The numbers are shocking. Nearly half of childhood deaths for children under five worldwide could have been prevented or cured with a few dollars’ worth of medicines.

Conditions like dehydration, pneumonia, and strep throat that are commonly treated in the United States with some simple antibiotics or oral rehydration salts develop into something worse when there are no medicines and can have deadly results.

But, when we can get our lifesaving medicines and health supplies to our partners throughout the world, the outcome can be very different. In this issue, you will meet children from all over the world who owe their health — and in some cases their lives — directly to the medicines that your support helps provide.

As you read these stories, we hope you know that you are truly God’s blessing for these children: You are the difference between hope and health and sickness and suffering for so many children.

When God blesses the life of a child through MAP International, great things can happen.

“I never thought my daughter would see again...”

Fifteen-year-old Esther, living in Ghana, had been physically attacked. Her mother brought her to a clinic a few days later because she was still unable to open her right eye, which had been injured during an assault. It was so severe that she had no vision through that eye, and there was little hope that it would ever recover. Esther was hurting physically and emotionally. The anguish she felt was undeniable.

Mildred Manford, a nurse from New York who is originally from Ghana, was leading a short-term medical mission trip to Ghana at the time, and the team had set up a mobile clinic to treat medical, dental, and vision needs. Esther was treated at the clinic and given medicated eye drops (part of the medicine package that they brought along from MAP International).

Three months later when Mildred followed up with her, Esther’s eye was about 90 percent recovered. Not only could she see, but she could also read, and has since returned to school. Her mother said, “I never thought my daughter would see again...this is purely a miracle!"

Thank you for helping make this miracle for Esther and so many other children possible.
Children’s lives you’ve changed:
Stories of hope from the Karanda Hospital

Located in a remote area of Zimbabwe, Karanda Mission Hospital is a beacon of hope for those in desperate need. Equipped with MAP medicines and supplies, this hospital is changing and saving lives of some of the world’s most vulnerable people, including many children. Here are some of their stories:

Thanks to you, Tisiti has something to smile about!

The Karanda Mission Hospital, located in a remote area of Zimbabwe, serves patients that come from across the entire country as they seek “affordable, reliable, compassionate healthcare.” The hospital is staffed locally, but receives medical volunteers from overseas that come to assist in the mission. MAP has also partnered with the hospital to provide many of the essential medicines that are given to patients.

Dr. Stephens tells the story of one teenage girl, Tisiti, whose quality of life was drastically improved by her visit to Karanda. For months, she had suffered with the pain of a severe dental abscess, but her parents could not afford the treatment she so desperately needed. When she heard about the team at Karanda, she came straight from school, missing all her classes.

Dr. Stephens

A mother’s desperate search leads to health for Tendai.

Tendai’s mother was desperate. She had traveled with her son to several health clinics in the Eastern Highlands of Zimbabwe, trying to find help. Tendai, who is barely over a year old, had hydrocephalus, a build-up of fluid within the brain that can cause brain damage if not treated.

Over and over, she was told that no one could help her child. The procedure Tendai needed normally had to be performed in the capital city of Harare by a neurosurgeon. Unfortunately, in the past, children there had been neglected and allowed to die, or were being shunted after the brain had already suffered severe damage. In many areas of Zimbabwe, there is simply a lack of time, a lack of supplies, and an overwhelming need – most health facilities do not have the resources to provide the necessary help.

Eventually, someone mentioned a clinic in the Mutare area of Zimbabwe. Tendai and his mother traveled there, only to find that in order to receive the help they needed, they would have to travel to Karanda Mission Hospital in Mt. Darwin – at least another 6 hour trip by bus.

Fortunately, Karanda has been shunting young children and elderly people for well over 20 years.

Finally, at the end of his mother’s desperate search, Tendai received the proper medical care that he needed. The doctors at Karanda placed a shunt, and they report he has recovered well and has a whole new lease on life.

Tendai’s story is common in Zimbabwe. The Karanda Mission Hospital receives 50 patients like Tendai each year, and over the years the mission trips to Karanda have treated well over 1,000 children with hydrocephalus, many of whom have gone on to attend school and live healthy, fruitful lives. “It is only through donor partners such as MAP that life can be offered to these children,” says Dr. Stephens.

Priceless smiles from children in Colombia

Many short-term medical mission teams take life-changing medicines and health supplies from MAP with them when they travel to other countries to serve. The Milwaukee Medical Mission is one such team that has a long-standing history of service. Just before the COVID-19 pandemic hit the U.S., in full force, they returned from their 34th trip to Bucaramanga, Colombia.

Of the nearly 200 patients that the team examined during their 2 weeks in Colombia, 90 of them were children with cleft lip and/or cleft palate deformities. They had so many lip/palate patients that they did not have enough time to perform surgeries on all of them, but they worked as hard as they could and were able to correct deformities in over 30 children, with plans to treat many of the rest of the patients next year when they return.

This year, one of the patients was a little girl who had come last year but could not receive surgery due to health issues. The mission requested that this little girl be prepared prior to the team arriving this year, and finally she was able to have her corrective surgery! Her father had made bracelets with crosses for the entire mission team as a thank you gift last year, and it was so painful for everyone when the team was unable to do her surgery.

“We were so thankful she came back this year, was worked up early and we were able to perform her surgery,” said Jeanne Urban, a representative of the Milwaukee Medical Mission.

Another blessing the team received recently was the chance to see an example of the long term effects of their work. Two years ago, the team operated on a little girl named Melanie for her lip/palate deformity. A week after her surgery, her parent sent a before and after picture of her wearing the sunglasses that the team put in her gift bag. Now, two years after surgery, the team has an updated picture of sweet Melanie, growing up and still smiling.

“We can’t do what we do without resources like MAP and many others in this country,” says mission team member Jeanne Urban. “God bless all of you! He has certainly blessed all of us!”

Serving children, saving lives in El Salvador

FUSAL is an organization in El Salvador whose fundamental objective is to contribute to overcoming poverty in that nation. They have committed to implementing various social intervention programs that tend to the needs of their society, especially the needs of the most vulnerable Salvadorian families. Their Humanitarian Aid program has been particularly busy since the COVID-19 pandemic began.

Before COVID-19 cases had even been confirmed in El Salvador, FUSAL had already been sending donations of medicines and health supplies to frontline workers who were serving vulnerable populations in El Salvador. Once cases were confirmed and nationwide quarantine began, FUSAL then became a collection center that distributed medical supplies to areas that were directly working to fight the COVID-19 pandemic.

FUSAL recently received a large donation of amoxicillin from MAP they delivered to several institutions, including San Antonio de Padua and the Benjamin Bloom National Children’s Hospital, the only public pediatric hospital in El Salvador. They also offered to deliver medicine to other institutions and to those institutions that work for the health and well-being of children in El Salvador, even in the face of the pandemic.
Meet new mom and MAP team member, Mpho Mono

Mpho Mono knows firsthand how much people in developing countries are suffering due to a lack of health resources. One of MAP’s own, Mpho is the Senior Marketing and Communications Specialist, and is passionate about the work that MAP International is doing to save lives across the globe.

Originally from Lesotho, a small, enclaved country in the middle of South Africa, Mpho understands all too well the tragic effect of not having access to adequate medical care. In a country where the life expectancy does not exceed 55, people are literally dying of conditions that in the modern Western world, are easily managed and treated. Mpho’s own mother passed away at a young age because of untreated diabetes. “Diseases that shouldn’t be killing people, are killing people, because of the lack of access to resources,” she says.

Having recently given birth to her first child in the middle of the COVID-19 pandemic, Mpho now also has an even deeper empathy for the trials that expectant mothers face in developing countries. “The fact that there was pre and post-natal care for me available...Those options aren’t available in developing countries,” she says.

Prenatal vitamins aren’t readily available, much less a qualified medical professional to attend a labor and delivery. Access to healthcare and medicines directly impacts a country’s infant mortality rate. For example, a Western country like the U.S. has a low infant mortality rate of 0.58%, while an undeveloped country like Lesotho ranks much higher, with an infant mortality rate of 3.61%. Babies all over the world are dying because of a lack of access to healthcare resources. MAP International is working to change that, and for Mpho, the work is personal.

To learn more about MAP’s effort to improve maternal/child health, visit www.map.org/programs-health.

Help spread the word and raise funds for MAP

Start your online fundraiser today and help MAP get lifesaving medicines to people who need them most.

It’s easy. It’s fast. It’s fun. But most of all, it makes a difference! Just choose what fundraising campaign you’d like to support from our online menu, click on the “become a fundraiser” button, and our program will direct you through the process of sharing MAP’s mission with your friends and family.

By creating an online fundraiser, you will be helping spread the word about MAP’s mission and raising critically needed funds to get medicines and health supplies to where they are needed most.

Check out the ‘Ways to Give’ page at MAP.org or go directly to www.map.org/ways-to-give#peer-campaigns to start today.