Dear Soroptimists,

I would like to thank you on behalf of the Soroptimist Club of Merate for the special prize of 1000 Euros awarded to us for our service "Project Supporting the women of Emergency's Salam Centre of Khartoum, Sudan".

It has been a great honour for us to have been chosen from such a wide selection of interesting and stimulating initiatives, and the good fortune that has rewarded us, gives me hope for a sunshine's ray in the darkness of the serious situation that still hangs over the people of Sudan, devastated by a forgotten war.

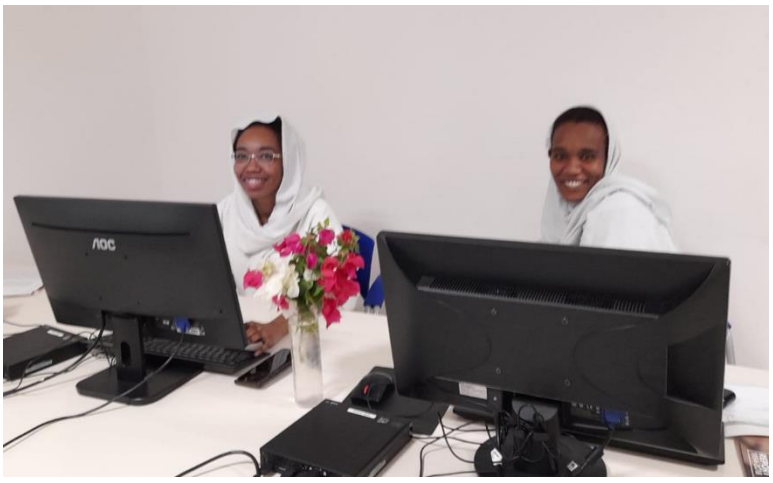
Since April 15, 2023, war has broken out in Sudan, currently mainly concentrated in the areas of North Darfur and the capital Khartoum. Fortunately, the Salam Centre for Cardiac Surgery, which is located on the outskirts of the capital (Soba Hilla), was not affected by the war activities or looting, which instead devastated the children's hospital in Nyala, on the west-southern border of the country.





As a result of the conflict, the number of patients (especially women) who were able to reach the Salam Centre plummeted, and the living conditions of the health workers working there were also severely compromised, forcing Sudanese health workers (especially women) who previously returned home at the end of their shift, to move permanently to the hospital, leaving their families.

Currently, Dr. Suha Hassan, whom we have supported in her work with the Anna Bianchi Scholarship, is the coordinator of the Anticoagulant Therapy Clinic of the Salam Centre, and with her colleague Sohayda she is managing with great professionalism, spirit of initiative and self-sacrifice the difficult situation of patients belonging to the Center, in particular women, as always, they are the first victims of the side effects of a war in a poor country.





Our support project, awarded above all as it was continuous, was supposed to support scholarships for doctors, nurses or midwives in support of the work prevention the risk related to the pregnancies of women on anticoagulant therapy who belong to the Salam Centre from all over Sudan and other countries of sub-Saharan Africa.

At the moment, it's not possible to continue with a training campaign, and, given the considerable losses of equipment suffered by peripheral centers such as the Nyala Hospital, we have decided to purchase portable coagulometers, which are essential for the management of the monitoring of anticoagulant therapy via the internet.

In fact, the internet is the only way that can guarantee the management of therapy to those who live in war zones or are unable, due to lack of money or means of transport, to reach the few hospitals still open. In practice, facilitating travel and free access to treatment in safe areas can mean avoiding violence and rape. Since October 2023, 124 reported rapes have been suffered by Sudanese women, but it is estimated that thousands have occurred in the country; According to international organizations, more than four million Sudanese women are thought to be at risk of sexual violence.

We will keep the SI Europe updated on the evolution of the Salam Centre's Women's Support Project, but I inform you right now that the one thousand euros of the prize will be entirely used for the purchase of coagulometers

I am finishing my term as president of the two-year period 2021 – 2023, and let me be really proud of my great little Club, which, since 2004 has distinguished itself for national and international initiatives and projects, and which has supported me unreservedly in this exciting path.

I would like to thank Giovanna Guercio, National President who has been close to us since the presentation of the project and Paola Pizzaferri, member of my Club and National PD for her unconditional help and support, Marinella Comi exceptional PD and Eva Tea Milani Assistant PD who has carefully and intelligently packaged the presentation of the project for the Award.

But above all, my thanks go to the girls anda guys of the Salam Centre, Suha, Sohaya, Nicoletta Erba and all their colleagues who work remotely or in Sudan with professionalism, self-sacrifice and enthusiasm, despite the adverse conditions.





„Working together for a world without war is the best thing we can do for future generations"
Gino Strada – Emergency

With great gratitude, my best wishes to all of you for the upcoming end-of-year holidays and, ... shall we continue to accelerate change!!

Valeria De Micheli
President Soroptimist International Club Merate