

Medecins Sans Frontieres - Doctors Without Borders

Doctors Without Borders is an independent emergency humanitarian medical aid agency committed to two objectives: providing medical aid wherever needed, regardless of race, religion, politics or sex and raising awareness of the plight of the people it helps.

Medecins Sans Frontieres (MSF) provides emergency medical assistance to populations in danger in more than 80 countries. In countries where health structures are insufficient or even non-existent, MSF collaborates with authorities such as the Ministry of Health to provide assistance. MSF works in rehabilitation of hospitals and dispensaries, vaccination programs and water and sanitation projects. MSF also works in remote health care centers, slum areas and provides training of local personnel. All this is done with the objective of rebuilding health structures to acceptable levels.

Raising Awareness

In carrying out humanitarian assistance, MSF seeks also to raise awareness of crisis situations; MSF acts as a witness and will speak out, either in private or in public about the plight of populations in danger for whom MSF works. In doing so, MSF sets out to alleviate human suffering, to protect life and health and to restore and ensure respect for the human beings and their fundamental human rights.

Only a small percentage of the populations that find themselves in a situation of danger gain the attention of the media. MSF teams travel to places that many people have never heard of, to assist those who have fallen victim to natural or man-made disasters. MSF volunteers have a story to tell when they return from their missions, and they use their experiences to speak of what they have seen. For MSF, raising awareness for these populations and the situations they are in is an important task. Whenever possible, MSF volunteers give interviews and make presentations. MSF offices worldwide facilitate the organization of gatherings, for individuals and groups who want to speak in their home communities. MSF also mounts exhibitions and, from time to time, releases publications, with the aim of raising awareness.

It is part of MSF's work to address any violations of basic human rights encountered by field teams, violations perpetrated or sustained by political actors. It does so by confronting the responsible actors themselves, by putting pressure on them through mobilization of the international community and by issuing information publicly. In order to prevent compromise or manipulation of MSF's relief activities, MSF maintains neutrality and independence from individual governments. The organization also tries to ensure that the majority of funds raised for its work comes directly from contributions from the general public. In this way, MSF guarantees equal access to its humanitarian assistance.

MSF has been setting up emergency medical aid missions around the world since 1971. In 1999 it received the Nobel Peace Prize in Oslo, Norway and in 2004 it received the King Hussein Humanitarian Leadership Prize in Amman, Jordan.

Private donations enable MSF to deliver independent emergency assistance to people in nearly 80 countries.

But what support specifically does a contribution provide? The answers may be surprising; even a small contribution allows Doctors Without Borders volunteers to save lives around the world!



Donation	What It Can Provide:
\$35	Two high-energy meals a day to 200 children
\$50	Vaccinations for 50 people against meningitis, measles, polio or other deadly epidemics
\$70	Two basic suture kits to repair minor shrapnel wounds
\$100	Infection-fighting antibiotics to treat nearly 40 wounded children
\$250	A sterilization kit for syringes and needles used in mobile vaccination campaigns
\$500	A medical kit containing basic drugs, supplies, equipment and dressings to treat 1,500 patients for three months
\$1000	Emergency medical supplies to aid 5,000 disaster victims for an entire month
\$5500	An emergency health kit to care for 10,000 displaced people for three months

Source: Medecins Sans Frontiers/Doctors Without Borders <http://www.doctorswithoutborders.org>

