



icpcn

international children's
palliative care network

PROJECT BANGLADESH

A project of the International Children's Palliative Care Network to expand children's palliative care provision in Bangladesh by providing training and mentoring for 20 doctors and 10 nurses in Children's Palliative Care



Photo Credit: World Child Cancer UK

Without appropriate training, health care professionals lack the skills and knowledge to control severe pain and unpleasant symptoms in children and most find it even harder to communicate with honesty and empathy with the sick child and family members. Social, spiritual and psychological support for the dying child and their families is seldom prioritised or provided, leading to even greater suffering. The greatest number of CPC services

The need for children's palliative care

Globally, every day 21,000 children die. The vast majority of these children are suffering needless emotional and physical pain and discomfort before and at the time of death. Access to children's palliative care (CPC) reduces and relieves this suffering through the provision of holistic care by compassionate professionals with expertise in pain and symptom control in children while also offering psychological, social, emotional and spiritual support either in the home or in a child friendly environment.

When just one professional in contact with children with life-limiting and life-threatening conditions is trained in the basics of CPC, many lives are changed! Children's pain and symptoms are relieved, their emotional, social and spiritual needs are met and families feel supported as they face the unimaginable.

exist within the developed world. However, more than 90% of children who die each day live in the developing world where services are either very localised or non-existent.

The situation in Bangladesh

The 2015 Quality of Death Index, released by the Economist Intelligence Unit shows that Bangladesh's position is 79 out of 80, meaning that of those assessed, it is the **SECOND WORST PLACE TO DIE**. For a population with 55 million children, there are **JUST 2 DOCTORS** trained in children's palliative care. Most children in severe pain at the end of life are being prescribed paracetamol.

ICPCN estimates that 2 million children could benefit from generalised palliative care and 29 000 from specialised end-of-life care in Bangladesh each year. **LESS THAN 1% HAVE ACCESS TO THESE SERVICES.**



How will this project solve this problem?

Working closely with the 2 doctors in Bangladesh trained in children's palliative care, the ICPCN will support the provision of 3 days of intensive training and continued mentoring to 20 doctors and 10 nurses in the basics of children's palliative care in the Bangladesh city of Chittagong. This has the potential to relieve the unnecessary suffering and vastly improve the quality of life of 1,200 children in this city.

The more funding collected for this project, the more health care professionals will be trained and mentored for this project and in the future.

Training will include the following:

- Categories of illnesses requiring palliative care
- Talking to children about illness and dying
- Pain assessment and pain management in children, including the use of morphine
- Symptom and pain control at the end of life
- Grief, loss and bereavement related to children
- Spiritual care for children and families

Potential Long Term Impact

Research has shown that the provision of palliative care to a child not only has the potential to vastly improve that child's quality of life, but in many cases also extends it. By training and mentoring 20 doctors and 10 nurses in palliative care in Bangladesh, there is the potential to vastly improve the quality of life of at least 1,200 children each year who have life limiting and life threatening illnesses such as cancer, tuberculosis, and neurological conditions, such as cerebral palsy. Additionally, a small group of those who are trained will be given further training by ICPCN to enable them to become trainers themselves, potentially reaching 30 more professionals by the end of 2016 and 60 by 2017.

Advocacy

National advocacy by ICPCN alongside those trained in CPC has the potential to lead to the inclusion of CPC training of all doctors and nurses in Bangladesh and to better and easier access to opioids and pain medicines in formulas more appropriate for children.

How your donation will be used:

Providing training in Bangladesh is less costly than in most countries and even a small donation has the potential to make an enormous difference in the life of a child who is suffering and needs palliative care.

- £8** will provide a 'comfort pack' for a child needing palliative care including age appropriate soft toy, colouring book, crayons, stickers and game
- £14** will provide the necessary training materials for one doctor or nurse for the 'Key Principles in Children's Palliative Care' course.
- £33** will provide a day's training in the key principles of children's palliative care for a doctor or nurse
- £66** would pay for a week's food and lodgings for a parent to visit their child. At present fathers usually sleep in the hospital corridors and stairwells.
- £96** will allow one doctor or nurse to attend the entire 3 day training course in the key principles of children's palliative care
- £330** would provide 2 weeks mentorship under a trained doctor for hospital staff to firmly establish good practice in children's palliative care in the institution

Goal: £5,000



ABOUT ICPCN

*ICPCN is the only international charity dedicated to securing the right of the **twenty-one million** children worldwide with life-limiting conditions to receive palliative care.*

The International Children's Palliative Care Network (ICPCN) is a global network of organisations and individuals working in the field of hospice and palliative care for children.

We advocate for children's palliative care to be acknowledged and respected as a unique discipline within health care systems and provided by suitably trained and qualified people to all children with incurable or life-threatening conditions and their families, regardless of where they live in the world.

We promote the concept that the care of babies, children, adolescents and young adults who face a shortened life-span should include services, therapies and medications that will reduce pain and suffering and encompass all their physical, social, emotional, spiritual and developmental needs and that of their families, allowing for the best possible quality of life.



ICPCN C.A.R.E.S.

Key areas in which the organisation is active:

- C**ommunication
- A**dvocacy
- R**esearch
- E**ducation
- S**upport & development

www.icpcn.org

OUR VISION

"To achieve worldwide the best quality of life and care for children and young people with life limiting illnesses, their families and carers, through networking, advocacy, information sharing, education and research."