



## **Press Release – Inauguration of the Nutrition Unit at the Gedaref Teaching Hospital**

On January 19th 2020, at Teaching Hospital in Gedaref, the Nutrition Unit funded by the Italian Cooperation was inaugurated in the presence of the Secretary General of the Gedaref State Governorate, H.E. Abdelmonaim Ahmed Bella, Director General, Ministry of Health Gedaref State, Dr. Mutasim Adeb AlRaheem Taha, the Ambassador of Italy Gianluigi Vassallo and the AICS Representative Vincenzo Racalbuto, together with representatives of the Hospital. The Italian intervention provided equipment for 20 beds, 4 ICU semi intensive ICU beds, medical equipment, furniture, one kitchen.

*“Italy is deeply committed in Sudan through a number of initiatives strengthening the health system: at the moment Italy is implementing - through AICS – a number of projects in the Health Sector equivalent to 62% of its total budget allocated to Sudan”* stated the Italian Ambassador Vassallo, underlying that Italy is deeply committed in the fight against malnutrition and to improve the health system in Sudan.

*“Those interventions are in line with the Italian role as donor convener for the UN Programme SUN - Scaling Up Nutrition - aimed at prioritizing nutrition as central to national development and imperative to improve maternal and child nutrition. All the efforts will be in line with the Strategy and the Roadmap (2016-2020) in order to achieve SDG #2 “Zero Hunger by 2030”* he concluded.

The representative of AICS Khartoum - Vincenzo Racalbuto – recalled that the Italian cooperation is committed in Kassala – Gedaref and Khartoum through a number of initiatives tackling hospital services improvement; primary health care development; and clinical quality. He added the importance of prevention during the first 1.000 days of life that have a profound impact on a child's ability to grow, learn and thrive — and a lasting effect on a country's health and prosperity.

The Governor thanked the Italian Government for the commitment in enhancing global health security in line with the Sustainable Development Goal Objectives.