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**SAPA NEWSLETTER**

SUDANESE AMERICAN PHYSICIANS ASSOCIATION  
(SAPA)



## FROM THE DEPTHS OF HOPE: ABU HARAZ HOSPITAL IN ELGEZIRA STATE RESUMES PROVIDING HEALTHCARE

### Healthcare Services Defying the Challenges of War

Abu Haraz Hospital, east of Madani, is back to operating at full capacity despite the deteriorating humanitarian conditions in Elgezira State.

Although the hospital faced challenges and temporarily had to reduce operations due to limited resources and electricity, it is now back to serving the community at full capacity, thanks to the incredible humanitarian efforts of its devoted team staff.

Abu Haraz Hospital provides services to hundreds of patients suffering from the consequences of war and displacement. In September 2024, the hospital received 867 patients, including 413 men and 454 women. The number dropped to 795 in October, and by November, it stood at 627.

With increasing numbers of displaced people from neighboring villages, the hospital has become a critical healthcare hub requiring urgent support. Operating the generators alone costs a total of 15,500,000 Sudanese pounds per month (approximately \$7,800 USD), a massive financial burden in these challenging economic conditions.

### SAPA and Partners Back Ongoing Operations

Thanks to the ongoing support from the Sudanese American Physicians Association (SAPA), the World Health Organization (WHO) in Sudan, and the Al-Kifaya Charitable Organization, the necessary fuel for running the generators was secured. This has allowed the hospital to resume its vital services daily from 8 AM to 10 PM, ensuring the continuity of essential medical care, including surgeries, preserving sensitive medications and supplies, and maintaining the blood bank.



## FROM THE DEPTHS OF HOPE: ABU HARAZ HOSPITAL IN ELGEZIRA STATE RESUMES PROVIDING HEALTHCARE

### A White Army Facing the Darkness

Doctors and nurses stand as unsung heroes in our nation, where crises escalate and supplies dwindle.

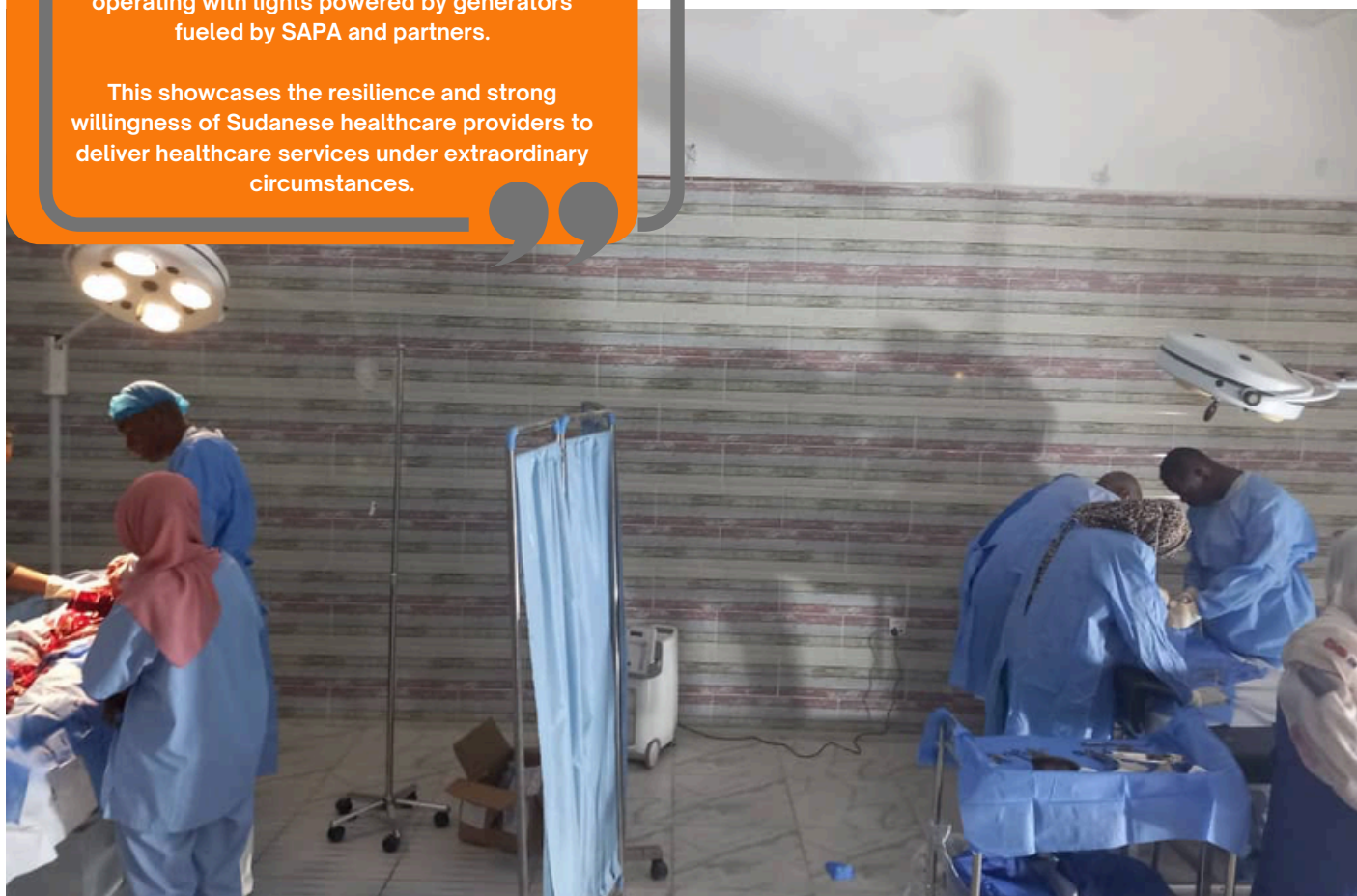
Despite losing most medical supplies, they have never wavered in their faith in their humanitarian mission and duty to save lives, no matter the challenges.

In the operating room at Abu Haraz Hospital, two surgeries are performed under dim lamp lights—a scene that embodies the determination of these heroes to overcome all obstacles. SAPA and its partners continue their efforts to rehabilitate Sudan's healthcare sector.

However, these initiatives require support from both the international and local communities to ensure the continuity of this humanitarian mission and alleviate the suffering of the Sudanese civilians.

This photo is from the Abu Haraz Hospital's operation room, where the surgical team is operating with lights powered by generators fueled by SAPA and partners.

This showcases the resilience and strong willingness of Sudanese healthcare providers to deliver healthcare services under extraordinary circumstances.







# \$2.3 MILLION TO SAVE LIVES OF NEWBORNS IN SUDAN

In a major step toward addressing the challenges facing Sudan's healthcare infrastructure, SAPA announces the launch of a major project to improve neonatal care services across seven states.

This project is a partnership between UNICEF and the Maternal and Child Health Directorate of the Federal Ministry of Health, with financial support From the People of Japan totaling \$2.3 million.

The aim of this project is to reduce neonatal mortality rates and enhance maternal and child health programs in the states of Kassala, Gadarif, Sennar, White Nile, Gezira, Northern, and Khartoum. Support includes equipping neonatal units with advanced medical devices and providing essential training for healthcare staff to improve the quality of care.

The project's first phase commenced in the Northern State at Dongola Maternity Hospital, where essential medical devices and equipment were provided to upgrade the neonatal care unit.

## *Scope of the project encompasses:*

- Maintenance of Level 1 and Level 2 neonatal intensive care units (NICU).
- Equipping an intermediate care unit (HDU).
- Upgrading the maternity ward, staff rest areas, and bathrooms.
- Renovating the central oxygen unit.
- Rehabilitation of operating and sterilization rooms to meet the highest standards.

The significance of collaboration between local and international organizations in advancing healthcare services cannot be overstated. SAPA sincerely thanks the Japanese government, the Federal Ministry of Health, and UNICEF for their support during these unprecedented times in Sudan.

Investing in the health of mothers and children is critical for safeguarding the future of children in Sudan. Despite the numerous challenges, initiatives such as this are ongoing to achieve the dream of fully equipped hospitals with trained professionals, ensuring that every Sudanese mother and child receives the quality healthcare they deserve.





# SAPA'S MOBILE CLINICS

Hospitals within the range of the conflict's fire  
have been destroyed



and access to emergency services  
and healthcare has become fraught  
with challenges and risks.



Families  
suffering



Security threats



Lack of  
transportation



Lack and scarcity  
of medications



High financial costs

**UP TO  
80%**

of healthcare facilities  
are out of service

**SAPA**  
A RAY OF  
**HOPE**



SAPA has built partnerships to contribute to overcoming this crisis

Mobile clinics  
became  
the solution



Following the destruction of hospitals and their closure,  
mobile clinics became an emergency substitute, reaching citizens at their locations,  
providing free medication, and alleviating the burden on hospitals still in service.



## ENVIRONMENTAL CORRECTION CAMPAIGNS IN SEVERAL HOSPITALS IN SUDAN

As the war in Sudan continues, the environmental situation in healthcare facilities worsens. To address this, we launched an environmental correction campaign in collaboration with the World Health Organization (WHO) in Sudan. This initiative targeted Al-Fateh Hospital in Khartoum State, Gadarif Teaching Hospital, and Gadarif Maternity Hospital in Gadarif State to enhance the hospital environment and ensure the safety of patients and medical staff as part of our commitment to promoting hygiene and combating infectious diseases.

In Khartoum State, our team organized a comprehensive sanitation campaign at Al-Fateh Hospital, focusing on several key initiatives to enhance hygiene and improve the overall hospital environment.

These initiatives included an awareness lecture aimed at educating both staff and visitors on the importance of hygiene in preventing diseases, the distribution of cleaning supplies to provide essential tools for staff to maintain a clean and sanitized working environment, and the implementation of safe waste disposal practices through a partnership with a specialized company responsible for the disposal of medical waste.

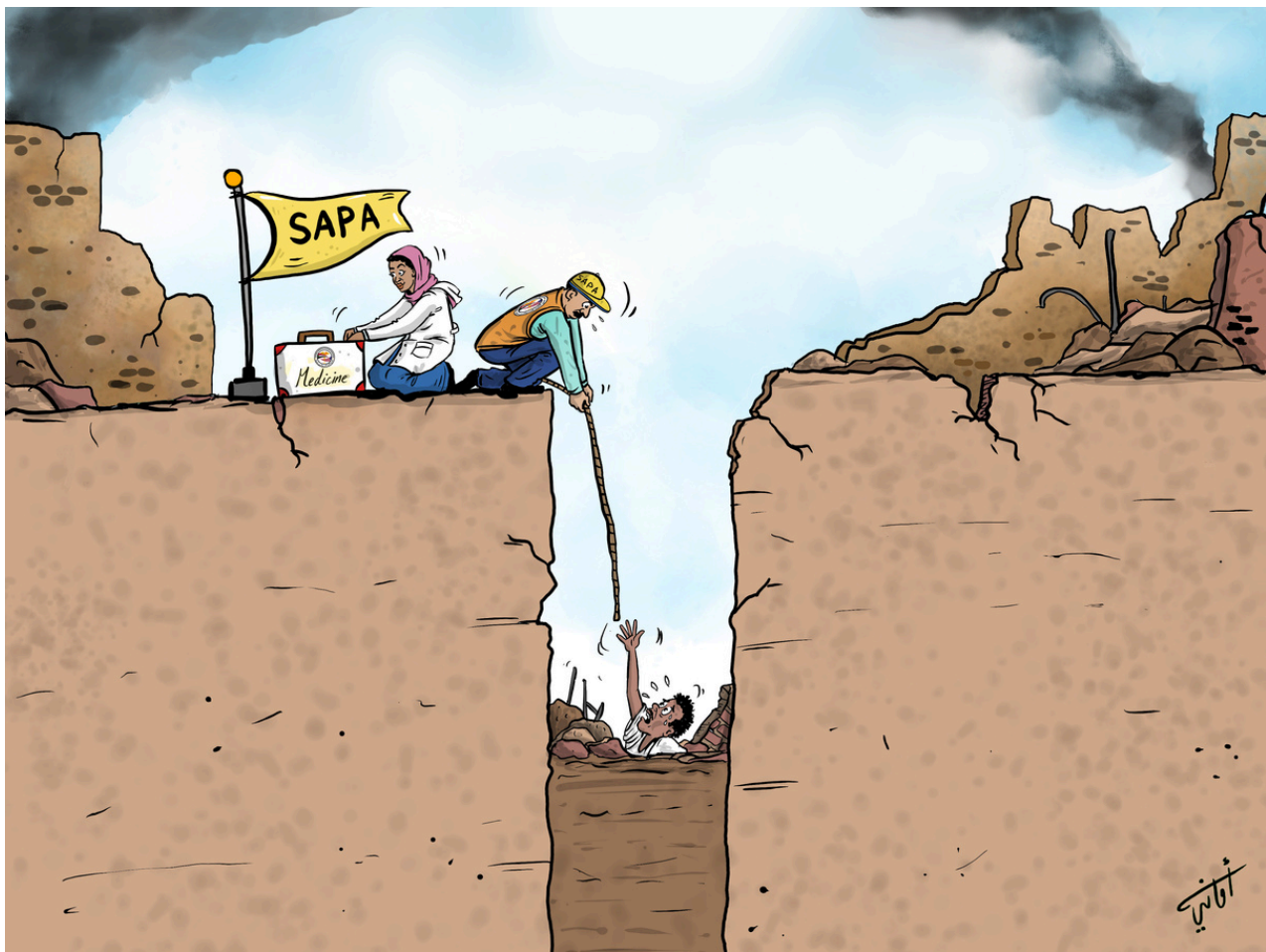
This campaign addresses the urgent need to enhance hygiene standards, particularly in light of infectious diseases such as cholera and dengue fever outbreaks.

Similarly, at Gadarif Teaching Hospital and Gadarif Maternity Hospital in Gadarif State, we launched another campaign with the World Health Organization (WHO) in Sudan, attended by senior health officials from the State Ministry of Health. This initiative also involved distributing cleaning supplies to support staff in maintaining cleanliness and incentives to cleaning staff to recognize the vital role of sanitation workers in improving healthcare settings and planning coordination with the hospitals' environmental health officer to ensure sustainable cleaning efforts.

Overall, these campaigns are part of our ongoing dedication to enhancing health services in hospitals across Sudan. A healthy and clean environment is the first line of defense against spreading infectious diseases and a fundamental pillar of building trust in the healthcare system.

Collaborative efforts between healthcare workers, international partners, and local communities are essential for addressing these environmental challenges. This is especially true given the urgent need for environmental correction amid the ongoing war.







# GEZIRA STATE: EMERGENCY RESPONSE IN AL-HILALIYA TOWN

Al-Hilaliya Town, located in the eastern part of Gezira State, has endured a devastating humanitarian tragedy due to ongoing conflict and siege targeted at its residents. Since late October of 2024, the town has suffered a crippling blockade and violent assaults by the Rapid Support Forces (RSF), leading to the unfortunate deaths of hundreds—not only from bullets but also from hunger and diseases. The residents are still facing dire humanitarian and health conditions due to a severe shortage and inaccessibility of healthcare services.

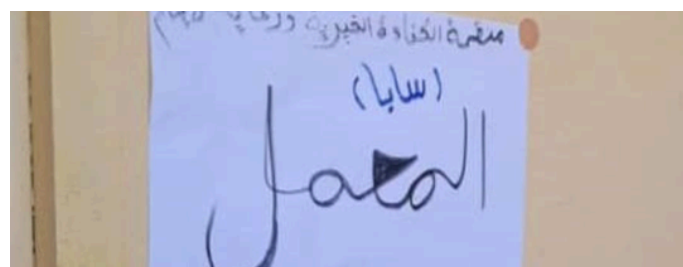
SAPA, in partnership with the Efficiency Charity Organization, dispatched a mobile clinic to Al-Hilaliya on November 22nd and 23rd. The clinic provided free medical services to 1,084 patients in the town.

The medical team operated through various clinics, treating patients at the Internal Medicine Clinic for infectious diseases such as malaria, urinary tract infections, typhoid, and other chronic illnesses. Additionally, the Pediatrics and Obstetrics and Gynecology Clinic provided further essential services.

The initiative also included a fully stocked pharmacy, supplying vital medication for common and chronic illnesses to meet patients' needs effectively.

The case of Al-Hilaliya Town in Gezira State reflects an urgent and critical need for improved access to healthcare services in light of the humanitarian crisis.

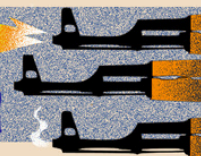
As the whole state continues to face a severe lack of access to healthcare and unprecedented levels of violence, the need for sustainable medical support and infrastructure grows daily. More resources and efforts should be invested in addressing the healthcare needs of this community to alleviate suffering and save lives in a region that has remained tragically inaccessible and devastated by the conflict.





# SAPA EVACUATED 3000 DISPLACED PERSONS

AMID THE  
ONGOING WAR



AND WITH  
THE WAVES OF  
DISPLACEMENT



ON TOP OF  
LACK OF  
BASIC SERVICES



NO TRANSPORT AND  
HIGH RELOCATION COSTS!



## SAPA WORKED



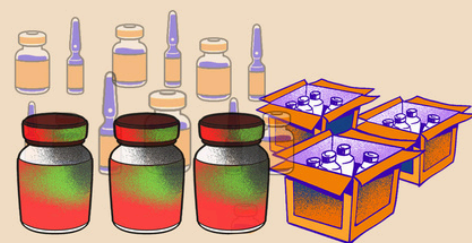
IN COLLABORATION WITH  
GRASSROOTS EFFORTS  
AND LOCAL ORGANIZATIONS



EVACUATING  
CITIZENS  
TO SAFER AREAS



SKILLED  
MEDICAL STAFF  
AND MOBILE CLINICS



SECURING THE  
CONTINUITY OF TREATMENT  
AND MEDICAL SUPPLIES





## BUILDING BRIDGES FOR PRETERM CARE IN SUDAN: THE SCIENTIFIC FORUM FOR NEONATAL CARE

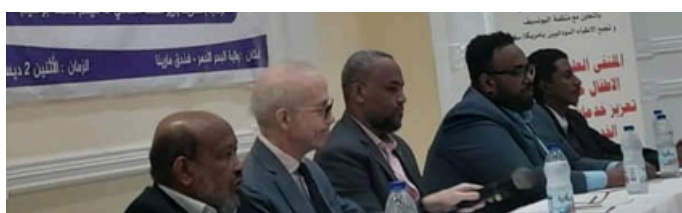
SAPA, in collaboration with UNICEF and alongside the Federal Ministry of Health and Maternal and Child Health Directorate, organized a scientific forum in Red Sea State on December 2, 2024, themed "Building Bridges for Preterm Care in Sudan." The forum was attended by the acting Minister of Health, Dr. Haitham Ibrahim, who emphasized the importance of preterm care concerning the current health challenges that Sudan is crushed by.

During the forum, the minister highlighted Sudan's high preterm infant mortality rate, which stands at 26 deaths per 1,000 live births, necessitating urgent and effective action. Dr. Haitham revealed that Sudan currently has only 29 operational neonatal intensive care units (NICUs), compared to 55 units before the war, which showcases the intense damage sustained to the healthcare services across Sudan.

The minister called for strengthening collaboration with international organizations to equip 90% of localities across Sudan with incubators by 2030. He reaffirmed the ministry's commitment to supporting specialized medical care for preterm infants who lack sufficient access to intensive care.

In addition, Professor Eisa Osman, a Senior Consultant Paediatrician and Neonatologist, stressed the importance of joint efforts among all stakeholders to reduce infant mortality rates. He noted that the forum proposed and discussed a strategy and its implementation in partnership with adjacent organizations, reflecting the optimism and collective efforts needed to address these challenges.

This forum represents a significant advancement in enhancing care for preterm infants in Sudan. With nearly half of the neonatal intensive care units out of service, children in Sudan have never faced such danger before; therefore, equipping and supporting neonatal and preterm healthcare facilities is a priority.



SAPA is committed to empowering grassroots organizations in the local community





## PSYCHOSOCIAL AND PSYCHOLOGICAL FIRST AID PROJECT: SAPA'S INTERVENTION IN THE NORTHERN STATE

SAPA has launched a 12-day project to provide psychosocial support services in four IDP centers in Dongola, Northern State, as part of its ongoing efforts to support displaced persons and promote mental health.

The activities and training workshops included participants from the shelter centers and representatives from relevant entities such as the Ministry of Health, the Secretariat of Social Affairs, and the Humanitarian Aid Commission.

The workshop focused on several key areas, including psychosocial support, principles of psychological first aid, responsible assistance delivery, self-care, and referral mechanisms. Interactive theoretical sessions enhanced participants' capabilities in providing practical psychological support.

SAPA's support team in Northern State began the project by visiting the Zahraa Dormitory—now an IDP shelter—where individuals were grouped by age. For children, the activities included drawing, singing, and playing. At the same time, support sessions for adolescents aged 14 -18 and adults focused on discussing thoughts and feelings, sharing experiences, breaking social barriers, and expressing concerns about the current situation.

At Al-Shaheed Ahmed Qasim IDP shelter, the team organized group and individual psychosocial counseling sessions over three days. These sessions aimed to enhance adaptation to war conditions and navigate through the psychological stress and tension. 599 individuals benefited from these activities, including 395 children and 204 adults.

The activities involved discussing emotions and fears, reinforcing strengths, recreational activities such as drawing and singing, and one-on-one sessions for adults to provide more resounding support. The beneficiaries demonstrated positive engagement in these sessions.

Throughout the project's activities, many heartbreaking stories reflected the suffering of the displaced and the profound impact of the war on their lives. While mental health is often the first to suffer in times of war, it remains the most powerful resource for resilience and recovery.

In conclusion, mental health issues in Sudan demand greater attention. This project is not merely an intervention but a crucial step toward addressing the social stigma associated with mental and psychological health in the country. It aims to protect the vulnerable groups affected by the ongoing and piled-up hardships of war.







# HOPE OASIS: A REFUGE OF CARE AND COMPASSION IN ZAMZAM CAMP

Zamzam Camp in North Darfur State is the largest site in Sudan for displaced people, hosting almost 500,000 people. Women and children comprise the majority of the vulnerable population, and Zamzam has been one of the only places for safety in the region.

Since the start of the war 19 months ago and counting, the camp has experienced not only unprecedented levels of famine and acute hunger but also a lack of accessibility to mental health projects that would protect the children of the camp since schools are no longer functioning since the start of the war 19 months ago and counting.

In response, Hope Oasis, SAPA's new initiative in peacebuilding, was established in November 2024 to provide a safe space for children aged 5 and above, allowing them to protect their childhood and mental health.

This venture aims to create a nurturing and secure environment where children can heal from war trauma, process their experiences, and focus on personal development. From within Zamzam Camp in North Darfur, SAPA established the Hope Oasis for Children, the area's first dedicated space for child care.

This center extends its hand to every child in the site affected by war and displacement, offering psychological support, sports activities, recreational programs, and educational opportunities. It is a step forward, carrying a message of hope and faith in the children's ability to heal and build a brighter future.

The idea for the Hope Oasis Center emerged in response to the urgent need to provide a safe environment for children in Zamzam Camp, where they face harsh conditions that are far removed from their innocent dreams. The center aims to create a space where children feel safe and belong, restoring their sense of hope despite the challenges surrounding them.



The center focuses on offering comprehensive programs, including psychological support to help children cope with trauma caused by the crises, sports activities to improve their physical and mental well-being, and recreational and educational programs to develop their skills and nurture their ambitions.

# HOPE OASIS

## واحة الأمل

Dr. Salwa Mohamed, the supervisor of the art and crafts department, remarked: "We teach children to draw, color, and create using local materials such as paper, reeds, and clay for handmade crafts. We began by using plant reeds available to us, such as millet and sorghum stalks, to form various items like traditional huts and ornaments.

This approach aims to empower children to utilize the resources around them while developing their abilities and skills. Moreover, these activities and crafts bring joy and alleviate stress, helping children forget the tragedies they endured due to the war.

We've witnessed unique ideas, creativity, and immense potential in these children, and we strive to develop them to benefit their futures." SAPA seeks to plant hope in the hearts of children aspiring to build a Sudan worthy of their dreams through this project.

The Hope Oasis is more than just a center for children; it marks the beginning of a broader initiative to support affected communities in North Darfur and strengthen their ability to recover and rise again.







**SUDANESE AMERICAN PHYSICIANS ASSOCIATION  
(SAPA)**

# NEWSLETTER

A periodic e-newsletter published by the Sudanese American Physicians Association. The newsletter provides a comprehensive overview of the organization's ongoing humanitarian work and project updates.

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WRITTEN AND EDITED BY THE MEDIA AND COMMUNICATION TEAM

**About SAPA:** The Sudanese American Physicians Association (SAPA) is the largest Sudanese medical relief organization, dedicated to improving healthcare and providing humanitarian aid in Sudan. SAPA works in close collaboration with local and international partners to deliver life-saving services in conflict zones.