A.I.S.P.O.

Associazione Italiana per la Solidarietà tra i Popoli
Italian Association for Solidarity Among People

ANNUAL REPORT 2019-2020
AISPO is a Non-Governmental Organization founded by a group of operators from the Scientific Institute San Raffaele Hospital of Milan. The Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs formally recognized AISPO in 1985 as an organization suited to implement international cooperation activities in developing countries in the health sector.

AISPO implements health care projects that support and supply human and material resources to public hospitals, health centers and dispensaries, in collaboration with local and national authorities of the countries of operation.

AISPO projects are characterized by:

- **training and technical assistance** to enhance healthcare services and staff capacities through on the job training, theoretical training, workshops and scholarships;

- ambitious civil works projects to rehabilitate and equip healthcare units from primary health centers to general hospitals to highly specialized hospital units.

AISPO mainly uses human resources available within the San Raffaele Hospital and the Vita-Salute San Raffaele University with which it is associated. Thanks to these links, the association has great expertise and know-how that make it a unique organization in the panorama of Italian NGOs.
Countries of operation:

- Colombia
- Egypt
- Iraqi Kurdistan
- Madagascar
- Sierra Leone
- South Sudan
- Sudan
- Vietnam
COLOMBIA
**Intervention for the improvement of health conditions in the rural population of the Pacific Coast, victims of the armed conflict, without access to health services through health promotion actions and prevention of diseases**

Funded by the Directorate-General for European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (DG ECHO)

**ECHO Funding € 570.000,00 | Status Closed**

The San Raffaele Hospital Ship, 26 meters long by 7 meters wide, has a well-equipped gynecology room with an ultrasound machine and fetal monitor, a pediatric office (photo on the right), a dental office, a clinical laboratory, a pharmacy, an operating room, a 2-bed recovery room, a sterilization center and a patient reception area.
This project reached victims of the armed conflict with the San Raffaele Hospital Ship and delivered health services. Fifteen missions of the Ship were implemented, focusing on health care and protection. 26,414 beneficiaries were assisted.

Main activities implemented by the two Local Partners Fundacion ItaloColombiana del Monte Tabor (FICMT) and Aldeas Infantiles SOS:

- 27,503 Primary Health Care consultations
- 6,427 laboratory exams: cytology, HIV, syphilis, obstetric ultrasounds and cervical cancer
- Family planning and delivery of contraception methods for 1,252 beneficiaries
- 4 community-based epidemiological systems and reports for dengue, malaria, tuberculosis, scabies, and chickenpox
- 321 families filled in food surveys to analyse their diets
- Workshops and trainings:
  - 40 Psychosocial support group sessions focusing on recuperation of self-trust, resilience, awareness processes and identification of risk factors
  - Safe Places for 299 women and girls to identify and address Gender Based Violence (GBV) risks and strengthen assistance for GBV cases
  - Implementation of 4 child-friendly spaces with activities to mitigate risks and strengthen self-care skills to respond to violence
  - WASH activities based on self-care and hygiene, prevention of diseases, solid waste management, and environmental care

The activities were implemented on the Pacific Coast in the districts of Cauca, Valle del Cauca, Chocó, Nariño.
183 midwives and 135 community mothers improved practical and theoretical knowledge on pregnant women and children's health. Awareness workshops on sexual and reproductive health for 1,528 adolescents were organized.
Implementation of 4.384 specialized consultations (dental, surgeries, pediatrics, gynecology).
Purchase of a 4x4 pick-up truck and an ambulance speed boat to better reach patients.
Intervention for the improvement of health conditions and risk management of the population victim of armed conflict and of migrants living in the Pacific Coast, through a strategy of Primary Health Care, Psychosocial support and strengthening of local capacities

Funded by the Directorate General for Civil Protection and European Humanitarian Aid Operations (DG ECHO)

ECHO Funding € 900,000.00 | Status In Progress

Beneficiaries of the project are 21,781 individuals and 50 organisations, predominantly of Afro and Indigenous origin and Venezuelan refugees living in rural areas who are victims of the armed conflict and have poor access to basic health services. Particular attention is given to groups at risk, such as children and pregnant women.

The Ship sails for 10-day missions along the Colombian rivers, overcoming the limitations of access to health services caused by problems of the armed conflict (guerrilla, FARC, ELN Mexican narcotics) and complex geographical accessibility (high and low tide).
This project reaches victims of the armed conflict, providing health services with the San Raffaele Hospital Ship, and introduces risk management in partnership with the Meritorious Voluntary Fire Fighters Brigade of Cali.

- Institutional and community preparedness and medical emergency response:
  - Emergency Medical Team (E.M.T.) made up of a truck, four inflatable tents, medical consumables and medical equipment

- Medical consultations through the hospital ship:
  - More than 17,000 Primary Health Care consultations and referrals to higher level medical care
  - Nutritional surveys for families with children from 0 to 10 years of age
  - Laboratory tests to implement diagnoses
  - Sexual and reproductive health care

- Awareness campaigns, workshops and trainings:
  - Health promotion and disease prevention in communities
  - Gender Based Violence (GBV) detection of cases to provide individual psychosocial support
  - Workshops for health workers and midwives
  - Workshops on community resilience and on integrated risk management

- Emergency assistance:
  - Detection of cases and awareness/information campaigns in response to the global COVID-19 pandemic
ABOVE: An inflatable tent of the field hospital.

RIGHT: Drawing of the field hospital, which includes 4 inflatable tents and implant kits, 1 customized electrical system, 4 inflatable input and connection modules, a 10.000-liter tank for drinking water, and a 10.000-liter tank for waste water.
Emergency assistance for suspected cases, awareness/information campaigns, delivery mission to Nariño on the Pacific Coast to supply medicine and personal protective equipment.
EGYPT
Support to the improvement of nursing care in 3 Governorates in Egypt

Developed in cooperation with University of Sassari and funded by the Italian Agency for Development Cooperation (AICS)

AICS Funding €3,579,508.45 | Status In Progress
This project supports the Department of Nursing Assistance of the Ministry of Health and the local population to improve the training capacity of the nursing staff in the Governorates of Port Said, South Sinai and Ismailia.

- Courses for around 2,000 nurses in the Health Technical Institute in Port Said and Ismailia
- Courses for 25 mentors and tutors and for 2,000 teachers in Port Said, Ismailia and Sharm El Sheikh
- Courses for 684 students of the Health Technical Institute in Port Said and Ismailia
- Training of 200 participants in e-learning
- Referrals for Children with congenital heart disease
- Training for 5 nurses and 2 doctors on screening for congenital heart disease and other cardiovascular problems
- Approximately 2,500 patient consultations per year by the Center for Cardiac and Vascular Problems Screening of Port Said
- Rehabilitation of a specialist cardiology clinic and purchase of equipment in Port Said
- Scholarships in Italy for nursing staff and training of personnel on site
- Rehabilitation of the nursing section of the Ismailia Technical Institute (HTI)
- Purchase of equipment and consumables for the technical institutes and training centers
- Definition of a Research Plan to be shared with the authorities of the beneficiary Governorates and with the Ministry of Health
KURDISTAN REGION OF IRAQ
Support to mental health services for children and adolescents in the Duhok Province

Funded by the Italian Agency for Development Cooperation (AICS)

AICS Funding € 609,963,00 | Status Closed

LEFT: Creation of an inclusive playground to encourage the socialization of the center’s patients with children and adolescents in the neighborhood and to work towards achieving psychomotor objectives through play.

BOTTOM: Technical assistance provided by a team of multidisciplinary experts to train and supervise the staff and introduce new best practices and international standards at the Child and Adolescent Mental Health Center.
The project focused on the activation and rehabilitation of the Duhok Child and Adolescent Mental Health Center, the only Mental Health Center dedicated to this target in the whole of Iraq. This project, in synergy with another mental health project funded by the World Health Organization (WHO), has delivered services to over 3.000 children and adolescents.

- Reorganization, renovation and activation of the Child and Adolescent Mental Health Center (CAMHC)
- Implementation of a 10-month training program for 40 participants, involving more than 10 different key health facilities
- Introduction of best practices and international standards of care
- Creation of an inclusive playground
- Selection and purchase of training and informational material and creation of original educational material in the Kurdish language
- Activation of an afternoon shift and 2 outreach mobile teams for home and school visits
- Activation of a mental health service from scratch in the Syrian refugee camp in Bardarash for traumatized children and adolescents
- Adaptation and validation of psychological tests to the Kurdish culture and context
- Data analysis
TOP: Creation of original educational material, specifically adapted to the Kurdish language and context, to be used with Kurdish patients.

LEFT: Reorganized and renovated Child and Adolescent Mental Health Centre.
Support DGoH-Duhok in providing quality mental health services to address the needs of IDPs, refugees and host communities

Funded by the World Health Organization (WHO)

WHO Funding € 399,066,88 | Status In Progress

This project strengthens the Duhok Directorate General of Health’s capacities in delivering quality mental health services at primary and secondary levels.

- Set up of a new Mental Health Office at Duhok Directorate General of Health
- Development of a provincial plan of action with related guidelines
- Creation of books and brochures on sleeping problems, communication, Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) and psychomotor issues for services and families
- Support to the psychiatric department of Azadi Hospital
A solar panel system was installed at the pharmacies in the Primary Health Centers of Domiz 1 and Domiz 2 refugee camps.

Support Duhok Directorate of Health in providing quality primary and secondary health services to address the needs of Syrian refugees and host community

Funded by the World Health Organization (WHO)

WHO Funding €247,302,68 | Status Closed

Reorganization and renovation of the pharmacy in Domiz 1 refugee camp.
The project ensured timely access to primary and critical healthcare services especially for the infants and children of the host community and displaced communities affected by the ongoing crisis in Duhok

• Extension and renovation works at Primary Health Centers in 4 Syrian refugee camps

• Extension and renovation of the Critical Care Unit at Hevi Pediatric Teaching Hospital, increasing the admission capacity from 4 to 11 beds

• Training of 24 medical and nursing Critical Care Unit staff on international best practices and hospital Standard Operating Procedures through a 5-month training program

Reorganized generator station and electricity plant at Domiz 2 camp.
Support to mother and child and critical care services in Duhok province (Phase II)

Funded by the European Union, through the EU Regional Trust Fund in response to the Syrian crisis: the EU MADAD Fund

**EU Funding** € 5,199,712,08 | **Status** In Progress

This project is a follow-up of a first phase, to address the health of mothers and children, as well as aspects of emergency response.

- Civil works at Amedy Hospital to build a new surgical department with two operating theaters
- Civil works at Akre Hospital to build a new delivery room and a 4-bed sub-intensive neonatal care unit, light renovations of the maternity wards and new administrative block
- Equip Duhok Maternity Hospital delivery room with new medical furniture and essential biomedical items
- Technical assistance and training by expatriate experts in Duhok and Akre
- Training at Duhok Emergency and Trauma Hospital
- Training of 674 health operators on COVID-19 protection and prevention
- Double the number of beds at Hevi Pediatric Hospital and harmonization of the wards and corridor (partly rehabilitated in Phase 1)
The old operating block has been demolished and a new operating block composed of two operating theaters will be constructed in its place.
Expansion of the Pediatric Neonatal Intensive Care Unit at Hevi Pediatric Hospital.
Accessibility, inclusiveness and quality of basic health services for minors in the Province of Duhok and Nineveh plain

Funded by the Italian Agency for Development Cooperation (AICS)

**AICS Funding** € 499,981,00 | **Status** In Progress

Medicines and awareness materials for Type I Diabetes Mellitus patients, to teach children how to cope with the disease in an autonomous way.

New waiting area at the Hevi Pediatric Hospital OPD (out patient department).
This project improves access to health care services for Children with Disabilities and children with chronic diseases in Duhok.

- Break down architectural barriers at Hevi Pediatric Hospital to guarantee access to about 250,000 patients a year
- Data collection on over 4,500 patients per month at the Outpatient Department of the Hospital to implement referrals to the Early Detection of Childhood Disability Center (EDCDC) and to the Child and Adolescent Mental Health Center
- Physiotherapy assessment at the EDCDC and procurement of psychomotor equipment for children with disabilities
- Activation of Community Based Rehabilitation Teams in the districts
- Support to children with Type I Diabetes Mellitus to cope with the disease
Strengthening HRH (Human Resources for Health) in Duhok Province

Funded by the German Government through the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ; GmbH)

GIZ/GmbH Funding € 2.078.796,00 | Status In Progress

Training courses for health operators on COVID-19 carried out by expatriate nurses.

Creation of the first Training Simulation Center in Medicine for Health Professions in Iraq:
- Collaboration with the Simulation Centre in Health Science (SIMNOVA) at the University of Eastern Piedmont in Italy
- Remote Training of Trainers to support the activation of the center
- Light rehabilitation of the center and procurement of equipment, simulators and furniture

Technical support for the activation of the Emergency Department of the Azadi Hospital in Dhuok:
- Assessment at the Emergency and Trauma Teaching Hospital and Azadi Teaching Hospital to evaluate nursing competencies
- Training on the job and remote training to medical doctors and nurses
- Creation of Standard Operating Procedures and activation of a Triage System
Training courses on treating COVID-19 patients in response to the global pandemic carried out by an expatriate nurse from San Raffaele Hospital in Milan during a long-term mission.
This project strengthens the capacity of the nursing staff at Rapareen Paediatric Hospital in Erbil to provide quality critical care services to neonates and children.

- Consolidation of the role of Hevi Pediatric Teaching Hospital in Duhok as a center of excellence for quality neonatal and pediatric critical care

- Training of 12 nurses from Rapareen Pediatric Teaching Hospital at Duhok Hevi Pediatric Teaching Hospital to strengthen nursing critical care skills in Erbil, the capital of Kurdistan Autonomous Region, Iraq

- Opening of a new Intensive Care Unit and supply of equipment at Rapareen Pediatric Teaching Hospital in Erbil thanks to this collaboration

Reorganization and supply of equipment to the Intensive Care Unit at Rapareen Pediatric Teaching Hospital in Erbil.
Training of 12 nurses of Rapareen Pediatric Teaching Hospital at Duhok Hevi Pediatric Teaching Hospital.
Support Duhok Directorate of Health in providing quality health services at Hevi Hospital through the expansion of the Pediatric Intensive Care Unit and the harmonization of wards, to address the needs of Syrian refugees and the host community.

Funded by the World Health Organization (WHO)

WHO Funding € 361,966,25 | Status In Progress
This project continues building the capacities of the Hevi Pediatric Teaching Hospital in Duhok, which has currently become a model in the region.

• Expansion of the Pediatric Intensive Care Unit at Hevi Pediatric Hospital in Duhok (increase of 4 more beds)

• Light renovation, maintenance, and harmonization of Hevi Pediatric Hospital, with special focus on the pediatric wards, that were partly refurbished during the previous MADAD funded project (2016-2018)

• Enhance the technical capacity of Hevi Pediatric Teaching Hospital staff as per international best practices, targeting 15 professionals
28 Training courses targeting 674 health care workers on the use of personal protective equipment, procedures for infection prevention and control and basic and advanced nursing care.
MADAGASCAR
TRANS NY RENY (the mother’s house) – Integrated social and health program for young women in need in the city of Ambanja

Funded by Otto Per Mille of the Waldensian Church

Tavola Valdese Funding € 15.000,00 | Status In Progress

A health worker explains the use of the PANDA app to a young woman. The PANDA app monitors pre- and post-natal visits.
This project integrates health and social services for women and their children at the dispensary of the public hospital of Ambanja, in the northern part of Madagascar.

• Pre- and Post-natal care for at least 800 women using the PANDA app
• Psychological and legal support to at least 400 women followed by the PANDA programme in the “House of Women”
• Training of 15 public hospital staff on the use of PANDA system by a team of experts from the St. Damien Centre in Ambanja
• Organization of distance training sessions on psychology and psychiatry with expatriate experts due to the COVID-19 pandemic
• School support for single mothers
• Reading groups in schools and prisons
• Singing courses
• 20-hour basic computerization courses (with the ICB – St. Foundation) for 300 people
• Activation of a cyber café
• Theatrical activities with a movie club
SUDAN
Support to the development of human resources in the health sector in the Red Sea State

Developed in cooperation with University of Sassari and funded by the Italian Agency for Development Cooperation (AICS)

AICS Funding € 1,955,236.00 | Status Closed

Rehabilitation of the Central Laboratory, now nationally recognized as an independent laboratory.

Mission of a medical doctor from the San Raffaele Hospital of Milan.
This project improved the training capacities of the Academy of Health Sciences (AHS) and intervened in the maternal and child health and laboratory services of the Central Laboratory, Pediatric Hospital and Maternity Hospital of Port Sudan, where training is carried out.

- Rehabilitation of the Pediatric Hospital, the Maternity Hospital and General Laboratory of Port Sudan
- Technical assistance and training of the local staff through missions of medical doctors, nurses and laboratory experts
- Introduction of clinical guidelines and protocols according to international best practices
- Scholarships in Italy at the University of Sassari for 6 laboratory experts and at the San Raffaele Hospital of Milan for 1 head nurse
- Scholarships at the Soba Hospital in Khartoum for 30 local nurses, 4 teachers and 4 laboratory specialists
- Technical assistance and training of a construction expert in the supervision of the civil works
- Supply of equipment, medical drugs, medical consumables, and non-medical materials
- Development of applied scientific research lines and elaboration of scientific documentation

The Central Laboratory of Port Sudan is now nationally recognized as an independent laboratory and a central COVID-19 testing lab for the Eastern States: reports of lab results can be sent directly to the National Laboratory without Khartoum’s approval.
Rehabilitation of the Pediatric Hospital and the Maternity Hospital.
Rehabilitation of the Maternity Hospital.
ABOVE: Training by two expatriate nurses in the rehabilitated neonatal intensive care unit (NICU) at the Pediatric Teaching Hospital.

RIGHT: Training of laboratory staff in the Central Laboratory on the use of new biomedical testing equipment by expatriate microbiologists from the University of Sassari.
Scholarship at San Raffaele Hospital of Milan for a head nurse from the Port Sudan Pediatric Teaching Hospital.

Mission of an expatriate nurse from the San Raffaele Hospital of Milan in the rehabilitated Port Sudan Pediatric Teaching Hospital.
Support to medical education of public institutions in Kassala State

Developed in cooperation with University of Sassari and funded by the Italian Agency for Development Cooperation (AICS)

AICS Funding € 1,002,719,00 | Status Closed

Scholarships in Italy at the University of Sassari for 3 assistant professors of the University of Kassala.

Mission of a laboratory expert from the University of Sassari.
The project strengthened laboratory diagnostic capabilities at the Academy of Health Sciences of Kassala, at the University of Kassala and at academic sites in Khartoum.

- Introduction of procedures on microbiological diagnostic methods and development of quality control protocols
- Scholarships in Italy at the University of Sassari for 3 assistant professors of the University of Kassala
- Scholarships at the Mycetoma Research Center of Khartoum for 6 teachers of the University of Kassala
- Rehabilitation of the Microbiology Laboratory of the University of Kassala
- Construction of a Molecular Biology Laboratory inside the University of Kassala for the research on communicable diseases
- Supply of equipment, laboratory instruments, reagents, and consumables
- Development of lines of research and elaboration of scientific documentation
- Technical assistance and training of the local staff through missions of laboratory experts
- Training of 181 laboratory students of the Academy of Health Sciences of Kassala
Supply of equipment, laboratory instruments, reagents and consumables.
Training of the local staff by laboratory experts in the newly rehabilitated laboratory.
Support to the rural communities in the Kassala State to face the malnutrition of pregnant women, young mothers of children under the age of five and their children

Funded by the Italian Agency for Development Cooperation (AICS)

AICS Funding € 349,946,00 | Status Closed

Collection and analysis of water in the rural areas for mapping the water sources, assessing their chemical-physical and microbiological composition to detect the presence of microorganisms responsible for infectious diseases (water-borne and food-borne diseases), which can worsen the health of children under 5 years and facilitate nutritional deficiencies.

Distribution of food, nutritional products and non-food items to 225 women and children involved in training sessions.
The project intervened in the rural North Delta region to tackle malnutrition in pregnant women, young mothers and their children under five years old due to the lack of food security caused by drought, during the dry season and floods during the rainy season.

- Training of 9 paramedics in 3 health centers on the latest guidelines on the treatment and management of nutritional patients, both Moderate Acute Malnutrition (MAM) and Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM)
- Training of 28 community volunteers on the recognition of signs and symptoms of malnutrition
- Supply of equipment, furniture, medical drugs, consumables and nutritional products for the proper functioning of the 3 rehabilitated health centers
- 953 children under 5 years visited during outreach activities in the beneficiary villages
- Participation of 1,486 women of 9 villages in health promotion sessions
- Training of 225 women on improvement of home hygiene conditions
- Distribution of materials on home protection and food security to 225 women involved in the training sessions
- Training of 225 women on community income-generating activities
- Training of 30 community leaders and representatives of the North Delta Health Authority on good hygiene practices, correct use of water and creation of female groups in villages
BELOW: Rehabilitation of 3 health centers in Um Alqura, Issa Al Haj and Hadalia, including installation and activation of water points and rehabilitation of latrines.

ABOVE: Food preparation training at Salam Alaykoom village.
Strengthening “Family Medicine” abilities at the Ahmed Gasim Health Centre in Port Sudan and training of the students of the Academy of Health Sciences of the Red Sea State

Funded by the Italian Agency for Development Cooperation (AICS)

AICS Funding €84,982.03 | Status Closed

Training on family medicine and community medicine topics to nursing students.

Training of medical assistant tutors at the Academy of Health Sciences.
The project developed a “Family Medicine” focus inside the Medical Assistant course of the Academy of Health Sciences in Port Sudan, strengthened the services offered by the Ahmed Gasim Family Health Center and sensitized the community around the services provided by primary health centers.

- Activation of a “pilot” training program for Medical Assistants at the Ahmed Gasim Health Center
- Creation and distribution of a manual for medical assistant tutors
- Theoretical training on family medicine and community medicine topics for medical assistant students, nursing students and professionals
- Scientific research projects on Family Medicine topics at the University of Red Sea State Medical School and Academy of Health Sciences
- Scholarships on health centers management in Khartoum
- Renovation of the Ahmed Gasim Family Health Center
- Workshops for local family practitioners on the rational use of antibiotics and non-pharmacological alternative treatments
- Creation and distribution of a manual on antibiotic prescription and use
- Awareness raising campaigns around the services provided by primary health centers including discussion groups with women, home-to-home visits and sessions in schools
Support to the public health sector of the Red Sea State in its educational and infrastructural components with focus on mother and child health

Funded by the Italian Agency for Development Cooperation (AICS)

AICS Funding € 1.748.340,00 | Status In Progress

Training on the prevention and management of COVID-19.
This project will improve the training capacities of the Academy of Health Sciences (AHS) and the University of Red Sea State and will strengthen the maternal and child health services of the Pediatric Hospital and Obstetric Teaching Hospital of Port Sudan.

- Technical assistance and training to the local staff through missions of nurses and medical doctors
- Scholarships in Khartoum for the teachers of the Academy of Health Sciences of Port Sudan
- Scholarships in Italy at the San Raffaele Hospital of Milan for local surgeons and pediatricians
- Introduction of a “Kangaroo Therapy” for underweight babies in the new postpartum room
- Introduction of guidelines for the safe disposal of hospital waste
- Technical assistance and training of a construction expert in the supervision of the civil works
- Rehabilitation of the operating block and the delivery rooms of the Teaching Obstetric Hospital of Port Sudan
- Creation of 2 outpatient clinics and 1 pediatric emergency room at the Pediatric Hospital in Port Sudan
- Supply of equipment, medical drugs, consumables, and non-medical materials
- Supply of consumables and sanitary furniture for a health center in the outskirts of Port Sudan
The project will develop a “Family Medicine” focus inside the Medical Assistant course of the Academy of Health Sciences in Kassala, strengthen the services offered by the Barno Family Health Center and will sensitize the community around the services provided by primary health centers.

- Activation of a “pilot” training program for medical assistants in targeted health centers
- Training for health center tutors who teach the “Medical Assistant” course
- Theoretical training on family medicine and community medicine topics for medical assistants, nursing students and professionals
- Awareness raising campaigns in the community around the services provided by primary health centers
- Scientific research projects on Family Medicine topics at the University of Kassala
- Scholarships in Khartoum for 3 health center professionals
- Renovation of the Barno Family Health Center
- Workshops for family doctors and general practitioners on the rational use of pharmaceuticals in communities
Training for hospital staff in Port Sudan on symptoms, infection prevention and control, safety precautions and patient management plus the creation of infographics and brochures.

Supply of personal protective equipment and RNA extractor reagents.

The Port Sudan Central Laboratory, now nationally recognized as an independent laboratory, has become a central testing laboratory for the Eastern States in Sudan.
SIERRA LEONE
Creation of the first transfusion center of Sierra Leone

Funded by the Italian Agency for Development Cooperation (AICS)

AICS Funding € 1,365,347,00 | Status In Progress

Blood donation by a voluntary donor during the inauguration of the Transfusion Center at PCMH.

The affixed plaque on the Inauguration Day.
The project will create and equip the First Transfusion center of Sierra Leone and support the National Blood Transfusion Center (NSBS) in Partnership with the Ministry of Health for the improvement of the transfusion services in the country.

- Supply of equipment, consumables and reagents
- Training of 21 operators of the Transfusion Center
- Training of 11 laboratory operators
- 4 scholarships for local laboratory operators at the San Raffaele Hospital in Milan
- Development and introduction of 9 Standard Operational Procedures (SOPs) in the Transfusion Center
- 4,000 tests for the determination of blood group
- 10,000 rapid tests for HIV, Hepatitis B and C, syphilis
- Production of blood derivatives from whole blood: 14 bags of plasma and 9 bags of platelets: the production of blood components had never been carried out before on a large scale in Sierra Leone
- Creation of a software for the collection of blood donors’ data
- Development of the Procurement Manual for the Transfusion Center and the peripheral blood banks
Construction of the first blood Transfusion Center in Sierra Leone at the Princess Christian Maternity Hospital (PCMH) in Freetown:

LEFT: February 2019
BELOW: June 2019
RIGHT: Inauguration Day in December 2019
ABOVE: Training to the local staff on the new equipment during the mission of a laboratory expert.

RIGHT: Newly equipped laboratory on the ground floor of the Blood Bank.
The first separation of blood components and the production of plasma from whole blood in March 2020 with the technical assistance of a laboratory expert. The production of blood components is new and only very few professionals are familiar with the preparation techniques.
Scholarship for two laboratory technicians from the Freetown Blood Transfusion Center lab at the Blood Transfusion Center of San Raffaele Hospital in Milan.
SOUTH SUDAN
Strengthening services provided by the Comboni Hospital in Wau in its clinical and educational responsibilities also in response to the migration flows of South Sudan

Funded by the Italian Agency for Development Cooperation (AICS)

AICS Funding € 1,023,386,00 | Status In Progress

Awarding of certificates to local health workers for their participation in training.

The Comboni Hospital in Wau.
This project supports the Comboni Hospital in Wau with technical assistance from expatriate personnel, equipment and scholarships.

- Technical assistance and training of local staff through the missions of a nurse and medical doctors
- Training to the local staff on the prevention and management of COVID-19
- Scholarships for 7 students in nursing and 4 in obstetrics
- Technical assistance and training of local staff in the maintenance of equipment and machinery
- Creation of a laboratory for the maintenance of equipment and machinery
- Elaboration of Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for the Clinical Engineering Service for the Hospital
- Development of a five-year strategic plan for the development of the Comboni Hospital
- Rehabilitation of 2 rooms in the Operating Theater and in the Surgical Ward
Supply of equipment, medical drugs, consumables and non-medical materials at the Hospital.
ABOVE: Maintenance laboratory created by the expatriate biomedical technical expert.

RIGHT: Training on the organization of hospital maintenance by a biomedical technical expert on electric scalpels, vacuum cleaners and incubators.

Solar panels installed on the roof of the laboratory for self-sufficient energy.
COVID-19
South Sudan

Training sessions on symptoms and transmission of the disease, complications, precautions for patients and health personnel, protective equipment and monitoring of patients.
VIETNAM
Improvements of health services at selected areas of central Vietnam and at Hué University of Medicine and Pharmacy

Funded by Hué University of Medicine and Pharmacy within the framework of a soft loan by the Italian Agency for Development and Cooperation (AICS)

The training, fellowships, and technical assistance are carried out in collaboration with University of Sassari

AICS Funding € 448.752,16 | Status In Progress

Support development of human resources of the International Institute for Biomedical Research and Biotechnology at Hué University of Medicine and Pharmacy (HUMP) with architectural planning, design, supervision of civil works, training, fellowships and technical assistance activities.

- Technical assistance by a team of architects and engineers to build a 7-floor Hospital Building in Hué
- Training of 21 graduates in medicine, biology and medical technology from Hué University of Medicine and Pharmacy and other Vietnamese institutions
- Enrollment of 4 Hué University of Medicine and Pharmacy students in the PhD school in Life Sciences and Biotechnology at the University of Sassari
- Delivery of a summer advanced training course in Sassari to 4 medical doctors specialized in hospital management and infection control, ophthalmology, endoscopic surgery, neonatal intensive care
- Procurement of hardware and software for distance education and set up of a computer room
- Exchange visits to Italian institutions by a delegation of 7 Vietnamese professionals and visits to Vietnam of 18 Italian experts in various disciplines
“AISPO is committed to helping people in building health care excellence while managing humanitarian crises”
- Fabio Ciceri, AISPO President

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COVER PHOTO: Training of 225 women on health promotion and food security in the rural North Delta region of Kassala, Sudan.