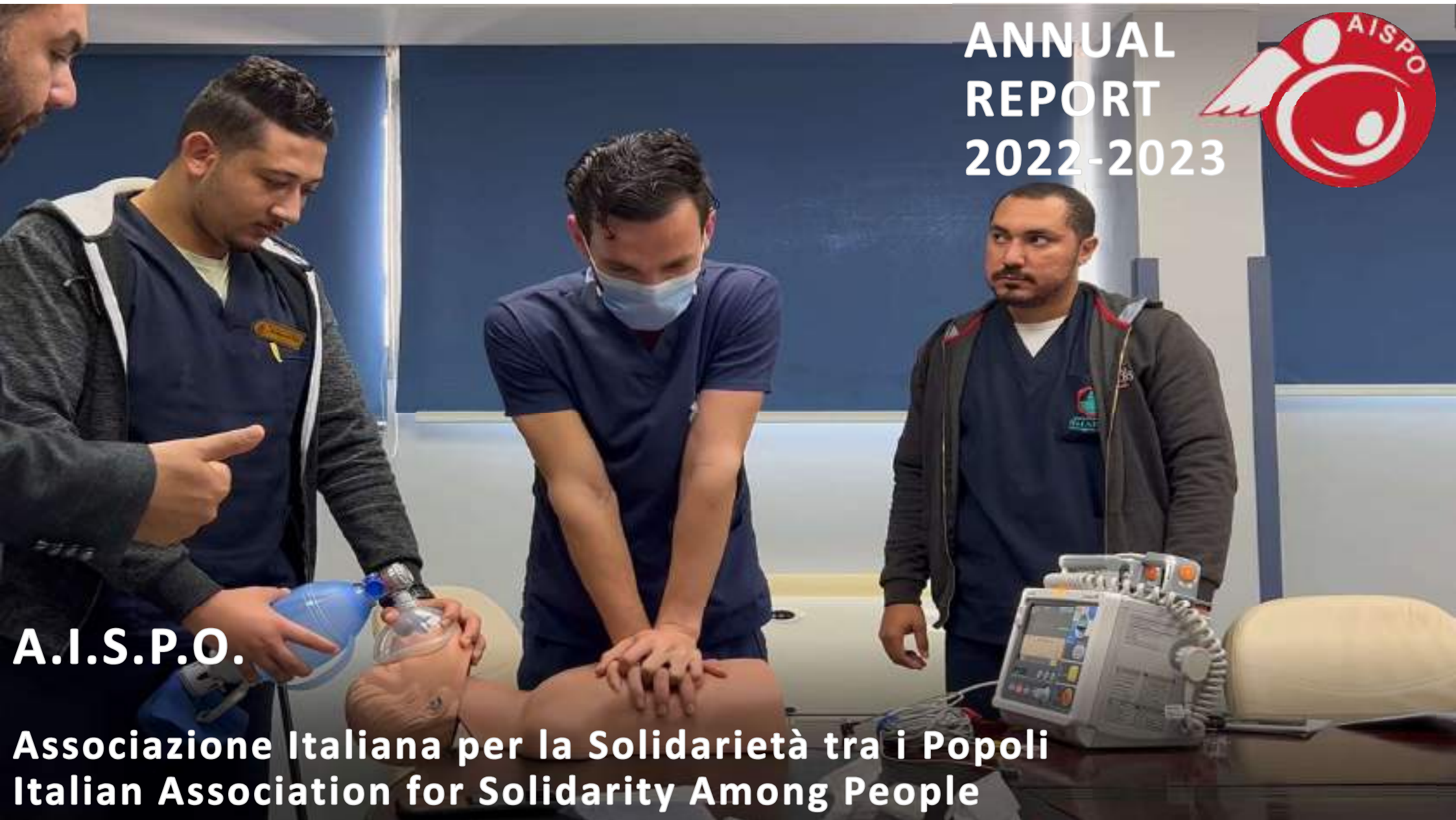


**ANNUAL
REPORT
2022-2023**



A.I.S.P.O.

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





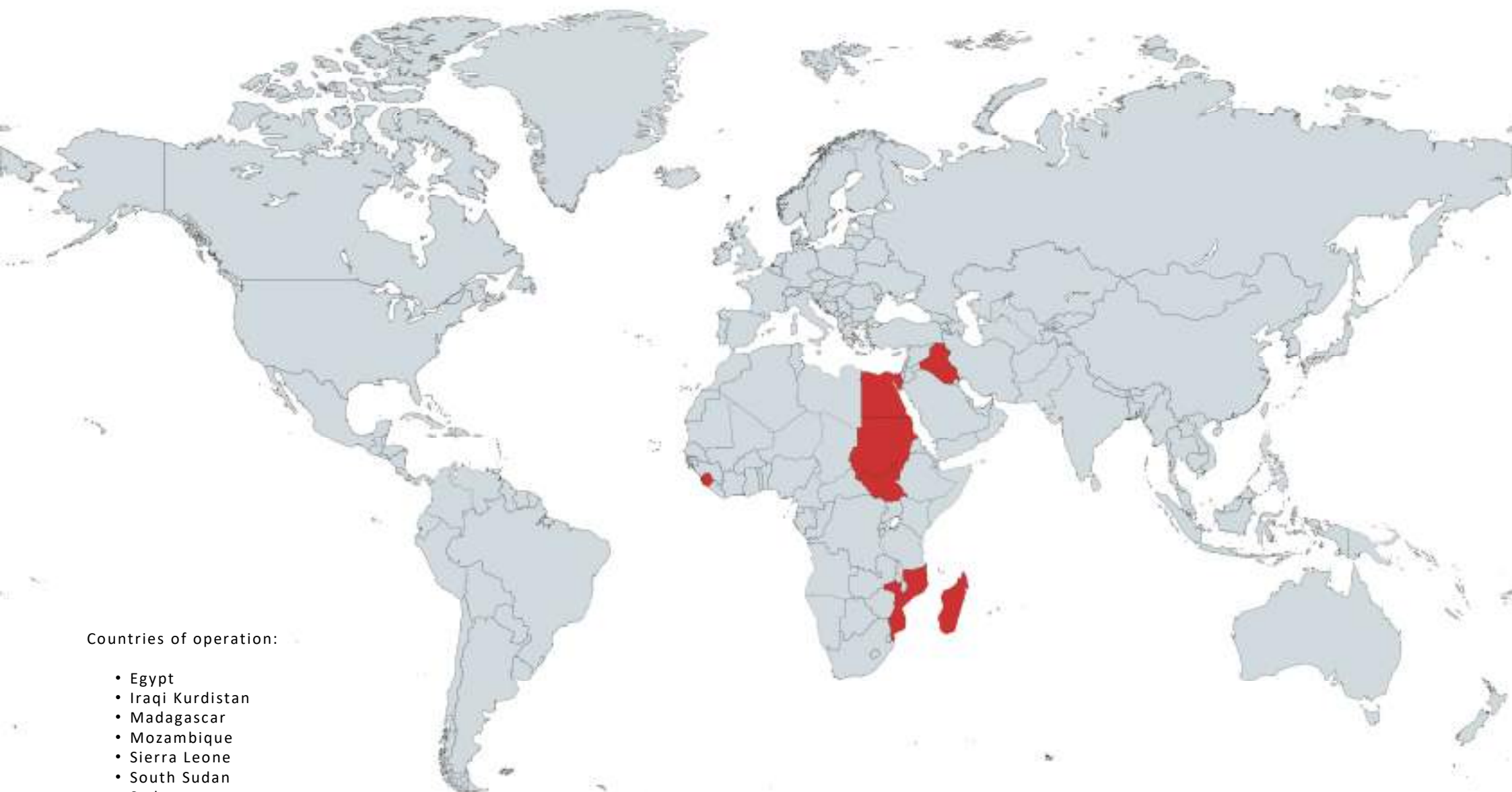
AISPO is a Non-Governmental Organization founded by a group of operators from the Scientific Institute San Raffaele Hospital of Milan. The Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs formally recognized AISPO in 1985 as an organization suited to implement **international cooperation activities in developing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



Countries of operation:

- Egypt
- Iraqi Kurdistan
- Madagascar
- Mozambique
- Sierra Leone
- South Sudan
- Sudan

EGYPT

Port Said

Ismaila

Luxor

Sharm el Sheikh

Aswan



“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 Closed**



Pediatric cardio surgery training on the job (Cairo)

The third year of the project saw the continuation of the in-service training activities for nurses in all governorates, the full implementation of the mentorship and tutorship programme in Port Said, the implementation of some cardiac surgery activities in Cairo and Port Said, including key procurement to ensure better outcomes for the most complex operations and the inclusion of the Technical Health Institute in Aswan in the project as a beneficiary of infrastructure activities. Finally, scholarships were implemented in Italy in the fields of both cardiac surgery and nursing.



Presentation of the project results to the Egyptian Minister of Health and Population in the presence of the Italian Ambassador in Egypt (above)



Training activities for nurses (above)

In December 2022, the final project conference was scheduled and then implemented. The aim of the event was to illustrate the activities and results achieved, and representatives of all the entities involved, AISPO, the University of Sassari and also a representative of the Italian Embassy and the Egyptian Ministry of Health and Population attended. There were numerous guests from Europe and the speeches aimed at illustrating the project experiences from the two points of view, Italian and Egyptian. The event ended with great success and the Egyptian media reported on it.



Photos: the final Conference of the third year project



IRAQI KURDISTAN

Duhok

Erbil



“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 Closed



The aim of the project was to strengthen the capacity of Duhok General Directorate of Health to provide quality health services and improve the clinical performance of health personnel through the training of more than 700 professionals.



Laparoscopy training

The project provided Duhok DGoH with the first Simulation Centre in the region. It is a unique and sustainable resource for continuous professional development of health staff and training of health students. It allowed access to advanced training methodologies to acquire and consolidate clinical skills through simulation technology.

“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



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UNIVERSITÀ DEGLI STUDI DI SASSARI

in collaboration with



UniSR
Università Vita-Salute
San Raffaele



The Mentorship Training program at the University Vita Salute - scholarships in Italy



A student practicing at the Clinical Skills Training Centre (CSTC)

The 3 years University cooperation project is implemented in partnership with Sassari University, Duhok Directorate General of Health, University of Duhok and Duhok Polytechnic University.

It aims to improve the practical training of health students in Duhok Province, with particular focus on nursing.

The project supports the Clinical Skills Training Centre of Duhok.

It also foresees scholarships and study tours for the Universities and Hospitals key staff to Italy to strengthen academic cooperation and the improvement of mentorship and tutorship approach and methodology to enhance the practical training of health students.



Simulation training at the Clinical Skills Training Centre (CSTC) (above)



Control room - Clinical Skills Training Centre (CSTC) (above)



The project broadened its target to support the newly established Physiotherapy Diploma at Duhok Polytechnic University.

A Physiotherapy Lab for the Diploma in Physiotherapy has been equipped.

The equipment for the Physiotherapy Lab

AISPO experts have designed and are delivering a one year training programme for the physiotherapists of Duhok Directorate General of Health facilities. They will become clinical tutors of the Physiotherapy Diploma, hosting the students in DGoH facilities during their practical internships.



In photos: training of the physiotherapists of Duhok Directorate General of Health facilities

**“Support in improving
Nurses Care Services for
adult critical care to
address the needs of the
population in Hawija,
Erbil and Sinjar Hospitals,
Iraq”**

Funded by WHO

**WHO Funding:
\$199.920,00**

Status closed



Last day of the intensive training program organized for a team of doctors and nurses from Sinjar and Hawija Hospitals intensive care units in Erbil.

The project aimed to improve critical healthcare services provided to Internally Displaced People (IDPs), Returnees and host community in Hawija-Kirkuk, Sinjar-Mosul districts and Erbil.

AISPO Team of experts delivered an intensive training programme consisting of lectures, simulations and on the job training to improve the technical capacities of a team of doctors and nurses from Sinjar, Hawija and Erbil Hospitals Intensive Care units.

Essential medical consumables were supplied and delivered to Sinjar, Hawija and Erbil Hospitals Intensive Care units.



Lectures and on-the-job training for Hawija and Sinjar critical care staff

“Support in improving oncology and critical care services to address the needs of the population in Duhok province”

Funded by **WHO**

WHO Funding:
\$535.001,25

Status in progress



The project aims to reduce avoidable morbidity and mortality among the Syrian refugee population, IDPs and host community by ensuring timely access to quality oncology and critical healthcare services.

The action intends to strengthen and standardize the oncology and critical healthcare services for patients in need of intensive medical care in the province of Duhok.

A thorough renovation and harmonization of the former Emergency and Trauma Hospital in Duhok will be carried out to use the facility as Oncology Care Center, consisting of consultation clinics and day-care center.



Site-visit of WHO, DG of Health, engineering and oncology experts to the areas of the Emergency and Trauma Hospital that will be renovated thanks to the project

**“Support to mother
and child health in
Duhok Province”**

Funded by the Italian
Agency for Development
Cooperation (AICS)

AICS Funding € 549.970,00
Status closed



New outpatient Department at Maternity hospital in Duhok

The project aimed to support the Duhok Maternity Hospital in reorganising its space and functions, by building and operating a new outpatient centre with prevention, vaccination, counselling and awareness-raising services. The action targeted Duhok Maternity Hospital, the only tertiary care level hospital in Duhok Province, providing free obstetric, gynecological and neonatal services to the population. The project aimed at establishing the new Out Patient Department, moving and reorganizing the services to a dedicated building in order to decrease the load on the main building, improving patients flows and access to the hospital and to the ambulatory services, as well as enhancing their quality.



The new equipment of the outpatient Department at Maternity hospital (above)

“Support Duhok Directorate of Health in improving neonatal and pediatric services to address the needs of Syrian refugees and host community in Duhok Province”

Developed in cooperation with **WHO** and funded by **WHO**.

WHO Funding 374.844 \$
| Status Closed



Inauguration of the new Pediatric Department in Akre

The action aimed to set up a 28-bed pediatric department at Akre Pediatric and Maternity Hospital with paediatric triage system and a paediatric intensive care unit, equipped with medical gases. Technical skills were also provided to Akre Pediatric and Maternity Hospital staff according to international best practices and clinical standards, with a focus on pediatric and neonatal care.



Rehabilitation and equipment at Akre Pediatric and Maternity Hospital

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 Closed**



PANDA consultation building during the inauguration ceremony in September 2022 with the midwives and Project Manager Dr. Giovanna Stancanelli

The project aimed 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, an innovative, low-cost, high-quality telemedicine system developed for pregnancy consultations 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 medical examination, 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 of pregnancies by area, time and risk. The aim of the 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.



PANDA consultation visits with the Staff using the PANDA App (above),

Pregnant women in the waiting room (left).

Neonatal training using mannequin with the support of expatriate HUG neonatologist (left),





Training room with health staff during a course implemented by Project Manager Dr. Giovanna Stancanelli in March 2022 and in remote HUG health Staff regarding newborn hemolytic disease and Eldon cards. (right)

The local midwife is doing ultrasound consultation with the support of the expatriate HUG gynecologist (above).

Midwife checking the documentation regarding prenatal care in the PANDA building (above).



Pictures from the inauguration ceremony of the PANDA consultation building at the Centre Hospitalier de Référence d'Ambanja (CHDR) at the presence of representatives of the Malagasy Ministry of Health and public Authorities, on the right AISPO Project Manager



MOZAMBIQUE

Maputo

Pemba (Cabo Delgado)



“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



Expatriate technician during a training with local Staff at the laboratories of the Museum of Natural Science



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 zoonosis, 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 new Administrative Office built at UEM University and the plate with the logos (above)

One of the equipment purchased for the laboratory (right)

Expatriate technician during a training with local Staff at the laboratories of the Museum of Natural Science (right).

Mozambican technician in the laboratories of La Sapienza University of Rome during a scholarship (left).





Creel placement (left), capture of an eel specimen (right), measurement and collection of a fin fragment for DNA extraction (right).



Presentation of the seminar entitled "Track who you are: the DNA barcode from species conservation to natural resource traceability" - Introduction of the seminar by Deputy Director of the Museum of Natural History Dr. Daniela de Abreu (below)

Amplification of samples for food traceability and subsequent verification by electrophoretic run on 2.5% agarose gel at the laboratories of the Museum of Natural Science (right).

Conference in Parma (Italy) by technician Claudio Ferrari on the project (below right).



**“Enhancement of
emergency-urgency
services at Pemba
Provincial Hospital, Cabo
Delgado Province”**

Funded by the Mozambique
Rovuma Venture S.p.A. (“**MRV-
ENI Rovuma Basin B.V.**”)

**MRV-ENI Funding €
\$1.648.305,60 |
Status In progress**



The project focuses on Cabo Delgado Province, specifically the district of Pemba, the provincial capital. The objective is the improvement of Hospital services at Pemba Hospital through rehabilitation and expansion of a Radiology and Adult Intensive Care Unit. Health personnel will be adequately trained, including through telemedicine, in critical patient management and will be able to pass on the knowledge and skills learned.

Ward of the Pemba Hospital (above)

“Support to the blood transfusion system - Phase II”

funded by the Italian Agency for Development Cooperation (AICS)

AICS Funding € 1.886.879,73 €
| Status In Progress



The Ministry of Health of Sierra Leone (Project Partner) meeting AISPO Director, AISPO Project Manager and Staff in Freetown

This three-year project aims to support access to blood and blood derivatives by patients in need of transfusion, particularly women in labor and pregnancy, newborns and children with severe anemia. The project is a second phase project of consolidation of a first phase also funded by AICS. This new proposal will continue to support the capital blood services by operating at Princess Christian Maternity Hospital (PCMH), will rehabilitate space that houses the blood bank at Connaught Hospital and will build a new regional blood transfusion center in the main public general hospital in Makeni, capital of the Northern Province. Scholarships will also be provided to the laboratory staff of Freetown and Makeni for training periods in Italy, as well as supply of equipment and consumables, targeted supervision of peripheral blood banks and support to the Governance of the system at central level. The project will support the national strategy to increase voluntary blood donation, doing awareness campaigns through mobile units. The proposal was written jointly with the Ministry of Health (MOHS), Partner in the first and in this second phase. In summary, the project will contribute to decrease the mortality rate, thanks to an increased availability of safe blood and blood products and the use of standardized transfusion therapies.



Blood awareness campaigns in schools done by AISPO Recruitment Officers (right and left)





From left to right: the steps of the construction of the new Transfusion Center at Makeni Hospital: from the assessment stages with the expatriate engineer, AISPO project manager, the local engineer and the Hospital Director, to the excavation, the concrete pouring, and pillar stages.





Meetings at PCMH (Princess Christian Maternity Hospital) Transfusion Center (left) with blood donors (left)

Meetings at PCMH with AISPO Staff and laboratory technician on laboratory procedures (below left)

Blood donor campaign with a donor (below right)



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: closed



New born baby in Port Sudan Hospital Maternity Ward

The aim of the project was to improve the clinical skills of the Teaching Obstetric Hospital in Port Sudan, with interventions in particular on maternal and neonatal health services through the strengthening of the operative block.

During the third year of the project, training activities were coordinated with the Red Sea State Ministry of Health and with the beneficiary institutions of the project. Moreover, civil works and procurement at the new operating block were completed.



The training on the job took place also in the neonatal emergency room and involved many midwives, under the supervision of our international nurse.



AISPO nurse during supervision and training on the job at Port Sudan Pediatric Hospital on the left and stabilization of newborn at Maternity Hospital of Port Sudan on the right



During the rehabilitation works, the on the job training continued.



The expatriate nurse of AISPO team is teaching local staff how to insert a canula to prepare a pregnant woman for a caesarian section.



At the end of the training course the midwives obtained their certificate

“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: Closed



Health promotion campaign targeting the local community for the prevention of breast cancer

The aim of the project was to promote and increase access to basic health services, aimed at breast and cervical cancer prevention, through the improvement of the services offered, the theoretical and practical skills of the health workers involved and community awareness.



Breast cancer training (above)



Supporting the organisation of Pink October events for breast cancer prevention (left)



Creation of the shed at the Imaging Centre in Port Sudan (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



Inauguration of New Halfa Centre with the Italian Ambassador

The objective of the initiative is to improve the laboratory system in Kassala State through constant support to laboratories (in terms of facilities, protocols, organisation and equipment) and through improving the quality of training for technicians and operators. The aim is to strengthen the diagnostic capacity of the laboratories, to improve the pathogen surveillance system, in order to prevent and combat epidemic diseases and to strengthen the Blood Bank as a reference transfusion centre for Kassala State.



Microbiology courses at Soba Hospital



Laboratory New Halfa set up and operative



Training of the fellowship from Kassala Health Citadel at the Transfusion Centre of the San Raffaele Hospital in Milan



**"Nursing science at
Comboni College:
inclusive teaching for
marginalised Christian
minorities"**

Funded by the Italian
Agency for Development
Cooperation (AICS)

AICS Funding
€842.331,82

Status In Progress



Nursing students at Comboni College in Khartoum

This two-year project aims to reduce inequalities in Sudan by strengthening and promoting inclusion. Specifically, it intends to support access to university education in the health professions of students belonging to the most vulnerable groups, in particular refugees and, among them, Christian minorities exposed to discrimination. It is of course open to all the population, without discrimination.

In partnership with Comboni College of Science and Technology (CCST), a new Bachelor of Science in Nursing Sciences has been activated with specialization in Palliative Care – Oncology and Obstetrics – Intensive Care Unit. The classrooms include simulation laboratories to integrate the theoretical course with practical activities in order to ensure quality learning for students, future professionals in the Sudanese health sector and reduce the risk of error on patients at the beginning of their career. The course will be hosted in the new building, currently under construction.



Anatomy lessons at CCST BSc in Nursing Sciences



Civil works, construction of the building which will house the Faculty of Nursing of the Comboni College of Science and Technology (above and below)



Experts from San Raffaele Hospital and University, on mission in Khartoum (above and below)



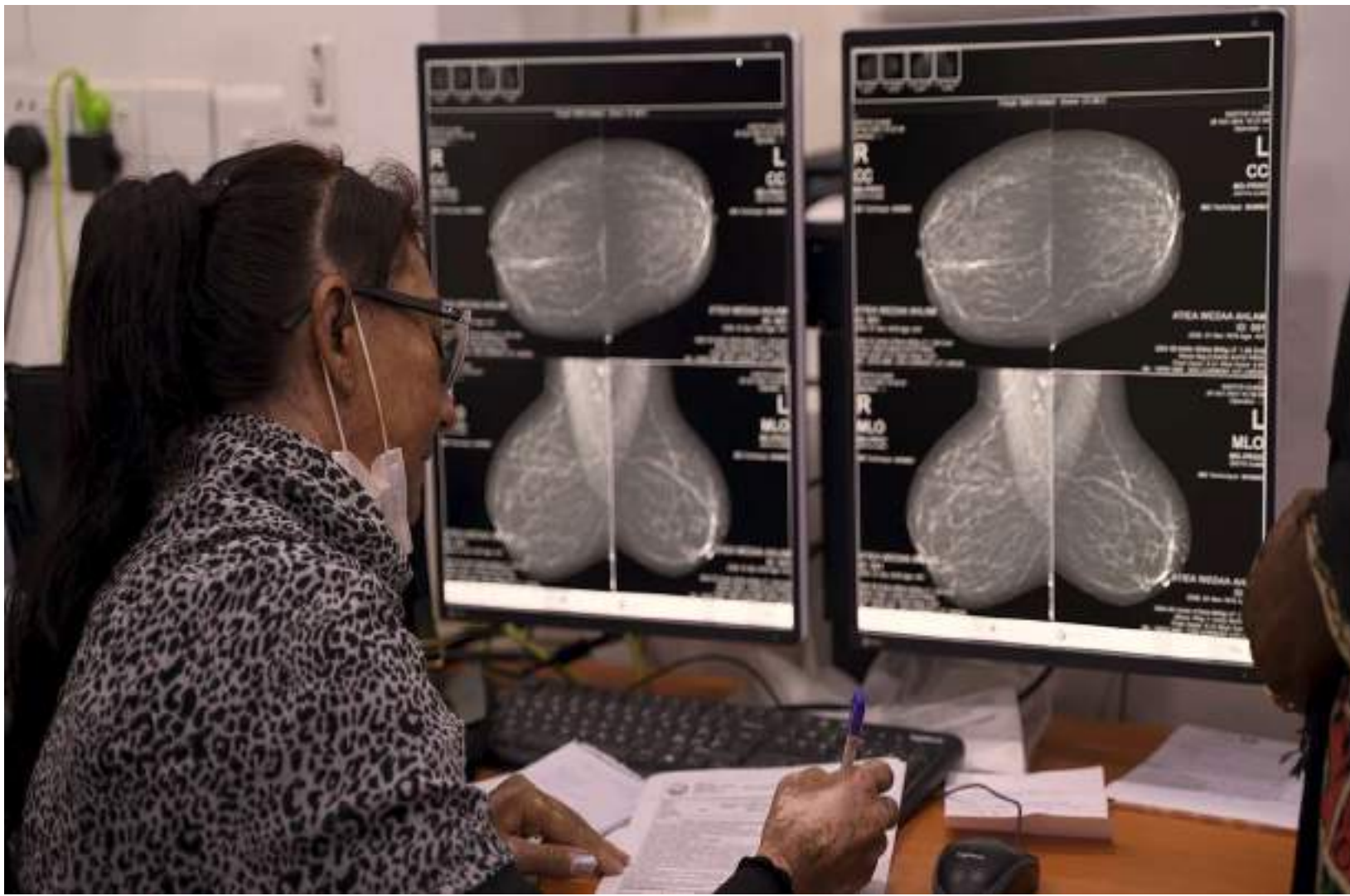
"Training related to family and community medicine for the health operators of the Health Centers of Khartoum and Port Sudan"

Funded by the Italian Agency for Development Cooperation (AICS)

Implemented in collaboration with OVCI

AICS Funding
€149.979,00

Status In Progress



Radiologist implementing a mammogram





Mammography screening



On job training of surgeons on breast surgery (right) and of pathologists on histopathology for breast cancer (above and right) by a team from Breast Care Center of Khartoum. Sample of breast tissue from US guided biopsy during on job training of radiologists by a team from Breast Care Center of Khartoum (left).

The project is focused on strengthening the provision and management of basic health services and community-based services in Red Sea and Khartoum States by providing training to health professionals at PHC level. In continuity with previous projects part of the same DICTORNA Program, such as SAFE – Family Medicine, the project contributed to filling the gap in the referral pathway for breast cancer prevention, diagnosis and treatment thanks to training for radiology technicians, oncologists, surgeons, radiologists and pathologists.





Distribution of certificates for the training on Organization of spaces inside a Health Center according to Family Medicine Standards for health centers' directors and managers in Port Sudan (above)



Training on Child abuse and Domestic violence for medical doctors at health centers level in Khartoum (left)



Training on Cancer prevention for medical doctors at health centers level in Port Sudan (right)



Training on First Aid for nurses and medical assistants at health centers level in Port Sudan (right)

“Support for the Red Sea State Health System through strengthening maternal and child health and EMOC services and prevention, treatment, and management of common direct and indirectly transmitted diseases afflicting the most vulnerable population groups”

Funded by the Italian Agency for Development Cooperation (AICS)

AICS Funding €399.992

Status In Progress



AISPO nurse with local and Hospital staff



Sign board of the center rehabilitation

The aim of the project is to strengthen the prevention, management and treatment of communicable diseases, ANC and MCH services, including nutrition services, as well as the referral system for the benefit of the vulnerable population of the Red Sea state.



Delivery of equipment to the rehabilitated health facilities



After completion of the rehabilitation and equipment at the beginning of 2023, the three health centers have been inaugurated on the 28th March 2023 at the presence of local counterparts as well as a mission of AICS Rome and AICS Khartoum and the Italian Ambassador.



Inauguration of Khalid Ibn Al Walid, Al Wifaq, Al Shiffa Health Centers



“Response to the COVID-19 emergency and Health Nutrition issues in Western Bahr el Ghazal by strengthening 8 peripheral health centers, activating the referral system with health facilities in Wau and raising awareness among local communities where IDPs reside”

Funded by the Italian Agency for Development Cooperation (AICS)

AICS Funding €499.713,40

Status In Progress



A nurse during a MUAC (Mid-Upper Arm Circumference) control

The project aim is to improve the performance of the health personnel of eight health centers, the Community Health Workers (CHWs) and the Traditional Birth Attendants (TBAs) in order to improve health care services for the whole population. The intervention will increase awareness, through awareness campaigns, among the population: i) on the danger of Coronavirus (COVID-19 infection), ii) on prevention procedures that can be adopted in the context of villages, iii) on the treatment and management of communicable diseases that are one of the causes of malnutrition in children under the age of 5 and women of childbearing age. The project indirectly strengthens the role of women in society and in the work environment, while transferring to the community key messages on health education, focused on personal hygiene and environmental protection. Rehabilitation works were implemented in the 8 health centers and consumables and equipment purchased. Moreover, during the project AISPO will collect data for an anthropometric survey. The targeted 8 health centers are Bussere, Taban, Gaitan, Mboro, Bringi, Bagari, Jebel, Khair e New Site.



The New Site Health Center rehabilitated with AISPO Staff and signboard



AISPO staff visiting the New Site PHCC, one of the 8 health centers rehabilitated with the project. During the visit, data were also collected for the anthropometric survey (left) jointly with the Project Manager and the local Staff. The pictures shows AISPO Staff and the nurses during awareness campaigns (below) and local and AISPO Staff in front of new latrines (left) .





New Site center before renovation



New Site center after renovation



Geitan Centre before renovation



Geitan Centre after renovation

“Response to the South Sudanese health emergency by revitalizing the maternity and pediatrics at both the Government and Comboni Hospitals in Wau and by strengthening the ANC, MCH and nutrition operational capacities of the Ireneo Wien Dut Health Center”

Funded by the Italian Agency for Development Cooperation (AICS)

AICS Funding €750.000,00

Status: In Progress



Ireneo Wien Dut Health Center

The initiative enhances the performance of three health facilities in Wau (Comboni Hospital, Teaching Hospital, Ireneo Wien Dut Health Center) through rehabilitations, supplies, training, human resource development and health education at the community level, in order to improve services for beneficiaries.



To make a donation by bank transfer:

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COVER PHOTO: Practical session of the course on cardiopulmonary resuscitation realised in the centre of Sharm el-Sheikh