

Fact Sheet: A REFUGEE CAMP IN THE HEART OF THE CITY Interactive Exhibit

Exhibit History: First launched in France in 1995, A REFUGEE CAMP IN THE HEART OF THE CITY has appeared in more than a dozen countries in Asia, Europe, the Middle East, and North America, and continues to tour internationally. The exhibit first appeared in the United States in New York, New Jersey, and California in 2000. Another U.S. tour in 2006 opened in New York's Central Park and traveled to Brooklyn, Atlanta, and Nashville. The exhibit's 2007 tour made stops in Milwaukee, Chicago, Minneapolis, Houston, and Dallas and attracted 18,500 visitors and widespread media coverage. Created to give a sense of what it's like to be a refugee or internally displaced person (IDP), A REFUGEE CAMP IN THE HEART OF THE CITY is Doctors Without Borders/Médecins Sans Frontières' (MSF) most successful public-education exhibit to date.

Exhibit Description: The 8,000-square-foot exhibit is designed to accommodate approximately 800 – 1,200 visitors a day. Each visit takes about 40-60 minutes, with a new group entering the exhibit every 10 minutes. Experienced Doctors Without Borders aid workers (doctors, nurses, and logisticians) act as tour guides, explaining the crucial elements for survival in a refugee or IDP crisis such as food, water, shelter, and access to medical care. Stops on the tour include:

Shelter Area: Three different types of shelter that refugees and IDPs use in various parts of the world are on display at the exhibit.

Food Distribution Area: Visitors learn about BP-5 Compact Emergency Food, a high-protein biscuit that aid agencies often distribute in emergency situations to refugees and IDPs until food can be procured. International standards call for each person to receive 2,100 calories per day.

Latrine Area: Proper waste disposal is critical in preventing the spread of disease in overcrowded settings. Visitors learn how latrines prevent diseases from spreading.

Water Supply: At the water distribution point, visitors learn how aid workers treat, purify, and distribute water. Refugees or IDPs may be given one day's worth of drinking, cooking, and bathing water, approximately 5 gallons (44 lbs.), which they must carry from the water distribution point to their shelters. By contrast, most people in the U.S. use 100 gallons of water per day.

Health Clinic: Aid workers explain how Doctors Without Borders teams set up primary health-care clinics to take care of everyday illnesses or refer patients to a Doctors Without Borders or Ministry of Health hospital nearby to treat more serious conditions.

Cholera Treatment Center: Cholera, which is transmitted through contaminated water or food, can kill its victims within hours if left untreated. Treated immediately, most of its victims can be saved. Visitors enter an area where cholera patients are isolated to prevent the spread of the disease. Here they learn about the layout of the center as well as treatment methods and how sterile environments are created.

Vaccination Tent: Preventable diseases such as measles, diphtheria, whooping cough, tetanus, and polio can spread quickly in a refugee camp, killing millions of children each year. Visitors learn how a small medical team can vaccinate thousands of children a day.



Nutrition Tent: Children under five can quickly become malnourished in an emergency. Visitors learn how aid workers use a special measuring bracelet to identify severely malnourished children and about the ready-to-use therapeutic foods (RUTFs) used to combat malnutrition. RUTFs allow aid organizations to treat more children than ever before and allow mothers to treat their children at home rather than in a hospital setting.

Stories of People Uprooted by War: At the end of the exhibit, visitors have the chance to read individual experiences from refugees and IDPs in Somalia, Democratic Republic of Congo, Colombia, Iraq, Sudan, and Thailand. The exhibit also showcases photographs by world-renowned photojournalists including Jean-Marc Giboux, Tyler Hicks, Sebastiao Salgado, Tom Stoddart, and Sven Torfinn.

For more information:

<http://www.doctorswithoutborders.org/refugeecamp>

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Doctors Without Borders/Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) is an international independent medical humanitarian organization that delivers emergency aid to people affected by armed conflict, epidemics, natural and man-made disasters, and exclusion from health care in more than 60 countries and was the recipient of the 1999 Nobel Peace Prize.

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