



**For Immediate Release**

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*Sharing surplus.  
Saving lives.*

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## **Pittsburgh sends medical aid to Afghanistan**

**PITTSBURGH, Oct. 25** - On Friday, Oct. 27, Pittsburgh nonprofit Global Links will join Emergency USA to benefit three Emergency surgical centers in Afghanistan. Together, the organizations will ship 20 specialized hospital beds donated by UPMC Shadyside as well as other medical materials.

“This shipment will save lives,” said the head of Emergency USA, Dr. Alberto Colombi. “Free-of-charge, high-quality surgical care was largely unavailable to the civilian population until Emergency began building hospitals.”

Since its completion in 1999, Emergency’s first Afghanistan surgical trauma center in Anabah has performed over 8,000 surgical procedures. In 2001, Emergency opened a second surgical center in Kabul. A third center, opened in 2004 in Lashkar-Gah, serves the entire southern part of the country.

In addition to running trauma centers for civilian war victims, Emergency also manages one general hospital, one maternity center and 26 first aid posts and primary health care clinics in Afghanistan. The organization has 990 national staff.

“Rather than throwing out beds that were being replaced by upgraded technology,” said Global Links’ Deputy Director Angela Garcia, “UPMC Shadyside staff did the right thing and donated these specialized beds to Global Links. We were then able to refurbish them and find an appropriate recipient. These beds will now have a long second life, improving patient care for thousands of patients.”

“We could not make such high quality shipments without the support of UPMC Shadyside and the other local hospitals that donate to Global Links,” added Ms. Garcia.

The shipment will also include hospital linens, equipment, anesthesia supplies, and items such as exam tables, gurneys, manual beds and wheelchairs. Most materials came through Global Links ongoing relationship with local hospitals, and the use of these items in Afghanistan will help to sustain and increase the quality of care available at the three centers

**About Emergency**

Founded in Italy in 1994, Emergency is a private, nonprofit organization dedicated to providing humanitarian support to civilian war victims. Emergency builds and runs hospitals, physical and social rehabilitation centers, first aid posts, and health centers for basic medical assistance. Emergency also sets up development projects and trains national staff in the countries in which it operates. The organization has been present in Afghanistan since 1999. For more information, visit the organization's website at [www.emergencyusa.org](http://www.emergencyusa.org).

**About Global Links**

Global Links is a not-for-profit organization that recovers surplus medical materials from U.S. hospitals and makes it available to hospitals that serve the poorest members of society in less developed countries. Since 1989, it has channeled medical materials worth more than \$125 million to more than 70 countries around the world, with a concentration in the Caribbean and Latin America. For more information on Global Links, visit [www.globallinks.org](http://www.globallinks.org) or call 412.361.3424.

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