

Box 3 Overview of the family attachment programme of the University of Gezira faculty of medicine from 2000 to 2014

The family attachment programme is implemented among families of Gezira State in four phases during four consecutive semesters (2-4, 8). Each student makes four family visits in each phase, i.e. 16 visits by the end of the four phases. The total number of families involved during the last 15 years was 3750 and the total number of family visits conducted in the last 15 years was 50 000. The average number of students per batch is 250. The services provided by students include:

- under-five child services, including ensuring vaccination completion according to the national expanded programme of immunization for each child, and growth monitoring at the health centre;
- linking pregnant women to the antenatal care and family planning services at health centres;
- health education according to the detected problems, addressing preventive, curative and rehabilitative measures at the household level;
- follow-up and advice for controlling noncommunicable diseases such as diabetes mellitus and hypertension;
- identification of patients in need of financial support and helping them to obtain it through the *zakah* chamber, health insurance and charities; and
- help in the referral of cases to secondary and tertiary levels.