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MINISTRY OF HEALTH
AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS

Joint press release on the Minister of Health and Social Affairs' visit to Le Luxembourg Mother and Child Hospital

On Thursday 5 September 2019, Michel Hamala Sidibé, Mali's Minister of Health and Social Affairs, visited Le Luxembourg Mother and Child Hospital in Bamako to see the interventional cardiology unit, which began operations the previous day.

The unit, scheduled to be officially opened early next year, is the result of a partnership between the Principality of Monaco, the Monegasque charity SHARE, Fondation pour l'Enfance, and other charities and individuals. It will provide catheter-based treatment to dilate or clear the arteries in the event of a heart attack. The total cost of building and equipping the unit are around EUR 1.5 million, financed to a large extent by the Prince's Government of Monaco, SHARE and its financial partners. SHARE also provided support to train the entire medical and paramedical team over several years.

Delighted to be hosting the Minister, Dr François Bourlon, the Medical Director at Monaco's Cardiothoracic Centre, hailed the excellent state of relations between Mali and the Principality of Monaco, which made this unit possible, allowing many lives to be saved in Mali. *"A cardiac catheterisation facility is a great asset for the people of Mali,"* he added.

For his part, Professor Mamadou B Diarra, Director of Le Luxembourg Mother and Child Hospital, also said he found the Minister's visit motivating and committed to making good use of this gem to benefit those with heart disease.

Michel Hamala Sidibé said that he valued the technical facilities that the unit had to offer, which would reduce mortality as well as medical evacuations abroad at enormous cost to the national budget. *"We are here to support a fantastic initiative. This is a promising partnership between the Principality of Monaco and Le Luxembourg Mother and Child Hospital. We have one of the most advanced departments in terms of new medical technology in the cardiology field. We will no longer have to send those with heart disease abroad. This interventional cardiology unit and the André Festoc Centre will make a substantial contribution to improving the health of people in Mali, in line with the wishes of the President of the Republic, Ibrahim Boubaacar Keita,"* he noted. He urged staff at the hospital to continue their work to make it an exemplary facility within the sub-region.

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