2023
SAPA
NEWSLETTER
SUDANESE
AMERICAN
PHYSICIANS
ASSOCIATION
MONTHLY
NEWSLETTER
JANUARY
Together in Service
Dear SAPAians,

On January 16th, 2023, our organization will be four years old. Together, over these four years, we’ve established ourselves accomplished a great deal. We stood firmly for human rights, healthcare professionals’ neutrality, and worked tirelessly to transition Sudan to democracy. Our healthcare programs have touched tens of thousands of lives in our beloved Sudan and in the United States. SAPA is now a household name and its contributions visible and well recognized. This is only the beginning, and the best is yet to come.

The year 2022 had its challenges. The military rule, and absence of a functional government, had detrimental effects on Sudan’s fragile healthcare system. Additionally, due to the global political situation, the international community drastically reduced their support to Sudan’s healthcare infrastructure. Including limiting investments and reducing available funding. The political instability in Sudan and elsewhere inadvertently hindered SAPA’s efforts in Sudan. Despite of all this, because of the commitment and unwavering support of our members, we managed to continue our mission in Sudan. We were at the frontline, rapidly responding to the flood disaster in six states. We were able to distribute essential medications and supplies, and waged vector control campaigns as well. We continued to invest in training healthcare personnel, improving the healthcare system infrastructure, engaging with the civil society, and building strategic partnerships. In 2023, SAPA will continue to proudly carry the torch, and proceed with our mission in Sudan and the United States.

At an organizational level, an immediate priority is to increase our full-time workforce. This will improve our efficacy and efficiency, therefore, increasing SAPA’s capacity and reach. Enabling us to deliver on current projects, and methodically taking on new ones. The BOD is working tirelessly to find qualified personnel for the job while also identifying resources to fund this expansion.
Since its birth, SAPA’s contributions to healthcare in Sudan were focused on the field of healthcare delivery. In 2023, we intend to procure recourses to shift focus towards an additional two pillars of healthcare, namely, capacity building and governance. The BOD believes that SAPA will have a stronger impact by focusing on these two aspects, as they better suit our abilities and our members’ expertise. A townhall meeting is planned and will soon be announced to discuss our specific proposals and to seek our members’ insight and approval.

Establishing regional chapters within the US is another one of our priorities in 2023. This will allow us to better serve our members, facilitate member engagement, and support the Sudanese American community in the United States.

In 2023, considerable time and effort will be spent on supporting the democratization and institutionalization of professional civil society organizations in Sudan. We consider this a primary issue and a matter of great importance. SAPA is currently working closely with the recently elected Sudanese Journalists Syndicate (SJS) on many related fronts. Our goal is to provide assistance to as many professional organizations as possible. To strengthen their infrastructure and build a wave of democratically elected civil society bodies. We firmly believe that supporting a democratic and vibrant civil society is the single most important contribution that SAPA can make in Sudan today.

Despite the significant challenges that face our organization and our two countries, Sudan, and the United States, we are confident that the future is bright. We firmly believe that with the collective efforts of our members, the sky is the limit. We kindly ask for your continued engagement and unwavering support.

The BOD wishes all SAPAians a happy Sudan Independence Day, a happy New Year, and a very happy 4th birthday to the Sudanese American Physicians Association (SAPA).

Board of Directors
THE SIX BUILDING BLOCKS OF A HEALTH SYSTEM

- Service Delivery
- Health Workforce
- Governance
- Health Informatics Systems
- Access to Essential Medicines
- Financing

Vast Majority of SAPA’s Prior Efforts

2023 SAPA’s Priorities

*Figure adapted from monitoring the building block of health systems: A handbook of indicators and their measurement strategies, World Health Organization, 2010*
• Distribution of $500,000 worth of essential and emergency medications that served an outreach population of 30,000 people in impacted areas.

• Two-week vector control campaign in Kasala covering approximately 30,000 houses, in collaboration with Sadagaat Organization.

• Providing Mosquito Nets to 500 families.
DURING THE FLOODING SEASON
SAPA’S EFFORTS REACHED
SIX STATES
During the last rainy season, in early July 2022, devastating floods hit Sudan and affected at least 6 states. Hundreds of people across Sudan lost their lives, and thousands others were involuntarily displaced. A humanitarian disaster was unfolding, and a health crisis was soon to follow.

The Sudanese American Physicians Association (SAPA) quickly launched campaigns to raise funds and gather medical supplies to help mitigate the effects of the disaster. The Islamic Medical Association of North America (IMANA) stepped in to support SAPA’s efforts by providing emergency medicines, healthcare kits and other lifesaving supplies serving 20,000 patients in the affected areas for a period of three months.

The joint response of SAPA and IMANA was strictly based on the input from the Directorate of Emergency and Epidemic Control of the Federal Ministry of Health (FMoH) in Sudan.
SAPA donated a transvenous pacemaker to Ibrahim Malik Teaching Hospital. The pacemaker will serve as one of only three functional pacemakers in public hospitals across Sudan.

Dr Mohamed Eisa, SAPA’s Secretary General, visited Ibrahim Malik Hospital and met with its leadership. In the meeting, wider collaboration between SAPA and the hospital was discussed.

“Ibrahim Malik emergency services have grown significantly over the past few years, its administration has a clear vision on how to tackle challenges facing the hospital, SAPA is exploring ways to support the current plans” said Dr Eisa.
SAPA & Partners launching Sinja Oxygen Station

Each year, 4.2 million children suffering from severe pneumonia in low and middle-income countries (LMIC) urgently need oxygen to survive (UNICEF, November 2020).

Access to medical oxygen has proved to be effective in reducing child death rates due to pneumonia by 35%. It is also less costly, per life saved, than other treatment or preventative modules such as conjugate pneumococcal vaccines.

Oxygen generators provide the most economical and most consistent source for oxygen supplies at health facilities in LMIC.

Sinja Teaching Hospital, located in the city of Sinja, in the State of Sinnar, serves a population of 777,388 people. The hospital does not have an oxygen generator and is dependent on oxygen delivery from the capital Khartoum, via trucks. Leading to significant shortages of oxygen.

In collaboration with its partners, SAPA is currently establishing a medical oxygen station in Sinja Teaching Hospital that will meet the needs of Sinnar state and provide medical oxygen to neighboring states as well. The Sinja Community, through Sinja Oxygen Initiative, have played a critical role in advocating for the project, securing partial funding, and will continue to monitor the project after the station is completed.

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The project is in collaboration with Sinja Oxygen Initiative, Sinnar State Ministry of Health, and Sadagaat Organization.
SAPA’s Pediatric Chapter, in collaboration with the Sudanese Association of Pediatrics (SAP), the Sudanese Canadian Health Professionals (SCHP), the Association of Sudanese Professors in Qatar (ASPQ), and the Sudanese Medical Specialization Board (SMSB), held a virtual course on neonatology. The interactive course was attended by more than 220 pediatrics trainees in Sudan.

Due to its success, another similar course is currently being planned.
On November 12, 2022, SAPA held its first clinic in the Sudanese Community Center in Dallas. 84 patients were served. Free services provided included laboratory testing and health insurance expert consultations.

At the free clinic, SAPA-Youth Chapter carried a survey aiming to identify healthcare access barriers that face underserved communities. Texas based SAPAians met at the event and formed SAPA-Texas chapter, which is SAPA’s first regional chapter!
In collaboration with the World Health Organization (WHO), the International Health Directorate at the Federal Ministry of Health (FMoH) in Sudan, organized the first High Level Meeting for Diaspora Engagement on December 7, 2022.

Dr Marwa Galaleldin from SAPA’s Sudan office, participated along with FMoH and WHO representatives, in a panel discussion focusing on challenges facing diaspora organizations engagement in addressing healthcare needs. Dr Marwa highlighted the important role that diaspora organizations play in Sudan and the significance of working closely with the FMoH and the non-governmental organizations.

“A joint council of all stakeholders and healthcare partners may boost collaboration and alleviate many challenges that diaspora organizations face”, said Dr Marwa.
Diaspora Emergency Action and Coordination (DEMAC) organized a meeting on “enhancing coordination in humanitarian settings. DEMAC, supported by USAID and the Danish Refugees Council (DRC) featured SAPA on their DEMAC Good Practice Guide.

Khalid El-Jack
SAPA-Youth
Co-chair
Represents SAPA at DEMAC
3 WORKSHOPS
- CV writing workshop
- Interview skills workshop
- Personal statement writing workshop

REVIEW OF 65 ERAS APPLICATIONS

REVIEW OF 65 PERSONAL STATEMENTS

MOCK INTERVIEW FOR 60 APPLICANTS

MINI-CEX CASES FOR 20 ECFMG CERTIFICATION APPLICANTS

OBSERVERSHIP FOR 40 APPLICANTS
SAPA is grateful to its partners, donors and supporters. Their dedication and generosity made our work possible.

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