

Honduras  
February 16, 2007

Global Links sent the fifth container of 2007 on Friday, February 16, to Tegucigalpa, Honduras. This is the 27th container Global Links has sent to Honduras since our program began there in 1998.

This container was a bulk shipment -- instead of addressing the needs of one particular hospital, we sent large quantities of a few items that would be useful at a number of hospitals. On our last visit to the country in November, our contacts in the Honduran Ministry of Health told us that Honduran hospitals were in desperate need of more hospital linens. To help address the issue we were able to include 93 boxes of brand new Standard Textile linens, including sheets, blankets, and towels that the Ministry will distribute to various hospitals in the country.

Hospital linens are an ongoing need, not only in Honduras but in all of the countries where we work. Sheets, blankets, towels, and patient gowns are all examples of basic but essential supplies because they so greatly enhance patients' comfort and dignity at a hospital. Due to the lack of patient gowns overseas, we have seen women wrapped in the same sheet that is supposed to be covering their bed as they get up to use the restroom. Other times we see patients lying in beds with no sheets at all. Plain white linens are always needed in every hospital, no matter how big or small. Thanks to Standard Textile's generous donations, Global Links has been able to help alleviate some of the critical shortages.

This shipment also contained other important items such as Ibuprofen to be distributed throughout the Honduran health system, 55-gallon drums of antibacterial soap, cases of alcohol prep pads, chest drainage units and breathing circuits. Other items included on the shipment were 20 electric beds with mattresses and 9 gurneys. After the container arrives we will get a report from the Honduran Ministry of Health telling us how these materials were distributed.