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Médecins Sans Frontières / Doctors Without Borders (MSF) is the world's leading independent medical humanitarian organization that delivers emergency aid to people affected by armed conflict, epidemics, disasters, and exclusion from health care in close to 60 countries worldwide.

Responding to emergencies

MSF is often one of the first humanitarian organizations to arrive at the scene of an emergency. Its large-scale logistical capacity ensures that MSF emergency teams hit the ground with the specialized medical kits and equipment they need to start saving lives immediately. MSF kits and medical protocols have been replicated by relief organizations worldwide.

Raising awareness

Working directly with some of the most vulnerable populations in the world, MSF is witness to unimaginable and preventable suffering. We believe it is our responsibility to speak out about this suffering, to raise awareness and put pressure on decision-makers who can bring about change. MSF staff raises concerns of their patients with governments, the United Nations, other international bodies, the general public and the media.

Financial independence and accountability

To maintain operational independence and flexibility, MSF relies on the general public for close to 84 per cent of its funds. The remaining 16 per cent come from international agencies and governments. The organization counted more than 3.3 million individuals, foundations, corporations, and nonprofit organizations among its donors worldwide in 2006. As well, more than 70,000 Canadians donated financially, organized fundraising events and assisted us with our activities.

Independent humanitarian action

MSF's decision to intervene in any country or crisis is based solely on an independent assessment of people's needs — not on political, economic or religious interests. MSF does not take sides, or intervene according to the demands of governments or warring parties.

Quick MSF facts

- Aid programs in close to 60 countries
- Awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1999
- 27,000 staff worldwide
- Worldwide income in 2006: \$840.6 million
- \$19.5 million in private funds raised in 2007 in Canada
- Canadian aid workers carried out 265 field assignments in 2007
- 83.7% of income from private sources, 16.3% from international agencies and governments



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