

Box 2 Overview of the interdisciplinary field training, research and rural development programme of the University of Gezira faculty of medicine from 2000 to 2014

The interdisciplinary field training, research and rural development programme targets 15–20 villages each year in six areas of Gezira State (8). Over the period 2000–2014 the programme covered 237 villages (82% of the 290 targeted villages), with coverage of villages ranging from 75% to 90% in different areas. The programme has three phases each of 4 weeks. In phase 1 villages are surveyed and priority problems selected according to the community diagnosis in each village. In phase 2 students select projects and implement them in collaboration with the villagers and recruit money from the *zakah* chamber, nongovernmental organizations and charitable institutes and individuals. In phase 3 students evaluate their achievements.

A total of 140 projects have been completed (59% of all projects). In all villages the following are implemented:

- health campaigns;
- tree planting;
- free mobile clinics;
- health education; and
- school health programmes.

Prominent projects are:

- directly observed therapy–short course for tuberculosis units;
- rehabilitation of water networks; and
- detection, referral and management of cases of mycetoma, schistosomiasis and vitamin A deficiency.