

## PHC Policy Advisor



### **Project Theme:**

Basic Human Needs (Health)

### **Counterpart:**

Federal Ministry of Health

### **Duration:**

Jun. 2014 to Jun. 2016

### **Target Area:**

Nation Wide through Federal Ministry of Health

### **Project Summary:**

Sudan made progress towards the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) with a reduction in child mortality and maternal mortality rate by 60% between 1990 and 2010. Sudan, however, yet to achieve the MDGs for child and maternal health (Neonatal Mortality Rate (NMR): 33/1000, Infant Mortality Rate (IMR): 57/1000 (Target: 40/1000) and Under-five Mortality Rate (UMR): 78/1000 (2014) (Target: 53/1000)).

The Federal Ministry of Health and development partners adopted the Project of universal coverage for essential Primary Health Care (PHC) services to overcome the above mentioned challenges. Also, they formulated the MCH national acceleration plan for the Maternal and Child Health (MCH) 2013-2015. In this regard, JICA has dispatched an expert to provide technical support and strengthen the institutional and management capacities of MCH department upon the MCH request.

PHC Policy Advisor has contributed to support PHC activities, and he continues to find and fill the gap by mobilizing technical and financial resources from JICA and beyond with other partners. The advisor played a catalytic role in the area of capacity building of health officials in support of national efforts for the PHC expansion, Ebola preparedness, Scale-Up Nutrition (SUN) movement, quality improvement and health system strengthening.

### **Expected Impact:**

The development of MCH integrated system; finalized the MCH policy; Comprehensive plan of capacity building of MCH department managers in planning and management of MCH services at all levels of decentralized health system.

### **Comment:**

“Sudan was eager to join the SUN movement. It was in the middle of JICA training on nutrition in Tokyo when Sudanese participants came to know that Sudan’s request was finally approved. The moment of joy was shared among peer SUN country participants during the training where PHC Policy Advisor and JICA worked hard behind the scenes. It is indeed a great step forward towards better nutrition in Sudan.

Indeed, PHC Policy Advisor also contributed AMREF\* training. It was a privilege that Sudan received the JICA-AMREF Health Africa Partnership Programme on health systems strengthening. This training was surely contributed to building a strong knowledge base and confidence among health managers in support of the national PHC expansion project in the country. This opportunity also strengthened a Sudan-Kenya-Japan partnership through mutual learning and horizontal friendships among all the stakeholders beyond the border. It was truly a remarkable and fulfilled experience.”

(Dr. Ibtisam Osamm, JICA focal Person, Federal Ministry of Health)



\* AMREF Health Africa is an international African health organization, headquartered in Nairobi, Kenya. JICA has corroboration with them on Kenya health technical cooperation; name is “Partnership for Health Systems Strengthening in Africa (PHSSA)”.