



industry today produces only 11 per cent of the overall domestic requirements of basic medicines (the figure for Russia is 35%), and even then serious questions are being raised as to the quality of these products. Hospitals are currently able to obtain only 80-90 per cent of the drugs they need. There is a dire need for the creation of a modern pharmaceutical industry, for which large-scale foreign investment is essential.

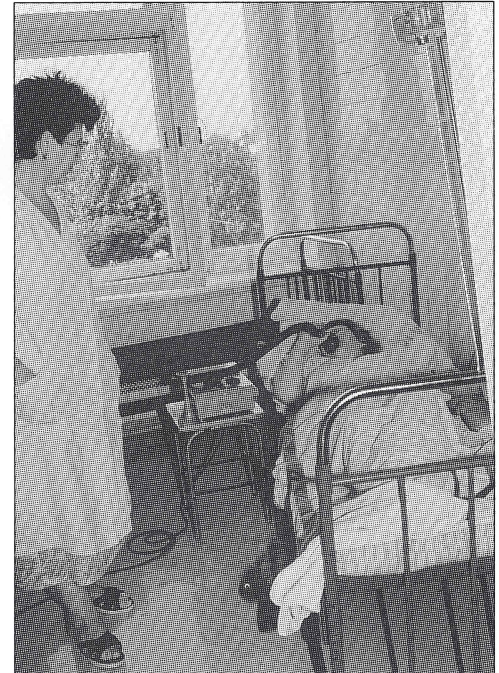
PEDIATRIC AND MATERNITY

Ukraine has a total of 37,000 obstetric beds with an average bed occupancy of 20 patients per year. There are expected to be 600,000 births in Ukraine in 1994 - a drop of 20 per cent since 1989 - of which **only 15 per cent will be without complications. Out of 1,000 new born babies, 200 require medication and/or hospital treatment to survive.** A recent study by Ukraine's Ministry of Health found that the main causes of children's and infants' mortality arise from conditions during the prenatal period, followed by stillborn difficulties, and finally respiratory conditions, infections and intestinal diseases. Inadequate nutrition, compounded by environmental hazards, is resulting in complications during pregnancy, with more and more babies being born in poor health, and as many

as 12 per cent of all pregnancies ending in miscarriage. Some 30 referral hospitals have neonatal departments, dealing annually with 8,000 birth complications. **Approximately 6,000 of these complications end with the death of the baby before it reaches the age of one month.**

In April, 1994 the Japanese Red Cross covered 75 per cent of the children's hospitals in Ukraine, so Canada targeted its \$3 million to be used mainly for maternity hospitals. From July 29th to August 5th, the Canadian Air Forces airlifted medicine and medical supplies from Copenhagen, Denmark to Donetsk, the coal-mining centre in southeastern Ukraine. The military's "Operation Boreal" used Boeing 707's to transport the hospital kits to central points for distribution by truck to regional and district hospitals. At the same time, the Danish Red Cross forwarded 17 tonnes of baled, used clothing, while the LEGO company contributed 12 pallets of children's Lego building blocks.

Ukraine's 90 maternity referral hospitals received 432 50-bed kits, providing urgently needed assistance to 400,000 mothers and infants for one year. Another 489 25-bed kits were given to all the district level maternity hospitals, ensuring the appropriate drugs for treating some 243,000 women and



*Maternity ward in Donetsk.
(Photo Credit: Guy Tessier/CRCS)*

infants. In short, **every** maternity hospital and ward in Ukraine was covered. As well, the Canadian Red Cross distributed 200 25-bed pediatric kits to those children's hospitals and wards not covered by the Japanese assistance. The kits contain everything from antibiotics and surgical gloves, to disposable syringes, baby formula, bandages and sterile water. These indispensable supplies are almost impossible to get locally, forcing pregnant women to seek their own drugs and gloves at costs of up to the equivalent of one month's salary for the average Ukrainian worker. The kits (1121 in total) each weigh 350 kg. and contain enough medicines and medical supplies to sustain hospital beds for one year. The contents of kits are generic, but take into account any special needs for an area; for example, if respiratory problems are prevalent in one region, the hospital kits may contain extra quantities of such items as broncho-inhalers.

VISITING NURSES PROGRAM

Because there are no nursing homes as such in Ukraine, and with the hospitals already under strain, some 1 million elderly and vulnerable people simply live

SAMPLE MATERNITY HOSPITAL KIT - 50 BEDS

Chloramine 500mg	9,000 tablets
Cotrimoxazole 480 mg	1,500 tablets
Cotrimoxazole 96 mg/ml, 5ml	250 ampoules
Diazepam 5mg/ml, 2ml	100 ampoules
Ergometrine Maleate 0,2mg	1,000 tablets
Ergometrine (Methyl) 0,2mg/ml, 1ml	200 ampoules
Hydrocortisone Sod. Succinate 100mg/2ml	100 ampoules
Ketamine 50mg/ml, 10ml	50 vials
Lidocaine 2%, 20ml	100 vials
Oxytocin 101.U./ml, 1ml (keep cool)	100 ampoules
Prednisolone 25 mg/ml, 1ml	100 ampoules
Adhesive Zinc Oxide Surgical Tape 2,5cmX5m	100 rolls
I.V.Cannulae/Catheter 20G	50 pieces
Suture Catgut 4/0, chromic	96 pieces
Suture Needle 1/2 Circ. RB 24 mm, eyed	40 pieces
Suture Needle 1/2 Circ. TRG 34 mm, eyed	40 pieces
Suture Silk 2/0	96 pieces
Suture Silk 4/0	96 pieces
Thermometer Rectal	25 pieces