



# Investing in Peace: U.S. Support for Karabakh Regional Rehabilitation Center



*The Lady Cox Center utilizes art to manage behavior habits among children with autism.*



*Nurses help recent stroke victims recover and return to normal daily life, where they work fields and assist in the care of young children.*

## REQUEST

The ANCA supports the appropriation of no less than \$6 million in Nagorno Karabakh aid as part of the FY19 State-Foreign Operations bill to support humanitarian and developmental programs, including the expansion and modernization of the Lady Cox Rehabilitation Center, a regional clinic serving children and adults with physical and mental disabilities.

## URGENT NEED

The Center lacks the infrastructure and modern facilities to meet its pressing humanitarian mission, in the face of rapidly growing local and regional demands for rehabilitation services.

The availability of new staff, equipment, and other resources will allow for The Lady Cox Rehabilitation Center to expand its reach into isolated, rural, and impoverished areas.

## BENEFITS

An appropriation of no less than \$6 million in FY19 aid for Nagorno Karabakh will help meet desperate humanitarian needs among some of the region's most vulnerable and at-risk populations. This assistance will also reinforce America's commitment to the ongoing peace process, and strengthen U.S. leadership in supporting and sustaining regional stability.

*Therapists work with this young girl, teaching her how to walk on crutches, giving her hope of one day playing with friends in the neighborhood.*





*Incorporating children with autism and other cognitive disabilities with the general population helps to tear down stigmas and builds understanding.*

## **BACKGROUND ON U.S. AID TO NAGORNO KARABAKH**

The U.S. aid program to Nagorno Karabakh, first enacted in FY98, has materially improved maternal health care for at-risk mothers and infants, provided clean drinking water for thousands of families, and, in partnership with The HALO Trust, cleared farmland and rural villages of deadly landmines and unexploded ordnance. Nagorno Karabakh has experienced one of the highest per capita rates of landmine accidents in the world, higher than even Afghanistan.

## **THE LADY COX REHABILITATION CENTER**

Among the most urgent humanitarian priorities in the region is rehabilitating children and adults with disabilities.

The Lady Cox Rehabilitation Center, first established in 1998 through a partnership of local health officials and then-Speaker of United Kingdom's House of Lords, Baroness Caroline Cox (a trained nurse), is respected internationally for its leadership in rehabilitation.

Over 15,000 patients have received treatment from the Lady Cox Rehabilitation Center since it first opened. Currently treating over 1,000 patients in-house a year, and providing more than 24,000 out-patient treatments annually, the Center still only meets 20% of the needs of the local population, leaving as many as 60,000 regional patients without adequate rehabilitation services.

The Center serves patients from Nagorno Karabakh, Armenia, Russia, Georgia, and elsewhere, including those suffering from spinal cord injuries and strokes,

as well as infants and children born with disabilities, such as cerebral palsy and spina bifida. Remedial measures for these disabilities include physical therapy, occupational therapy, speech therapy, special education, sports, art classes, music therapy, recreation therapy, hydrotherapy, and psychotherapy.

The Center strives to dispel cultural stigmas, many rooted in the Soviet-era, associated with disabilities, and works - via speech, occupational and other therapies - to ensure that its patients are given the opportunity to live happy and fulfilling lives. The disabled are among the most vulnerable social groups in the region, which puts them in enormous risk of poverty and illness due to lack of education, health, and social protection, as well as discrimination in the workplace. The daycare available at the Center establishes consistent interactions between disabled children and the general population in order to overcome social stigma.

*Physical therapy with children born with physical disabilities also helps increase the proportion of youth attending school and living a normal childhood.*

