



Strengthening Africa's Healthcare System

In his role as President of GSD Healthcare Middle East and Vice Chairman of *Gruppo Ospedaliero San Donato* Italy, Kamel Ghribi, the GK INVESTMENT HOLDING GROUP Chairman and Founder, has made it his mission to address the shortcomings that exist in current thinking in our approach to public health projects in Africa and the MENA region.

Improving access to quality healthcare for people living in Africa and the MENA region is Kamel Ghribi's main objective for 2020. Long-term sustainability must not be sacrificed because of flawed and outdated models aggravated by inadequate infrastructure and a lack of connected support.

The focus for 2020 is to recognise that the most powerful driver of excellence in healthcare is education and investment in healthcare infrastructure. Empowerment through education is the only way to break the cycle of poverty and the limited access to health services, while a solid healthcare infrastructure is a key pillar in supporting the fundamental aim of promoting improved standards of care and wellbeing for all patients.

Africa has long offered great promise to the providers of healthcare services, not only due to its growing economic maturity and favourable demographic; but also due to the potential for sustainable growth. Innovative models of partnership between the public and private sectors can improve the situation in Africa; furthermore, they can also provide insights for the developing world. A sustained focus on healthcare excellence in Africa and the MENA region is crucial not only for individual nations, but also to the continent and region as a whole.

In order to achieve this goal, Kamel Ghribi has emphasised the importance of unity and coherence between nations, since this is the only way to improve the living and economic conditions of the general public throughout the African continent and MENA region. That is to say, the Ghribi ideal is a system of public and private sector partnerships that provide access to universal healthcare and infrastructure to all members of the population and not simply the adoption of private healthcare models that are only accessible to the African middle classes.

In 2020 Kamel Ghribi will launch a number of initiatives in his position as Vice President of GSD and President of GSD Healthcare Middle East that will create and actively support international educational medical collaborations and exchanges between Europe, Africa and the MENA region.