



MID-2024 REPORT

... AUGUST 2024



Sudanese American Physicians Association

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The Sudanese American Physicians Association (SAPA) is a humanitarian, non-profit, and non-political organization registered in the United States, Sudan, Uganda, and Chad. Established in 2019 as a membership-based humanitarian organization consisting of Sudanese American physicians,

SAPA utilizes its substantial connections with local and regional healthcare providers in Sudan to deliver critical aid to its most vulnerable communities. Since the outset of the conflict in April 2023, SAPA has been on the frontlines to ensure that healthcare services are able to meet the growing health needs in impacted areas.

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Our Impact In Numbers

FROM APRIL 2023 TO JULY 2024



+432,000

Direct beneficiaries



+250,000

Beneficiaries provided with meals in Sudan



+93,900

Children under 5 served



65 Tons

of Medications and Supplies delivered



9 States

Across Sudan



18

Hospitals and PHC Centers supported



24

Mobile clinics deployed



+8700

Antenatal care services provided



+69,000

Beneficiaries in mental health psychological support (MHPSS)



+150,000

Meals provided to children in Adre, Eastern Chad

Executive Summary

Since April 15, 2023, fighting between the Sudanese Armed Forces and the Rapid Support Forces has brought about immense challenges for Sudan's healthcare sector, resulting in a dire humanitarian situation. The conflict has severely weakened the country's already frail healthcare infrastructure, pushing it toward potential collapse. Today, in the second year of the Sudanese civilwar, the country's healthcare sector is in a state of crisis. The widespread destruction of healthcare facilities, massive waves of displaced persons, and rapidly worsening humanitarian conditions call for urgent and sustained international intervention.

SAPA has positioned itself as the largest local provider of healthcare-related aid in Sudan, leveraging its local and international networks to provide lifesaving support to those affected by the ongoing conflict. In addition to its dedicated in-country team, SAPA capitalizes on the experience of its Sudanese American physicians, who provide specialized insight to aid in program design, program implementation, and the consideration of local context.

So far in 2024, SAPA's efforts to achieve its overarching humanitarian goal for Sudan—which is detailed below in the Goals and Objectives section—have entailed addressing immediate healthcare needs, raising local capacity, fortifying healthcare

systems to withstand future conflict, providing essential support services, and expanding collaborative partnerships. SAPA's current primary focus is on delivering comprehensive healthcare and nutrition services while developing local capacity and making the overall healthcare system sufficiently resilient to withstand future conflicts and challenges.

This report details SAPA's programming in Sudan during the first half of 2024 and lays the foundation for SAPA's programming moving forward. Already this year, SAPA has served over 103,000 patients, screened over 3,000 children for malnutrition, operationally supported 21 medical facilities, and trained over 100 medical staff and volunteers. Its efforts are clearly producing material benefits. Its commitment to serving the most vulnerable populations in Sudan is indisputable.

While SAPA has encountered many challenges in delivering humanitarian aid amid an active conflict—including security concerns, access restrictions, limited resources, and infrastructure damage—it has navigated these challenges through a coordinated and adaptive approach and strong partnerships with local organizations. In the coming months, SAPA intends to expand its programming further in a way that builds on the framework outlined in this report while maintaining a focus on the needs of those displaced by the conflict.

Introduction

Since April 15, 2023, fighting between the Sudanese Armed Forces and the Rapid Support Forces has brought about immense challenges for Sudan's healthcare sector, resulting in a dire humanitarian situation. The conflict has severely weakened the country's already frail healthcare infrastructure, pushing it toward potential collapse.

Today, in the second year of the Sudanese civil war, the country's healthcare sector is in a state of crisis. The widespread destruction of healthcare facilities, massive waves of displaced persons, and rapidly worsening humanitarian conditions call for urgent and sustained international intervention. To mitigate long-term damage, a coordinated effort to provide medical supplies, ensure the safety of healthcare workers, and rebuild and strengthen healthcare infrastructure is essential.

So far, the conflict has rendered approximately 70% of hospitals in conflict-affected areas non-functional. Attacks on healthcare facilities and personnel have become alarmingly frequent. As of August 2024, 60 of the 86 hospitals in conflict-affected areas have been forced to shut down due to either direct damage or security concerns, leaving vast stretches of Sudanese territory without access to essential medical services. This deterioration of the country's healthcare infrastructure has culminated in a critical shortage of medical supplies, equipment, and staff, further straining the long-term stability of the system.

These circumstances have led to a surge in the country's humanitarian needs. Nearly 24.8 million people—about half of Sudan's population—are currently in need of humanitarian assistance. This represents a significant increase from previous years, driven by the compounded effects of conflict, economic instability, and climate-related disasters. The healthcare sector is particularly overwhelmed, and there are simply not sufficient resources to meet the rise in demand.

The ongoing conflict has also triggered massive displacement, with 10 million people having been forced to flee their homes. This includes 7.7 million internally displaced persons (IDPs) and 2.1 million refugees, who have sought safety in neighboring countries. This displacement crisis has exacerbated the country's health situation, as overcrowded camps and temporary shelters are struggling to provide adequate healthcare and maintain sanitary conditions, raising the risk of outbreaks. These conditions paired with a lack of clean water and severe overcrowding give way to fertile ground for diseases like cholera, malaria, and measles to spread rapidly. Malnutrition rates are also soaring, particularly among children and pregnant women, with food insecurity worsening due to the ongoing conflict and related economic challenges.



Following the outbreak of the Sudanese civil war, the Sudanese American Physicians Association (SAPA) has been pivotal in rebuilding and transforming the lives of those who have been affected by the conflict. Having previously operated in nine states in Sudan and currently operating in six—Gezira, Red Sea, South Darfur, White Nile, Northern State, and Khartoum—SAPA leverages its team of dedicated doctors and healthcare professionals to improve healthcare access, deliver medical aid, provide nutritional meals, and foster community resilience. Its efforts have given way to significant positive developments in the region.

As demonstrated by its newly established offices in Chad and Uganda,

SAPA is constantly expanding its efforts to support those affected by the conflict in Sudan, including through regional partnerships and peacebuilding initiatives.

SAPA's current primary focus is on delivering comprehensive healthcare and nutrition services while both developing local capacity and making the overall healthcare system resilient enough to withstand future conflicts and challenges. In this way, it aims to foster healthy, informed, and self-sufficient communities. Through the provision of immediate relief alongside long-term development efforts, SAPA works toward both well-being and stability. This strategy ensures that accessible, high-quality healthcare is not a privilege but a right for all people, even in the face of displacement.

Goals & Objectives

SAPA's current efforts are all in pursuit of a single overarching goal:

- By 2026, all individuals targeted by SAPA—especially women, adolescents, and young children—will be able to survive and thrive. They will benefit from early nurturing, care, and education. Beyond living in a safe and protected environment, they will have reliable access to high-quality health and nutrition interventions, including in dire humanitarian contexts.

To achieve this desired outcome, SAPA works toward the following systemic changes:

- The conflict-affected population—with a particular focus on pregnant women, mothers, adolescents, and children—will have access to and readily use emergency services as well as health, nutrition, and WASH (water, sanitation, and hygiene) services and engage in healthy behaviors, facilitating optimal growth and development at the community level.

- There will be an increase in the coverage and uptake of high-quality, high-impact health, nutrition, and WASH services (including preventive care) to facilitate the optimal growth and development of young children during the first five years of life, particularly through the provision of emergency life-saving interventions for internally displaced people and refugees during the ongoing conflict.
- Innovative financing responses will bolster resource availability in Sudan and nearby countries, including through support from the diaspora. This will entail a rise in public funds for health and nutrition, the coordination of resilient and evidence-based multisectoral actions, and the integration of social protection, peacebuilding, and emergency response initiatives at both

SAPA's efforts in pursuit of these changes can be categorized into five broad initiatives (the underlying approaches to which are delineated later in this report):

- To deliver comprehensive health and nutrition services and build capacity in conflict settings.
- To create a healthcare system that can withstand conflicts and future challenges, leading to a healthy, informed, and self-sufficient community.
- To provide immediate relief while developing long-term health infrastructure that facilitates stability and well-being.
- To provide essential social support services to enhance the social safety net for vulnerable populations.
- To ensure efficient management, strong partnerships, effective media and advocacy efforts, and robust monitoring and evaluation processes.



SAPA's Strategy in Sudan

SAPA's strategy centers around a holistic approach, identifying core problems based on their symptoms and then working backward from the desired outcome to develop sound, efficient interventions that adequately address those problems. This desired outcome is SAPA's overarching goal.

By 2026, all individuals targeted by SAPA—especially women, adolescents, and young children—are able to survive and thrive. They will benefit from early nurturing, care, and education. Beyond living in a safe and protected environment, they will have reliable access to high-quality health and nutrition interventions, including in dire humanitarian contexts attributable to the ongoing conflict in Sudan.

This goal is based on a straightforward delineation of the core deprivations in Sudan—high mortality rates among women and children, especially in the neonatal period; a severe risk of malnutrition and famine; and a high burden of communicable diseases alongside a population with low immunization rates—an identification of the obstacles facing efforts to address these deprivations, including demand-side, supply-side,

and environmental factors, and an assessment of the risks and opportunities that come alongside the pursuit of this goal. From this central goal, SAPA works backward to identify the necessary systemic changes and, in turn, the interventions and activities that would facilitate such changes. In these efforts, SAPA works with communities, healthcare providers, and both local and regional institutions to develop the core functions of a healthcare system that is capable of adequately withstanding & responding to crises. With the help of our local partners, SAPA anticipates & proactively addresses pressing public health concerns through the provision of preventive education and accessible treatment facilities. To maintain these capabilities, SAPA continually engages in capacity-building, fosters collaborations with relevant stakeholders, and maintains a dedicated team of Sudanese American physicians with specialized insight that aids in program design, program implementation, and the consideration of local context.



In addition to being guided by this general approach, SAPA's efforts in pursuit of its desired changes are informed by the following tactical strategies:

- **Cross-sectoral and lifecycle evidence generation & evidence based advocacy**

- Collect and analyze data across different sectors and stages of implementation to generate informed policies and programs.
- Use data and evidence to advocate for policies and programs that improve health and well-being.

- **Grassroots investment**

- Invest in local communities to build capacity and support sustainable development.

- **Community empowerment and accountability to affected populations**

- Empower communities to play an active role in decision-making processes while ensuring accountability to those affected by all interventions.

- **Gender responsiveness**

- Consider gender dynamics in the development of all programs & policies.



- **Partnership development**

- Form strategic partnerships with local and international organizations to leverage resources and expertise.

- **Innovation**

- Develop innovative and novel approaches to solve problems and improve service delivery.

- **Crisis responsiveness and agile deployment of teams in emergencies**

- Develop and implement strategies to facilitate rapid responses in crisis situations.
- Ensure that teams are prepared to be quickly deployed to respond to emergencies.

- **Flexible financing**

- Secure flexible funding mechanisms to enable adaptation to evolving needs and priorities.



Emergency Response Programming

SAPA is at the forefront of delivering humanitarian programming in Sudan and is dedicated to promoting overall well-being, providing protection and social support to vulnerable populations, and fortifying the resilience of the country's healthcare system. Our programs aim to effect transformative change in the communities that we serve through the aforementioned initiatives, which this section explores in greater depth.

Initiative One: Providing Integrated Health and Nutrition Services and Building Capacity

The first key tenet of SAPA's efforts pertains to delivering comprehensive health and nutrition services and building capacity amid Sudan's ongoing conflict. To advance these aims, SAPA engages in the following types of activities:

- Develop and conduct training sessions for healthcare workers on integrated health and nutrition services.
- Implement community outreach programs to educate and engage local populations about available health and nutrition services.
- Distribute essential medical supplies, nutrition supplements, and hygiene kits.

- Establish and operate mobile clinics to bolster healthcare accessibility in remote and underserved areas.
- Develop systems to monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of health and nutrition interventions.
- Collaborate with local and international organizations to enhance service delivery and capacity-building.

So far in 2024, SAPA has had many achievements under this initiative. It has engaged and trained local populations to strengthen local health and nutrition services and bolster local capacity. More specifically, it hosted Community Rapid Response Training in Red Sea State and Northern State to enhance local capacity in effective and timely responses to health emergencies and urgent community needs. In both states, SAPA invited community health workers, local leaders, caregivers, and other key stakeholders to take part in these training sessions.

SAPA also conducted many specialized training sessions, including IMCI (integrated management of childhood illness) training, and formed and maintained mother support groups to promote proper infant and young child feeding (IYCF) practices. Its training sessions covered SAM (severe acute malnutrition)-management guidelines, MUAC (mid-upper arm circumference) screening and referral, proper IYCF practices, and community-outreach and community-mobilization skills.

Moreover, SAPA collaborated with the Federal Ministry of Health to support the ETAT (emergency, triage, assessment, and treatment) training conducted in Atbara (River Nile State). This comprehensive training initiative sought to empower local communities to take proactive measures during health crises, improve emergency preparedness, and strengthen overall community resilience. By developing local expertise and response capabilities, SAPA contributed to a more robust and adaptable healthcare system that can effectively address urgent health needs and promote better health practices.

Beyond training, however, SAPA took direct action to alleviate malnutrition among vulnerable populations. In the Adri camp for displaced persons, for example, it provided families with hot meals. This program provided around 6,000 hot meals per week; beyond enabling families and communities to enjoy proper meals together despite their circumstances, it bolstered the nutritional well-being of those in the camp, all eviating pressure on the local healthcare system.

Overall, SAPA's efforts in the first part of 2024 have produced the following metrics:

104,052

Patients served

112,345

Beneficiaries of food distribution

3372

Number of children screened for malnutrition

990

Number of ANC services provided

326

Number of deliveries by skilled birth attendant

3,076

Number of IYCF counseling sessions provided

967

Number of admissions for SAM

3,272

Number of children under 5 vaccinated

201

Number of medical cadres & community volunteers trained

21

Number of facilities supported operationally

159

Number of psychological consultations provided

13

Number of mobile clinics deployed



Dr. Amna beside Farouq, who is standing after being treated for Guillain-Barré syndrome

Four-year-old Farouq was suffering from Guillain-Barré syndrome, which paralyzed his entire body. The medical team at Al-Bolouk Children's Hospital faced multiple challenges in providing him with the necessary treatments. Thanks to their dedicated efforts, Farouq is now running, playing, and in overall good health.



Three displaced siblings receiving RUTF as part of malnutrition treatment (Dongola, Northern State)

A mother of three was deeply concerned about her three children's weight loss and deteriorating health due to the harsh conditions following their displacement. However, after receiving therapeutic nutritional treatment for malnutrition at the SAPA IDPs Health Center, their health rapidly improved.



Qais before and after treatment for severe malnutrition

Qais presented with severe malnutrition. Prior to treatment, he exhibited significant generalized weakness, dry and cracked skin, sunken eyes, and substantial weight loss that severely impaired his ability to stand and walk. Following an intensive 21-day treatment regimen administered by the nutrition team at Al-Bolouk Children's Hospital with support from SAPA, remarkable improvements were observed in Qais's condition. His health was restored, and he is now progressing toward recovery.

Initiative Two: Two: Building a Resilient Healthcare System

The second key tenet of SAPA's efforts pertains to developing a healthcare system that is capable of withstanding future conflicts and challenges and, in turn, of facilitating healthy, informed, and self-sufficient communities. To advance this aim, SAPA engages in the following types of activities:

- Invest in building and upgrading healthcare facilities that can withstand conflict.
- Develop robust data-management systems to capture and keep track of individuals' health information and needs to aid in healthcare-related decision-making.
- Implement and update policies and protocols to improve service delivery.
- Create emergency-preparedness plans and train healthcare workers in crisis management.
- Fortify supply chains to ensure a steady flow of medical supplies.
- Provide ongoing training in resilience and emergency response for healthcare workers.

So far in 2024, SAPA has had many achievements under this initiative. For one, it successfully established two new primary healthcare (PHC) centers, one in Northern State and another in Red Sea State. These new centers are pivotal to SAPA's commitment to developing a resilient healthcare system by expanding access to essential services in under-resourced regions. Notably, the locations of these two PHC centers were determined strategically to address significant gaps in healthcare accessibility. Each is equipped with the necessary medical facilities and staffed with trained personnel to provide a wide array of healthcare services, including preventive care, treatment for common illnesses, post-natal care, and nutritional support.

The establishment of these centers represents a substantial investment in local healthcare infrastructure, bolstering the two states' capacity to reliably deliver effective healthcare services. By improving the accessibility of healthcare services in these regions, SAPA has strengthened their overall healthcare systems and improved local health outcomes.

SAPA also successfully distributed medical supplies across Khartoum State, Northern State, and El Fasher, ensuring that the healthcare facilities in these areas are adequately equipped and capable of providing essential services.

Overall, SAPA's efforts in the first part of 2024 have produced the following metrics:

- Number of beneficiaries of critical supplies delivered to health facilities: **29815**
- Number of facilities that benefited from the delivery of medical supplies and nutrition supplements: **12**
 - Port Sudan: Hasai Awli PHC
 - Northern State: SAPA IDPs Health Center, Dongola Specialized Hospital, Dongola OBGYN Hospital, Abri Hospit
 - North Darfur: Saied Alshohada, El Ganobi Hospital, El Saudi Hospital, Abu Showk PHC
 - Khartoum State: Albuluk, Alsaudi, Alfateh
- Number of staff who have benefited from an incentive-based retention strategy: **375**
- Number of beneficiaries of support from the Sudan Medical Council: **(79k During the year 2023/ For the six months of the year 2024: 50,249)**
- Number of exams supported through the Sudan medical Council: **2670 medical doctors sat for the permanent registration exams.**
- Number of rehabilitated facilities: **2**
 - Hassai Awli, Dongola SAPA IDPs Health Center



Dr. Abdulla, a doctor at the SAPA supported Al-Bolouk Children's Hospital, tells a story about one of his patients who tragically passed away during the war.

I began working at Balak Hospital two years ago ... One of the most challenging aspects of my job is encountering patients whose lives hang in the balance due to financial constraints or the unavailability of essential treatments caused by the war. I vividly remember a four-month-old infant brought to our hospital. A week after the war erupted, we received him from a Khartoum hospital, where he had been in intensive care. A shell had struck the facility, forcing the staff to evacuate him with only one oxygen tank. When he arrived with his older brother, our hospital was facing a critical oxygen shortage. We frantically searched for supplies but could not obtain enough to save him. Tragically, he died two days later due to our limited resources.”

Initiative Three: Comprehensive Healthcare System Support

The third key tenet of SAPA's efforts pertains to providing individuals with immediate treatment while developing long-term health infrastructure that can bolster overall stability and well-being. To advance these aims, SAPA engages in the following types of activities:

- Implement rapid-response mechanisms for immediate health crises.
- Develop and sustain long-term health programs focused on preventing and managing chronic diseases and preventative care.
- Expand access to mental health counseling and support services.
- Prioritize maternal and child healthcare services, including pre-natal and post-natal care.
- Conduct health education campaigns to promote healthy behaviors and practices.
- Integrate health services across various levels of care to provide comprehensive support.

Thus far in 2024, SAPA has had many achievements under this initiative. Among its most notable contributions is the crucial operational support that it provided to the operations of two key hospitals in Khartoum State:

El Bolok Hospital and Elfath Hospital. This support served to enhance outpatient care through the hospitals' integrated PHC units. These enhancements made general consultations, preventive care, and the management of chronic conditions far more accessible in Khartoum State. SAPA's involvement contributed to improved service delivery, better patient outcomes, and a more efficient operational model. SAPA also supported emergency care services at Elfath Hospital, ensuring that the Khartoum population's critical care needs were met.

Further contributing to its efforts in Khartoum State, SAPA successfully set up and operated ten mobile clinics, providing essential healthcare and nutrition services directly to underserved communities. These clinics offered a wide range of services, including general health check-ups, maternal and child healthcare, and nutrition counseling. This project was a critical component of SAPA's broader strategy of addressing gaps in healthcare accessibility and improving health outcomes in the region. Beyond offering immediate relief to underserved communities, these mobile clinics bolster the region's overall healthcare capacity, demonstrating the viability of mobile service-delivery models.

SAPA also set up and operated seven mobile clinics across Northern State, covering seven localities with each clinic operating for two months. These clinics were strategically placed to provide remote, underserved areas with a wide range of health services, including nutrition support.

The extended operation of each clinic ensured continuity of care and strengthened community relationships. As in Khartoum State, this effort enhanced the well-being of the local population while contributing to the long-term development of Northern State's healthcare infrastructure.

Another one of SAPA's most notable efforts this year was its focus on enhancing Khartoum State's referral system, which is a critical component of any comprehensive healthcare system. This initiative sought to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of patient referrals between PHC facilities, specialized care centers, and hospitals.

SAPA has also played a vital role in supporting the transportation of patients with SAM to and from El Bolok Hospital. This initiative was established to ensure that those suffering from SAM—especially children—receive timely and appropriate medical care. SAPA supported such patients by arranging safe and efficient transportation services, enabling them to overcome a critical barrier to accessing essential treatment. This got vulnerable patients to the hospital, where they could receive specialized nutritional support and medical attention. These efforts have significantly improved nutrition-related patient outcomes and, in turn, the overall efficiency and effectiveness of the local healthcare system.

Finally, SAPA conducted a thorough assessment of the overall healthcare system and situation in Northern State to identify relevant gaps and obtain an understanding of the specific needs and challenges among the communities there. This comprehensive review covered the current state of Northern State's healthcare facilities, service-delivery mechanisms, and resource availability. SAPA engaged with local healthcare providers, stakeholders, and community members to gather insights and data on service accessibility, quality of care, and operational issues. This assessment's findings will guide the development of targeted interventions going forward, ensuring that they are tailored to the specific needs of Northern State.

Overall, SAPA's efforts in the first part of 2024 have produced the following metrics:





Nisreen Rabih: A story of resilience

A few days before war broke out in Sudan, Nisreen's mother passed away. She was living in Khartoum at the time. When the war began, the dangerous situation in the city prevented her from returning to her and her husband's home in Abu Adam. She was forced to remain in Omdurman.

Her husband soon after suffered from kidney failure and faced immense difficulty finding a hospital that could provide him with dialysis. Tragically, he died a few months into the war, leaving Nisreen alone with their three children in Omdurman. Isolated, with all her siblings and neighbors having fled Khartoum State, Nisreen remained in the deserted neighborhood.

Despite her hardships, Nisreen refused to become displaced. She chose to stay in her home and endure the harsh conditions. A few months later, two of her deceased husband's brothers died one after the other, compounding the grief of Nisreen and her small family.

The opportunity to work with SAPA turned out to be a lifeline. It not only ameliorated her financial circumstances but also provided her a chance to find solace in her pain and connect with others impacted by the war.



Razzaz Abdullah: A mother of triplets facing the challenges of war

Razzaz gave birth to triplets at Ombada Hospital in Omdurman, Khartoum State. Her babies suffered from a lack of oxygen due to their premature delivery. The doctors told her that she would lose all three of her babies if they were not transferred to another hospital within just two hours.

She faced many difficulties and challenges along the way, but she fortunately made it to the SAPA-supported Al-Bo-louk Children's Hospital, where her children received the necessary care to survive. Although she is happy that the health of her three babies has improved, the war has made it impossible for her to find a home for herself and her children.



Adil Bakhit: SAPA Primary Healthcare Center, Dongola, Northern State

Sixty-year-old Adil Bakhit Ibrahim fled from Khartoum following the outbreak of the war. After staying in Sennar for a while, he was displaced further, forced to ensure a challenging seven-day journey to Dongola. During the journey, Adil could not receive treatment for his heart disease. Upon reaching SAPA's IDPs Health Center, however, he received the treatment that he needed.

Initiative Four: Comprehensive Social Protection Mechanisms

The fourth key tenet of SAPA's efforts pertains to providing vulnerable populations with essential social support to strengthen their social safety net. To advance this aim, SAPA engages in the following types of activities:

- Organize workshops and training sessions on peacebuilding and conflict resolution.
- Develop community-based emergency-preparedness and -response plans.
- Implement programs to promote social cohesion and resilience within communities.
- Engage local leaders and stakeholders in peace and resilience initiatives.
- Ensure that all health programs are conflict-sensitive and advance peace.
- Establish systems to monitor social stability and promptly address emerging issues.
- Develop and implement family-based food interventions to address food insecurity.
- Provide vulnerable populations with nutritional support and counseling.
- Expand access to mental health counseling and psychosocial support services.
- Establish financial aid programs to support families in emergencies.
- Strengthen the social safety net to provide ongoing support to at-risk populations.
- Empower communities through education and skill-building initiatives aimed at bolstering their self-sufficiency.

So far in 2024, SAPA has had many achievements under this initiative. Critically, it has made significant contributions to social protection efforts by distributing food to IDPs at gathering points in Omdurman and Port Sudan. This effort sought to address the immediate nutritional needs of vulnerable populations who have been affected by displacement, alleviating food insecurity and supporting IDPs' overall well-being.

In addition to its direct distribution of food, SAPA also provided support in the form of financial assistance, logistical coordination, and other resources to multiple local NGOs involved in the provision of food. Partnering with local organizations enabled SAPA to amplify its impact and ensure a more efficient and comprehensive response to the nutritional needs of those in affected areas.

Through these initiatives, SAPA strengthened local social protection mechanisms and improved the overall resilience of communities affected by displacement. Moreover, its collaborations with other organizations provide a long-term benefit, laying the groundwork for further cooperative efforts in the future.

Overall, SAPA's efforts in the first part of 2024 have produced the following metrics:

- Number of psychosocial consultations provided: **159**



Zamzam, a 40-year-old displaced woman at SAPA's IDPs Health Center, in for a follow-up appointment (Dongola, Northern State)

Zamzam, a woman in her 40s, fled Sennar State with her family, which included both children and elderly relatives, alongside 11 other families. Forced from their home by escalating violence, Zamzam and her family embarked on a desperate search for safety and a better life. Their displacement journey was difficult, however, as they faced severe shortages of food and water and were constantly in danger. Zamzam tragically lost her mother on the road between Sennar and Gedaref, compounding the grief of her and her family. Eventually, they reached Dongola, where they currently receive medical care at SAPA's IDPs Health Center. Despite their ordeal, they have a degree of hope, receiving support from both the local community and humanitarian organizations.



Tafaka El-Zain, a displaced midwife providing ante-natal care at SAPA's IDPs Health Center in Dongola, Northern State

Tafaka El-Zain was a midwife in Khartoum until the war forced her to flee and leave behind both her home and career. Finding refuge in Dongola, she joined a resilient group of women working together to rebuild their lives. Tafaka began providing midwifery services to IDPs at the SAPA IDPs Health Center. This work transformed her life, enabling her to support her family while contributing to the births of countless children. Despite challenging circumstances, Tafaka persevered, adapting to resource shortages while maintaining high standards of care for displaced pregnant women. Her dedication to improving local healthcare is strong and inspiring.

In the face of a nation grappling with immense hardship, citizens are often lacking the basic necessities of life: food, water, shelter, safety, and healthcare. As they await the return of peace, humanitarian organizations have emerged to provide critical support and uphold human dignity.

SAPA addressed the immediate need for shelter by distributing 50 tents and 50 solar-powered lights to families in need, providing both refuge and safety for IDPs in Gedaref State. Recognizing the critical importance of healthcare, SAPA also established a 24-hour mobile clinic in the camp to address the community's healthcare needs, which became a vital lifeline for those seeking medical assistance.

Initiative Five: Management, Partnerships, Media & Advocacy, & Monitoring & Evaluation

The fourth key tenet of SAPA's efforts pertains to ensuring efficient management, strong partnerships, effective media and advocacy efforts, and robust monitoring and evaluation processes. To advance this aim, SAPA engages in the following types of activities:

- Employ project-management software and tools.
- Conduct regular training for SAPA staff on management best practices.
- Establish partnerships with local and international organizations.
- Hold regular meetings with partners and engage in frequent collaborations.
- Launch media campaigns to raise awareness about SAPA's efforts
- Develop and implement a comprehensive M&E (monitoring and evaluation) framework.

- Generate research-based evidence to guide humanitarian interventions.
- Engage with local media outlets to encourage coverage of SAPA health initiatives.

Thus far in 2024, SAPA has had many achievements under this initiative. For one, it conducted several field visits and supervisory activities across various states and ongoing projects to ensure effective implementation and oversight. These visits were designed to monitor project progress, assess the quality of service delivery, and provide field teams with the necessary support.

During these field visits, SAPA engaged with local stakeholders, reviewed ongoing activities, and addressed any identified operational challenges. The supervisory efforts sought to ensure alignment with project standards, verify the accuracy of reporting, and ensure that projects advanced SAPA's overarching goal. Notably, some of SAPA's supervisory efforts were supported via partnerships with UN agencies, INGOs, local NGOs, civil society organizations, and government agencies, maximizing their efficiency through a collaborative approach.

Overall, SAPA's efforts in the first part of 2024 have produced the following metrics:



Number of new partnerships: 3



Number of social media campaigns launched: 6



Number of supervisory visits:

7 conducted by an M&E specialist in Khartoum State & Northern State

2 conducted by leadership (President & Deputy Country Director to Karrari, Dongola, and Port Sudan)



Number of media features and articles: 12

Challenges & Lessons Learned

Overview of challenges during implementation:

- While SAPA mobile clinics constitute a promising solution to the many problems brought about by the ongoing conflict, they face several challenges and limitations. One major obstacle is the limited resources available to these mobile units. Given their mobile nature, these clinics often operate with limited space and a finite supply of medical resources, impeding their ability to provide comprehensive healthcare services, especially when it comes to treating complex medical conditions that require specialized equipment. Thus, there is a clear need for a dedicated SAPA hospital that is accessible to IDPs.
- Further capacity among SAPA staff is necessary to enhance the quality of services and improve beneficiary satisfaction.
- Most IDPs have sought refuge in the homes of family members and local community members through a practice known as community hosting. This dynamic has led to difficulties in accurately determining their numbers and, in turn, ensuring the effective delivery of aid to this population.
- Most aid efforts are directed toward IDPs in established shelters (e.g., schools, boarding schools, places of worship)

despite these shelters representing only a small portion—approximately 10%—of the total displaced population.

The majority, around 80%, are housed via community hosting, and this must be considered in aid efforts.

- While direct support to health facilities for medical and health services has significantly alleviated the burden of high patient volume stemming from the continual influx of IDPs, it does not ensure that the IDPs themselves will fully benefit from the allocated funds.

- Sudan's healthcare infrastructure and services were already inadequate prior to the onset of the war and displacement waves; today, they are overstretched and poorly maintained.

- Many healthcare centers and workers do not adhere to established referral systems, making it difficult to ensure that patients are receiving comprehensive medical care.

Overarching approach and theory of change:

Moving forward, SAPA's revamped theory of change will guide its efforts in Sudan. At the core of this approach is its overarching goal, which lays out its vision for Sudanese conflict zones in 2026. As explained earlier, this goal is based on a straightforward delineation of the core deprivations in Sudan, an identification of the obstacles facing efforts to address these deprivations (including demand-side, supply-side, and environmental factors),

and an assessment of the risks and opportunities that come alongside the pursuit of this goal. SAPA intends to work backward from this goal to identify the necessary systemic changes and, in turn, the interventions and activities that would facilitate such changes. This approach will enable us to be as efficient as possible. Each new program or policy will be judged based on the degree to which it advances us toward our goal.

Advocacy & Media

Following the start of the current crisis in Sudan, SAPA developed an impactful media relations and thought leadership strategy that has since yielded strong results. We have garnered extensive media coverage in top-tier publications and broadcast outlets, shedding light on SAPA's humanitarian efforts and, in turn, on the dire situation in Sudan. Additionally, we've crafted and published influential columns to reach key stakeholders and audiences as well as introduce fresh perspectives into the political discourse. All of these efforts serve to empower us to implement the programs and policies necessary to advance our overarching goal.

Through both proactive and reactive media engagement, SAPA has consistently kept the international spotlight on the daily struggles of the Sudanese people as well as the critical political and humanitarian solutions required to alleviate their suffering. Its media coverage has highlighted the wide range Through both proactive and reactive media engagement,

In developing and judging its activities, SAPA will work with communities, health-care providers, and both local and regional institutions. Thus, SAPA continually engages in capacity-building, fosters collaborations with relevant stakeholders, and maintains a dedicated team of Sudanese American physicians with specialized insight that aids in program design, program implementation, and the consideration of local context.

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Its media coverage has highlighted the wide range of SAPA's efforts, including through the documentation of its work in Chad (The Guardian), Nyala (Democracy Now), Wad Madani (BBC), Omdurman (Washington Post), and Khartoum (New York Times). Notably, it has even engaged with the U.S. Department of State's Foreign Press Center to draw attention to the crisis in Sudan as well as its efforts to alleviate the suffering there.

This engagement has elevated SAPA's profile and leadership status on a global scale, leading to critical partnerships with the Biden administration, civil society, and allied organizations in the humanitarian and human rights sectors. Moreover, SAPA has come to constitute a trusted resource for prominent advocacy groups and news organizations (Forbes) in Washington, D.C., and beyond, with policymakers, advocates, and journalists frequently seeking its expertise and insights.

SAPA has also spoken at conferences and led rallies to raise awareness of the critical humanitarian conditions in Sudan. In September 2023, in collaboration with Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch, Refugee Congress, Refugees International, Act for Sudan, and Girifna, among others, SAPA organized a rally in front of the White House to demand additional funding for humanitarian efforts in Sudan and draw attention to human rights violations taking place there.

SAPA regularly highlights the significant need in Sudan through both professional and academic channels. In October 2023, SAPA President Dr. Yasir Elamin spoke at the annual meeting of the U.S. National Academy of Medicine, hosted by the Committee on Human Rights of the National Academies of Science, Engineering, and Medicine. Dr. Elamin spoke about the human rights abuses and repeated attacks on healthcare facilities occurring in Sudan, emphasizing the urgency with which additional aid must be provided.



One month earlier, in September 2023, SAPA Secretary Dr. Mohamed Eisa spoke at the Georgetown Institute for Women, Peace, and Security for its "Caught in the Crossfire: Sudanese Women's Struggle for Peace" virtual session alongside the institute's executive director, Melanne Vermeer, who had previously been appointed as Ambassador for Global Women's issues by U.S. President Obama. Dr. Eisa highlighted the challenges in delivering humanitarian aid in Sudan—especially when it comes to targeting vulnerable groups (women and children)—but offered recommendations for overcoming these challenges.

Finally, SAPA's outreach and advocacy efforts have enabled us to explore the opportunity to launch a clinic for Sudanese refugees in Chad. As one of the first humanitarian organizations to meet with Sudanese refugees in Chad, SAPA is in the process of conducting a comprehensive needs assessment in the country. In the coming months, we intend to expand programming in Chad based on the identified needs. This effort resulted in SAPA officials being interviewed by the Guardian, the Wall Street Journal, and the BBC.

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Conclusion

So far in 2024, SAPA has supported 21 healthcare facilities, served over **103,000** patients, and provided over **112,000** meals amid the ongoing conflict in Sudan, delivering critical aid to some of the country's most vulnerable. By identifying an overarching goal and working backward from there to develop and implement programs that maximize impact in a way that moves us toward that goal, SAPA has made massive gains in terms of on-the-ground humanitarian conditions while laying the groundwork for long-term development in Sudan's conflict-affected regions.

SAPA's efforts have included addressing immediate healthcare needs, raising local capacity, fortifying healthcare systems to withstand future conflict, providing essential support services, and expanding collaborative partnerships.

Its mobile clinic program has proven to be particularly valuable, as it enables SAPA to deliver aid and care directly to the most vulnerable populations in line with evolving conditions on the ground.

Until this conflict is resolved, SAPA intends to continue and optimize its work with a focus on addressing the needs of displaced persons, heightening resilience among local communities, and promoting long-term system-wide development that prevents future conflicts from wreaking the same havoc on healthcare that this conflict has.

We would like to thank all of our partners, volunteers, and donors—this work would not be possible without you. We look forward to continuing to work together to improve health outcomes in Sudan.



Partners

The work of SAPA would not be possible without the generous support from a partners. This includes those listed below, as well as a number of individuals who have supported our work. We look forward to deepening our partnerships in order to provide comprehensive support to the most vulnerable groups in Sudan and ensure gaps are met

Partners:

UNICEF

Sudan Federal Ministry of Health

Hadreen

Sudan Doctors Abroad Alliance

MedGlobal

Sadagaat Organization

Preliminary Committee of Sudan Doctors Trade Union

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