



The United Nations Human Development Index ranks Sudan in 167th place out of 188 countries. Armed conflicts continue to threaten the country's security and have caused the displacement of over 2 million people. Nearly half of the population lives below the poverty line and 1 in 6 children is estimated to be acutely malnourished.

EMERGENCY began operations in Sudan in 2004, in Al Fashir (North Darfur), rebuilding and equipping the Emergency Surgery Department and Operating Theatre in the city hospital. In 2005, EMERGENCY opened the Paediatric Centre in the Mayo camp, a few kilometres from the capital, Khartoum, to provide free medical care to children up to 14 years of age.

In the same year, EMERGENCY began the construction of a Regional Centre for Cardiac Surgery in Khartoum. Indeed, the need for cardiac surgery is compelling in the region, where rheumatic heart disease remains a major cause of death, despite being preventable and imminently treatable.

In order to reduce morbidity and mortality in the region, EMERGENCY has built a network of paediatric centres in Sudan and in neighbouring countries. These centres work as satellites of EMERGENCY's Centre for Cardiac Surgery and, in addition to the provision of paediatric care, host periodic screening missions aimed at identifying patients in need of cardiac surgery.

Two of these satellite centres were opened in Sudan: the first, opened in July 2010, was located in Nyala (Darfur) and closed following the kidnapping of one of our humanitarian aid workers; the second, opened in December 2011, is in Port Sudan, Red Sea State.

The Salam Centre for Cardiac Surgery, opened in 2007 in Khartoum, offers free-of-charge and high quality assistance to patients with congenital and acquired diseases secondary to rheumatic fever. Rheumatic heart disease has a high incidence in sub-Saharan Africa, ranging from less than 1 to 14 per 1,000 compared to 2-14 per 100,000 in developed countries. The reasons for this stark divide are poverty, poor hygiene and lack of primary healthcare assistance.

Rheumatic heart disease is particularly high among young people. This is confirmed at the Salam Centre, where 56% of patients admitted are under the age of 26.

The Salam Centre is the hub of EMERGENCY's Regional Programme for Cardiac Surgery. Through this Programme, international cardiologists carry out periodic missions in EMERGENCY's facilities in both Africa and Asia to screen patients with heart diseases treatable at the Salam Centre, and to ensure the follow-up of operated patients. Where EMERGENCY has no facilities, EMERGENCY's cardiologists perform the screening in local hospitals in collaboration with local health authorities.

Since the establishment of the Centre, EMERGENCY has organised 90 screening missions in Sudan and abroad, performing 6,000 cardiological consultations. In 2016, EMERGENCY carried out 8 screening missions in Burundi, Chad, Eritrea, Sierra Leone, Uganda and Port Sudan.

The Salam Centre has treated patients coming from 27 countries, mostly African. Aside from Sudan and South Sudan, main countries of origin are Ethiopia, Eritrea, Central African Republic, Chad, Uganda and Sierra Leone.

Whenever needed, EMERGENCY provides free transportation for foreign patients to and from the Salam Centre. Relatives accompanying young patients are accommodated free-of-charge at the Salam Centre's guesthouse located within the hospital compound.

The Salam Centre is EMERGENCY's first Centre of Medical Excellence and promotes a human rights-based medicine, founded on the principles of equality, quality and social responsibility. 60 international staff work at the Centre guaranteeing not only high clinical results, but also continuous training of national staff.

The Salam Centre was constructed using innovative solutions to minimise energy consumption. The project's ambition is to combine architectural excellence with state-of-the-art medical care, providing the best environment for patients' treatment and recovery.

Facilities: 3 OT rooms, 15-bed Intensive Care Unit, 16-bed Sub Intensive Care Unit, 32-bed Patients Wards, Emergency Room, Outpatient clinics, Catheterisation laboratory, Radiology and ultrasound, Laboratory and Blood Bank, Physiotherapy, Domestic services, Maintenance, Guesthouse for patients' relatives, Pavilion for prayer and meditation.

Bed capacity: 63 beds

International staff: 1 medical coordinator, 5 cardiac surgeons, 5 cardiologists, 8 anaesthetists, 3 perfusionists, 2 internal doctors, 22 nurses, 1 X-ray technician, 1 lab technician, 1 physiotherapist, 1 pharmacist, 7 non-medical staff, 1 regional programme coordinator.

National staff: 377 medical and non-medical staff.

Since the beginning of activities to December 2016:

Patients triaged: **65,221**
Cardiological examinations: **57,276**
Patients admitted: **7,787**
Surgical operations: **6,821**
Cath Lab procedures: **1,323**
Foreign patients: **1,118**

From January to December 2016:

Outpatient consultations: **4,891**
Cardiological examinations: **3,716**
Patients admitted: **573**
Surgical operations: **548**
Cath Lab procedures: **36**
Foreign patients: **97**