

The Sudanese National Council in Uk & Irland (SNC) It's Role in the Provision of Medical Services and Technology transfer to the Sudanese people

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Abstract: SNC is a non-governmental, non-political charity organisation based in UK. Established in 1994 it remained the brand name for the provision of services to the Sudanese communities in UK & Sudan. SNC is chaired by Sheikh Dr Ibrahim El Tayeb & assisted by a committee of 15 members with various academic qualifications. SNC has its own constitution & membership is open to all Sudanese. The achievements of SNC could be summarised in 2 phases: in Phase 1 (1994 – 2006) most of the activities were undertaken in UK in the form scholarships, medical treatment, conferences, & cultural activities and Phase 2 (2007 – to date) includes an intensive work inside the Sudan in the form of medical missions to 4 States. To ensure a successful & efficient missions, 2 other bodies in Sudan cooperates with SNC namely SSWA & the State to be visited. The details of all achievements & the way forward for SNC will be shown & discussed in the paper.

1 Background

SNC is a non-governmental, non-political voluntary charity organization based in UK. Established in 1996, it remained the brand name for the provision of services to the Sudanese communities in UK and Sudan.

The main objectives of SNC are to promote Sudanese values & help to transfer knowledge in the field of medicine and science. To add to this, it provides scholarships for higher education as well as socio-cultural and community activities.

The SNC is founded and chaired by Dr. Ibrahim El Tayib El Rayah. It has its own constitution & an executive committee of 15 members (Sudanese) with various academic backgrounds and qualifications.

2 Achievements (1994 – 2006)

These are summarised in Table 1

- Scholarships for higher education
- Conferences
- Cultural activities
- Medical treatment

Table 1 SNC Activities Phase 1 (1994-2006)

Activities	Total no.	Remarks
Postgraduate support	40	Partial and full support
Medical treatment	29	Partial and full support
Cultural activities	2	In the UK and Sudan
Conferences	1	Medical Conference (1996)

3 Achievements of SNC (2007 - to date)

These are summarised in Table 2

- Medical and academic missions to 4 Sudanese states (this is now the main function of SNC)
- Cultural week in UK
- Scholarships for postgraduate studies (Sudanese)

4 Mechanism Prerequisites of the Medical Missions

The structure of the mission is mainly volunteers (Sudanese and non-Sudanese consultants) with different specialties as well as well as non medical academic scholars. All volunteers submit their CVs to SNC and will be evaluated and approved by a special committee.

All volunteers should be available to travel to Sudan for 2weeks during January and August each year.

The cost of air transport, internal transport in Sudan and full board accommodation are catered for by SNC and the Secretariat of Sudanese Working Abroad (SSWA). And to ensure efficient and successful missions, two other bodies work together with SNC (see Figure 1) namely SSWA & the State in which the mission will be visiting.

All visiting medicals should be registered in The Sudanese Medical council before the beginning of the mission.

At the end of the mission each member should submit to SNC a short report about his or her achievements. A comprehensive report will later be compiled and copies will be sent to the state visited and to SSWA.

5 Details of the Achievements (Phase II)

- The total number of patients examined and treated in 4 states were 13398 (see Table 2)
- The numbers of patients examined according to specialisation are shown in (Figure 2)
- The number of experts participated in the SNC missions in 4 states are shown in (Table 3)

6 Activities of Academic and non-medical Experts in SNC Missions

6.1 Veterinary

Sudan is very rich in animal wealth (150 millions) and this wealth is considered of paramount importance to the Sudanese economy.

Table 2 SNC Medical Activities Phase II (2007 to date)

Date	State	Total no. of Patients Examined & Treated
January 2007	Northern State	4500
August 2007	Northern Kordofan	2398
January 2008	White Nile	3500
August 2008	Sinnar	3000
Total		13398

Figure 1 Mechanism of the Function of SNC (2007 to date)

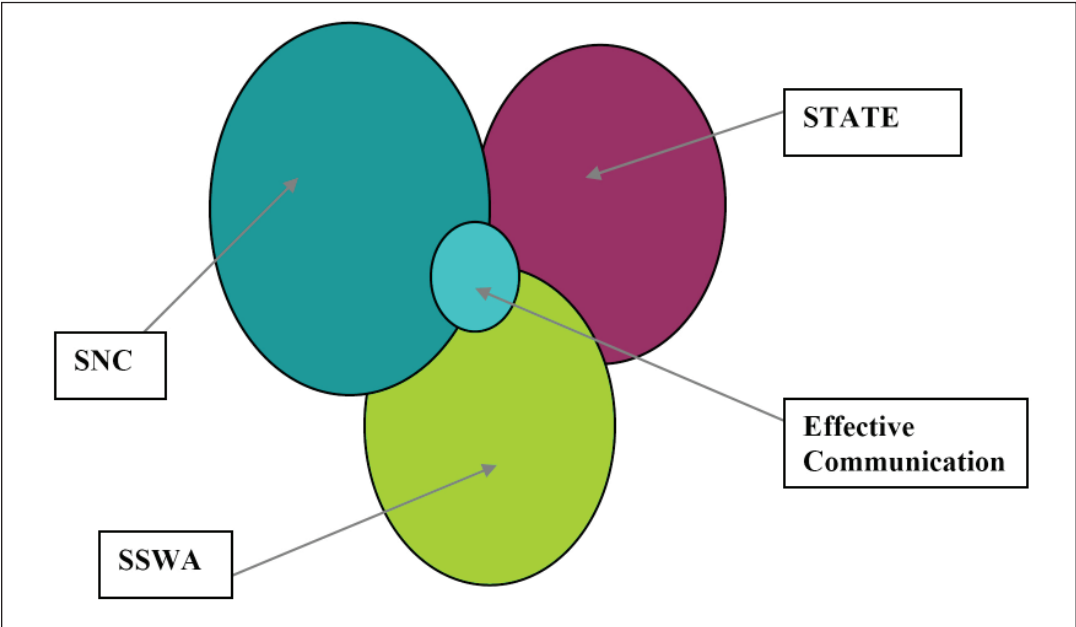


Figure 2 Total Number of Patients Examined According to Specialisation (4 States)

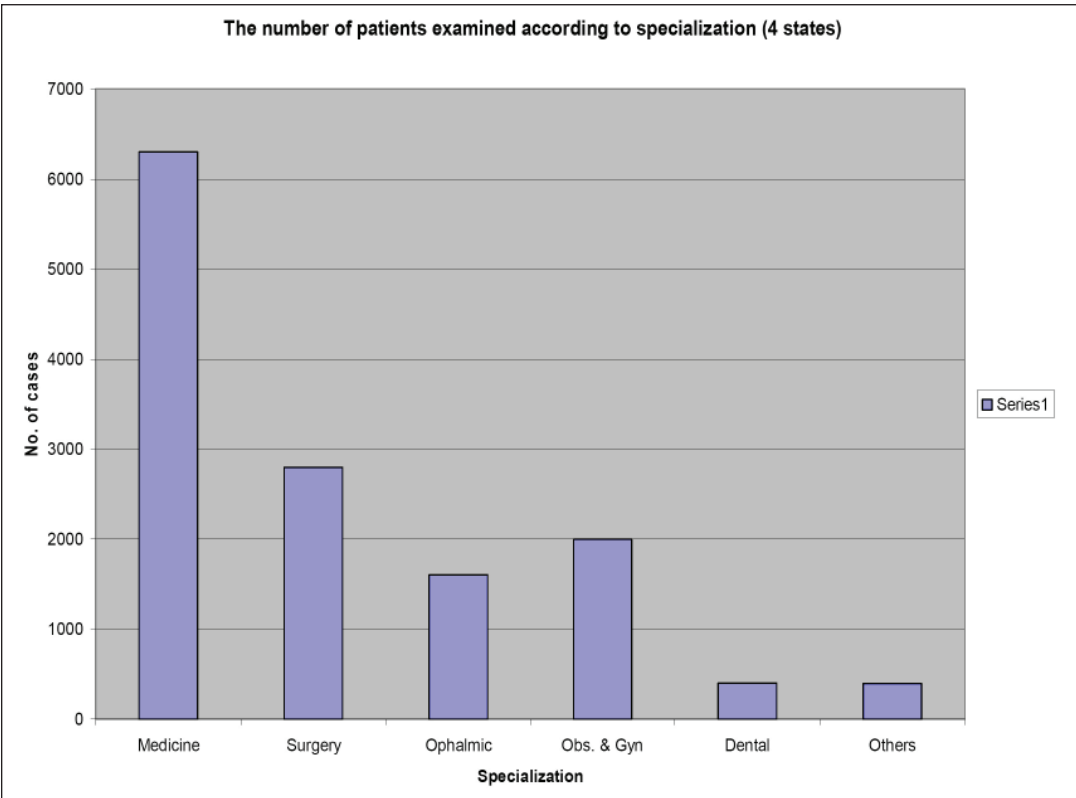


Table 3 Details of the Experts in SNC Missions

Title	Number		Total
	Sudanese	Non-Sudanese	
Medical consultant from abroad	30	10	40
Medical consultants from inside Sudan	20	0	20
Others (Vets., Engineers, IT, etc)	5	2	7
Total	55	12	67

- During the missions lectures, seminars and workshops about the latest developments in animal health and production were conducted targeting Vets, technicians and animal owners. Emphasis was laid on Emerging diseases of animals. The roles of the international organizations (FAO, WHO, OIE) in the control of major animal diseases were outlined.
- Due to the international importance of Zoonotic diseases, lectures were given to the final year students of Medical Schools in all 4 States. Strong recommendations were put forward to increase the awareness about Zoonotic Diseases.
- All booklets, pamphlets, CDs and handouts are left to the institutions visited.

6.2 Transfer of Technology

6.2.1 “Making Science and Technology Work for Sudan”

These four workshops organised by different research and academic institutions such as the National Council of Research, Industrial Research and Consultancy Centre, Ministry of Science and Technology, etc. in addition to IRCC staff, other MOST affiliated institutions, participants included those from the private sector. During the workshops SNC experts met with the Minister of Science and Technology and discussed different issues regarding the establishment of an electronic science database for all Sudanese publications (books, journals, etc).

The four parts of the workshops include:

- *Part I: Understanding the Concept and Practice of Technology Transfer:* This session provides the fundamentals and better understanding of the concept and practice of technology transfer with several examples from Africa. Main topics include: Technical change; Productivity gap; Technology transfer; Technology diffusion; TT key success factors; Transfer models; Transfer linkages; African research system; Reasons for African poor progress; Discussion and questions.
- *Session Two: Lessons from the UK Experience:* This session reviews several technology transfer activities in the UK: DTI – Technology Strategy Board with case studies; DTI – Knowledge Transfer Networks with case studies; University of Sussex – Knowledge Transfer Partnerships; Video case studies; University of Sussex – STEP programme with Shell; University of Sussex – Innovation Centre and Intellectual Property (IP); British Council African Knowledge Transfer Partnerships pilot projet; Discussion and questions.

- *Part III: Challenges and Opportunities for Sudan:* Topics include: Experience of other developing countries – India; Macro-economic challenges; ICT challenges and opportunities; Scientific publications and digital publishing; Discussions and questions; Connecting-Africa project – Leiden, Holland; Bridging the divide project – University of California, Berkeley, US; The way forward; Discussions and questions.

6.3 Management and Professional Development

6.3.1 “Strategic Management and Planning”

This integrative course provides participants with a global perspective and understanding of strategic management as a context for domestic and international operations. The aims are to develop an understanding of the different approaches to strategy; how choices are made between different possible approaches; the content in which choices are made; and how strategies and structures are designed and implemented.

The course covers materials for all levels from Supervisory through to Board Level. Participants also included experienced executives, directors and general managers who have significant general management responsibilities, and who are interested in being part of an engaging educational experience that explore the challenges and opportunities that face organizations. Moreover the training course was also opened to public and private sector managers responsible for the supervision, and management of teams, and subordinates within their organizations.

7 Social Development

- Intensive work with children with special needs
- Training of social workers to help children with special needs
- Hearing aids to children & old people with hearing difficulties

8 Engineering

- Lectures & seminars to the students of the faculty of engineering
- Workshops & seminars on the drainage systems and its improvement

9 Conclusion

- All the missions proved to be highly successful according to the reports from Sudanese inside and outside. This is in addition to the official reports of SSWA.
- The missions helped to transfer experience training and technology in Medicine, Veterinary Medicine, Information Technology, Management, Social Development and Engineering.
- In an attempt to provide more services efforts are now in progress to bring some Doctors, Nurses and Technicians as well as Veterinarians for short training courses in UK. To this end, the SNC is looking for funds from Charity organisations.
- Efforts are already in progress to send small equipments, scientific books and Journals to the universities in 4 States.