puneet’s adjoining zone.

Thanks to our generous donors, Life for a Child is currently supporting 50 children just like Puneet in Kota. Although he is still young, Puneet has just completed his NDEP Certificate course, making him a Certified Diabetes Educator. This is just one example of how children who receive support in their youth, grow to give so much back to the type 1 community.
Living Without Limits

Earlier this year in May, the World Health Organization received over 1,300 submissions from 110 countries in response to their call for the first edition of the WHO Health For All Film Festival. The winner of the Noncommunicable Diseases (NCD) category, Living Without Limits, focuses on the work LFAC has been doing to help young people with type 1 diabetes (T1D) in Mexico. The film documents the impact of a T1D diagnosis on two Mexican families and is part of a series called "Turning the Tide", which looked at how communities and organisations around the world are taking on NCDs.

The film was produced in partnership with the NCD Alliance and BBC StoryWorks Commercial Productions, with the support of the Leona M and Harry B Helmsley Charitable Trust. The prize money received was presented to the Federación Mexicana de Diabetes to assist in providing care for young people managing T1D. With the help of local diabetes clinics, Life for a Child has been providing support to the Federación Mexicana de Diabetes since 2012.

You can watch the film here: ncdalliance.org/turning-the-tide

Securing access to food and PPE in DRC

In the Democratic Republic of the Congo the coronavirus pandemic has greatly impeded logistics and deliveries of type 1 diabetes supplies. As a result, local medical centres and diabetes clinics are having to stretch their 2019 stocks of insulin. Even basic food provisions are in short supply. Food prices are also skyrocketing across the country, which is extremely challenging for those suffering from loss of income due to businesses closing down and job insecurity.

In a Life for a Child-supported clinic (Association des Diabétiques Du Congo) in the eastern city of Goma, 45 young people and their families queued to collect relief packages containing rice, milk, banana flour, maize flour, dried fish, embers, vegetable oil, tea, sugar, salt, and soap powder.

Publication of LFAC study on access to syringes, pens, and HbA1c supplies

In August Life for a Child published a study on access to insulin delivery devices and glycated haemoglobin (HbA1c) testing across 37 less-resourced countries. Our aim was to investigate the range of access challenges for patients, health care providers, and health systems in accessing these two under looked supplies.

A key finding was that close to 50% of the public health systems surveyed did not provide access to syringes at all, which are by far the most common insulin delivery device used. As a result, many young people use a combination of suboptimal syringes and needles, or reuse needles beyond what is recommended by guidelines. Additionally, stigma also played a part in impeding appropriate access to these vital supplies.

Both insulin delivery devices and HbA1c testing supplies are necessary in adequately managing type 1 diabetes, and when they cannot be accessed, particularly for young people in under-resourced countries, long-term health issues are likely to arise.

We are hopeful these findings can serve as material to help people living with diabetes, health care professionals, and civil society organisations advocate for increased provision of non-insulin essential diabetes supplies.

“…”these essential medical devices and diagnostics should be treated the same as essential medicines.”

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