

This Christmas, the greatest gift you could give... is the gift of life to a child like Lorenzo.

Dear Friend of the Bairo Pite Clinic,

You can give a special gift to a child this Christmas, a gift that will help save the life of a seriously ill child like Lorenzo.



Every day in Timor-Leste, young children like Lorenzo who are suffering from dengue fever, malaria, tuberculosis, dysentery and malnutrition are brought to the Bairo Pite Clinic, carried in the arms of desperate parents. For these children, the future can look bleak.

Dengue fever is just one of the serious life-threatening tropical diseases that occur in Timor-Leste. Transmitted by mosquitos, there are around 20 million cases recorded annually worldwide causing around 24,000 deaths. Dengue fever does not discriminate and there is no vaccine or reliable preventative measures for this disease. To the people of Timor-Leste, dengue fever is one of the principle health risks that threaten the lives of their children and ultimately the health of their community.

Treatment for dengue fever requires around-the-clock specialised medical intervention and care with meticulous intravenous fluid regulation and monitoring. If given too little fluid, patients can go into shock with massive internal haemorrhaging. Too much fluid can bring about pulmonary oedema causing patients to 'drown' in the fluid in their lungs.

Other complications suffered by these critical ill patients include pneumonia, blood poisoning and wound infections, with many patients also at risk of secondary infection, bleeding of the brain, febrile convulsions or liver and kidney failure leading to painful and unnecessary death. For children like Lorenzo, the balance between life and death is precarious and yet, with specialised care, these seriously ill children can survive.

Thankfully, against all odds, children like Lorenzo do survive thanks to the critical, life saving care they receive from the dedicated staff of the Bairo Pite Clinic. There are many children whose lives have been saved because of this free, essential healthcare service provided by the Clinic staff who work tirelessly, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 52 weeks of the year to help thousands of seriously ill men, women and children who may not survive without this essential service.

To enable us to continue to save the lives of children like Lorenzo, we desperately need your help. This Christmas, when you think about gifts for your family and friends, please open your heart to the children and families of Timor-Leste and make your tax-deductible donation today. Please give generously and help us to help them by making your most precious Christmas gift this year, the gift of life for a child like Lorenzo.

Yours sincerely,

Dr Dan Murphy

Director - Founder - Bairo Pite Clinic, Dili, Timor-Leste

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