

Travel diary ✈️

SUDAN



Supporting Alliance for African Mobility

FROM: Spain, San Viator

TO: Sudan, St. Joseph Vocational Training Centre

28/08/2021 - 05/09/2021

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Travel diary

Sudan

Let's discover our two mobility experts

Endika Crespo and Begoña Inchaurreaga are the perfect team! Their expertise in mobility projects and their enthusiasm make them great SAAM ambassadors in Sudan. Let's get to know them!



ENDIKA CRESPO

International Affairs Department in San Viator

My name is Endika Crespo. I'm coordinator of International Projects in Centro San Viator and English Teacher in Secondary Education and VET. I have a degree in Translation and Interpreting, a Master Degree in Teaching ESL and a Master Degree in International Studies.

Here at Centro San Viator, I blend my passion for languages and internationalization with education, teaching teenagers and young adults in the classroom, while writing and coordinating projects and accompanying young students through their first international experiences thanks to Erasmus+ programme.

BEGOÑA INCHAURRAGA

International Affairs Department in San Viator

My name is Begoña Inchaurreaga, since September I am part of the International Affairs Department of Centro San Viator and part of SAAM. After finishing my studies in Law, I decided to continue my studies with a Master of International Business.

Internationalization has always been part of my life, when I was 4 I started studying in a French school, getting to speak another language and before turning 16 I was already studying abroad in the United States.

Since working in San Viator, I have been lucky enough to go through many different projects, not only SAAM, so I have been working in KA1, KA2 and KA3, and even a COVE.



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📍 Arriving in Sudan

Saturday, August 28th and Sunday, August 29th

We started our journey from **Bilbao, via Madrid and Doha**. The trip was really long, with a delay in our stopover in Doha. After a long day, we finally made it to **Khartoum** airport at midnight. Once we got checked our passport, visa and we had shown a less-than-72h-prior **Covid-19 test**, we were welcomed into Sudan. Everybody was very attentive and gentle and we got through the hassle of the paperwork as smoothly as possible.



Then we got our baggage and meet **Fr. Sudhir and Fr. Alan**, who were waiting for us at the airport, and we were taken to **St. Joseph Vocational Training Centre**, which was very close to the airport. Finally, at 1 am in the morning we arrived to our rooms and could have some well-deserved rest.



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📍 **Khartoum, Sudan**

Monday, August 30th

After a good (but short) night sleep, we woke up in the **Vocational Training Centre** and met everybody in the community. All Salesian brothers and the staff who work in the institution were very welcoming and made us feel at home.

First, after breakfast, we met the **administration office** and discussed the agenda for our whole journey. Then, **we were shown the premises and the facilities of the Vocational Centre.**



After a break time to work on our future meetings, we went to visit **Mr. Michele Rescaldani, UE Programme Manager for Resilience and Sustainable Development in Sudan.** He works on TVET development in the country and was really interested in SAAM and offered his support to help disseminate the project.



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📍 Khartoum, Sudan

Tuesday, August 31st

It was a busy morning on Tuesday. We started the day visiting the facilities of GIZ (German Society for International Cooperation) and met **Dr. Martin Bütow**, advisor VET for the **GIZ Employment Initiative in Khartoum**, and his team. We shared information about our projects and had a fruitful exchange of ideas that could benefit both organizations.



Then, we visited **two different Salesian schools in the outskirts of Khartoum (primary and secondary school)** we were shown the facilities, met the staff and had a nice chat with the Salesian community living in the Parish.



We even made time to quickly visit the **National History Museum in Khartoum**, where we could admire the remains of some of the oldest Sudanese temples. After having lunch back at the centre with congregation, we spent the rest of the day doing **paperwork and preparing the following days to come.**



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📍 **Khartoum, Sudan**

Wednesday, September 1st

On Wednesday, we visited the facilities of **St. Joseph's Vocational School** and met all the teachers and staff who work in the educational centre. They showed us their different departments and classrooms and introduced us to their students.



We also had a meeting with all the teachers to talk about SAAM and shared ideas and impressions about the project. **They were really interested in the programme and gave us some suggestions and ideas that could highly benefit SAAM and the next steps of the project.** It was a great exchange of ideas, fears, and expectations that shows that SAAM can have a real impact and hopefully make a difference in all of us participants. **We also talked to some of the teachers and students about their life and recorded some videos.**

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Khartoum, Sudan

Thursday, September 2nd

We spent the day visiting the province of **North Kordofan**, in the South of Sudan, where we met the **Salesian community** who are in charge of the **Don Bosco Technical School of El Obeid**. It was a long road journey across the country but it was well worth it.



The Salesian community introduced us to the staff and students who spend their day to day in the school, showed us the different **TVET departments and facilities and shared with us their plans for a future Secondary School in their centre**. They shared their experiences working with child refugees from Darfur, their achievements in giving quality training to more than 150 students a year in areas such as General Mechanics, AutoMechanics, Plumbing, Carpentry or Electricity.

They even had time to introduce us to **another public VET centre** who works in the area and we were able to chat with teachers and students about their work, their life and their expectations.

After the visit, we went back to **Khartoum** in time for dinner, and luckily just before a **huge rainstorm** that fell over the city during the whole night.



We were expecting Sudan to be a very desert place, but we just happened to arrive during the rainy season.

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📍 Khartoum, Sudan

Friday, September 3rd

Today, being Friday in Sudan, was a holiday, so **there was no class**. In the morning, we received the visit of **the secretary of the Bishop of Khartoum** and spent the morning with him. He shared his view on SAAM and the possibility of international mobilities and his own experiences abroad. Then, we had the opportunity to meet the **nuncio of Khartoum, Msgr. Luis Miguel Muñoz Cardaba**. He welcomed us into his office and showed great interest in our project, giving his blessings to SAAM and offering his support if needed.



In the afternoon, we visited the homes of some of **the teachers and staff who are part of St. Joseph's Vocational Training Centre**. They introduced us to their families and their day-to-day life and made us feel like home. We couldn't be more grateful. **We even had time to visit the banks of River Nile and relax walking along the longest river in the world!**



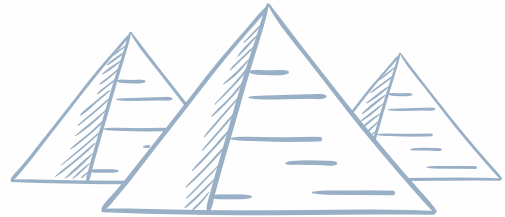
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📍 Khartoum, Sudan

Saturday, September 4th

Saturday was a special day for us SAAMers, as the Salesian community in St. Joseph's Vocational Centre wanted to have a detail with us visitors and took us to see the **Pyramids of Meroe**.



It was a thrilling experience to visit some of the oldest pyramids in the world, discovering the **Sahara** desert and learning about life in Sudan **out of the cities**. We could see **traditional towns, lots of shepherds guiding their cattle and a desert like we couldn't have ever imagined**. It was a wonderful experience that we will always keep engraved in our minds!

During the afternoon **we conducted some interviews and prepared our last day**, with the meeting with **Mr. Alfonso Herrero, Deputy Ambassador, in the Spanish Embassy and the visit of Mr. Michele Rescaldani, UE Programme Manager in Sudan**, with whom we appointed another meeting to continue our last compelling discussion over TVET projects in Sudan.



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📍 Khartoum, Sudan

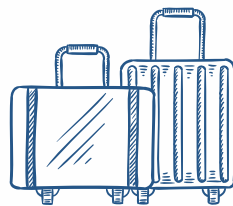
Sunday, September 5th

On our last day, we visited the **Spanish Embassy** and met **Mr. Alfonso Herrero, Deputy Ambassador**, who welcomed us and was eager to learn about our project.



He offered **the support of the Spanish embassy** and **shared his ideas and impressions about SAAM**. It was a very interesting conversation and exchange of experiences and ideas about the country and the different projects the Embassy of Spain is involved in the country.

After the meeting, we had **lunch at St. Joseph Vocational Training Centre** with **Mr. Michele Rescaldani**, who accepted the invitation of the Salesian community and shared his insights on the project and his broad experience in the country with us during lunch. Finally, we had some time to pack our luggage and prepare for the long way back home.

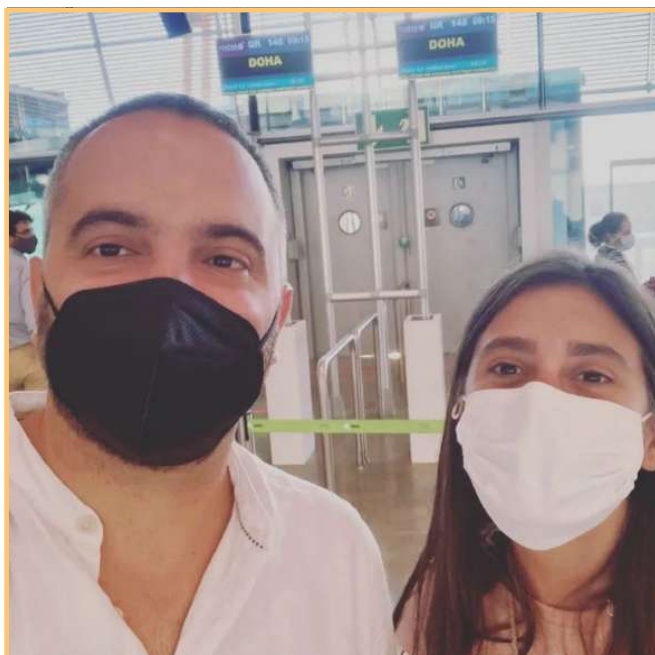


The way home was long (it took more than 24 hours) but luckily we had no delays nor any other incident worth mentioning and could rest finally at home after **a wonderful experience in the country**.

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 **Khartoum, Sudan**



SEE YOU SOON!

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