

TCCAF Ensures its Programs are Built to Last

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The Coca-Cola Africa Foundation (TCCAF) partners with MedShare to ship much-needed medical supplies and equipment to countries across Africa. In 2009, TCCAF and MedShare delivered six 40-foot containers of medical equipment to Swaziland and Zimbabwe.

The collaboration doesn't end with the delivery of the equipment, however. MedShare also sends a biomedical engineer to train medical technicians in each country on how to use, repair and maintain the donated equipment.

"Ensuring that we have a sustainable business and that the communities we serve are sustainable is fundamental to everything we do at The Coca-Cola Company," said William Asiko, President, TCCAF, and Group PAC Director. "And this philosophy of *Live Positively* is something we've been doing for years."



Nell Diallo, Vice President, Corporate & International Relations at MedShare, added, "This follow-up is absolutely imperative. One of the areas that is most lacking in the field of health care delivery is the need for engineering training. Thousands of pieces of unused biomedical equipment are cluttering up hospitals and clinics as they are broken or in need of repair."

One such visit took place last month. Eben Armstrong visited Zimbabwe to train 20 hospital technicians. "Today was my second day in Harare, where I had 18 technicians and engineers from hospitals in Zimbabwe who came to the repairs and training sessions coordinated by Celebration Health," he said. "More will join tomorrow from other private and government hospitals."

The day began with a tour of the 1,029-bed Harare Central hospital. Afterwards, Eben helped repair broken equipment and teach the participants what to do in the future.

"It's amazing to see how the wonderful work Medshare is doing with the help of TCCAF is changing people's lives," he said. "When the participants left, not only did they have working equipment, but they also knew how to troubleshoot problems in the future."

The broken equipment was not from the TCCAF donation, but rather older equipment already at the hospitals.

From Zimbabwe, Armstrong traveled to Swaziland and then Tanzania for an international biomedical conference where he was a presenter.



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Trainees who attended the sessions in Swaziland learned how to repair and maintain the biomedical equipment.

