

Bishkek City Children Emergency Hospital, Bishkek, Kyrgyz Republic

To: CitiHope International
Tamara Moore,
CAR Regional Director

August 11, 2008

Dear Mrs. Moore,

Medical professionals in the Kyrgyz Republic are grateful to the American people for their continuous assistance to the Kyrgyz people. CitiHope International has been delivering assistance for many years.

In this letter we would like to attract your attention to current issues facing Bishkek City Children Emergency Hospital. This hospital is the oldest and the only children's hospital in Bishkek. The hospital is well known to all Kyrgyz citizens. All somatic and surgery interventions are conducted in this medical institution. All sick children in Bishkek are hospitalized in this hospital, including newly born with pathologies from all Bishkek maternity homes.

Perinatal and neonatal services in Kyrgyzstan have received a good influx of assistance during the last years, and many maternity homes have received adequate medical equipment thanks to various grants. However, in our hospital the neonatal ICU department (2nd stage of care after the maternity home and after inborn congenital heart conditions) is in a terrible condition. All medical equipment in this department is outdated, overused, non-functional and absolutely unusable for caring for babies in critical conditions.

The department receives about 300-400 children annually. The department's capacity is six beds, but it is overfilled at all times. A newly born stays in the department on average 10 days and more. About 30-40 children are treated in the department monthly. 30% of all children admitted stay in the department for 30 days and more.

Officially, there are six incubators registered in the department, but all of them are non-functioning (see pictures 1,2,3)

Pic. 1 Incubators for newly born children (no door)



Pic. 2 Incubators' door condition



Pic. 3 Incubators sides damaged



Incubator doors are broken and do not close. The plastic sides of the incubators have age cracks (see pc 4) and are covered with baby blankets.

Pic. 4



The department does not have a sufficient number of reanimation tables or baby cribs with warmers.

Pic. 5 Device to humidify oxygen transfusion



Pic. 6



The warmer and humidifier do not function. Medical personnel constructed a hand-made warmer and humidifier from available materials. However, the malfunctioning incubators are still in use, because there are no others (see pictures 5, 6). This creates the situation when medical personnel cannot control temperature, humidity, speed and volume of oxygen-air mixture delivery.

Pic. 10 Amby bag to facilitate breathing



Used Amby bags are large, designed for adult usage, but must be used for children, because small size children's bags do not function (see picture 10).

As medical professionals we understand that the existing situation is dangerous for providing critical care to sick and after-surgery newly borns. It breaks our hearts to see these baby-patients not receiving adequate care, and that in the 21st century, a century of progress and space technologies development, we are unable to provide a normal minimum of care that is absolutely necessary for infants' treatment, care and saving their lives.

All our medical personnel would like to ask your organization to assist in the acquisition of necessary medical equipment for the newly born ICU department. We are sure that many lives will be saved and many babies will be cured much faster with optimal normal medical care conditions.

On behalf of and with sincere gratitude from all medical personnel of our hospital: obstetricians and gynecologists, neonatologists, parents, and primarily on behalf of the little patients and with hope for assistance and cooperation.

Medical Personnel Team of Neonatal ICU
Bishkek City Children's Emergency Hospital

List of Necessary Equipment for Neonatal ICU

№	Description,	Q-ty
1	Incubators	10
2	Apparatus for artificial lung ventilator	4
3	Reanimation table	4
4	Monitors	4
5	Bed-warmers	10
6	Radiant warmers	5
7	Phototherapy unit	4
8	Laryngoscope	4
9	Intubacion tubes №2,5,№3,№3,5;№4	100
10	Suction catheters	200
11	Face masks №0, №1,№2	50
12	Gastric tubes (3.5-F,5-F, and 8-F)	100
13	Thermometers	50
14	Nasal prongs (1-mm and 2-mm)-	100
15	Nasal catheters	100
16	Umbilical vein catheters	100
17	Oxygen concentrators	1
18	Biochemistry analiyzors	2

Pic. 11 – Ward for newly born



Pic. 12 - Bishkek City Children Emergency Hospital

