



6 MONTH **EMERGENCY** **RESPONSE** REPORT

... OCTOBER 2023





TABLE OF CONTENTS

Highlights.....	2
Executive Summary.....	4
Overview of SAPA’s Emergency Response in Sudan.....	5
Introduction.....	6
Overview of the Humanitarian Crisis in Sudan.....	7
SAPA’s Strategy in Sudan.....	7
Objectives and Goals.....	8
Emergency Response Programming.....	9
Direct Health Service Delivery.....	10
Health System Resiliency.....	10
WASH (Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene).....	13
Food and Nutrition.....	14
Protection.....	14
Advocacy and Media.....	16
Challenges and Lessons Learned.....	17
Conclusion.....	18
Leadership.....	19
Donors and Partners.....	20

HIGHLIGHTS



300,000

Direct beneficiaries supported



13

Hospitals and healthcare centers



6 States

Khartoum, Gezira, Northern, Kasala, South Darfur and Red Sea



3,569

Health workers direct assistance



57 Tons

of medications & supplies delivered



2

Operating rooms established in Medani



1

Oxygen station established in Sinja



1

Hospital established in Medani



25,000 IDPs

Provided with medical care through mobile teams in Gezira State



21,983

Beneficiaries in 3 states Gezira, White Nile, Northern with WASH activities



975

Families provided with food assistance in River Nile State, Northern State, and Gezira State



68,193

Beneficiaries in mental health and psychological support (MHPSS)

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Since **April 15, 2023**, the health situation in Sudan has been severely impacted by the conflict and resulting humanitarian crisis. This has worsened the already debilitated health system throughout the country. The rising pressure on the functioning hospitals and healthcare centers, coupled with the decreased access to healthcare personnel, medications, and equipment have brought the health system to the brink of collapse. Moreover, the conflict has not only led to the destruction of various health facilities around Sudan, but it also has serious and grave impacts on the general infrastructure of the country, which prevents the safe and consistent provision of healthcare supplies.

SAPA has positioned itself as the largest local medical aid organization in Sudan, utilizing its local and international networks to provide lifesaving support to Sudan during the ongoing crisis. In addition to its dedicated in-country team, SAPA capitalizes on the experience of Sudanese American physicians who provide specialized insight into program design, implementation, technical know-how, local context and innovation.

This report provides extensive details of the emergency response and preparedness programming SAPA has implemented from **April to October 2023** and serves as the framework for SAPA's programming moving forward. A few key achievements SAPA has achieved to address the pressing humanitarian need in Sudan include:



- Providing financial support to **13 hospitals** and primary healthcare centers across **6** states in Sudan with a catchment population of **4 million**.
- Directly serving over **25,000 patients** in Gezira State through outreach using mobile teams. These mobile clinics targeted over **100** gathering points of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs).
- Establishing the SAPA Hospital in Medani, Gezira State, which provides crucial secondary healthcare services at no cost to IDPs. This initiative serves a catchment area encompassing **80,000** individuals, reinforcing SAPA's commitment to accessible and essential healthcare delivery in the region.

During this time, SAPA has supported over **300,000** direct beneficiaries. Of these, **15,000** are between **6 and 12 months**, **60,000** are children under **5**, and **7,200** are pregnant women, highlighting SAPA's commitment to serving the most vulnerable groups.

While there have been a number of challenges to deliver humanitarian aid during a conflict, including security concerns, access restrictions, limited resources, and infrastructure damage, SAPA navigated these challenges through a coordinated and adaptive approach and strong partnerships with local organizations. In the coming months, SAPA intends to continue to expand on its current programming, prioritizing the needs of those displaced by the conflict, providing healthcare through mobile teams, directly supporting health facilities and implementing WASH programs in IDP camps.

In the last six months, SAPA has delivered critical humanitarian support under the following pillars:



**Direct Health
Service Delivery**



**Health System
Resiliency**

WASH
Water, Sanitation
& Hygiene



**Food and
Nutrition**



Protection

Utilizing this framework, SAPA adopts a comprehensive approach to its programming, aiming to increase capacity to respond to disasters, while simultaneously ensuring communities have the support and infrastructure in place to build resilience through preparedness and response.



INTRODUCTION

Overview of the Humanitarian Crisis in Sudan

the current conflict which began on **April 15, 2023**. This has worsened the already debilitated health system throughout the country. Since the outbreak of conflict, the humanitarian situation in Sudan remains dire, with approximately **5.4 million** individuals displaced and half the population - **24.7 million** people - in need of humanitarian assistance as a result of clashes between the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) and the Rapid Support Forces (RSF). To put this into perspective, an average of one million people have been displaced each month since the conflict began. These displaced persons have sought refuge either within Sudan or in neighboring countries. According to the International Organization for Migration (IOM), approximately **4.3 million** people have been displaced within Sudan. This number is expected to rise in the coming months if the conflict persists. Of these, 55 percent have sought refuge in the northern, eastern, and central regions of Sudan, while the remaining **45 percent** have fled to the Darfur and Kordofan regions. The White Nile State, in particular, bears a heavy burden with a total of **286,946** internally displaced persons, constituting **7.04%** of the overall IDP population in Sudan.

The ongoing crisis in Sudan is exacerbating the already fragile health conditions in the country. WHO reports that as of **September 2023**, approximately **11 million** individuals are in need of healthcare assistance. The greatest needs are reported in high conflict zones including Sudan's capital of Khartoum, as well as, Darfur and Kordofan regions, according to WHO. This has further worsened the already debilitated health system in Sudan. The rising pressure on the still functioning hospitals and healthcare centers, coupled with the decreased access to healthcare personnel, medications, and equipment have brought the health system to the brink of collapse.

alarming reports indicate that approximately **70 percent** of hospitals in conflict-affected states are currently non-functional. Over **55** attacks on healthcare facilities have been reported since April. The conflict has not only led to the destruction of various health facilities around Sudan, but it also had a grave negative impact on the general infrastructure of the country which is essential for safe and consistent provision of healthcare supplies. Insecurity, a shortage of medical supplies, and insufficient funds to cover operational costs and salaries contribute to the debilitated healthcare system. Meanwhile, functional hospitals and clinics in non-conflict-affected states are overwhelmed by the influx of internally displaced individuals.

The healthcare system is further being strained by the lack of proper water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), which has led to an increase in vector borne diseases. For example, there is also a rising incidence of malaria and dengue fever cases in the region. These outbreaks are caused by improperly stored home water, which becomes breeding sites for mosquitos, demonstrating the need for an increase in WASH activities.

There have also been increasing reports of gender based violence in Sudan. Prior to the conflict, over **3 million** women and girls in the country were at risk of gender-based violence, including intimate-partner violence. Since the outbreak of fighting in April, the number of women and girls at risk has increased to **4.2 million**.

SAPA's Strategy in Sudan

SAPA's strategy is rooted in a comprehensive, holistic approach to healthcare delivery for vulnerable groups, with particular attention to the needs of women and children. Our approach combines the provision of primary care and tertiary care with health systems strengthening through health facility rehabilitation and capacity building of local health workers.

SAPA works with communities, health providers and institutions (local and regional) to build the core functions of a health care system that is prepared to respond to crises. Interventions include:

- Providing infrastructure support to health facilities to enhance healthcare delivery
- Advocacy and coordination through evidence-based approaches and data management
- Use of medical technologies to promote system resilience
- Facilitate sharing of best practices



Through our local team and partners, SAPA anticipates and proactively addresses pressing public health concerns by providing preventive education, and supporting immediate treatment facilities. We also focus on capacity building for our healthcare staff and foster collaborations with other stakeholders for a coordinated and effective healthcare response. SAPA also works with a dedicated team of Sudanese American physicians who provide specialized insight into program design, implementation, technical know-how, local context and innovation. Through this strategy, SAPA aims to ensure that accessible, quality healthcare is not a privilege but a right for every individual, even in the face of displacement.

Since its inception, SAPA has operated in nine states in Sudan and is currently operating in six: Gezira, Red Sea, South Darfur, White Nile, Northern State, and Khartoum.



OBJECTIVES AND GOALS

SAPA's overall humanitarian goals are as follows:

- 1** Ensure that affected populations have access to essential healthcare services, including emergency medical care, treatment of injuries, and reproductive health services.
- 2** Implement measures to prevent, monitor, and control outbreaks of communicable diseases, such as cholera, malaria, and respiratory infections, which can spread quickly in overcrowded and unsanitary conditions.
- 3** Provide food assistance and nutritional support to prevent malnutrition, particularly among vulnerable groups such as children, pregnant women, and the elderly.
- 4** Support health facilities, ensuring they have the necessary equipment, medicines, and qualified healthcare personnel.
- 5** Strengthen the capacity of local healthcare workers, health systems, and community health workers to provide effective care and services.
- 6** Ensure a steady supply of essential medicines and medical supplies to meet the healthcare needs of the population.
- 7** Foster coordination and collaboration among humanitarian organizations, local authorities, and healthcare providers to maximize the impact of health interventions and avoid duplication of efforts.

During the first six months of the conflict, SAPA's specific objectives have been:

- 1** Enhancing healthcare capacity to better respond to the crisis.
- 2** Ensuring access to clean water in areas facing severe shortages.
- 3** Promoting improved personal hygiene practices among affected populations.
- 4** Delivering essential nutrition interventions in IDP populations.
- 5** Improving environmental sanitation measures to reduce health risks.
- 6** Implementing health promotion initiatives within IDP centers to raise awareness and prevent the spread of diseases.
- 7** Collaborating with other humanitarian and relief organizations to streamline efforts and maximize the impact of health interventions.

In development of these goals and implementation of objectives, SAPA regularly coordinates with the World Health Organization (WHO) as a member of the Global Health Cluster in Sudan, which aims to improve coordination among various health actors, ensuring a more effective and comprehensive health response. In its programming, SAPA also follows the core humanitarian principles outlined in The Sphere Handbook. In regards to health, this includes a particular emphasis on the prevention and control of communicable diseases, health system support, and the provision of essential healthcare services. These measures are taken to ensure quality care for patients, while also maximizing care through coordination with other agencies.

EMERGENCY RESPONSE PROGRAMMING

SAPA is at the forefront delivering humanitarian programming in Sudan, dedicated to promoting well-being, ensuring access to clean water and sanitation, providing protection for vulnerable populations, and fortifying the resilience of health systems. Our programs aim to bring transformative change to the communities we serve. To address immediate health needs and build a foundation for sustainable recovery in Sudan, SAPA has been focused on the following pillars: Direct Health Service Delivery, Health Systems Resiliency, WASH, Nutrition, and Protection.



Direct Health Service Delivery

In Sudan's most challenging environments, we deliver vital healthcare services. Our dedicated healthcare teams work tirelessly to provide medical care, essential medicines, and lifesaving treatments to those in need. From managing communicable diseases to maternity care, our mission is to ensure that every individual receives the care they deserve.

Increasing access to healthcare through mobile clinics in IDP camps

Location: Gezira State

Timeframe: May 2023 - Present

Beneficiaries: 25,000

Activities & Impact: SAPA mobile clinics have proven to be an effective approach in providing primary health care services to IDPs in camps. These clinics are equipped with medical professionals, essential medical supplies, and equipment, allowing them to deliver a wide range of services, including medical consultations, antenatal care, pediatric services, mental health support, reproductive health awareness, dental health clinic, laboratory services, and pharmacy.

By bringing healthcare services directly to IDP camps and gathering points, SAPA mobile clinics overcome the barriers of distance and limited transportation faced by IDPs.

SAPA mobile clinics have visited more than 100 gathering points, providing services to more than 25,000 beneficiaries. The following breakdown corresponds to the services provided: 60% received care from the outpatient clinic, 10% antenatal care clinic, 20% child health, 5% mental health, 5% health promotion in different categorized health issues.

One of the key advantages of SAPA mobile clinics is their ability to reach remote and underserved areas. IDP camps are often located in remote regions where access to healthcare facilities is limited. SAPA mobile clinics can bridge this gap by reaching out to these camps, ensuring that IDPs receive the necessary medical attention. Moreover, SAPA mobile clinics can adapt to the changing needs of IDPs by relocating to different camps as the situation demands, ensuring continuous access to healthcare services.

SAPA mobile clinics also promote community engagement and empowerment. By establishing a presence within the camps, medical professionals can build trust and rapport with the IDP community. This fosters a sense of ownership and involvement, empowering IDPs to actively participate in their own healthcare. Finally, mobile clinics can provide health education and awareness programs, promoting preventive measures and improving overall health outcomes.



SAPA Hospital for IDPs
Gezira State

Provision of critical health services for IDPs through SAPA Hospital

Location: Gezira State

Timeframe: May 2023 - Present

Beneficiaries: Catchment population of 80,000

Activities & Impact: The number of IDPs in Gezira state has reached more than 80,132, with more than 400 gathering points, mostly in the Wad Madani locality. These individuals often face numerous challenges, including limited access to healthcare services, limited resources, and a fragile health system. In many cases, existing healthcare facilities are overwhelmed, understaffed, or located far from IDP camps, making it difficult for these vulnerable populations to receive adequate medical attention. Therefore, the establishment of a hospital dedicated to serving IDPs was crucial to address this gap and ensure their health needs are met.

The hospital offers a wide range of medical services, including primary healthcare, maternal and child health, mental health support, and specialized treatments for chronic diseases. The building includes an emergency room, operating theaters, diagnostic laboratories, and specialized units for various medical disciplines. The hospital also focuses on training and capacity-building programs for healthcare professionals, including doctors, nurses, and support staff. This will enhance the quality of care provided and create sustainable healthcare systems within the IDP camps.

The hospital is also actively engaged with the IDP community, conducting health education campaigns, training of health care providers among IDPS and promoting preventive healthcare practices. Many of the staff are displaced health workers, empowering IDPs to take charge of their health and well-being.

A Story of Hope

Mrs. Rehab Awad Markaz, a 34-year-old widow from Khartoum, previously worked as a janitor to support her children. Rehab struggled to provide food for her family and was determined to see her children have the opportunity at a better life. However, the outbreak of war forced her family to flee to Wad Madani, Gezira where she found the SAPA Hospital for IDPs. Initially, she was a patient seeking care for her 3-year-old child with a febrile illness. However, it became a sanctuary, offering solace and a glimmer of hope.

After receiving comprehensive, free medical care, Rehab expressed her surprise at the hospital's cleanliness and the friendly and polite staff. She was particularly moved when a gentleman wearing a SAPA badge approached her in the reception lobby, offering assistance.

A few days later, when Rehab returned for a follow-up, she was in good health but still very anxious and worried. Recalling the SAPA representative's kind offer, she approached the medical director and requested a janitorial position. "It felt like a door to heaven had opened for me when the medical director informed me that SAPA was hiring IDPs to help IDPs," Rehab remarked. She secured the janitorial role and built a positive reputation among the staff.

In addition to her job, Rehab started a small business selling fast food and hot drinks near the hospital. She also helped her brother find employment, actively contributing to the service and development of the local community. Her journey serves as a shining example of resilience in the face of displacement and the ability to overcome life's challenges.

Providing Consultations through Telemedicine

Location: Sudan

Timeframe: May 2023 - Present

Beneficiaries: 303

Activities & Impact: SAPA leverages technology to enable remote medical consultations and treatment. Patients in Sudan can connect with 200 SAPA healthcare professionals based in the United States through text messages and phone calls, allowing for diagnosis, treatment, prescription management, and health advice without the need for an in-person visit. This enhances access to healthcare, particularly for individuals in conflict zones, those with limited mobility, and those with limited access to healthcare due to displacement.

Health System Resiliency

Resilient health systems are the foundation of effective response and recovery. SAPA works directly with local healthcare providers to strengthen infrastructure and enhance health system capacities. By promoting community engagement and local ownership, SAPA fosters a resilient healthcare ecosystem that can withstand ongoing and future challenges.

Providing Critical Support to Hospitals throughout Sudan

Location: Gezira State, Khartoum State, South Darfur State, Northern State, Sinnar State, Kasala State

Timeframe: May 2023 - Present

Beneficiaries: Catchment population of 4 million

Activities & Impact: SAPA provides supply and operational support to 13 hospitals and clinics serving vulnerable communities, with an emphasis on those supporting women, children, and IDPs. These facilities are located in Gezira, Khartoum, South Darfur, Northern State, Sinnar State, and Kasala State. This support includes running costs, medications and critical supplies, as well as incentives to frontline health personnel. Services provided at these facilities include primary care, infectious disease treatment, maternal and reproductive health, pediatric services, and tertiary care.

These facilities include: In Khartoum, SAPA supported the operation of three hospitals: Alsaudi Hospital in Omdurman, Albuluk Hospital, and Al Nada Hospital. Alsaudi Hospital serves a catchment population of over 2 million people, and it is the only hospital that provides care to pregnant females in the city of Omdurman, and Albuluk is the only hospital that provides emergency care and specialized services to children in the state of Khartoum. Al Nada Hospital is one of only two hospitals in the area that provide natural and cesarean delivery services as well as pediatric care. SAPA has also supported the East Nile Emergency Room and Shajara Emergency Room in Khartoum with vital operating support.

SAPA supported the operational cost of Wady Halfa Hospital in Northern State. Health needs have surged dramatically since the war erupted due to an influx of people fleeing war zones in Khartoum.

Due to limited government funds, SAPA has provided finances to ensure four government health facilities do not cease operations during the conflict. In Gezira State, SAPA supports the National Centre for Pediatric Surgery, National Cancer Institute, Wad Madani Heart Centre, and Gezira Gastroenterology and Liver Disease Center. This was crucial, as these national centers represented the sole tertiary care facilities in Sudan after their counterparts in Khartoum shut down.

Port Sudan Emergency Hospital, a public hospital with a catchment population of 3 million. Over 60,000 patients are treated here monthly.

In South Darfur, SAPA signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Ministry of Health to provide the operational budget for Nyala Teaching Hospital. Nyala Teaching Hospital maintained 150 beds, serving local and displaced communities.

Tirkai Hospital is a public cancer center that provides cancer treatment for all of Kasala State. Over 580 patients are treated here monthly, with about half receiving chemotherapy treatments.

A Story of Hope

In August, a 36-week pregnant woman found herself in a dire predicament. Residing in Salha, an area greatly affected by conflict, she faced the distressing reality of being unable to safely reach a nearby hospital to deliver her baby. Determined to seek medical attention, she embarked on an arduous journey on foot, traveling from Salha to the Karary Province.

She arrived at AlSaudi Maternity Hospital, the medical examination revealed severe anemia. It was apparent that she had not received any previous antenatal care. In order to save both the mother and child, swift action was taken. The medical team administered a blood transfusion to address the critical anemia, followed by an emergency Cesarean section. Due to the quick intervention of hospital staff, the baby was successfully delivered. However, due to initial hypoglycemia, the newborn was admitted to the nursery for close monitoring and care where he was able to recover. This poignant story underscores the life-saving impact of timely and compassionate medical intervention in challenging circumstances.

Delivery of Critical Supplies to Health Facilities

Location: Gezira, Northern State, Khartoum

Timeframe: May 2023 - Present

Beneficiaries: 150,000 direct beneficiaries

Activities & Impact: SAPA has partnered with a number of organizations to deliver critical supplies, medications and medical consumables to Medani, Gezira and Northern State. These organizations include Muslim AID USA, United Hands Relief, Project Hope, Habib AlRahman Charity Foundation, Sadaqaat. In total, 57 tons of medications and supplies have been delivered. These deliveries supported 5 hospitals and a catchment population of 4 million. This initiative supports over 150,000 people across Sudan where communities are grappling with under-resourced health facilities, as well as cholera and dengue outbreaks.

One delivery was part of an integrated package to provide medication and assistance to cancer patients to alleviate the large economic burdens as a result of the war. The project assisted cancer patients transiting and residing in Northern State, as well as cancer patients from other states, as Al Daman Oncology is the only center in Sudan to offer radiation oncology services. The project covered the cost of medications for 3 types of cancer – breast, colorectal, and lymphomas – for 6 months.



Enhancing Hospital Infrastructure

Location: Gezira, Sinnar

Timeframe: May 2023 - August 2023

Beneficiaries: Catchment population of 2 million

Activities & Impact: SAPA's commitment to improving healthcare infrastructure led to the establishment of two fully functional operating rooms within the Medani Teaching Hospital in Gezira State. This strategic initiative significantly augmented the hospital's operational capacity, enabling an impressive increase of 760 surgeries per month, furthering SAPA's mission to enhance medical services in Sudan.

SAPA also supported the development of the Sinja Teaching Hospital in the State of Sinnar, which serves a population of 800,000. The hospital does not have an oxygen generator and is dependent on oxygen delivery by car from the capital Khartoum (224 miles away) leading to significant shortages of oxygen and documented cases of death as a result. SAPA, in collaboration with Sadaqaat, Sinja Oxygen Initiative, and IMANA established an oxygen station. On a daily basis, the oxygen station directly benefits 50-70 patients. However, its reach extends far beyond, providing a crucial resource to the broader community of surrounding villages and areas surrounding Sinja City, thereby impacting countless indirect beneficiaries.

Supporting Sudan Medical Council's Digitization of Records and Services

Location: Sudan

Timeframe: May 2023 - August 2023

Activities & Impact: In response to the challenging conditions posed by the ongoing conflict in Sudan, SAPA stepped forward to provide essential support to the Sudan Medical Council. SAPA's funding facilitated the digitalization of their operations, enabling medical professionals to access and obtain their certifications remotely. This pivotal initiative not only empowers healthcare workers to pursue their careers but also ensures the continuity of crucial medical services despite the constraints imposed by the conflict.

Staff Retention Strategys

Location: Gezira, Red Sea, Khartoum, Gadarif, North Kordofan, Sennar, Kasala

Timeframe: July 2023 - October 2023

Beneficiaries: 3,569 health workers

Activities & Impact: SAPA provided financial incentives and food assistance for 3,569 health workers at eight health facilities in seven states. This served as a staff retention strategy, ensuring health workers have the nutrition and resources needed to continue to provide services to patients at their full capacity.

WASH Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene

Access to clean water and sanitation is a fundamental human right. SAPA is committed to making this right a reality. We implement comprehensive WASH programs to improve hygiene, prevent disease outbreaks, and provide safe drinking water. Our work not only ensures basic necessities but also fosters dignity and health within communities.

Improving the water supply and sanitation to IDPs in Gezira State - Hantou IDP Camp

Location: Gezira State

Timeframe: June - August 2023

Beneficiaries: 3,500

Activities & Impact: The project's primary objective was to enhance the provision of safe water, improve hygiene and health conditions within the Hantoub IDP Camp, and create a sustainable maintenance and management system for water supply facilities. The IDPs faced challenges such as water access issues, inadequate sanitation facilities, and insufficient bathing facilities, prompting SAPA to intervene.

The project aimed to increase safe water accessibility, enhance hygiene and sanitation practices, and foster a healthy environment within the camp. This included the development of an organizational structure, strengthening capacities for water supply facilities, improving spare parts supply and repair systems, and enhancing the hygienic behavior of camp residents.

In addition to infrastructure improvements, SAPA conducted sanitation and hygiene promotion activities. A tool was created to facilitate understanding of hygiene practices among camp residents. Training sessions were conducted for both residents and camp managers, leading to observable improvements in hygiene behaviors.

Improving the water supply and sanitation to IDPs in White Nile State

Location: White Nile State

Timeframe: August - September 2023

Beneficiaries: 4,733

Activities & Impact: SAPA implemented a program serving 12 IDP camps in Kosti, White Nile State to ensure access to clean water and prevent the potential spread of cholera and other diarrheal diseases. This included the provision of 15 water storage tanks with accompanying sewage systems, 38 drinking water containers and rehabilitating a number of toilets to eliminate the sources of contaminated water.



A Story of Hope

Mr. Imad Asalaya, a dedicated humanitarian volunteer in the local community of White Nile State, caught the attention of SAPA staff one day through the deep sadness in his eyes. Concerned, the SAPA team inquired about the source of his evident distress, and he began to share the troubling plight of children in the IDP camps of Kosti. He explained that the camps were grappling with the widespread outbreak of diarrheal diseases due to the absence of safe drinking water sources and a shortage of proper sanitation facilities. Determined to improve this dire situation and ensure access to safe water, SAPA embarked on a crucial mission in August and September 2023. Our objective was to install a comprehensive water supply and sanitation system in 12 IDP camps in Kosti, White Nile State. This involved providing 15 water storage tanks with sewage systems, distributing 38 drinking water containers, and rehabilitating or establishing numerous toilets. Our ultimate goal was to eliminate the sources of water contamination in a sustainable manner, thereby preventing the further spread of cholera and other diarrheal diseases. The project's impact was profound, benefiting a total of 4,733 individuals in the IDP camps of Kosti. As one of SAPA's projects in White Nile State, it marked a significant step toward enhancing the well-being of the community.

When the project was successfully completed, the SAPA team celebrated with Imad and others by sharing a cup of coffee at the Aljadeeda school camp, filled with a sense of accomplishment and the hope for a healthier future.

Improving WASH Services in Dongola

Location: Dongola, Northern State

Timeframe: August 2023 - Present

Beneficiaries: 13,750

Activities & Impact: Across 16 IDP camps in Dongola, IDPs face critical challenges related to WASH. SAPA responded by installing a water pump with full water connections in the IDP camp in Al-Selim, drilling a well with full connections in the IDP camp in Al-Saraya and distributing 250 hygiene kits to 250 families. Each kit contained essential items such as toothbrushes, toothpaste, soap bars, liquid soap, sanitary pads, and waste bags. SAPA also distributed 1,250 sanitary pads to 750 women. Additionally, over 3,000 waste bags and various cleaning items, including brooms, mops, buckets, and liquid soap, were distributed

Food and Nutrition

Nutrition is at the core of SAPA's mission. We seek to ensure that those impacted by the conflict have access to nutritious food, combat malnutrition, and provide support for sustainable food security.

Distribution of nutritious meals to IDPs

Location: Port Sudan and North Darfur

Timeframe: September 2023

Beneficiaries: 400,000 fortified meals

Activities & Impact: As access to food has been disrupted, SAPA provided nutritious meals to IDPs in Port Sudan and Northern Darfur in order to prevent malnutrition.

Food Kit Distributions

Location: Northern State, River Nile State, Gezira State

Timeframe: September - October 2023

Beneficiaries: 5,672 direct beneficiaries

Activities & Impact: In partnership with Sadagaat Charity Organization, SAPA funded 403 food supply bags in Atbara and 85 bags in Al-Damir River Nile State and 350 bags in Dongola, Northern State. This initiative supported 4363 individuals. Moreover, in partnership with We Are All Values Organization, SAPA funded food supply bags to 1309 individuals in Wad Madani, Gezira State.



Protection

For the most vulnerable, protection is paramount. Our teams are dedicated to safeguarding the rights and well-being of displaced and marginalized populations. By addressing issues such as gender-based violence, child protection, and psychosocial support, we support safe spaces and empower individuals to rebuild their lives. SAPA has partnered with trusted grassroots organizations to implement these projects.

Support to Mygoma Orphanage

Location: Khartoum

Partner Organization: Hadreen

Beneficiaries: 343 children and 80 employees

Activities & Impact: Through its partner organization Hadreen, SAPA provided support for the operation of Mygoma Orphanage in Khartoum. This includes living expenses for 343 children and salaries of 80 employees. Mygoma Orphanage provides support for children who have lost their parents as well as children who no longer have contact with or have been abandoned by their families. This promotes long-term stability in the facility as well as the children impacted.

Support to an Elderly Home

Location: Khartoum

Partner Organization: Hadreen

Beneficiaries: 27 elderly individuals and 23 employees

Activities & Impact: Through its partner organization Hadreen, SAPA funded the operational costs of an elderly home in Khartoum. This covered living expenses for 27 elderly individuals and staffing costs for 23 employees to ensure the facility continued operations during the ongoing conflict.

Support to Gezira Center for Psychological Assessment and Treatment Through SAPA Pediatric Chapter

Location: Gezira

Partner Organization: The Gezira Center for Psychological Assessment and Treatment

Beneficiaries: 27 68,193 total beneficiaries (Including 34,340 females above the age 18 years old, 5,160 of adolescent age, and 1,518 children below five years old).

Activities and Impact: SAPA provided support to the Gezira Center for Psychological Assessment and Treatment, focused on addressing the psychosocial support needs of children in conflict. This encompasses a range of interventions aimed at addressing their emotional and psychological needs, including providing safe spaces for children to express their feelings and fears, offering counseling and mental health services, and facilitating opportunities for play, art, and education to help them cope with trauma. By fostering resilience and emotional well-being, psychosocial support helps children rebuild a sense of security and normalcy in the midst of conflict's upheaval.

The operational activities of SAPA in Sudan focus on mental health and psychosocial support, emphasizing accountability to the affected population and fostering open, transparent community dialogue to strengthen protection agendas. The core objective of Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) within the accompaniment approach is not to merely "fix" families' problems but to facilitate their return to more functional lives. Programs are tailored to provide the necessary support for families to navigate the ambiguity and uncertainty arising when loved ones go missing.

The Gezira Center for Psychotherapy and Psychometric, in collaboration with the Pediatric Chapter of SAPA, recognizes the psychological challenges faced by families of missing persons. MHPSS serves as a monitoring mechanism to assess changes in symptoms related to depression, anxiety, psychosomatic pain, and distressing memories, as well as to evaluate aspects of daily functioning. Data indicates lasting improvements in mental health within displaced populations where MHPSS is implemented.

In conflict and violence scenarios, entire populations may undergo severe physical and psychological trauma. MHPSS interventions address the critical needs arising from the trauma of violence, with a particular focus on victims of sexual violence, unaccompanied children, and children associated with armed forces or groups. The interventions aim to prevent further harm, support victims, and address challenges that emerge during help-seeking, emphasizing cultural sensitivity and appropriateness.

The Gezira Center for Psychotherapy and Psychometric, alongside the Pediatric chapter in SAPA, employs MHPSS activities that include trauma psych education. This education provides insights into how past trauma may impact the brain and contribute to current symptoms, fostering understanding among individuals in shelter and outdoor spaces. The aim is to normalize feelings and provide a sense of security by discussing statistics and symptoms, letting individuals know they are not alone.

Psychodrama is employed to help individuals work through painful emotions, understand others' perspectives, and resolve trauma. This approach enhances skills in dealing with practical social situations, improving adaptability and productivity. The combination of lectures and psychodrama aids in normalizing feelings, making individuals more productive and adaptable in new situations.



Despite some opinions prioritizing food provision over mental health discussions during wartime, SAPA's experience highlights the importance of psychosocial support and mental health activities. Through dialogue, people find solutions to physical and emotional challenges, resulting in improved mood, shifted thinking, changed behaviors, increased life satisfaction, and decreased negative thoughts and patterns. Participants report positive changes such as improved sleep, functionality, job searches, decreased alcohol use, enhanced community communication, and a sense of belonging. This holistic approach not only reduces the risk factors of diseases but also contributes to overall health improvement and resource conservation within the healthcare system.

The program's agenda included a pivotal focus on raising awareness against gender-based violence and the sexual abuse of children. To address these critical issues, a multi-faceted approach was employed, utilizing lectures to educate, videos to illustrate real-life scenarios, posters to create lasting visual reminders, and plays to dramatically depict the impact of such acts. These methods were carefully curated to engage the community effectively, foster understanding, and promote preventative measures.

Support to displaced persons at the Egyptian border

Location: Argeen

Partner Organization: Salmeen

Beneficiaries: 2,000 direct beneficiaries

Activities & Impact: SAPA provided funds to its partner organization, Salmeen, to provide food and shelter for 2,000 IDPs in Argeen, Sudan at the Egyptian border.





ADVOCACY & MEDIA

In the immediate aftermath of the crisis in Sudan, SAPA developed an impactful media relations and thought leadership strategy which have yielded substantial results. We have garnered extensive media coverage in top-tier publications and broadcast outlets, shedding light on SAPA's humanitarian priorities and featuring key spokespeople across SAPA's operational domains. Additionally, we've crafted and placed influential columns to reach critical audiences and infuse fresh perspectives into the political discourse.

Through proactive and reactive engagement with the media, SAPA has consistently kept the international spotlight on the daily struggles of the Sudanese people, as well as the imperative political and humanitarian solutions required to alleviate their suffering. This effort has also elevated SAPA's profile and leadership not only in the United States but on a global scale, facilitating essential partnerships with the Biden administration, civil society, and allied organizations in the humanitarian and human rights spheres.

Notably, SAPA has become a trusted resource and partner for prominent advocacy groups in Washington, D.C. Policymakers and advocates continue to turn to SAPA for its expertise and insights. Furthermore, when journalists seek to provide a comprehensive view of the situation in Sudan, they increasingly rely on SAPA as a leading voice in the Sudanese diaspora and a pivotal first responder on the ground.

SAPA's media coverage has highlighted the wide range of SAPA's emergency response efforts – from work in Chad featured in [The Guardian](#), [Wad Madani highlighted on the BBC](#), and [SAPA's Khartoum response discussed in The New York Times](#).

SAPA has also participated in talks and led rallies to raise awareness on the critical humanitarian need in Sudan. In September 2023, in collaboration with Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch, Refugee Congress, Refugees International, Act for Sudan, Girifna and others, SAPA organized a rally in front of White House to demand additional funding for humanitarian response in Sudan and attention to human rights violations.

SAPA regularly highlights the significant need in Sudan through professional and academic platforms. In October, SAPA's President Dr. Yasir Elamin spoke at a briefing for the Annual Meeting of the US National Academy of Medicine, hosted by the Committee on Human Rights of the U.S National Academies of Science, Engineering and Medicine. Dr. Elamin spoke about human rights abuses occurring in Sudan and repeated attacks on healthcare facilities and the urgency in providing additional aid. In September, SAPA Secretary, Dr. Mohamed Eisa spoke at the Georgetown Institute for Women, Peace and Security in a virtual session, "Caught in the Crossfire: Sudanese Women's Struggle for Peace" along with Ambassador Melanne Vermeer. Dr. Eisa highlighted the challenges in delivering humanitarian responses in Sudan, especially those targeting vulnerable groups (women and children) and provided recommendations to overcome these challenges.

Finally, through SAPA's outreach and advocacy efforts, the team has also explored 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, the objective was to conduct a comprehensive needs assessment. SAPA intends to expand programming in Chad based on these needs in the coming months. As a result of this mission, SAPA was interviewed by the Guardian, the Wall Street Journal, and the BBC.



CHALLENGES & LESSONS LEARNED

Overview of challenges during implementation:

- While SAPA mobile clinics present a promising solution, they also encounter several challenges and limitations. One of the primary obstacles is the constrained resources available within SAPA mobile clinics. Due to their mobile nature, these clinics often contend with limited space and a finite supply of medical resources. This can impede the provision of comprehensive healthcare services, especially for complex medical conditions that necessitate specialized equipment and facilities, highlighting the need for establishing a dedicated SAPA hospital for IDPs.
- Another significant challenge lies in building capacity among our staff to enhance the quality of services offered and boost beneficiary satisfaction.
- The majority of IDPs have sought refuge within the homes of family members and local community members (a practice known as community hosting). This has led to difficulties in accurately determining their numbers and ensuring effective delivery of aid and relief to this dispersed population.
- While most aid efforts are directed towards IDPs in established shelters, such as schools, boarding schools, and places of worship, these represent only a small portion, estimated at approximately 10%, of the total displaced population. The majority, around 80%, falls under the category of community hosting.
- While direct support to health facilities has significantly alleviated the burden of the high patient volume resulting from the dense and continuous influx of displaced individuals, it does not guarantee that the displaced will fully benefit from the allocated funds for medical and health assistance.
- The existing health infrastructure and services were already lacking before the onset of the war and displacement, and now they are overstretched and inadequately maintained.
- Many health centers and health workers do not follow designated referral systems, making it difficult to ensure comprehensive medical care for patients.



Recommendations for future humanitarian response:

- In order to ensure the long-term sustainability of SAPA's medical care for IDPs, it is essential to focus on building capacity, strengthening partnerships, and developing a comprehensive healthcare strategy.
- To enhance the effectiveness of our response, we propose the development of a robust database to capture detailed information about IDPs, their specific needs, and their current health status. This data-driven approach will enable more targeted and tailored assistance.
- Collaboration with local and state authorities is paramount for the establishment of a strong Early Warning and Response System (EWARS). This partnership will enhance our ability to monitor health-related developments, respond swiftly to emerging health threats, and ensure a coordinated and efficient humanitarian response.
- SAPA strongly recommends the construction of a primary healthcare facility equipped with a well-defined referral system. This facility will not only provide critical primary care services but also serve as a hub for coordinating and facilitating specialized care when needed, thus ensuring a more comprehensive and integrated healthcare approach for IDPs.

CONCLUSION

In the last 6 months, SAPA has served over 300,000 beneficiaries in six states across Sudan, delivering critical medical aid to those most in need. Through comprehensive needs assessments and a wraparound, holistic approach to service delivery, SAPA has designed programs to maximize impact and promote sustainability. This has included stepping in to support multiple hospitals by covering their operational expenses amid a collapsing healthcare system, as well as establishing mobile clinics and a hospital to address the needs of displaced populations. In recent months, SAPA has taken a significant step by opening a hospital in Medani, Gezira State providing free medical care to a catchment population of 80,000 IDPs. Finally, SAPA has launched a WASH program, reaching out to thousands of displaced individuals in camps across Gezira State, White Nile State, and Northern State. This initiative serves as a crucial preventive measure against major outbreaks of cholera, malaria, and life-threatening diarrheal diseases.

Until the conflict is resolved, SAPA intends to continue this work by prioritizing the needs of those displaced by the conflict, providing healthcare through mobile teams, directly supporting health facilities and implementing WASH programs in IDP camps. We will also focus on building resilience in local communities through health systems strengthening.

In the coming years, SAPA will continue to foster cross-cultural understanding and collaboration. 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.



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DONORS & PARTNERS

The work of SAPA would not be possible without the generous support from a number of donors and 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

Donors:

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