



ANNUAL REPORT 2021-2022

A.I.S.P.O.

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





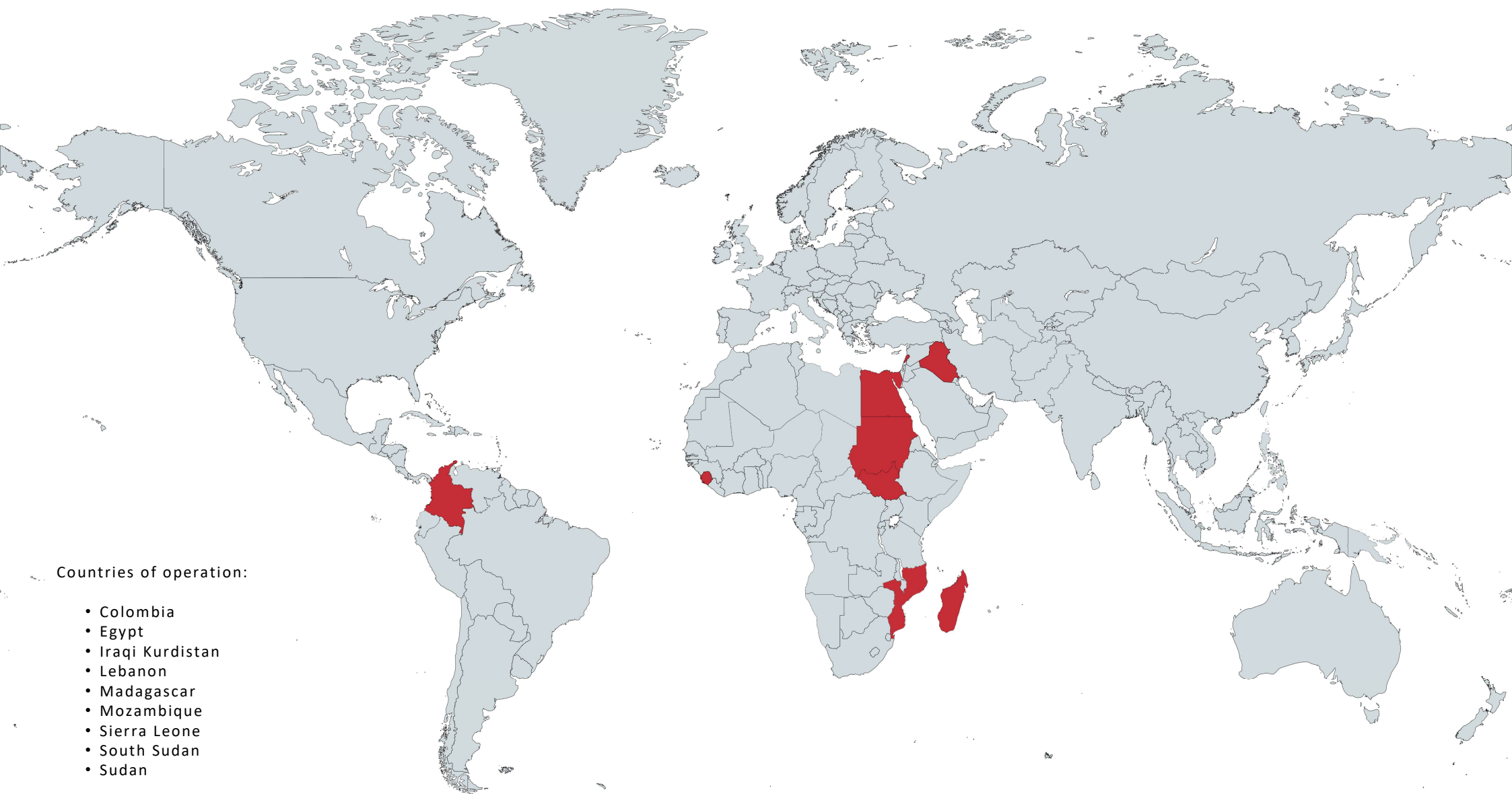
AISPO is a Non-Governmental Organization founded by a group of operators from the Scientific Institute San Raffaele Hospital of Milan. The Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs formally recognized AISPO in 1985 as an organization suited to implement **international cooperation activities in developing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



COLOMBIA

Chocò

Cauca

Valle del Cauca

Nariño



Disaster preparedness action through the implementation of an Emergency Medical Team (EMT)

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

ECHO Funding €200.000,00
| **Status** closed



Funded by
European Union
Civil Protection and
Humanitarian Aid



The Hospital Boat anchored near a village on the Pacific Coast (top).

During the Project, 4845 consultations have been carried out by health workers: a) general medical consultations with treatment delivery; b) consultations for children between 0 and 10 years of age; c) clinical psychology consultations; d) comprehensive care to pregnant women and obstetric/gynecology ultrasound consultations; e) family planning methods; f) clinical laboratories tests; g) people trained on Covid-19 prevention, STIs and vector-borne diseases. Some of the patients were also referred to further specialized services.



Implementation of specialized consultations (pediatrics, gynecology, laboratory test) on the Hospital Boat (top).



The EMT truck with the equipment for disaster and medical emergency activities (top) and with the Roster (bottom).



The field hospital 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.



EMT simulation (right top and bottom).



Clockwise:

- simulation with tent inflation (top right and bottom right),
- EMT course in one of the tents of the EMT (bottom left),
- Beneficiaries of the course on disaster preparedness and risk management (top left).





EMT mission in February 2022 in Cali: reception and odontology.



EGYPT

Port Said

Ismaila

Luxor

Sharm el Sheikh





Support to the improvement of nursing care in 3 Governorates in Egypt

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

AICS Funding € 3.579.508,45
| **Status In Progress**



Theoretical training on airway management and mechanical ventilation (top).



Theoretical training slides (top right), study tour in Italy (bottom right) and the internship at Port Said Hospital (top left).



The second year of the project was characterized by: the beginning of activities in the Governorate of Luxor, which was added to the project after a request of the Egyptian Ministry of Health, by the continuation of activities in the other governorates and by a series of institutional and technical missions of strategic importance, as well as scholarships in Italy both in the area of congenital heart disease and mentorship and tutorship in nursing.





Paediatric cardiac surgery activities (top left, top right, bottom right), patient files with Donor logo (bottom left).



IRAQI KURDISTAN

Duhok

Erbil



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 Closed



Funded by the European Union



On May 30, 2021 AISPO inaugurated the new surgical department at Amedy Hospital (top).

The main activities of the project have been: rehabilitation, procurement of equipment and training of staff of two tertiary hospitals for mother and child care (Maternity Hospital and Hevi Pediatric Hospital in Duhok), at the Emergency and Maternity Hospital in Akre and at the General Hospital in Amedy, to increase the quality of care for IDPs, refugees and the host population.

Operating Room Amedy General Hospital, September 2019.



Operating Room in the new surgical department at Amedy General Hospital, June 2021.



On May 30, 2021 AISPO inaugurated the new surgical department at Amedy Hospital (right) and the plaque with logos.



AISPO expatriate nurse delivering theoretical trainings to nurses (bottom).



The oxygen factory (left).



New Akre Pediatric and Maternity Hospital in Duhok (top).

At Akre Maternity Hospital AISPO built a new administrative block, a new delivery room and a 4 beds sub intensive neonatal care unit. Moreover, we implemented light renovations of the maternity wards and provided a new oxygen factory.

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



Implemented by
giz Deutsche Gesellschaft
für Internationale
Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH



Neonatal intubation training (right).



Simulation training at Clinical Skill Training Center, Duhok (top and left).



The overall objective of the project is to strengthen the capacity of Duhok Directorate General of Health to provide quality health services. The project made operational the first medical and nursing simulation training centre in the region. Another outcome of the project is the training of emergency personnel who will work in the new emergency department of Azadi Hospital in Duhok and the drafting of protocols and procedures according to international standards.



Study tour for the CSTC trainers in Italy (top and left).

Support to mother and child health in Duhok Province

Funded by the Italian Agency for Development Cooperation (AICS)

AICS Funding € 549.970,00 |
Status In progress



Entrance to the rehabilitated building with AISPO and AICS plaque (top).



The new OPD: waiting rooms with awareness plaques (right top and bottom), waiting room with patients (bottom right) and consultation room (top left).



The project aim was to establish a new Out Patient Department (OPD), reorganizing the services in order to improve patients' flows and access to the ambulatory services (pediatric, obstetrics and gynecology consultations, ultrasounds, laboratory tests, pharmacy). This was carried out intervening on both the infrastructures (civil works and procurement of equipment and consumables) and thanks to training of personnel.



Improving the quality of nursing curriculum and clinical practice in Iraqi Kurdistan

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

AICS Funding € 968.279,38 | Status In Progress



Conference in Duhok (right).

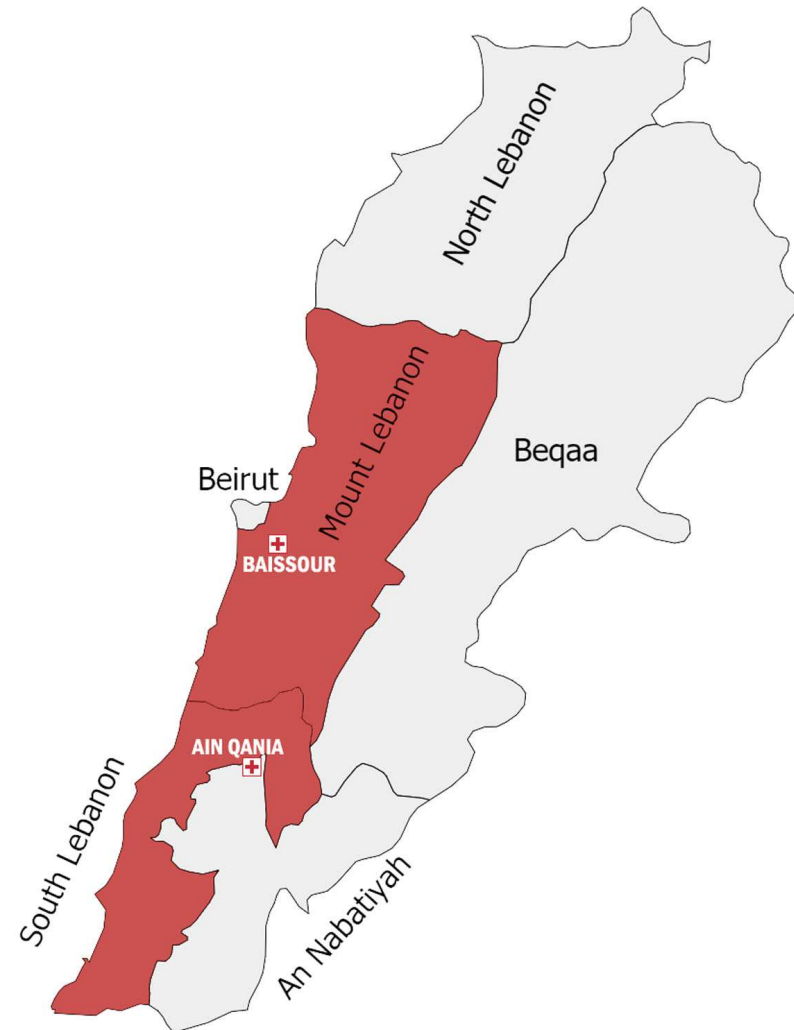




In February 2022 the conference entitled "*Core competency profile for the college nurse: a proposal for a strategic innovation in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq*" was held. Organized in coordination with the Directorate of Health of Duhok, the College of Nursing of the University of Duhok and the Nursing Course of the University Vita-Salute San Raffaele of Milan, the conference aimed to present the results of the assessment of the nursing course, outline future steps aimed at improving the clinical practice of students and facilitate a discussion on the core competencies of nurses in Iraqi Kurdistan. The conference was attended by approximately 120 practitioners in the presence of the KRG Minister of Health, the Director General of Duhok Health Directorate, the President of Duhok University, the Director of the Amman office of AICS, parliamentarians and academics from several universities in the Region. A workshop was also held beforehand in which 40 nurses, academic and health care staff identified and adapted nursing competencies to the local context from international standards.

LEBANON

South Lebanon
Mount Lebanon



Strengthening of health services in rural Lebanon

Funded by **Intesa SanPaolo**
and implemented in
collaboration with the
Lebanese Women Forum

Intesa SanPaolo Funding
€ 50.000,00

Status Closed

INTESA  **SANPAOLO**



The room is in the Bayssour health center, it was rehabilitated and equipped (bottom).





The delivery of the plaque of appreciation of AISPO's work between the Princess Zeina Kheireddine, President of the Lebanese Women Forum (LWF) Local Project Partner, and the Director of AISPO (left).

The project rehabilitated and equipped 2 Primary Health Centers. The first is Bayssour Health Center, with about 500 patients per month, the second is Ain Qenya Health Center, which serves 7 villages and has about 300 patients per month. The centers serve the local population without discrimination of sex, religion, age. In both cases half of the patients are Syrians. Moreover, the project created 1 radiology room with 1 dental panoramic machine, purchased 8 oxygen machines to face the COVID-19 pandemic and installed 1 Keratometer and 1 refractometer.



Furniture of the oxygen machines (top).

MADAGASCAR

Ambanja



**Malagasy Dina and
telemedicine to improve
maternal and child health
in Ambanja**

**Funded by Otto Per Mille of the
Waldensian Church**

**Otto Per Mille of the Waldensian
Church Funding € 19.466,78 € |
Status In progress**



Midwife reading lactation techniques
from a leaflet (right).



The project aims to improve access to maternal and newborn health services in the city of Ambanja through community outreach and a telemedicine system. Telemedicine is implemented through PANDA visits, an innovative, low-cost, high-quality telemedicine system developed for pregnancy visits in difficult settings. At the heart of the system is a mobile application that guides the operator in the collection of screening data and results and provides guidance for the delivery of health education. An alert system informs the operator in case of pathological values. At the end of the visit, data and test results are sent to the database in the hospital, where the obstetric team opens a medical record for each woman and performs case supervision, defining frequency of follow-up and mapping pregnancies by area, time and risk.

The aim of PANDA program is to achieve quality pre and postnatal examinations with updated data to be shared with the community to make it aware and participate in the effectiveness of public health measures.



Ultrasound (top right) mothers-to-be in the waiting room before ultrasound and antenatal care consultation (bottom left), antenatal care consultation (left).



MOZAMBIQUE

Maputo



Support to Environmental Research (BIOFORMOZ)

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

AICS Funding € 1.950.000,00 |
Status In Progress

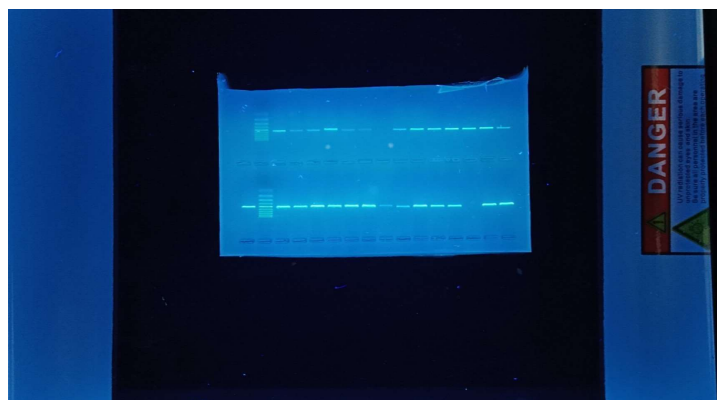


The Museum of Natural History (right).





The project activities combine research on biodiversity and its conservation with the training of both university and public institutions staff involved in biodiversity conservation and quality control related to the environment and the health of citizens. In fact, the study of communicable diseases, with particular regard to zoonoses, quality control of water and food, applying an advanced experimental approach, aims to create appropriate mechanisms for the transfer of scientific and technological knowledge from research centers to society and productive sectors. Construction activities (biobank, laboratories, offices), supply of laboratory and biobank equipment/consumables, staff training, scholarships are being implemented in Mozambique and in Italy in the coming months.



The laboratories at the Museum of Natural History with Mozambican researchers and an Italian researcher in short mission (top right and left). Photos of museum specimens ready to be cataloged and DNA extracted from a fin fragment (bottom left). PCR result on 1.8% agarose gel. The visible fragments are the amplicons of the *Lethrinus* genus samples of the mitochondrial DNA marker Control Region (top).



The laboratories at the Biobank of the University Eduardo Mondlane (UEM) (left).



Wetland sampling activities near Xai-Xai (left). Field activities involving the collection of material, information from local fishermen and direct collection through net-traps (top).



The installation of the generator at the Museum of Natural History (left) and the civil works at the UEM Biobank (right).





The seminar to present the scholarships: 6 in research, 7 for PhD, 2 doctoral and 1 postdoctoral studies at the Museum of Natural History in March 2022.



SUDAN

Red Sea State

Kassala State

Khartoum State



**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



The new renovated operating theater at Maternity Hospital in Port Sudan (top).

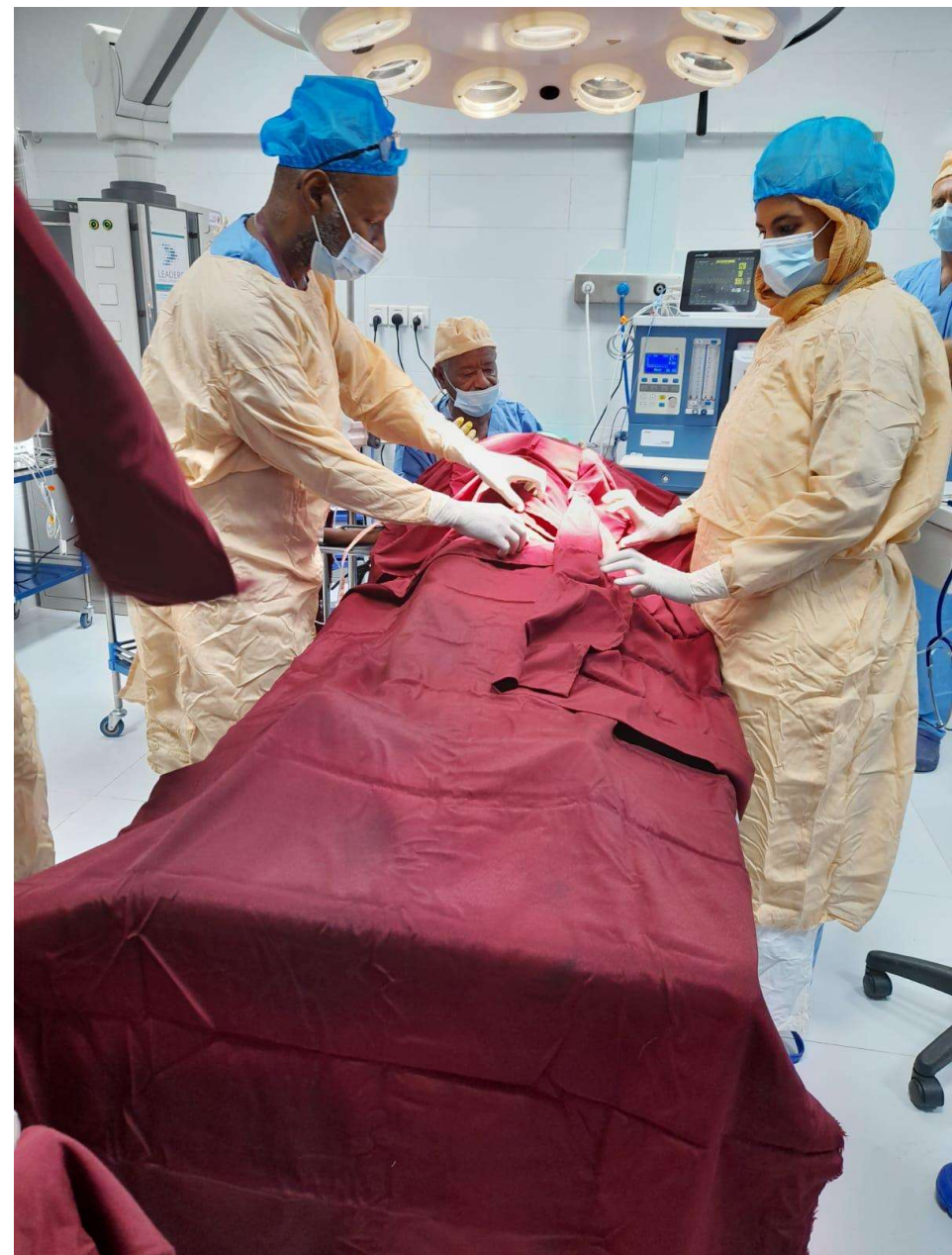


The Maternity ward before (top left) and after the rehabilitation/costruction (top right and bottom left).

The project activities combine infrastructural improvement of both Maternity and Pediatric Hospital of Port Sudan, e.g. through the rehabilitation of the operating block and delivery rooms, with continuous technical assistance and training programs by expatriate staff. Moreover, scholarships in Italy for the staff of both hospitals are being implemented in the coming months.



Surgeons in the new operating theater (left) and chirurgical operation in the operating theater (right).





First newborn by C-section in the new operating block of the Obstetric Teaching Hospital in Port Sudan (top).

Patient preparation before operation with AISPO expatriate doctor (top). Hospital health Staff (midwives and nurses) during a gynecological visit in the new Obstetric Block with the new equipment and beds (top right). Spinal anesthesia being performed on the first woman to deliver by C-section in the new operating block (right bottom).

**SAFE – Strengthening
of women’s basic
health services by
improving the early
detection system for
breast and cervical
cancer in the Red Sea
State**

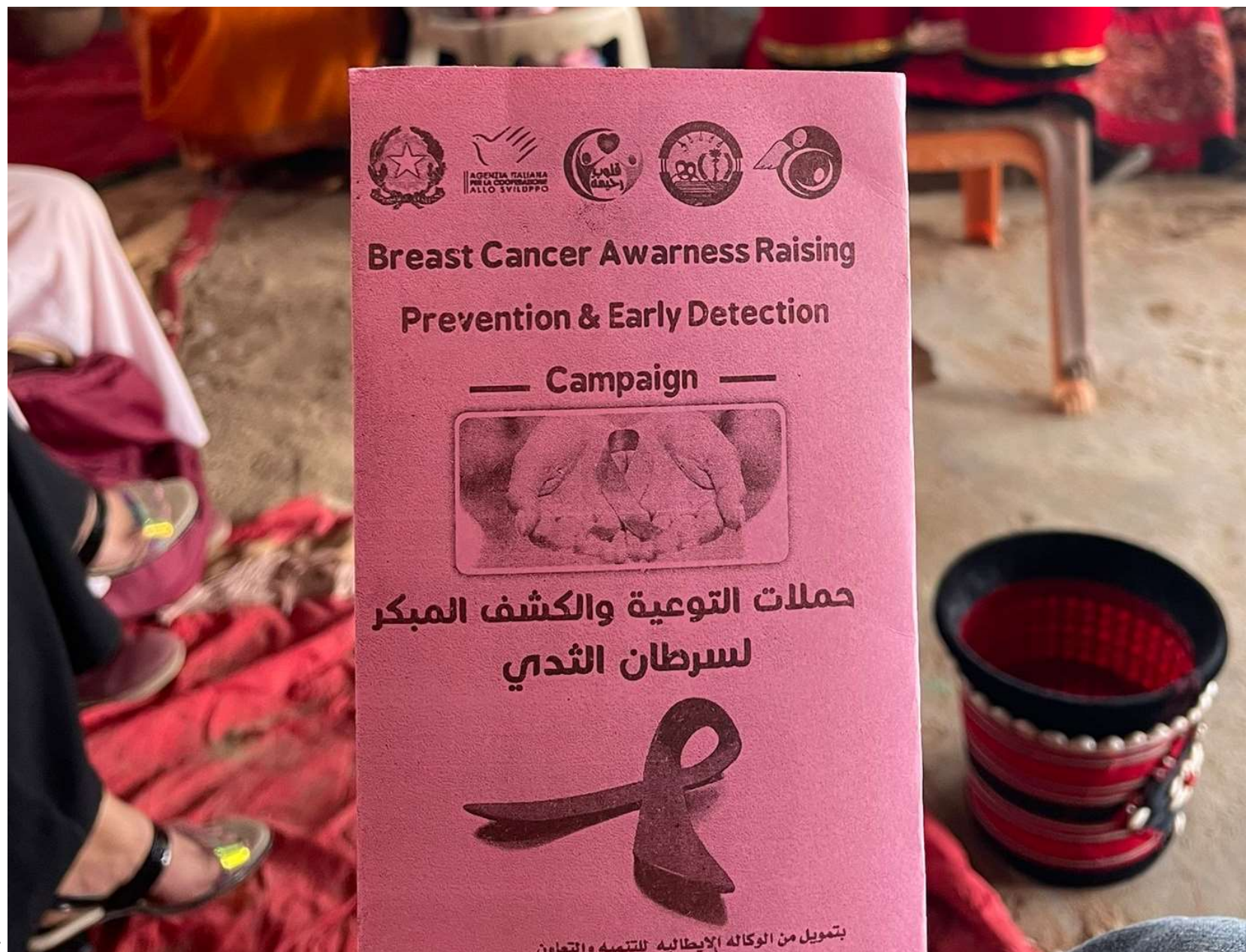
Funded by the Italian
Agency for Development
Cooperation (AICS)

AICS Funding € 177.055,75

Status In Progress



Awareness campaign flyer (right).





The project aims to promote and increase access to basic health services aimed at the prevention of breast and cervical cancer.

As part of the project many training sessions have been carried out for all categories of personnel (from general practitioners to gynecologists, from health promoters to nurses), besides the rehabilitation of spaces dedicated to women's health in primary health care facilities, as well as the introduction of mammography screening (previously unavailable in the whole Red Sea State) and the rehabilitation of the colposcopy service in the maternity hospital.

The improvement of the service has also been accompanied by a strong investment on sensitization of the local community through the collaboration with local NGOs.

Breast cancer prevention and awareness campaign December 2021 with the local organization Merciful Heart Organization (left and right).





Gynecological equipment purchased with the project (top left).



Workshop health promoters on breast cancer issues, February 2022 (bottom, bottom left).



Improving accessibility and quality of Health services for migrants, refugees, IDPs and host communities in Red Sea and Kassala States

Funded by the **European Union**

Implemented by AISPO and the Italian Agency for Development Cooperation (AICS)

EU Funding € 853.496,00
Status Closed



Funded by the European Union
بتمويل من الاتحاد الأوروبي



Alyarmouk Primary Health Center (Red Sea State) (bottom).



Dem Mayo Primary Health Center, Red Sea State, before (left) and after, during an open day (right).

The project improved the quality and sustainability of Primary Health Services in favour of host communities, migrants, refugees and IDPs in Kassala and Red Sea State.

Main activities included:

- Capacity building and technical assistance to target local health authorities for health system management;
- On the job training to frontline health workers;
- Strengthening of emergency obstetric services and implementation of a referral system at the locality level in Kassala;
- National programs on cervical and breast cancer prevention and early detection;
- Rehabilitation and refurbishment of 3 key primary health facilities in Red Sea State;
- Strengthening of community-based health services for migrants, refugees and IDPs.



Training for primary health centers' staff on correct monitoring and treatment of chronic diseases (top left and right).



Open day in a primary health center (bottom left) and training on pathology diagnosis (bottom right).



Support to the Central Laboratory of the Kassala Health Citadel

Funded by the Italian
Agency for Development
Cooperation (AICS)

Implemented in
collaboration with the
University of Sassari
(UNISS)

AICS Funding
€1.999.229,40

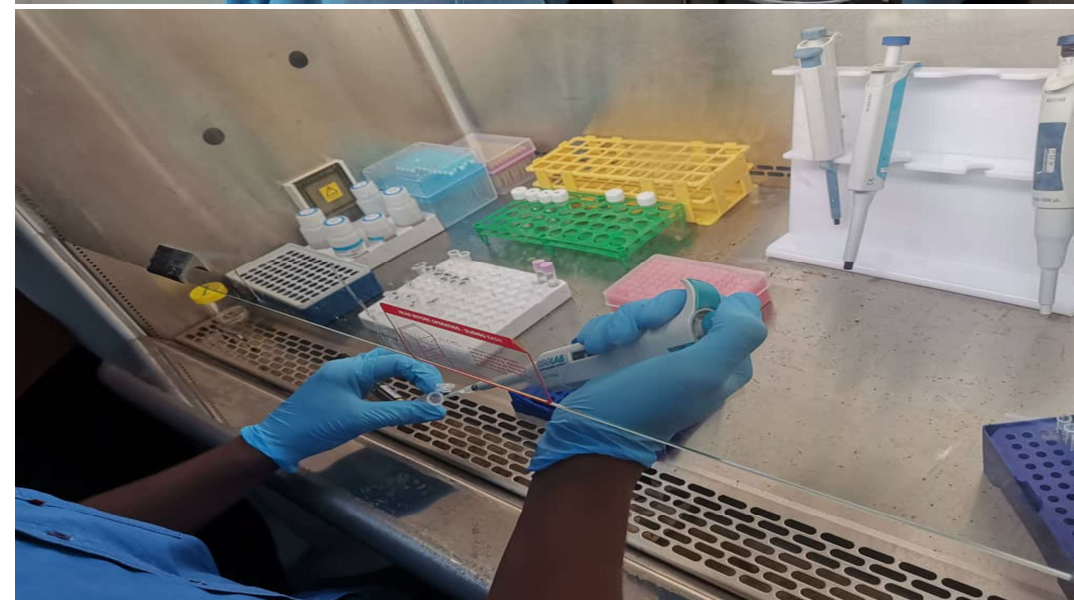
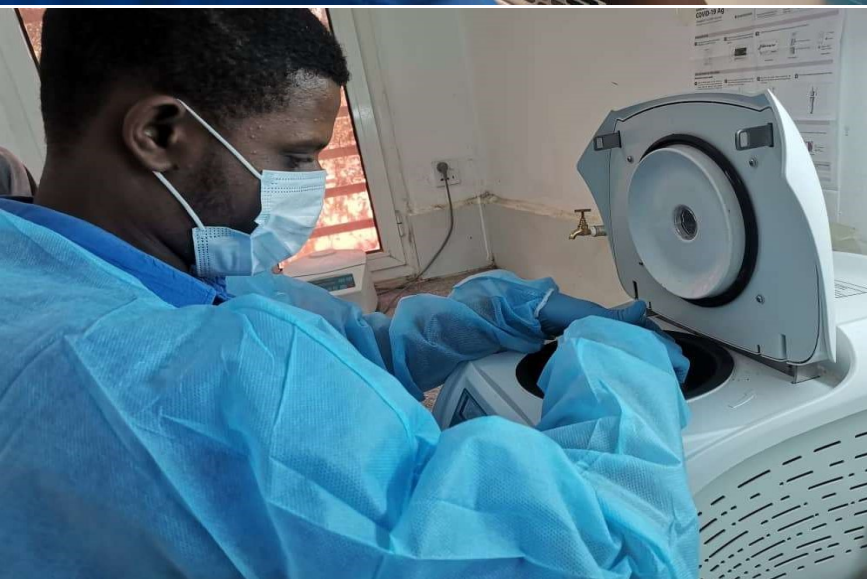
Status In Progress



Laboratory tests (top).



PCR (Polymerase Chain Reaction) training course February 2022.





Girba Blood Bank (left).

This project aims to optimize the system of laboratories in the City of Kassala and strengthen the laboratory facilities in terms of materials (premises, equipment and consumables), services provided and training (qualitative increase of knowledge and professionalism of the technical staff), in support of the new health center of the city of Kassala "Kassala Health Citadel". The project also aims to strengthen the role of the Blood Bank as a reference transfusion center for the state of Kassala, in terms of organization, management and staff training, in order to ensure the safety of blood (compatibility and absence of infectious agents), the proper storage of the sample and correct transfusion procedures. In addition, given the chronic incidence of vector-borne diseases, keeping in mind the recent epidemics of Chikungunya and Dengue in Kassala, the project aims to setup at least one reference center adequately equipped for the rapid diagnosis of all pathogens, to carry out epidemiological research in order to improve prevention against epidemics (limiting the spread and treatment).

**Support to refugees,
IDPs and host
communities at
Hamdayet camp in
Kassala through the
strengthening of
health, water and
sanitation facilities**

Funded by the Italian
Agency for Development
Cooperation (AICS)

AICS Funding € 399.660,60

Status In Progress



Rehabilitated Hamdayet Health Centre pharmacy (top).



Latrines and Showers (right and top left), delivery of consumables (bottom left).



This project aims to intervene in support of the vulnerable population of the Hamdayet camp through 3 actions:

- The strengthening of the already present overall system of supply and distribution of clean water through the creation of a new water supply system including distribution points located in different areas of the town;
- The strengthening of Wash and Sanitation systems through the creation of showers and latrines;
- The strengthening of health services through: the rehabilitation of spaces; the expansion of the services offered; the supply of health care consumables and medicines. Moreover, a health promotion campaign will be implemented with particular focus on hygiene practices and measures to prevent the spread of COVID 19.



Water treatment plant (left and top right).



Solar panel electrical system (bottom right).





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COVER PHOTO: Training on-the-job in Iraqi Kurdistan.