



Home	News	Sports	Editorial	Bantaba	Health	Education	Courts	Business	Obituary	Reli
------	------	--------	-----------	---------	--------	-----------	--------	----------	----------	------

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Essau Health Centre boosted

[Africa](#) » [Gambia](#)

Wednesday, January 16, 2013

A charity called Big Smile Gambia Project through Rick Sharpe International recently donated an assortment of medical items to the Essau Major Health Centre in the North Bank Region as part of its efforts to complement government's strides in the health sector.

The presentation ceremony that was held at the health centre grounds in Essau was meant to enhance service delivery at the said facility. The donated items included pharmaceuticals medicaments, electronic baby weighing scales, blood sugar monitoring devices, walking frame, syringes, and latex gloves, amongst others.

The NGO has since its inception been working tirelessly by supporting meaningful development initiatives in the health care sector. The philanthropic move was facilitated through the coordination and support of Saidou Saine, a Gambian based in the UK, who is also a native of Barra village and his wife, Diana Saine.

Speaking at the ceremony, Diana Saine thanked the chief executive officer of Rick Sharpe International, Richards Sharpa, for teaming up with them in this crusade. She also thanked one Babucarr Bittaye, a Gambian based in the UK, for facilitating the link between their NGO and Rick Sharpe International to be able to do this presentation.

The officer-in-charge of Shipping and Fundraising of the organisation, Tony Redhead, dilated on their engagement in helping the people of the country, especially in the area of health care delivery. "We are hopeful that our local NGO-based in The Gambia will distribute the items to health facilities for the betterment of Gambians," he stated.

Also speaking on the occasion, the CEO of Richards Sharpe International, Rick Sharper, expressed with delight the work currently undertaken by the Big Smile Project, and expressed optimism that local populace will make best use of the items. He described the move as a start of the beginning of a longstanding relation between his charity and Big Smile Gambia project.

Saidou Saine, for his part, recalled the nursery stages when things were difficult for them, but was quick to thank God for enabling them to weather the storm. He disclosed plans by them to collaborate with Barra Sports Committee to organise a league tournament under the sponsorship of the charity.

Receiving the items on behalf of the beneficiaries, a public health officer at the health centre, Balla Jatta, acknowledged that this is not the first time the NGO is supporting them, citing other forms of assistance rendered by the benefactors over the years. This, he added, is part of the charity's quest of contributing to the health care service delivery in the area. Jatta said the government alone cannot do it all alone, and thus welcomed the assistance from charities like the Big Smile Gambia project.

Author: **Daily Observer**

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