

Sudan

Dr Nahla Gaffer is a Palliative Care Specialist and Medical Doctor at Radiation and Isotope Centre of Khartoum in Sudan

HAU. How has International Programmes supported you?

NG. “HAU, especially through its international Programmes has assisted us in several ways.

1. Several of our team members, including myself, received our basic training in palliative care at the annual Palliative Care Initiators’ Course.
2. International Programmes follow up with us and ask about the impact of our candidates after their return back to Sudan.
3. International Programmes encourage us every year by several emails to send personnel for training in palliative care.
4. Prof. Anne Merriman with Dr Jack Jagwe made an advocacy visit to Sudan in 2010, at the Ministry of Health, the National Teaching Hospital, and led the inauguration of the first palliative care unit in Sudan.
5. International Programmes sent personnel to conduct training in Sudan in palliative care, on two occasions: in February-March 2010 for one whole month, and in November 2011, two staff came for two weeks including one week in Medani city where a palliative care service was recently started in January 2015. Both trips were highly beneficial since a large number of people were trained with minimal expenses, 24 health professionals and 32 volunteers at the first time; and 17 at Khartoum, and 25 at Medani, the second time.”

HAU. Has Hospice Africa Uganda had a positive influence on your work and/or palliative care system in your country? How?

NG. “Yes. HAU had a very positive role in my work, introducing me to palliative care and helping me set up a plan for my country.

It has also helped me in initiating palliative care services in the country. Currently three places offer palliative care services in Sudan: RICK, NCI and SUH. This is achieved by the

personnel trained by HAU and with patients' charts largely inspired from the HAU patient chart.

However Palliative Care in Sudan still has to be a government priority, and still guidelines have to be drafted.”