

Nicaragua  
January 28, 2008

Global Links' second container of 2008 is for Hospital Bertha Calderon in Nicaragua's capital, Managua. This 219-bed women's hospital is the national reference hospital for women's health, attending approximately 1,000 births per month, performing about 500 surgeries per month, and with a bed occupation rate of 80%. They are also the national reference center for breast, cervical and uterine cancers. Women from all over the country are sent to this hospital to be treated. It is a very busy place, and an important hospital to support in the global effort to reduce maternal and infant mortality.

When asked what departments the hospital most wanted to improve, hospital officials emphasized their operating rooms and intensive care units. When Global Links staff visited this hospital in October of 2007, not a single ICU bed could change positions. This container included six ICU beds (all properly functioning) with new mattresses, which will allow them to replace all of their non-functioning adult ICU beds. We were also able to include two operating room tables with all the necessary accessories. We hope that these key donations of ICU beds and OR tables will help them to significantly improve the quality of service provided in these two prioritized departments.

Other important items included on the shipment were a laryngoscope set, a defibrillator, an EKG machine, a surgical headlight with light source, eight gurneys, two cribs, over 350 boxes of medical supplies, and four gynecological exam tables with exam stools.

While seemingly unimportant, an exam stool can be a very valuable thing. Global Links staff noticed a doctor in a high-risk pregnancy area using a small garbage can (which was also used for garbage) as a seat when examining patients because there was nowhere else to sit. Even the most basic materials can have a huge impact for our recipients overseas.

Global Links will be sending a second shipment to this hospital later in the year and hopes to include more materials for their critical ORs, ICU units, and delivery areas.