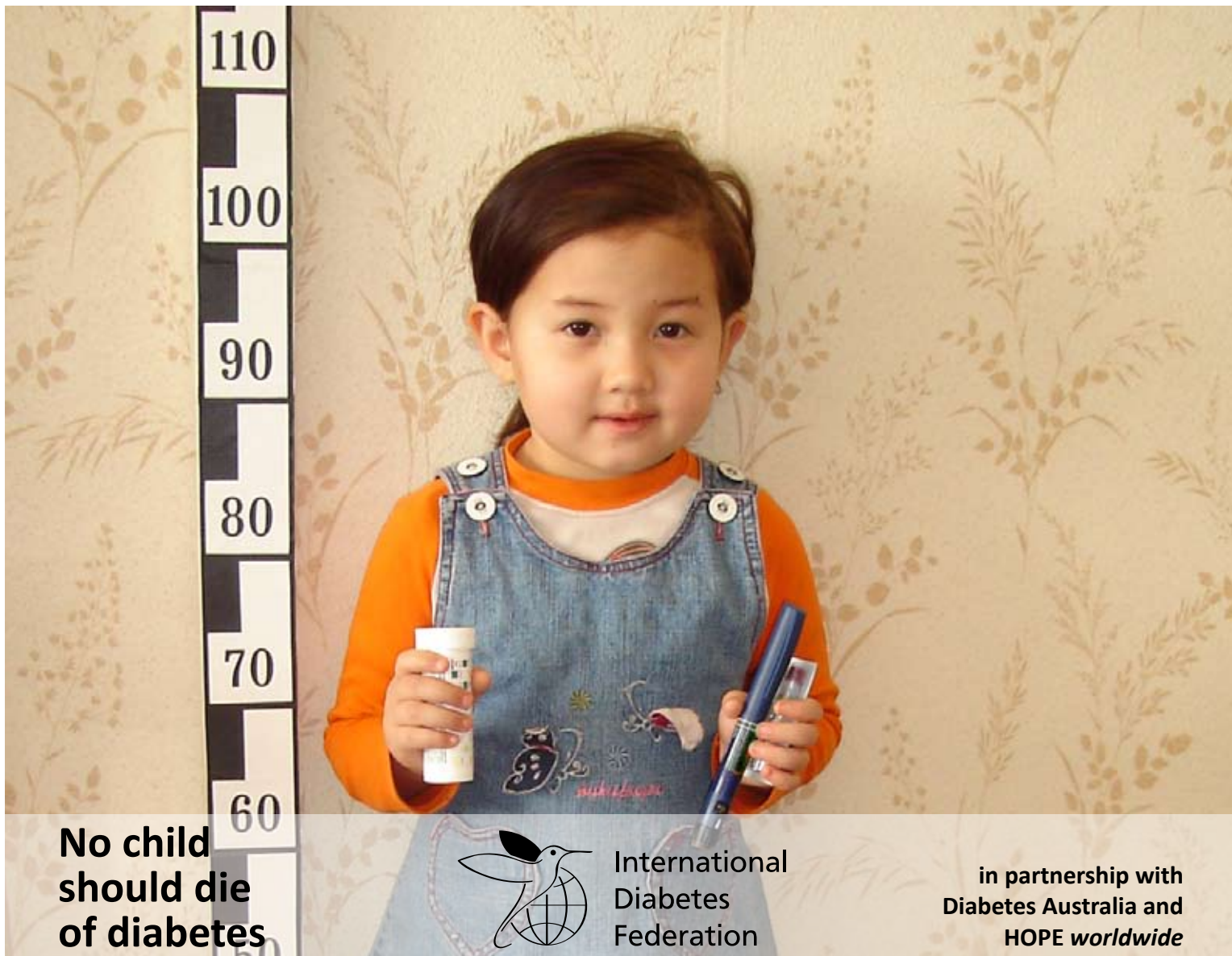


LIFE FOR A CHILD WITH DIABETES

the International Diabetes Federation's child sponsorship program



Update n° **13** | December 2007 | From Tashkent to Timbuktu



No child should die of diabetes



International Diabetes Federation

in partnership with Diabetes Australia and HOPE worldwide

Uzbekistan

Since January we have been helping the **Institute of Endocrinology** in Tashkent to provide insulin and self-monitoring for 42 children from low-income families.

Tashkent is the capital of **Uzbekistan**. The city has a long history as a trade centre. It was an important stop on the famed Silk Road.

Mali

In West Africa, we have just commenced supporting **diabetes centres** in **Mali**. The Sahara Desert covers much of this land-locked nation, which is poor but politically stable.

In Mali, diabetes in children is rare but often deadly. A recent local study reported that **half of all children** with diabetes in Mali die within two years of diagnosis.

Countries supported

Today, **Life for a Child** supports **741 children** in **15 countries**:

Azerbaijan, Bolivia, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Fiji, India, Nepal, Nigeria, **Mali**, Papua New Guinea, the Philippines, Rwanda, Sri Lanka, the United Republic of Tanzania, **Uzbekistan**, and Zimbabwe.

The Government of **Uzbekistan** is steadily doing more for people with diabetes but is not yet able to meet all their needs. *Life for a Child* is able to help fill the gap. The Insulin is being provided in partnership with *Insulin for Life*. The regular insulin and monitoring has led to a marked improvement in the health of many of the children supported.



DILMUROD & UMIDA

Dilmurod (13) and Umida (11) are brother and sister. Before the involvement of *Life for a Child*, the family could not measure blood sugars every day and Dilmurod had frequent episodes of ketoacidosis (2-3 times per year). He was negative about his diabetes and unhappy about receiving regular injections.

Since joining the Program, Dilmurod's HbA1c has dropped from 11 to 7% and he has had no ketoacidosis. Umida is also much better, the whole family is very happy for the help.



Support from Home Diagnostics

Self-monitoring of blood glucose is prohibitively expensive in many countries – despite insulin being costly, it is generally far cheaper to provide insulin than monitoring! Home Diagnostics (based in Florida, USA) have generously agreed to support a pilot programme to introduce monitoring for children in three countries – **Bolivia, Rwanda and Tanzania**. Meters are being provided free and strips at 10 US cents each.

DJAMOLIDDIN & ROBIYA

Djamoliddin (15) and Robiya (12) are brother and sister. Their family is large, with three other children. From time to time the family needed to buy insulin from their own limited budget.

Djamoliddin and Robiya used to have frequent ketoacidosis. They feel much better now that they have a regular supply of insulin and can test their blood every day. Their mother has expressed deep gratitude.



The International Diabetes Federation (IDF) is distributing the **diabetes pin** worldwide. The blue circle is the global symbol for diabetes.

IDF has designated 2007 and 2008 as *Years of the Child*. One of the goals of World Diabetes Day (November 14) in these years is to double the number of children sponsored by *Life for a Child* from 500 to 1,000. We are well on the way – now supporting 741 children!

Revenues from pin sales are benefiting *Life for a Child*. Buy the diabetes pin online from: www.idf.org/shop

In **Mali**, expert medical care is available, but insulin is very expensive. Self-monitoring is completely out of the reach of most families.

Working with **Santé Diabète Mali**, the **Point G National Hospital** and the **Gabriel Touré Hospital** and others, we are helping the 14 children and adolescents known to have diabetes in the country. They now all have access to insulin and self-monitoring.

Life for a Child is helping children with diabetes in the cities of Bamako and Sikasso, and the legendary city of Timbuktu (Tombouctou) – an ancient city at the intersection of the trans-Saharan trade routes.



THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT

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