

## Yemen's struggle: a need for oxygen amid the crisis

Due to the crisis in Yemen has left many health facilities grappling with urgent needs that must be met to be able to provide essential health services. These needs include electricity and fuel: a shortage affecting both the public and private sectors and disrupting oxygen production is making an already critical situation worse.

Medical oxygen is a life-saving and therapeutic treatment for various medical conditions. These include both acute and chronic diseases such as respiratory diseases, cardiovascular diseases, COVID-19 and pneumonia, along with critical complications across all age groups. Demand for oxygen is growing, yet in many countries, including Yemen, delivering the much-needed quantity to the health system remains a significant challenge.

Oxygen is indispensable in Yemen's clinics and hospitals. It is necessary for surgeries, maternal and child care and the treatment of medical conditions such as asthma and pneumonia. Epidemics have strained Yemen's medical oxygen supply, and ongoing conflict has left hospitals and clinics without easy access to fresh oxygen supplies, worsening the challenges they face.

## KSrelief's vital role: transforming health care in Yemen with the Five Oxygen Stations initiative



Life breathes easier: Dr Al-Zubaidi unveils the impactful journey of KSrelief's oxygen station in Tarim district



WDr Mohyeldin Al-Zubaidi, who holds a degree in general medicine and surgery, is a dedicated

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general practitioner in the emergency room of Tarim Hospital, Hadhramaut. Day after day, he tirelessly attends to urgent and non-urgent cases, providing crucial medical interventions to those in need.

The COVID-19 emergency posed an unprecedented challenge for the hospital and its staff. An absence of the necessary interventions, especially oxygen-related treatments, compelled patient transfers, causing immense distress to families and caregivers. Dr Al-Zubaidi and his colleagues ardently advocate for the full range of services in all hospitals to ease the burden on patients and their loved ones.

"This hospital has a remarkable impact on the community," remarked Dr Al-Zubaidi. "The Tarim district has witnessed a significant improvement in health care access due to the installation of a cutting edge oxygen station at the hospital. People can now easily access the oxygen supply they need."

Dr Al-Zubaidi's team cares for a diverse range of people, including society's most vulnerable. The hospital supports those in critical need, such as elderly people, newborns and infants suffering from heart and lung disorders or congenital heart problems. The oxygen station has transformed their well-being, breathing new life into their existence.

"In the past, patients had to travel long distances to different districts in search of oxygen, risking fatalities and encountering additional health complications due to the distance and lack of available services," explained Dr Al-Zubaidi. "However, with the establishment of the oxygen station in the Tarim district, it has become a cornerstone for the area, a testament to the transformative power of compassion and a single initiative on an entire community."

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