



Safe mothers and healthy babies in Hamashkoreib

The car left very early in the morning to Hamashkoreib, on board two members of the Italian Cooperation staff, the Director of Communications Department of the Ministry of Health in Kassala, Mr. Osman Mohamed Adam, and Mrs. Shadia Mohamed Karrar trainer and supervisor of midwives.

We all were excited to reach the newly rehabilitated maternity ward for different reasons.



The newly rehabilitated maternity ward in Hamashkoreib.

Italian Cooperation has refurbished and equipped this facility, and launched a set of trainings for midwives: “*Omuma Afdal*” pilot initiative, under the PQHS program.

Since 2012 no professional training had been provided to community midwives and no proper health services were available to pregnant women. To encourage women to give birth locally and safely, services at community level need to be strengthened.

Mrs. Shadia Mohamed Karrar is responsible for the courses in collaboration with the PQHS program staff and she is also supervising the management of the new structure. She proudly held in her arms the first newborn baby in the maternity which now registers an average of 30 deliveries per month.

“Women coming from the villages around Hamashkoreib are a bit scared of the structure when they first approach it, because they are not used to such places.” one of the trained midwives explained.



Mrs Shadia Karrar with the first newborn baby at the maternity.

Women are used to deliver at home and they do not usually go to see a doctor unless they feel pain or they might be experiencing complications.



Mrs Shadia Karrar and Mr Osman Mohamed Adam during the shootings.

The new maternity and the availability of trained community midwives ensure the right to health for these mothers and their children and can make the difference between life and death for many women.

The pilot initiative in Hamash-koreib can be a case of study for other localities and promote good health practices.

This is what Mr Osman Mohamed Adam thought joining the trip to the maternity. As Director of the Communications Department at Ministry of Health, he was seeking new stories to produce documentaries for the mobile cinema sessions of health promotion.

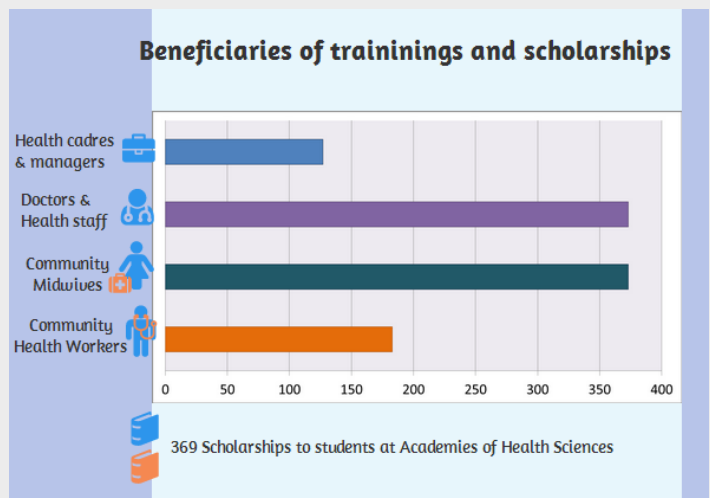
Mr. Osman and some of his collaborators were eager to see how the new maternity works and to interview Mrs. Karrar and the midwives.

They also wanted to practice new lessons learnt during the last training in video making carried out by Italian Cooperation in collaboration with AFROCAM and the CPD in Kassala.

“The training was a great opportunity for me and my colleagues: it was practical and really developed our technical knowledge. Many departments within the Ministry are now asking us to create new videos in support of their activities”, said Mr Osman.

During the first year of PQHS activities, many efforts were devoted to training of front line providers and health cadres within health institutions to improve the quality of health system and make achieved results sustainable in the future.

“Omuma afdal” initiative is currently carried out also in Telkook locality and will involve 78 Community Midwives.



Celebrating together our first results

Local authorities and people in Gedaref warmly welcomed the Italian Deputy Ambassador, Chiara Petracca accompanied by the Director of Italian Cooperation Office, Alberto Bortolan.

At the end of March they left Khartoum to visit two villages in Wasat locality: Umm Sheghera and Maela. A crowd of people greeted and received them for the inaugurations of the newly rehabilitated health facilities under the PQHS program.

Umm Sheghera's health center plays a strategic role in helping to moderate the flow of patients



The main entrance of the maternity ward in Umm Sheghera.



The Deputy Ambassador, Chiara Petracca, and the Minister of Health, H.E. Abdallah Bashir Haj Mousa, during celebrations in Umm Sheghera.

towards the main hospital in the city of Gedaref. Italian Cooperation refurbished and equipped the maternity block and constructed a block of latrines for patients. Now pregnant women can access health assistance in their own village while, before the intervention, they were forced to reach the main hospital in Gedaref to deliver their babies or in case of any obstetric emergency.

The Head of Public Committee expressed his gratitude to Italian Cooperation and the European Union on behalf of the population and stated the community's commitment to maintaining the structure clean and well-functioning.

The health center in Maela is located in a very isolated area and it is the only reachable health facility during the raining season. Both residents of the village and nomadic communities rely on it for medical assistance.

Italian Cooperation rehabilitated and equipped it and it is now managed by the community in Maela.



The Deputy Ambassador, Chiara Petracca, and the Minister of Health, H.E. Abdallah Bashir Haj Mousa, during celebrations in Maela.



The health center in Umm Sheghera.



The health center in Maela.

Completed rehabilitation works in 2014		
State	Locality	Facility
Kassala		
	Telkook	Drugstore
		Health staff houses
	Hamashkoreib	Drugstore
Red Sea		Hospital (maternal care)
	Sinkat	Drugstore
		LHA offices
		Hospital (maternal care)
Gedaref		
	Rahad	Drugstore
		Maela Family Health Center
	Wasat	Umm Sheghera (maternal care)

Drugs distribution system launched in Sinkat locality

Availability of drugs and health staff are essential to ensure the right to health care. Mostly the lack of medicines and capacities force people in the most isolated areas to costly travels and expose them to avoidable medical complications.

PQHS staff in Red Sea State travelled through desert tracks and mountains to reach eight remote communities in Sinkat locality and discuss the system of drugs distribution with local leaders and health assistants. Representatives of Ministry of Health – Revolving Drugs Fund, Local Health Administration, and the National Health Insurance (NHI) accompanied the PQHS mission. It was the first time for some of these communities to receive such a delegation.

Sitting under a big tree or a thatched roof, local leaders considered the mechanism, expressed needs of the health centers and made commitments.

They became aware of the system and understood the need to fulfill specific requirements in order to be accredited by the National Health Insurance.



PQHS mission meet local leaders in Tomsai village.

Medicines, trained staff and availability of basic laboratory investigation will make their health units operative under the NHI umbrella and able to ensure quality of services and access to health for the people in their villages.

After the meetings, PQHS staff equipped these eight health centers with basic furniture to store the drugs and invited the local health assistants to participate in a training on drugs interaction, prescription and posology which was held at Sinkat hospital at the beginning of April.



Installation of furniture at the Health Center in Tomsai village.

Distribution of equipment and trainings were essential preliminary steps to launch the pilot system of drugs distribution in Sinkat. Refreshment training on protocols, drugs distribution and use of basic medical equipment was organized previously in February.



Sinkat hospital. Training of health assistants in drugs interaction, prescription and posology.



Purchased drugs were stockpiled at the newly rehabilitated drugstore at Sinkat hospital, the delivery took place during the training itself to hand the first supply over to the health assistants. They also collected medical tool kits.

It was an initial step to trigger a change for all the members of their communities.

“I learnt a lot from the training, especially about laboratory test and posology of drugs. I feel that I benefited a lot from this course and I am happy to play an active role for my community. They will not need to come to Sinkat hospital any-more to get any treatment”, said Mayzoub Ahmed, one of the health assistants from Elgit.



Delivery of medicines to Sinkat Drugstore.

All the health assistants have now to go monthly to Sinkat drugstore for new stock of medicines and reporting.

For further information

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