



Medtronic

#dedoc

Blue Balloon Challenge

Impact Report



Bushra is a creative force

How the Blue Balloon Challenge helps Life for a Child support children and young people.

I want to say a huge thank you to everyone who took part in last year's Blue Balloon Challenge. The generous donation from Medtronic, on behalf of the diabetes online community, has helped Life for a Child provide a reliable supply of insulin and blood glucose monitoring supplies to thousands of children and young people who would otherwise have limited access.

Here are a few examples of the work the challenge has helped to enable;

Sincere thanks for your generous support.

Dr. Graham Ogle

General Manager, Life for a Child
Adjunct Professor, University of Sydney



Graham joins the Blue Balloon Challenge



A creative force in Dhaka

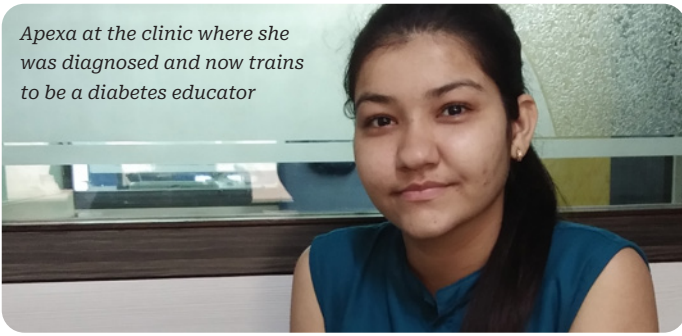
“Without Life for a Child’s support, I could not have saved my daughter’s life.”

Bushra’s father

Bushra is an artist; she attended art school and enjoys drawing, crafting, and sewing clothes. She lives in Dhaka, the bustling capital city of Bangladesh, with her father, stepmother, two younger brothers, and younger sister. Together, the family navigates Bushra’s life with type 1 diabetes and deafness.

Bushra is one of over 2,000 young people receiving free supplies and support through Life for a Child’s local partner in Bangladesh. She attends the center regularly to collect her supplies, where she can also access diabetes education and regular health checks. It is only thanks to fundraisers like the Blue Balloon Challenge that we can provide consistent support to Bushra

Apexa at the clinic where she was diagnosed and now trains to be a diabetes educator



A unique perspective on the Blue Balloon Challenge

"I'm so thankful to the diabetes online community for the Blue Balloon Challenge and to Medtronic for making such a generous donation. The support provided by Life for a Child really is life-changing for the children at my clinic."

Apexa has a deep understanding of the impact Life for a Child supplies have on young families in India. She has lived with type 1 diabetes for the past 16 years. Moreover, she is training to be a diabetes educator and has seen many patients and friends struggle to afford the basic supplies they need to manage their diabetes.

Apexa had a traumatic diagnosis. In a coma and on a ventilator for 3 days, she was discharged from hospital after two weeks and referred to the clinic she now works at. Apexa said her diagnosis marked a turning point in her life;

"Since then, I made constant efforts to understand the condition and tackle it in the best way I can. I did diabetes educator courses to improve my knowledge and I learned from experts in the field like Dr. Banshi Saboo. Now I am proud to say I am a Diabetic Educator."

Thank you from Dr. James

Dr. Steven James is a researcher and Life for a Child volunteer. He recently visited India to work with our local partner on a new study aiming to identify ways to improve care for young people living with diabetes in under-resourced communities. While at the clinic, Dr. James saw the impact that free access to supplies has on the community. He said;

"The Blue Balloon Challenge is a great way to explain the constancy of diabetes and increase public awareness. On my recent visit to India, it became clear how critical fundraisers like this are for Life for a Child as they help to ensure the provision of reliable and ongoing support to these essential clinics."

Right: Dr. James with Parshwa, a young man who is supported by Life for a Child, studying medicine at university and thriving.



Djibouti: Providing access to HbA1c

Life for a Child recently delivered a new HbA1c machine to our local partner in Djibouti. This means that the team can now provide free testing for young people attending check-up appointments. Dr. Abdourahman, head of the clinic, explained how this new equipment will help him and his team provide care for the 500 young people supported by Life for a Child in the country.

"This machine has revolutionized the care of diabetic children in Djibouti. It's fantastic to practice glycated haemoglobin and microalbuminuria before the quarterly consultation. Thanks to this support I am proud to offer complete care to children and young people with diabetes in Djibouti."



Above left: The new HbA1c machine supports care in Djibouti.
Right: Vanessa checks Sebastián's blood glucose level in Ecuador.

Reassurance for Sebastián and his mum

Sebastián's mum Vanessa worries about his diabetes every day. But, thanks to supplies from Life for a Child and a Life for a Child partner in Ecuador, she can get the reassurance and support she needs.

At their recent visit to the clinic, Sebastián had a check-up and his mum explained their management issues to experienced health care professionals, Doménica and Lucia. Together, they discussed the problems and worked through the issues one by one.

It is thanks to initiatives like the Blue Balloon Challenge that Life for a Child can work to ensure that Vanessa can access the insulin and supplies she needs to manage Sebastián's diabetes.

- ✉ lifeforachild.org
- ✉ info@lifeforachild.org
- 🌐 GPO Box 9824, Sydney NSW 2001 Australia
- 📘 @lifeforachild1
- 🐦 @lifeforachild
- 📷 @lifeforachild

Medtronic

#dedoc

