



NEF

What's New

90+ YEARS

New Labor /Delivery Facility For Sudan Health Center--Time For Celebration & Speaking Out - *posted Monday, May 28, 2007*



The governor, Hassan Mohamed Hassan El Gafari, had the honor of cutting the ribbon, amidst much attention from local media and press.

Under a bright orange canopy shield from scorching Sudanese sunlight--they gathered. Women, men and children from the beleaguered community of New Dar El-Salaam El-Rabwa; representatives from international and local nongovernmental organizations and other health providers in the area; officials from Government of Sudan ministries and agencies; local community leaders and school officials--even the governor himself--attended opening ceremonies for the NEF Health Center's new labor and delivery facility.



A guided tour of the NEF Health Center gave everyone a chance to see the new labor room and range of modern equipment and protective measures available for mothers.

The governor, Hassan Mohamed Hassan El Gafari, had the honor of cutting the ribbon, amidst much attention from local media and press. School students presented a play dramatizing their area's problems...with the bite of satire and some lightness of comedy. There was traditional dancing by a local folklore group. Most importantly, a guided tour of the NEF Health Center gave everyone a chance to see the new labor room and range of modern equipment and protective measures available for mothers. First rate, pronounced Ministry of Health officials, a level of care previously only available in hospitals out of reach for many Sudanese, including those of Dar El-Salaam.

In short, it was a much anticipated day...a day of joy and of hope for people who have been forced to leave their homes behind because of their country's violence and drought, and have relocated to this squatter settlement on the outskirts of the capital city of Khartoum.

"The governor's visit to the area does not happen often and was particularly appreciated by the community," reported back Mohamed Ramzy of the NEF-Egypt staff, present for this special occasion. "The sense that someone cares about their situation and that the voice of this displaced population was being heard by the Sudanese government raised community morale," he continued, "It gave people energy and enthusiasm to continue lobbying until progress is made to improve their very difficult circumstances."



In addition to general health services--diagnosis, primary health care, laboratory tests and a pharmacy, the center emphasizes reproductive health care, including family planning, prenatal and postnatal care.

The distinguished guests got an earful from local residents taking full advantage of the opportunity--not only on issues related to their health, but other daily concerns like electricity, water, roads and transportation, school infrastructure, and healthcare. In turn, the governor made promises to work towards practical solutions and delegated different issues to a few of his key staff who had accompanied him to the opening. They were to establish communication and follow up with the local people's committee.