



2009 HIGHLIGHTS

Referrals handled by Lifeline in 2009:
153 children
(increase of 27% over 2008)

10 stem cell transplants were performed and **7** children underwent surgery

The number of new referrals going to Italy more than doubled

Patients and families accommodated in Italy & the UK in 2009 = **122**
60% increase over 2008

21 patients returned for control visits, up from 16 in 2008 and triple the level of two years ago

16 children returned home after treatment and **22** children were in Italy at the year end. **20** children were being monitored for MRD

Several hundred children benefitted from our free medicines programme

Paul O’Gorman Lifeline helps poor children with life-threatening illnesses from Central Asia and Eastern Europe; this is our 15th year.

We only pay for treatment abroad when it is not available in their home country.

2009 was our busiest ever year with 153 children under referral and treatment. In addition we provided chemotherapy and other drugs to more than 500 children in Kyrgyzstan and Ukraine.

The countries from which our referrals came were: Georgia (22), Kyrgyzstan (58), Romania (5), Russia (9), Ukraine (57) and others (2).

Most of our patients go to Italy, where treatment costs less than in the UK, and where our Italian sister charity, Lifeline Italia ONLUS, receives some humanitarian funding from local authorities. In 2009 we accommodated 122 patients and family members.

Our referrals include children for whom conventional chemotherapy has failed, and some need Stem Cell Transplantation. In 2009 ten transplants were carried out. Treatments for cancer and leukaemia are expensive and stem cell transplants are one of the most expensive medical treatments of all. The medical costs of treating a single child in a Western hospital may be as much as £95,000. Travel and accommodation increase this to over £100,000.

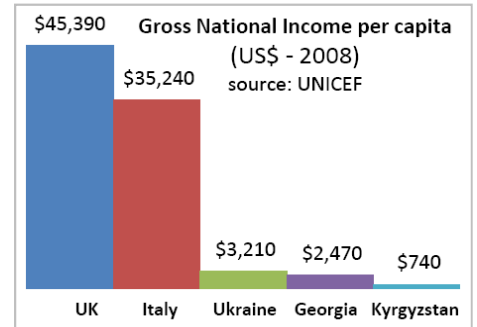
The children who Lifeline helps represent the tip of an iceberg, but we work on the principle that each life is worth saving and we take it one life at a time.

2010 so far ...

At the end of June we have already had 49 children in Italian & UK hospitals in 2010. Nine stem cell transplants have been performed by mid-year.

BACKGROUND TO LIFELINE’S WORK

The countries with which we work (Kyrgyzstan, Georgia and Ukraine) do not have sufficient health budgets to meet the therapy needs of children with oncology and haematology diagnoses, and children are dying of diseases which are potentially curable.



In Kyrgyzstan, government expenditure on health is between 4% and 8% of total public spending (sources vary). This equates to health spending of \$55 - \$115 per capita p.a., out of which must be paid all health salaries and hospital running costs before any money is available for medicines. It is not the solution to press the government to allocate a larger percentage of public spending to health: the country simply does not have a large enough economy to generate any significant budget towards providing expensive haematology and oncology therapies. The prices of drugs for oncology and haematology patients are the same in Kyrgyzstan as in Western Europe. To try to save Kyrgyz children suffering from these conditions will therefore require external funding for the foreseeable future.

Fundraising is difficult for our work, because sometimes people are reluctant to help unknown children living far away (we don't use photos for privacy reasons). Our philosophy is that we're not treating foreigners – we're treating children who have no other hope. If you can help us that would be marvellous. For donors and volunteers we issue a weekly newsletter.

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