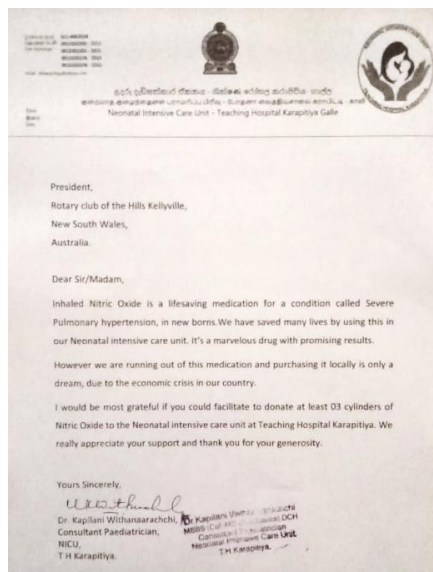


Sri Lanka Economic Crisis - Nitric Oxide Gas Cylinders

According to a UN News article published on the 17th of August 2022, "***Sri Lanka is in the midst of the worst socio-economic crisis in its history, and the once robust health-care system is nearing collapse, with patients at risk from power shortages, a lack of medicines, and equipment shortages.***"



The report also states that an estimated 215,000 Sri Lankan women are currently pregnant, according to data from the Sri Lankan Ministry of Health, including 11,000 adolescent girls, and around 145,000 women will deliver in the next six months.



Each year 6,000 – 7,000 newborns tend to suffer from a disease known as Hypoxic Respiratory Failure. In layman's terms, they tend to swallow their vomit and die if untreated due to a lack of Nitric Oxide gas. The country's requirement for Nitric Oxide gas yearly is around 100 cylinders.

With Sri Lanka running out of nitric oxide cylinders, Neonatologists have called for urgent medical supplies to treat and save newborns needing emergency care amid a severe shortage of essentials gripping the country battling an unprecedented economic crisis.

Rotary Clubs of Greater Hills, The Hills-Kellyville, and Wyong -Tuggerah from Rotary International District 9685 partnered with **Save A Dream**, a collective group of Sri Lankan diaspora in Australia, to raise funds and work with Rotary Clubs Batticaloa, Colombo South, Galle, Kandy and Nallur in Sri Lanka to support the Neonatologists and medical professionals to save babies, children, and vulnerable patients from preventable deaths.

At the cost of AUD 17,500 (LKR 4.31 million), 7 Nitric Oxide gas cylinders were imported from Linde, Australia, by Ceylon Oxygen Limited. These cylinders were handed over to the following hospitals with the neonatal Intensive Care Unit: Teaching Hospitals – Batticaloa, Jaffna, Kandy, and Karapitiya; Castle Street Hospital for Women and De Soysa Maternity Hospital.

Sri Lanka's universally accessible healthcare system is on the verge of collapse; basic supplies like plasters, Panadol syrup, and reagents for blood testing are unavailable in hospitals across the country. Childbirth could remain a life-threatening prospect for those unable to access skilled medical care.

[Click here](#) to make a tax-deductible donation so that we can continue to support the people of Sri Lanka.

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A District 9685 TRF 2022-23 District Grant Funded Project

