



SAPA NEWSLETTER

SUDANESE AMERICAN PHYSICIANS ASSOCIATION (SAPA)

ISSUE 6 | SEPTEMBER 2025



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TACKLING THE CHOLERA
OUTBREAK IN KHARTOUM
AND NORTH DARFUR**

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SAPA'S RAPID ACTION: TACKLING THE CHOLERA OUTBREAK IN KHARTOUM AND NORTH DARFUR

Amid growing health challenges and the spread of cholera across several Sudanese states, SAPA, in collaboration with the State Ministry of Health, the Emergency and Epidemic Control Directorate, and with support from UNICEF, launched a swift and comprehensive response to curb the outbreak and provide healthcare services to affected communities.

From Khartoum to North Darfur, SAPA's efforts included direct field interventions, effective partnerships, and targeting the areas most in need.

Cholera Outbreak in Khartoum State

With a worrying surge in cholera cases in Khartoum State, SAPA initiated an urgent intervention in coordination with local authorities.

This included strengthening the epidemic surveillance system, deploying nine rapid response teams, and operating three mobile clinics to treat suspected cases and refer them to appropriate isolation units.

The Federal Ministry of Health expressed deep concern over the deteriorating health situation, reporting 2,729 cholera cases and 172 deaths in just one week. Around 90% of new cases were concentrated in Khartoum State—particularly in Karari, Omdurman, and Umbada localities—threatening thousands of families.

According to the latest performance report, SAPA's mobile clinics conducted four field rounds, treating 710 patients, 59 of whom were confirmed to have cholera.

Treatment and Care at Fateh Hospital

As part of the emergency response, SAPA teams operated a Cholera Treatment Unit (CTU) inside Fateh Hospital in Omdurman, supported by UNICEF. Five treatment tents with a total capacity of 50 beds were set up, significantly reducing pressure on the hospital and providing immediate medical care to patients.

During the reporting period, 133 cholera cases were admitted to Fateh Hospital and received the necessary care. Oral Rehydration Points (ORPs) also treated 38 patients, with 15 of them referred to major hospitals.



Mona, a four-year-old girl receiving cholera treatment at SAPA's CTU at Al Fateh Hospital, Omdurman, Khartoum State, Sudan

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Among these efforts was the story of Mona, a four-year-old girl from Fateh West area in Omdurman. She contracted cholera and suffered from severe diarrhea and persistent vomiting. After a challenging journey by her parents to reach the isolation unit at Fateh Hospital, Mona received urgent medical care and was able to recover, a testament to the life-saving impact of rapid intervention.

Integrated Services to Combat the Outbreak
SAPA teams did not limit their work to urban centers—they ensured mobile clinics reached remote villages in southern rural Omdurman, including Sharafat, Al-Sudair, and Al-Hajab.

These teams provided comprehensive services, including medical consultations, diagnostic tests, essential medicines, nutrition support, and immunization. Rapid Response Teams (RRTs) also carried out spraying and disinfection operations in 56 homes across 12 targeted areas, purifying water and surfaces in high-risk locations.

The project also supported several health centers in Umbada locality by setting up ORPs and supplying essential hygiene and medical materials, improving their readiness to manage new cases.

Outbreak in North Darfur

In Tawila locality, North Darfur—where challenges are greater and infrastructure

weaker—SAPA's response demonstrated humanitarian action in its most demanding form. Oral Rehydration Units were established in Dali and Diba Nayra camp centers with UNICEF support, along with tents to receive patients and start treatment immediately.

SAPA is also preparing to launch spraying campaigns inside camps and homes, guided by the principle that prevention starts with a healthy environment and ends with community awareness.

Through all these efforts, SAPA reaffirms its commitment to supporting Sudan's health system and extends its appreciation to the dedicated healthcare workers giving their all and to the Ministry of Health and UNICEF for their continuous support.



SUDAN HEALTH ASSISTANCE AND RESPONSE TO EMERGENCIES (SHARE): A NEW HOPE FOR HEALTH CENTERS IN SUDAN

Amid a fragile health system under continuous crises and pressure, the Sudan Health Assistance and Response to Emergencies (SHARE) Project has emerged as a turning point for primary healthcare in Sudan, particularly in Khartoum and Red Sea States.

The project was launched through a strong partnership bringing together SAPA, the State Ministries of Health, UNICEF, and the World Bank, aiming to support 50 health centers—25 in Khartoum and 25 in Red Sea—through interventions ranging from medical supplies provision to capacity building and ensuring service continuity in emergencies.

The First Phase of the Project

In response to the acute shortage of resources, the first phase began with distributing medicines, supplies, and medical equipment to 22 health centers in Khartoum State, easing the daily burden on health workers and improving the efficiency of humanitarian service delivery. In Red Sea State, 25 health centers in Port Sudan locality were supported—9 in the central sector, 9 in the southern sector, and 7 in the eastern sector—based on a thorough needs assessment to ensure fair distribution and maximize impact on service quality.

Mobile Clinics Bringing Back Hope

Prioritizing access for the most vulnerable, mobile clinics began operating on August 1st



SUDAN HEALTH ASSISTANCE AND RESPONSE TO EMERGENCIES (SHARE): A NEW HOPE FOR HEALTH CENTERS IN SUDAN

in South Omdurman's rural areas, targeting communities with little to no access to healthcare. This intervention restored hope and a sense of life to these underserved populations.

The SHARE project also invests in healthcare workers by organizing a series of training sessions in the targeted states, aiming to enhance skills, strengthen facility readiness to respond to epidemics and emergencies, and ensure long-term service sustainability.

What stands out in this project is not only the scale of support or the number of facilities reached, but also the integrated partnership model that brings together local and international actors, combining effort, expertise, and a shared vision.

The project represents a strategic initiative to rebuild trust in Sudan's health system and move it toward recovery and resilience. With each health center that regains strength, Sudan takes a step closer to establishing a robust health system worthy of human dignity across every corner of the country.



A SUCCESS STORY FROM THE OPERATING ROOM: SAPA MEDICAL MISSION IN GEDARIF STATE

On July 9, 2025, a specialized neurosurgery team from Ireland arrived in Sudan as part of a SAPA medical mission to Gedarif Teaching Hospital. The team, composed of Dr. Wail Mohammed, Consultant Neurosurgeon, and Dr. Husham Haggana, General Surgeon, carried out a humanitarian mission that lasted until July 19. The goal was to conduct life-saving surgeries, train local medical staff, and help bridge the acute gap in this specialty in Gedarif State.



Dr. Wail Abdu Mohammed

Consultant Neurosurgeon



Dr. Husham Haggana

General Surgeon

Effective Partnership and Integrated Coordination

This mission was made possible through a strong partnership between the Federal Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Health and Social Development in Gedarif, and SAPA's Community Services Office, with a shared vision of prioritizing access to essential medical care.

From the early planning stages, critical cases were assessed with the support of Gedarif Hospital's medical team. Consultants Dr. Benyamin Mahjoob, Dr. Rabee El-Feel, and Dr. Al-Refaie Suleiman played a key role in preparing the surgical list, coordinating with hospital staff, and reviewing operating theater readiness to ensure patients received the highest possible level of care.



A SUCCESS STORY FROM THE OPERATING ROOM: SAPA MEDICAL MISSION IN GEDARIF STATE

A New Beginning

Among the most notable cases was a newborn baby, only five days old, suffering from a severe neurological condition that required urgent surgery.

Under normal circumstances, his family would have had to travel hundreds of kilometers to find specialized care—an almost impossible task given today's economic and security challenges. The presence of the SAPA mission in Gedarif at that exact moment changed everything. The surgery was performed successfully, giving the child a new chance at life.

This story stands as a testament to the importance of equity in healthcare access and to the life-changing impact of medical missions that bring hope to entire families.

Inspiring Physicians on the Frontlines

Among the mission's participants was Dr. Husham Haggana, a general surgeon who returned from Ireland to Sudan at the outbreak of war, filling the critical gap at Nao Hospital in Khartoum when it was the last refuge for victims of the conflict. Today, his humanitarian journey continues through the Gedarif mission.



A SUCCESS STORY FROM THE OPERATING ROOM: SAPA MEDICAL MISSION IN GEDARIF STATE



SAPA gave me the opportunity of a lifetime to return to Sudan under such complex circumstances and be part of a specialized medical mission that chose Gedarif as its destination.

Beyond the bridges of kindness stretching across places like El-Lait, Kutum, Karari, Hilla Musa, Tawila, Dongola, Um Shajriyat, and Thawra Halfa, this mission was a light in the middle of the darkness. Alongside relief and food efforts, I felt fortunate to serve in this mission and to share in the struggles, smiles, and fears of those who came and went."

Dr. Wail Abdu Mohammed
Consultant Neurosurgeon

Supporting the Health System and Reducing Pressure

The mission was not limited to surgeries alone. The team provided medical consultations to more than 600 patients and conducted 12 complex neurosurgical operations that saved lives. They also carried out intensive training and supervision programs for local medical staff, laying the groundwork for the establishment of a permanent neurosurgery unit in Gedarif State to ensure service continuity and future development.

These efforts addressed a clear gap in the state's health system, where neurospecialists are scarce, making such interventions nothing short of a lifeline for patients.

Renewed Hope and a Call to Action

SAPA affirms that this mission's success would not have been possible without the trust of its partners, the spirit of teamwork, and the dedication of doctors who came from abroad, driven by humanitarian responsibility.

SAPA also extends an open invitation to Sudanese medical professionals living abroad to take part in future missions—helping save lives and strengthening local hospitals.

TOGETHER FOR DEVELOPMENT: SAPA'S COMMUNITY-LED RECOVERY INITIATIVE TO SUPPORT SUDAN'S HEALTH SYSTEM

In a country torn by war, initiatives are emerging from the heart of suffering, relying on the solidarity and determination of Sudanese communities to bring change. As pressures mount on Sudan's health system and facilities struggle with limited capacity, SAPA has launched a new project: Community-Led Recovery (CLR).

The initiative builds on what communities themselves have already started—renovating clinics, equipping health centers, and mobilizing collective efforts and donations in a genuine attempt to restore basic healthcare services. SAPA's new project steps in to complement these community efforts, taking them further by prioritizing grassroots initiatives that are already underway.

In areas such as Sennar, Danagla, and Umdawwanban, SAPA has previously worked with local committees and witnessed firsthand how community leadership makes a real difference. Residents know their priorities best, their direct oversight reduces costs and increases sustainability, and the outcomes are more practical and grounded.

With this in mind, the CLR Project officially opens the door for local committees and grassroots groups working to rehabilitate war-damaged health facilities to apply for technical and financial support that will help them complete their projects.

In its first phase, the project focuses on providing small financial grants to ten health institutions, with SAPA committed to evaluating the experience and expanding it further depending on success and available resources.

Here, community leadership means real responsibility: local committees design and implement the recovery plans, while SAPA provides the necessary technical assistance and complementary funding to complete what could not otherwise be achieved.

Amid today's complex realities, this project offers a genuine space of hope, betting on the knowledge, capacity, and commitment of Sudanese communities. It is a direct invitation to all those who have already begun but were held back by lack of funding: SAPA is here to help you finish the rebuilding.



SAPA'S EMERGENCY RESPONSE: LAUNCH OF EMERGENCY HEALTH RESPONSE PROJECT FOR DISPLACED POPULATIONS FROM ZAMZAM CAMP AND EL FASHER

North Darfur is facing one of the largest humanitarian crises in Sudan since the war erupted in April 2023. Repeated shelling on the Zamzam camp has displaced thousands of families, while the collapse of the health system has left the Tawila locality with only one functioning hospital serving 140,000 people. Meanwhile, Saraf Omra locality has no fully operating health facility, leading to a rise in deaths caused by malnutrition, malaria, and other preventable diseases.

In response to this alarming situation, SAPA, in partnership with the International Organization for Migration's Rapid Response Fund (IOM RRF) and with support from the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), launched the **Emergency Health Response Project for Displaced and Host Communities in North Darfur**. The three-month project, which began on April 15, 2025, aimed to alleviate humanitarian suffering and curb outbreaks by facilitating access to essential medical services.

Expanding Access to Healthcare

The intervention included operating four fixed clinics and three mobile health units in Tawila, Saraf Omra, and El-Lait localities. It also involved rehabilitating the primary healthcare center at Daba Naiera camp in Tawila—reviving it after years of closure—along with Dar Al Shabab Health Center in El-Lait and Dankoj Clinic in Saraf Omra.



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Mobile Clinics: A Lifeline for Remote Communities

Through three mobile clinics, SAPA teams delivered curative, preventive, and basic healthcare services to thousands of patients in remote villages. More than 6,064 patients benefited, including 3,835 women and 1,107 children under five.



Villages served included Al-Ilm, Umm Horouf, Khamsat, Al-Naeem, Umm Qila, and others in El-Lait locality. During outreach rounds, teams conducted 12 health awareness campaigns reaching 1,717 people with messages on communicable disease prevention, hygiene, and reproductive health.

In July, SAPA teams concluded the mobile clinic operations in Barka Sayra East, Saraf Omra locality, after having provided thousands of displaced and host community members with primary healthcare at their doorsteps—reducing the burden of travel and cost.

Impact Achieved

By the end of the project, SAPA had delivered more than 12,774 medical consultations, including 8,462 for women and 3,412 for children under five. In addition, medical teams conducted 2,639 malnutrition screenings (MUAC) for children and introduced a medical referral service, transferring more than 50 patients from remote areas to specialized hospitals for advanced care.

In a short period, SAPA teams ensured that thousands of displaced and vulnerable families regained their basic right to healthcare. Despite ongoing conflict and access challenges, these efforts stand as proof of the strength of humanitarian partnerships and the determination of Sudanese health workers—both inside and outside the country—to build a healthier and more hopeful future.



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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.