

# CCM Highlights

## October - December, 2024



### Charting a Path Forward Overcoming Challenges: Global Fund Performance Review Workshop in Addis Ababa

The recent Global Fund Performance Review Workshop, held in Addis Ababa from November 24-28, 2024, was a pivotal event focused on evaluating the progress of the GC7 grant in Sudan amidst ongoing conflict. This grant, aimed at supporting AIDS, malaria, tuberculosis (TB) and Malaria control and strengthening the health systems interventions, is critical given the current challenges in the country. Despite the war-torn context, the workshop showcased the unwavering commitment of all stakeholders to overcome these obstacles and maintain essential health services. A diverse group of stakeholders, including representatives from the global fund country team, the Federal Ministry of Health (FMOH), UN agencies (UNICEF and UNDP), LFA, NMSF, CCM and PLHIV Care Association participated actively, sharing insights and strategies for effective program implementation.

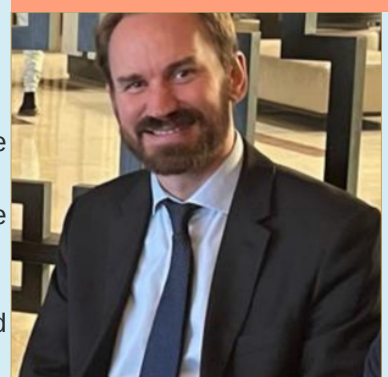


"I Reiterate the Government of Sudan's strong commitment to achieving the ambitious targets set forth in the Global Fund's GC7 grant" committed Dr Heitham Mohammed the federal minister of Health in Sudan

The workshop was inaugurated by Dr. Safa Abu Algasim, who expressed gratitude to the Global Fund on behalf of the Sudanese population. Dr. Dalya Eltayeb, the PHC Director, emphasized Sudan's dedication to achieving ambitious health targets despite the challenges posed by conflict. Discussions centered around disrupted supply chains, the impact on displaced populations, and data collection issues, leading to the creation of a detailed issue tracking matrix to monitor and address these challenges. Success stories, such as the delivery of medications to people living with HIV in conflict zones, were shared, highlighting the resilience and dedication of all involved. The Fund Portfolio Manager for Sudan Mr. Quentin De Hemptinne emphasized the need to overcome challenges, including slow progress on some indicators and delays in financial agreements, he reiterated Global Fund commitment to supporting Sudan's fight against HIV, TB, and Malaria, highlighting the importance of strong partnerships, improved communication, and accelerated implementation, stressing on the importance of community-level impact. In his closing remarks, Dr. Heitham Mohammed Ibrahim, the Federal Minister of Health, reiterated Sudan's commitment to facilitating Global Fund programs and stressed the importance of re-establishing the National Medicines Supply Fund. The workshop concluded with a clear action plan and a shared resolve to enhance health outcomes for Sudan's vulnerable populations, ensuring continued access to essential health services.



"I extend my heartfelt gratitude to the Global Fund for organizing this vital forum and for its unwavering commitment to the health and well-being of the Sudanese people." Said Dr Safa the CCM vice chair



"GF is about people and health – about groundwork, in the field, where people are." reminded Mr. Quentin De Hemptinne Sudan Fund Portfolio Manager on the core philosophy of the Global Fund and its focus on reaching and impacting communities.

# Restoring Health, Restoring Hope: Medical Aid Arrives in East Darfur



This successful delivery underscores the Ministry's unwavering commitment to providing accessible and high-quality healthcare services to all citizens across Sudan, regardless of the prevailing circumstances.

The Federal Ministry of Health (FMOH), in collaboration with UNICEF and National Medicines Supply Fund, has achieved a remarkable milestone by successfully transporting a substantial quantity of essential medicines and medical supplies specifically aimed at combating AIDS, tuberculosis, and malaria in East Darfur State. This critical delivery has been facilitated through a strong partnership with the National Medical Supplies Fund, which has been instrumental in addressing the pressing healthcare needs associated with these vital health programs.

The significance of this shipment cannot be overstated, especially considering the backdrop of over a year marked by severe supply chain disruptions due to the ongoing conflict in Sudan. These disruptions have severely impacted access to crucial medical supplies, leaving many vulnerable populations without the necessary treatments.

With this recent delivery, the FMOH aims to meet the healthcare needs of East Darfur for the next five months. In acknowledging this vital achievement, the FMOH has expressed heartfelt gratitude to all stakeholders involved in making this possible. The collaboration with organizations such as the Global Fund and UNICEF has been pivotal in ensuring that essential healthcare resources reach those in dire need.

The collective efforts of these partners demonstrate a commitment to public health and underscore the importance of collaborative action in overcoming the challenges faced by the healthcare system in East Darfur. As the region continues to navigate the complexities of conflict and health crises, this successful delivery stands as a beacon of hope for improved health services and the well-being of its residents.



New Partnerships Formed

# Advancing Malaria Control in Sudan: Recent Key Achievements

Several key activities have been undertaken in Sudan as part of the ongoing battle against malaria. These efforts made possible through the generous support of the Global Fund and strong partnership between UNICEF and the Program Management Unit of the FMOH spearheaded by the National Malaria Control Program (NMCP), this demonstrates significant progress in strengthening the country's malaria control efforts.

**Strengthening Community-Based Malaria Management:** Cascade supervision was conducted for 49 communities in Kassala and Gadarif, targeting Home-Based Management (HMM) volunteers. This activity, supported by the Global Fund through the C19RM grant implemented by UNDP, ensures effective and quality malaria care delivery at the community level.

**Enhanced Data Management:** Training sessions were provided to malaria localities' coordinators and Health Information System (HIS) coordinators on utilizing the DHIS2 system. This crucial investment in data management, is also supported by the Global Fund through the C19RM grant implemented by UNDP, it is tailored to will improve the accuracy and timeliness of malaria surveillance data, enabling more informed decision-making.

**Improved Malaria Surveillance:** The National Malaria Control Program (NMCP) conducted an HRP2/3 gene deletion survey in Gadarif and Kassala states, supported by the Global Fund through the PMU-GF. This valuable data will inform the refinement of malaria control strategies and guide future interventions.

**Enhanced Program Oversight:** Supportive supervision visits were conducted in four states, supported by the Global Fund through the PMU-GF. These visits provide crucial on-the-ground guidance and support to strengthen program implementation at the state level.

These achievements represent significant strides in Sudan's fight against malaria. As the Global Fund grant continues to gain momentum, more vital activities are planned to further strengthen the country's malaria control efforts.





## Sudan Ushers in a New Era: Malaria Vaccine Campaign Launched

Sudan, grappling with one of the highest malaria infection rates in the Eastern Mediterranean Region, has embarked on a monumental step towards a healthier future. The Federal Ministry of Health has launched a pioneering campaign to introduce the malaria vaccine into the routine immunization schedule for children in all localities of Al-Gadarif State and Al-Damazin, Al-Rasirras, and Al-Tadamun localities of Blue Nile State. This will be cascaded in other high-risk localities in 2025, totaling 148 localities across 13 states. This landmark initiative marks Sudan as the third African nation and the first in the Eastern Mediterranean Region to embrace this life-saving intervention.

### A Call to Action: Protecting the Most Vulnerable

Federal Minister of Health, Dr. Haitham Mohammed Ibrahim, underscored the urgency of this campaign, revealing that Sudan bears the heavy burden of half of all malaria-related deaths in the Eastern Mediterranean Region. "This vaccine represents a significant advancement," Dr. Ibrahim emphasized, "aimed at significantly reducing mortality rates and the number of severe cases, especially among our most vulnerable – our children."

The campaign aligns perfectly with global efforts to combat malaria. Representatives from the World Health Organization, UNICEF, and other leading health organizations lauded Sudan's proactive approach, highlighting the vaccine's pivotal role in reducing malaria cases and deaths worldwide.



### A Brighter Future:

This campaign marks a pivotal moment in Sudan's battle against malaria. By focusing on the health and well-being of its children, the nation is investing in a future where the devastating effects of this disease are considerably reduced. It's important to note that these efforts form part of a strategic, comprehensive approach to defeating malaria on various fronts. Sudan is showcasing its steadfast commitment to combating malaria through a multi-faceted strategy, which includes also the distribution of 16 million Long-Lasting Insecticide Nets (LLINs) planned in April 2025 and is supported by the global fund. This initiative serves as a vital first line of defense against malaria transmission. Ensuring that free malaria diagnostics and treatment are accessible to those most in need, remains a key element of the national strategy that is also enhanced by the Global Fund support.

This united effort, which includes extensive public awareness campaigns, vaccination, preventive measures, and easily accessible treatment, represents a holistic approach to defeating malaria that will undoubtedly save countless lives.



# Sudan Braces for HIV Crisis amidst Conflict, Vows to End the Epidemic

The ongoing conflict in Sudan has cast a long shadow over the nation's healthcare system, threatening to reverse years of progress in the fight against HIV. With over 7 million individuals displaced and access to essential services severely disrupted, the threat of an escalating HIV crisis looms large. The war has had a devastating impact on the delivery of HIV services. Only 34% of HIV services care and treatments providing health facilities remain functional, leaving a significant gap in HIV testing and treatment services. While testing services are available in high-burden hospitals, rural populations face limited access, increasing their vulnerability. Furthermore, the conflict has severely strained healthcare resources, impacting the availability of essential medicines, diagnostic tools, and human resources.



During a press conference for World AIDS Day, Dr. Haitham Mohamed Ibrahim, the Federal Minister of Health, highlighted the challenges in the healthcare system and the government's commitment to providing treatment access for all. The celebrations focused on community involvement, awareness, testing, and reducing HIV stigma. UNDP with global fund support had launched a mobile testing campaign to assist vulnerable populations.

To control the AIDS epidemic in Sudan, a comprehensive strategy is essential. This should involve renovating health facilities, securing vital supplies, providing antiretroviral therapy to displaced populations, and strengthening community organizations focused on HIV prevention and treatment. While the path forward is undeniably tough, Sudan's dedication to ending the AIDS crisis, along with international support—particularly from the global fund—and community involvement, presents a glimmer of hope.

## Enhancing TB Diagnosis in Sudan

In a significant step forward in the NTP's efforts to improve TB diagnosis and treatment outcomes in Sudan, and with global fund support; the National Tuberculosis Control Program (NTP) in Sudan, in collaboration with UNDP, WHO and the Tuberculosis Research Association organized mobile clinics for tuberculosis has implemented mobile clinics in the states of River Nile, Kassala, and Al Qadarif. These efforts aim to actively investigate pulmonary tuberculosis and extrapulmonary tuberculosis patients and increase detection of new cases. Dr. Mohamed Al Sarraj, Director of the National Tuberculosis Control Program, stated that the mobile clinics have targeted miners in areas like grinding sites, Al Abidiyah, and Wadi Al Ashar in the River Nile state. Tuberculosis testing was conducted for 400 miners using gene Expert, and discovered patients were enrolled in care and treatment centers in the state. The clinics also reached displaced persons camps in Kassala and Al Gadarif states.

The TB program had also successfully conducted a workshop focused on improving tuberculosis (TB) diagnosis through enhanced microscopic examination and sample collection. This activity is part of the ongoing implementation of the Global Fund Grant Cycle 7 (GC7) activities.



Ms. Rahma Hassab Al-Rasul, from the NTP's laboratory, explained that the training encompassed comprehensive instruction on TB diagnosis, microscopic examination techniques and best practices for sample collection, processing, and result interpretation. The workshop specifically targeted 24 healthcare professionals from five different localities within Kassala, contributing to the overall enhancement of TB diagnostic services in the region.

Additionally, the program organized an awareness workshop for general practitioners and specialists on the early detection of tuberculosis, including extra-pulmonary tuberculosis and Gene Expert examination, aimed at increasing case detection in Kassala, Red Sea, Northern, and Nile River states.

The program also provided food baskets and financial support to drug-resistant tuberculosis patients to encourage treatment adherence.

# Revolutionizing Sudan's Healthcare: Introduction of Mobile Primary Care Services.



In a powerful demonstration of international solidarity, the Global Fund through the C19RM grant has supported a crucial initiative to enhance healthcare access in Sudan. Nine state-of-the-art Mobile Primary Health Care (PHC) centers – seven smaller units and two larger ones – have been successfully procured and delivered, marking a significant step forward in reaching vulnerable populations across the country.

Through a robust partnership between UNDP, IOM, and the Federal Ministry of Health (FMOH), Directorate General of PHC, seven units have already been deployed to critical locations: Red Sea State: Serving underserved communities in remote and hard-to-reach areas.

Northern State: Providing essential care in Dongola locality and at the Argeen checkpoint on the Sudan-Egypt border, specifically targeting returning migrants.

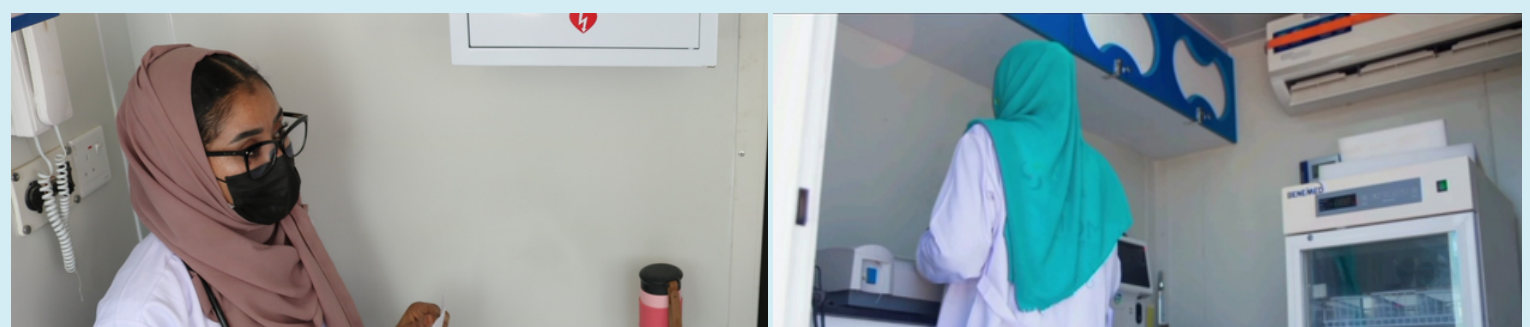
Kassala State: Addressing the urgent health needs of underserved populations and internally displaced persons (IDPs) in gathering camps.

Gadarif State: Delivering vital services to refugees and IDPs in gathering camps.

These mobile PHC centers are lifelines for vulnerable communities, offering a comprehensive range of essential services, including: Tuberculosis (TB) and HIV care: Early diagnosis, treatment, and prevention services, Malaria prevention and control, Immunization programs, Nutrition services: Addressing malnutrition and providing essential nutritional support, Maternal and child health: Providing antenatal care, postnatal care, and family planning services, Non-communicable disease (NCD) prevention and control: Screening and management of chronic diseases like diabetes and hypertension and Mental health and psychosocial support: Addressing the mental health needs of affected populations.

The remaining unit is currently in the planning phase, with the FMOH, DCD, and HDP working diligently to expand PHC services, prioritizing TB and HIV care to address critical health needs.

The critical importance of these mobile PHC units cannot be overstated, especially during the current challenging situation in Sudan; as it brings essential healthcare services directly to remote and inaccessible areas.



# MESSAGE FROM THE MANAGEMENT

## Message to the army in white coats



You are not merely doctors, nurses, and technicians; you are the guardians of life, the architects of hope. In the face of adversity, you rise above the fray, your hands steady, your hearts unwavering. You are the embodiment of the Sudanese spirit: resilient, compassionate, and indomitable.

From the bustling hospitals of Khartoum to the remote clinics of the countryside, you bring healing and comfort to a nation in need. You navigate the storms of conflict, the ravages of disease, and the long-present challenges of poverty. You do so not for fame or fortune, but out of a profound sense of duty and an unwavering commitment to your people.

You are the torchbearers of a brighter future for Sudan, a future where every child has access to quality healthcare, where every mother can give birth safely, and where every life is cherished. You are the hope that sustains us, the inspiration that drives us forward.

Go forth, then, with courage and compassion. Carry the weight of a nation on your shoulders, and know that you are not alone. We stand with you, we support you, and we celebrate your unwavering dedication.

May God bless you and guide your every step.

Dr. Haitham Muhammad Ibrahim Federal Minister of Health



In the face of darkness, the light of life shines. Sudanese doctors in the photo above, unwavering in their dedication, continue a critical surgery by the glow of their mobile phones, refusing to let a bombing halt their mission to save lives.

This publication serves as a vital resource produced by the CCM Executive Secretariat, aimed at keeping CCM members and partners informed about the key activities and initiatives undertaken by CCM Sudan. It provides a periodic update that highlights the significant developments and progress regarding the grants that have been funded by the Global Fund. These updates are essential for fostering transparency, collaboration, and informed decision-making among stakeholders.

The publication not only summarizes ongoing projects but may also delve into the impact of these initiatives on public health, community engagement, and overall outcomes in Sudan. It plays a crucial role in ensuring that all members and partners are aligned and aware of the strategic goals and achievements of global Fund in Sudan.

For those seeking further details or wishing to engage more deeply with the content, the publication encourages readers to reach out via the provided contact email, [ccm.sd.sec@gmail.com](mailto:ccm.sd.sec@gmail.com). This open line of communication allows for inquiries, feedback, and discussions that can enhance the collaboration and effectiveness of the efforts undertaken by the CCM and its partners.