

# TCCAF Provides Medical Equipment to Community Hospital in Niger

Posted on: May 03 2010

The Kirker Hospital, in Maine-Soroa, Niger, is a 145-bed mission-based hospital that serves patients from Niger, Nigeria and Chad through a collaborative project between the Kirker Foundation and Adventist Health International. Despite the need for in-patient care, a shortage of medical staff and equipment has limited the number of patients the team can accommodate and treat effectively.



In February, The Coca-Cola Africa Foundation (TCCAF) funded a \$250,000 shipment of medical equipment and supplies to the hospital. MedShare, TCCAF's implementing partner for this project, sourced the equipment.

The supplies started their journey in Atlanta, Ga., and arrived in Niamey, Niger, on Feb. 5. At a reception held at the Coca-Cola warehouse, Niger Minister of Health Hassan Nouhou thanked MedShare and those who took part in bringing the much-needed supplies to the country.

## **The shipment is unloaded.**

The shipment was then transported to its final destination in Maine-Soroa, where Dr. Kirker, founder of the Kirker Hospital, explained the complex logistics of delivering a shipment of this size and type to a remote place like Maine.



## **The Coca-Cola Africa Foundation has provided much-needed equipment to a community hospital through a generous donation of medical supplies.**

For example, the cafeteria received plastic bowls, bottles and trays for use in patient nutrition, and plastic bottles for measuring the special formula necessary for malnourished patients in the pediatric unit.

Additionally, two hand-operated bikes were donated to men from the village who have no use of their lower body but are able to use their upper body for peddling. These, along with a donation of toys to the pediatric unit, have greatly improved the spirits of patients and the local community.

## **Other projects**

TCCAF supports other programs in the areas of water, health education and entrepreneurship, and recently launched a new water initiative in Niger, too. This program will support the development of a sustainable, community-based distribution network for Aquatabs, a chlorine-based household water purification tablet that can purify 20-25 liters of water for 24 hours. This distribution network is expected to benefit 115,000 recipients in 14,375 households. Distribution operations will be based on a behavior change communication strategy and the involvement of a continuously growing network of rural women, community health workers, distribution agents, and communication for change workers.

## **About Kirker Hospital**

The Kirker Hospital offers a range of services. Two outpatient clinics treat general maladies and illnesses, including: malaria, tuberculosis, abdominal and epigastric ailments, dermatologic problems, tumor growths and a host of other medical problems.

A surgical outpatient clinic focuses on possible medical problems requiring surgical intervention. Two functioning surgical suites provide for surgeries, c-sections and limited orthopedic surgery due to trauma. A post-surgical recovery and surgical unit houses those patients needing surgical intervention. A trauma room cares for non-surgical trauma patients.



## **The new supplies are already making a big difference to the quality of patient care at the hospital and account for more than half of the supplies used daily.**

## **Immediate results**

These new supplies are making a significant difference to the quality of patient care at the hospital and account for more than half of the supplies used daily. They are made up of three different types of equipment: general medical supplies, including IV catheters, gloves, gauze, bandages, sponges, tape and respiratory equipment; orthopedic equipment and surgical supplies.

Along with the large amount of medical supplies that were donated to the hospital, numerous other useful and important items were included in the shipment. For



## **A donation of toys to the pediatric unit has helped lift the spirits of some of the younger patients.**