

## Press Release - August 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2018

On August the 2nd at the premises of the Public Health Institute (PHI) of the Federal Ministry of Health - a technical agreement concerning the establishment of the Master's Degree Training Programme in Family Health has been signed between the Director of the Italian Agency for Development Cooperation (AICS), Dr. Vincenzo Racalbuto, and the Director General of the PHI, Dr. Abdalla Sidahmed Osman.

The two-year master's degree – directly organized by the PHI within the project funded by AICS "DICTORNA-FAMILY HEALTH in the States of Red Sea, Kassala, Gadaref and Khartoum" - will tackle 300 post graduated medicine students with the aim of reinforcing the professional figure and establishing a Family Health approach model within the health centers across the four above mentioned States in line with the country's National Strategy focused on extending the coverage of essential health services to the entire population, with particular attention to the most vulnerable groups and marginal areas.

The major outcomes of the collaboration between AICS and PHI will be the strengthening of the family health system in the country, the expansion of PHC networks and the strengthening of a national health insurance fund, added Vincenzo Racalbuto, in order to strive for the achievement of the SDG 3 "Ensure healthy lives and promote wellbeing for all at all ages" and ensure a real and sustainable development of Sudan in the long medium-term.

The post-graduate training – concluded the Director – is in line with the Italian Cooperation interventions in Sudan where Italy is on the frontline in improving the health system capabilities, in particular in the Eastern States. Our aim is to support our Sudanese partners in the provision of high-quality, accessible, and affordable primary care-based health services.