US ANNUAL REPORT 2019
DOCTORS WITHOUT BORDERS/ MÉDECINS SANS FRONTIÈRES (MSF)

IS AN INDEPENDENT INTERNATIONAL MEDICAL HUMANITARIAN ORGANIZATION THAT DELIVERS EMERGENCY AID TO PEOPLE AFFECTED BY ARMED CONFLICT, EPIDEMICS, NATURAL AND HUMAN-MADE DISASTERS, AND EXCLUSION FROM HEALTH CARE. WE RAN MEDICAL PROJECTS IN 72 COUNTRIES IN 2019. ON ANY GIVEN DAY, THOUSANDS OF INDIVIDUALS REPRESENTING DOZENS OF NATIONALITIES ARE WORKING TOGETHER TO PROVIDE ASSISTANCE TO PEOPLE CAUGHT IN CRISES AROUND THE WORLD. WE ARE DOCTORS, NURSES, LOGISTICS EXPERTS, ADMINISTRATORS, EPIDEMIOLOGISTS, LABORATORY TECHNICIANS, MENTAL HEALTH PROFESSIONALS, AND MANY OTHERS WHO WORK IN ACCORDANCE WITH MSF’S GUIDING PRINCIPLES OF HUMANITARIAN ACTION AND MEDICAL ETHICS.

MSF RECEIVED THE NOBEL PEACE PRIZE IN 1999.

GREECE: Dr. Leonidas Alexakis examines a child in the MSF pediatric clinic outside Moria camp on Lesbos island in Greece. In 2019, our staff saw around 100 children every day with illnesses related to the horrific conditions in Europe’s largest refugee camp. © Anna Pantelia/MSF
DEAR FRIENDS,

LOOKING BACK ON THE EVENTS OF LAST YEAR, IT IS ASTONISHING HOW MUCH WE WERE ABLE TO ACHIEVE AGAINST TERRIBLE ODDS—AND SOBERING TO REALIZE HOW MUCH OF THIS URGENT WORK CONTINUES, ALMOST COMPLETELY OVERSHADOWED BY THE WORLD’S PREOCCUPATION WITH THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC.

Looking back on the events of last year, it is astonishing how much we were able to achieve against terrible odds—and sobering to realize how much of this urgent work continues, almost completely overshadowed by the world’s preoccupation with the COVID-19 pandemic. Doctors Without Borders/ Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) teams carried out lifesaving medical activities in 72 countries last year. This year, we have undertaken a massive effort to keep these essential services running even as we adapt to respond to the extraordinary threats posed by the new coronavirus.

In Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), where we have our largest medical operations, our teams carried out 1,687,910 outpatient consultations. While international attention was focused mainly on the Ebola outbreak, we sounded the alarm about other pressing health needs—including the world’s largest measles epidemic. More than 7,000 people, mostly young children, have died of measles. That’s more than three times the number of people killed by Ebola, despite the availability of a safe and effective measles vaccine. MSF teams vaccinated more than 679,500 children against measles and treated some 48,000 patients in our facilities to help bring the epidemic under control. Well into 2020, we were still fighting measles here, as well as malaria, cholera, HIV/AIDS, Ebola, and COVID-19.

While we anxiously wait the development of a potential vaccine for the coronavirus, it is important to remember that an estimated 1.5 million people die every year from vaccine-preventable diseases such as measles, pneumonia, and influenza. It is not enough to have the tools to fight disease, although more and better tools are certainly needed. We must ensure that essential medical products are affordable and available for all.

Last year marked the 20th anniversary of MSF’s Access Campaign, launched using funds from our receipt of the Nobel Peace Prize in 1999. The campaign advocates for greater access to effective drugs, tests, and vaccines suited to our patients and adapted to the conditions where they live. Last October MSF launched a global campaign calling on Johnson & Johnson to drop the price of a lifesaving drug to treat tuberculosis (TB), the world’s leading infectious disease killer. This July the company announced it would cut the price of the drug, bedaquiline, down to $1.50 per day for certain countries. MSF continues to press Johnson & Johnson to offer the lower price to all countries with a high burden of drug-resistant TB, and we are calling on governments to scale up the use of this breakthrough treatment.

MSF is the largest non-governmental provider of TB treatment worldwide, providing care to people in a wide variety of settings—from war zones to densely crowded cities to remote rural areas. In 2019, we started 16,800 people on first-line TB treatment and another 2,000 on treatment for drug-resistant forms of the disease. We are extremely concerned about the impact of COVID-19 on people living with TB, who are at heightened risk of this new respiratory disease as their lungs are often already damaged and their immune systems are weak.

Many of last year’s biggest emergencies now seem like distant memories, but they still bear significant lessons for us going forward. In March, we mounted a massive response to Cyclone Idai, which devastated areas along the coast of southeastern Africa. Mozambique was especially hard hit, with some 1.85 million people affected by the disaster. MSF sent emergency teams to support the response. We worked with the Ministry of Health to beat back a cholera outbreak, managing the treatment of more than half of all cholera patients and helping vaccinate 900,000 people against the disease. We set up two water treatment plants, rehabilitated 18 health centers, and distributed essential relief items. We treated thousands of people for malnutrition and malaria. And then Cyclone Kenneth hit the country. It was the first time in recorded history that two cyclones hit Mozambique in a single season. The catastrophic impact of these cyclones was compounded by months of drought later in the year. Together they deepened the country’s food insecurity and malnutrition crisis. Experts warned that these back-to-back disasters should be a wake-up call to prepare for more extreme weather events linked to climate change.

MSF is increasingly concerned about the impact of climate change and environmental degradation on dramatically increasing humanitarian needs. As people further disrupt fragile ecosystems, some scientists say we can expect to see more zoonotic diseases that jump from animals to humans, like COVID-19. The poor and marginalized communities we serve already suffer the worst consequences of climate change, and are at greatest risk of future harm. As noted in the foreword of this International Activity Report, MSF is committed to act with urgency to confront these realities, adapt our operations accordingly, and address the environmental impacts of our own aid efforts.
ZIMBABWE: An MSF team travels on foot to reach a village in Zimbabwe’s Chimanimani district, which was completely cut off by flooding caused by Cyclone Idai. The tropical storm devastated parts of Zimbabwe, Mozambique, and Malawi. © MSF

Over the past year, we have continued to care for the large numbers of people uprooted by conflict, persecution, and extreme poverty. There are now more than 79.5 million forcibly displaced people around the world—more than at any time in modern history. That’s an unimaginably huge number when you think about the scale of human suffering. But it’s also only about 1 percent of the world’s total population—meaning that 99 percent of us can probably afford to be more generous and more compassionate.

The Americas has become the region with the largest number of asylum claims, due to the spiraling crisis in Venezuela and increased violence and insecurity in parts of Central America and Mexico. The United States, however, has effectively dismantled the system designed to protect refugees and asylum seekers, including victims of gang violence, sexual violence, and gender-based violence. MSF has treated thousands of refugees and asylum seekers along the migration routes north from Central America to Mexico, and we will keep advocating for their health and safety.

We invite you to discover much more in this report about our activities across 72 countries. We are so grateful to all our donors for supporting this lifesaving work, and to our 45,000 staff members who make it happen every day.

Sincerely Yours,

Avril Benoît
Executive Director
MSF-USA

Africa Stewart, MD
President
MSF-USA Board of Directors
AFGHANISTAN: A child living in an informal settlement for displaced people on the outskirts of Herat, Afghanistan, gets a check-up from an MSF doctor at MSF’s Kahdestan clinic. The health team offers medical consultations, screening and treatment for malnutrition, and childhood vaccination. © NOOR Ahmad Saleem/MSF
FINANCIAL REPORT

Our ability to provide medical aid where it’s needed most is sustained by the hundreds of thousands of individual donors who support MSF-USA. We are deeply grateful to all those who helped make this work possible during a challenging year.

In 2019, MSF-USA exceeded the generous support we received in 2018 by 7.8 percent. MSF drew increased interest and engagement through its swift action to respond to emergencies, including the devastating impact of Cyclone Idai in southern Africa, the worst Ebola epidemic ever recorded in Democratic Republic of Congo, as well as the world’s largest measles outbreak there. We responded to the massive humanitarian needs in countries wracked by conflict, such as South Sudan, Yemen, Syria, and Afghanistan.

We maintained support for MSF programs totaling more than $387 million in order to meet the enormous needs for emergency medical care around the globe. MSF-USA’s largest expenditures went to programs in Democratic Republic of Congo ($50 million), South Sudan ($40 million), Yemen ($36 million), Central African Republic ($25 million), and Iraq ($17 million).

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES AND CHANGES IN NET ASSETS

The following summary was extracted from MSF-USA’s audited financial statements.

Revenues 2019 2018

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PUBLIC SUPPORT</th>
<th>416,887,305</th>
<th>394,824,183</th>
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<td>Total Public Support</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>OTHER REVENUE</th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Investment Income, Net</td>
<td>9,175,615</td>
<td>(1,599,157)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Actuarial Gain (loss) on Annuities</td>
<td>(731,487)</td>
<td>(771,667)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other Revenue</td>
<td>(150,731)</td>
<td>(542,299)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Grants from Affiliates:</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>MSF Network Grants</td>
<td>4,616,027</td>
<td>5,455,159</td>
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<td>Seconded Field Staff Grants</td>
<td>9,656,875</td>
<td>9,943,530</td>
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<td>Total Other Revenue</td>
<td>22,566,299</td>
<td>12,485,566</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total Revenue Excluding Gifts In-Kind</td>
<td>439,453,604</td>
<td>407,409,749</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gifts In-Kind</td>
<td>1,095,671</td>
<td>1,201,051</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total Revenue and Gifts In-Kind</td>
<td>440,549,275</td>
<td>408,610,800</td>
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</table>

Expenses 2019 2018

| PROGRAM SERVICES (Total)            | 387,513,455 | 375,180,685 |
| SUPPORTING SERVICES (Total)        | 66,749,063  | 51,604,337  |
| Total Expenses Excluding Gifts In-Kind| 454,262,518 | 426,785,202 |
| Gifts In-Kind                       | 1,095,671   | 1,201,051   |
| Lease Exit Loss                     | -           | 3,403,804   |
| Total Expenses, Gifts In-Kind, and Loss| 455,358,189 | 431,390,057 |

Net Assets 2019 2018

| Net Assets, beginning of year       | 237,779,952 | 260,559,209 |
| Change in Net Assets                | (14,808,914) | (22,779,257) |
| Net Assets, at year end             | 222,971,038 | 237,779,952 |

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assets</th>
<th>2019</th>
<th>2018</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cash &amp; Equivalents and Short-Term Investments</td>
<td>114,455,000</td>
<td>126,677,660</td>
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<tr>
<td>Receivables</td>
<td>54,438,510</td>
<td>60,463,853</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other Assets</td>
<td>100,445,055</td>
<td>111,681,068</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total Assets</td>
<td>269,308,565</td>
<td>288,832,581</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Liabilities and Net Assets</th>
<th>2019</th>
<th>2018</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Grants Payable</td>
<td>5,538,039</td>
<td>23,445,787</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other Payables</td>
<td>11,486,600</td>
<td>9,655,044</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other Liabilities</td>
<td>29,312,888</td>
<td>27,951,798</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total Liabilities</td>
<td>46,337,527</td>
<td>61,052,629</td>
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<tr>
<td>Unrestricted Net Assets</td>
<td>195,752,695</td>
<td>210,870,352</td>
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<tr>
<td>Temporarily Restricted Net Assets</td>
<td>25,946,340</td>
<td>25,663,864</td>
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<tr>
<td>Permanently Restricted Net Assets</td>
<td>1,272,003</td>
<td>1,245,736</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total without Donor Restrictions</td>
<td>27,218,343</td>
<td>28,909,660</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Net Assets</td>
<td>222,971,038</td>
<td>237,779,952</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Liabilities and Net Assets</td>
<td>269,308,565</td>
<td>288,832,581</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2019 EXPENSES

Excluding In-Kind Expenses

- Programs: 85%
- Fundraising: 14%
- Management & General: 1%

MSF-USA is recognized as tax-exempt under section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code. A copy of the most recent annual report filed by MSF-USA with the New York State Attorney General may be obtained, upon request, by contacting MSF-USA at 40 Rector Street, 16th Floor, New York, NY 10006, or the Attorney General’s Charities Bureau at 120 Broadway, New York, NY 10271. A list of all of the MSF offices that received funds from MSF-USA is also available upon request. A full presentation of MSF-USA’s audited financial statements is available at doctorswithoutborders.org/financial-statements-2019.
MEXICO: MSF mobile teams regularly travel to Guerrero, Mexico, where extreme violence has cut off communities from access to health care. Our services include follow-up care for pregnant women and new mothers, family planning services, and psychosocial support—with special attention to the needs of survivors of sexual violence.

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DONORS

MSF is extremely grateful for the financial support it receives from individuals, foundations, and corporations. Your generosity allows MSF to respond to emergencies based on humanitarian needs and to operate independent of political, economic, or religious interests.

MSF ACKNOWLEDGES OUR DONORS WHO HAVE MADE MULTIYEAR COMMITMENTS

Multiyear commitments help provide MSF with a predictable revenue stream that better serves our ability to respond rapidly to emergencies and ensure the continued operation of our programs. By the close of 2019, MSF had received more than 315 multiyear commitments toward this effort, totaling more than $74 million.

The following donors contributed to the initiative in 2019:

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MALAWI: MSF nurse mentor Chrissie Nasiyo (center) and another colleague engage with a group of sex workers during an outreach clinic in Nsanje, a rural district in Malawi where health care is out of reach for many. We work with health ministry staff to provide “one-stop” clinics offering a comprehensive package of services during a single consultation.

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Greece: In November 2019, MSF International President Dr. Christos Christou visited Moria camp in Lesbos, Greece, to witness the dire living conditions and hear from asylum seekers and refugees about their medical needs. MSF is calling on Greece and other European countries to reform harmful migration policies. © Anna Pantelia/MSF
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SOUTH SUDAN: The MSF hospital in Agok is the only facility providing secondary care in the entire Abeyei region of South Sudan. This hospital deals with everything from emergency surgery to HIV care, from treatment for chronic diseases to snakebites. © Laurence Hoenig/MSF

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IRAQ: An MSF mental health counselor in Bardarash camp, in Iraq’s Kurdistan region, sits down with people newly uprooted by fighting in northeastern Syria. The camp originally opened in 2014 to shelter internally displaced people fleeing the Islamic State takeover of Mosul. © Hassan Kamal Al-Deen/MSF

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DRC: Medical and hygiene staff put on personal protective equipment (PPE) to enter the high-risk zone of the MSF-managed Ebola Transit Center in Bunia, Ituri province, Democratic Republic of Congo. © Pablo Garrigos/MSF
MALAYSIA: Sawkina, age 27, is one among some 100,000 registered Rohingya refugees living in Malaysia. MSF has been providing health care to Rohingya and other refugee and undocumented migrant communities in Penang state since 2015.

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MYANMAR: A lab technician examines blood serum at the HIV clinic in Insein township, Yangon, Myanmar. In June, MSF transferred its patients to the care of Myanmar’s National AIDS program—a milestone after treating more than 12,000 people living with HIV. © Minzayar Oo
In February an MSF team responded to the surging needs in Piedras Negras, Mexico, following the arrival of a caravan of 1,700 refugees and migrants. Mexican authorities first blocked people from leaving a makeshift shelter in an abandoned factory and then began bussing them to other unsafe border cities. © Juan Carlos Tomasi/MSF
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Last October, MSF-USA staff and volunteers protested in front of Johnson & Johnson’s global headquarters in New Brunswick, New Jersey, to urge the company drop the price of the lifesaving tuberculosis drug bedaquiline. In July 2020, the company partially met our demands. © Britta Olson/MSF
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Yemen: An MSF team cares for a young surgical patient in Al Salakannah hospital, northeast of Hodeidah, Yemen. Teams rehabilitated the hospital’s emergency room and operating theaters to prepare for an influx of wounded as fighting in the area intensified. © Agnes Varraine-Leca/MSF
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UKRAINE: Tetiana gets a checkup at the MSF mobile clinic in Vodiane, in the Donetsk region of eastern Ukraine. She regularly brings other patients to the clinic and checks on her older neighbors in this village near the conflict’s front line. © Nico D’Auterive/MSF

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DR. AFRICA STEWART, PRESIDENT
Africa Stewart graduated with honors from Johns Hopkins University in 1995 with a BA in psychology and mathematical science. She then attended Drexel University Medical School in Philadelphia. In 1999 she completed an MBA with a concentration in strategic planning from the University of Pittsburgh’s Katz School of Business. She then returned to Philadelphia to finish her medical training at Drexel. In 2000, Africa received her MD and started her residency in obstetrics and gynecology at Hahnemann University Hospital. Her career with MSF began in Sudan in June 2011. Africa has completed five surgical field assignments with MSF and served as a guide for the organization’s Forced From Home exhibition about the global refugee crisis. She was elected to the board of directors in 2017. She continues to support women’s health care locally and abroad with an emphasis on education and prevention.

PATRICIA CARRICK, FNP, VICE-PRESIDENT
Pat Carrick is a nationally certified Family Nurse Practitioner. For the past 30 years she has worked, first in acute care hospital nursing and home-based hospice services, and then in community health centers providing primary care for medically underserved populations. Since 2007 Pat has completed five humanitarian aid assignments with MSF in Malawi, South Sudan, and Sierra Leone, including in-patient and out-patient malnutrition and infectious disease projects. She also has experience in the post-Ebola development sector in Sierra Leone. She has served on a number of community, state, and regional boards over the years. She was elected to the MSF-USA Board of Directors in June 2017. Pat holds Bachelors and Masters degrees in nursing from Montana State University. She takes inspiration and sustenance from the beloved mountains of her home in rural, southwestern Montana.

JOHN WETHERINGTON, TREASURER
John Wetherington has served in the nonprofit sector for nearly 20 years as CFO, COO and CEO in the education and health care sectors. He is currently the CFO for an organization providing services to people with intellectual and developmental disabilities and homeless populations. Prior to work for nonprofit organizations, he served in administrative, consulting, and international business development roles in the equity investment and banking industries. John serves on multiple nonprofit boards and has led and participated in service activities in Asia and Africa. He holds the credentials of Certified Public Accountant in his home state of Colorado and is a Chartered Global Management Accountant. John graduated with BA/BS degrees from the University of Colorado-Boulder, and has an MBA from the University of Denver, and a Doctor of Business Administration degree from the University of Phoenix. He lives in Denver.

SHERONDA ROCHELLE, ESQ, SECRETARY
Sheronda Rochelle Blackburn, a native New Yorker, is a senior attorney with Microsoft Corporation. Prior to her current role, Sheronda spent almost 12 years at JPMorgan Chase where she was the executive director and assistant general counsel leading the technology legal team supporting the company’s asset and wealth management division. Before that, she was counsel at CA Technologies serving as the primary lawyer for their small to medium business products group and their global procurement organization. Sheronda has previously served on the boards of the Metropolitan Black Bar Association and the Global Community Charter School in Harlem (an International Baccalaureate school), where she was also a founding trustee. Sheronda holds a BA from Bryant University and a JD from Brooklyn Law School.

JANE COYNE
Jane Coyne is a strategic leader with experience in multiple domains, from supply chain management in the tech sector to hospital management at Brigham and Women’s Hospital in Democratic Republic of Congo. After business school, she spent 10 years in the Bay Area working for and consulting with companies on supply chain optimization, including inventory management and network design. In 2003 she left the corporate world to begin a decade-long career with MSF. After six years of field experience at our medical projects, she worked as a program manager based in Paris responsible for MSF’s activities in Sudan, South Sudan, Central African Republic, Kenya, and Georgia. Jane returned to the US in 2013 to work as the director of operations for a nonprofit organization building solar electric systems for health facilities off the grid. After that, she led the office of the UN Special Envoy on Tuberculosis [TB] advocating for better TB policy and resources. Today she is the president of a small manufacturing company in upstate New York.

KASSIA ECHAVARRI-QUEEN
Kassia Echavarri-Queen began her field work with MSF in 2006 as a supply manager in Sierra Leone, having previously worked in marketing and strategy for technology companies, start-ups, and the Fritz Institute, which focuses on disaster response and recovery. In the years that followed, Kassia worked extensively in the field with MSF as program coordinator and head of mission in Guatemala, Kenya, South Sudan, Sri Lanka, and Syria. Her two most recent assignments were an Ebola response program in Liberia and a project in Nepal following the earthquake there in April 2015. Now living in her native San Francisco, Kassia has over 14 years of international program management experience. Kassia holds a BA in international relations from Alliant University and an MA in international economics and management from SOA Bocconi.

ANDRÉ HELLER
With a background in the visual arts, and later an MSc in Conflict Studies from the London School of Economics, André first started working with MSF in 2006. André dedicated around 12 years to working with MSF in both the field and headquarters. He was MSF’s head of mission in a broad range of countries including South Sudan, Yemen, Haiti, Syria, and Central African Republic and worked in various capacities in many others. André was head of programs for MSF’s UK office where he managed the growth of an academic partnership program to integrate higher learning into the career track of MSF’s rising leadership and published a number of articles related to the management of humanitarian crises and politics. He also worked as MSF’s liaison to the UK government and civil society and has extensive experience representing MSF in the media. Since leaving MSF UK in early 2018, André worked briefly in a London-based tech startup prior to co-founding a new company based in Jackson, Wyoming.

ADRIENNE HURST, LCSW
Adrienne Hurst is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker with experience in patient-centered health program management and infectious diseases. Her first assignment with MSF was in 2006 in Georgia in a drug-resistant TB project. She also served as project coordinator in Uganda and conducted an assessment in Kenya. Adrienne oversaw the quality implementation of large international health programs funded by the US government, Centers for Disease Control, and the Clinton Foundation, and is currently providing technical assistance in communities across rural America to address the opioid epidemic. Adrienne was elected to the MSF-USA board of directors in May 2019 and holds Bachelors and Masters degrees from New York University.

DR. RASHA KHOURY
Rasha Khoury is a Palestinian physician and public health activist born and raised in East Jerusalem. She moved to the US for medical training, graduated from Yale School of Medicine in 2008, and completed her residency training in obstetrics and gynecology at the University of California San Francisco. She then pursued a fellowship in family planning and global women’s health at Brigham and Women’s Hospital, and received her Master of Public
Health from the Harvard School of Public Health in 2013. In 2014, fulfilling a lifelong dream, she joined MSF and has since completed six surgical assignments in Sierra Leone, Lebanon, Ivory Coast, Iraq, and, for more than a year, in Afghanistan. Rasha currently works clinically in high-risk obstetrics in the Bronx, New York, with a research focus on reducing severe maternal morbidity and mortality.

BRIGG REILLEY
Brigg Reilley works with a tribal health board that provides support for the US Indian Health Service national HIV and hepatitis C virus (HCV) program. He has been working in American Indian/Alaska Native health since 2006. Prior to the Indian Health Service, he worked for MSF for ten years in several emergency and non-emergency project settings, and previously served on the MSF board of directors from 2008–2011. He obtained a Masters in Public Health from Tulane University in 1996 and a BA in Philosophy from the College of William & Mary in 1990.

PHILIP SACKS
Philip Sacks received an AB from Brown University and an MMA from the University of Rhode Island. He is a licensed master mariner specialized in large sailing vessels and oceanographic research vessels. He spent 33 years working as a sailing ship captain, professor of nautical science, and senior administrator at SEA Education Association in Woods Hole, MA. He is also a project management specialist. He has worked coordinating science missions for Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution and the US Antarctic Program. As a consultant, he has managed the construction of research vessels and remote research stations worldwide. Since 2006, Sacks has completed 10 humanitarian aid missions as a logistician and logistics coordinator with MSF in a wide range of contexts based in Thailand, South Sudan, Nigeria, Sri Lanka, Democratic Republic of Congo, Chad, and Haiti. Sacks was reelected to the MSF-USA board of directors in 2019.

DR. CRAIG SPENCER
Craig Spencer, MD, MPH, is the director of global health in emergency medicine and an assistant professor of medicine and population and family health at the Columbia University Medical Center. He divides his time between providing clinical care in New York and working internationally in public health and humanitarian response. He has worked in Africa and Southeast Asia as a field epidemiologist on numerous projects examining access to medical care and human rights, including measuring mortality and maternal health in Burundi, access to legal documentation in Indonesia, child separation in emergencies in Democratic Republic of Congo and South Sudan, and coordinating MSF’s national epidemiological response in Guinea during the Ebola outbreak. In addition to his international public health work, Craig has provided medical care in the Caribbean, Central America, West and East Africa, and, most recently, onboard an MSF medical search and rescue boat in the Mediterranean.

DR. MEGO TERZIAN, PRESIDENT OF MSF FRANCE
Mego Terzian is the president of MSF in France. Born in Lebanon, he earned his medical degree in pediatrics from Yerevan State Medical University in Armenia in 1999. While still in medical school, he worked as a translator for MSF in Nagorno-Karabakh, and, from 1999–2002, he worked as an MSF field doctor in Sierra Leone, Afghanistan, Iran, and Democratic Republic of Congo. In 2003, he became an emergency coordinator for MSF projects in Liberia, Ivory Coast, Niger, Pakistan, Central African Republic, Jordan, as well as other countries. From 2007 until being elected president of MSF France, he served first as deputy director and then as the director of MSF’s emergency programming at the operational center in Paris.
Independent. Impartial. Innovative. Providing emergency medical aid where it is needed most.

On behalf of our staff and the people we assist worldwide, thank you.

Photo above: Joshua Salah Mustafa (left) helps raise awareness about a major measles epidemic in Biringi, Ituri province, Democratic Republic of Congo. Joshua is a South Sudanese refugee working with MSF on community health promotion activities. © Alexis Huguet/MSF

Photo front cover: At an MSF clinic in Tegucigalpa, Honduras, psychologist Gracia hugs a patient after their last session together to help address the trauma of sexual abuse. Teams offer comprehensive care to victims of violence, including medical treatment, counseling, group therapy, and psychological first aid. © Christina Simons/MSF
INTERNATIONAL ACTIVITY REPORT 2019

www.msf.org
THE MÉDECINS SANS FRONTIÈRES CHARTER

Médecins Sans Frontières is a private international association. The association is made up mainly of doctors and health sector workers, and is also open to all other professions which might help in achieving its aims. All of its members agree to honour the following principles:

Médecins Sans Frontières provides assistance to populations in distress, to victims of natural or man-made disasters and to victims of armed conflict. They do so irrespective of race, religion, creed or political convictions.

Médecins Sans Frontières observes neutrality and impartiality in the name of universal medical ethics and the right to humanitarian assistance, and claims full and unhindered freedom in the exercise of its functions.

Members undertake to respect their professional code of ethics and to maintain complete independence from all political, economic or religious powers.

As volunteers, members understand the risks and dangers of the missions they carry out and make no claim for themselves or their assigns for any form of compensation other than that which the association might be able to afford them.

The country texts in this report provide descriptive overviews of MSF’s operational activities throughout the world between January and December 2019. Staffing figures represent the total full-time equivalent employees per country across the 12 months, for the purposes of comparisons.

Country summaries are representational and, owing to space considerations, may not be comprehensive. For more information on our activities in other languages, please visit one of the websites listed on p.100.

The place names and boundaries used in this report do not reflect any position by MSF on their legal status. Some patients’ names have been changed for reasons of confidentiality.

This activity report serves as a performance report and was produced in accordance with the recommendations of Swiss GAAP FER/RPC 21 on accounting for charitable non-profit organisations.
Countries in which MSF only carried out assessments or small-scale cross-border activities in 2019 do not feature on this map.
FOREWORD

In 2019, tens of thousands of MSF staff undertook lifesaving work that impacted millions of people in more than 70 countries around the world. We begin this report by thanking them for their commitment and dedication. This is also an opportunity to raise two issues of growing concern to MSF.

Over the past two decades, governments have implemented increasingly restrictive legislation to fight radical armed groups. In certain situations, these restrictive measures conflict with the provisions of international humanitarian law and have direct consequences on MSF’s ability to provide medical and humanitarian assistance to those in need. Our work is sometimes perceived as material support and collusion with criminal groups, rather than impartial and neutral medical humanitarian assistance to the wounded, the sick and other very vulnerable people. In some places, this is compounding an already very difficult situation where humanitarian aid is significantly curtailed as a result of the abduction and killing of humanitarian workers by armed groups.

In Nigeria and Syria, for example, we have for years been confronted with reduced access to people in dire need, living in highly insecure regions where states have criminalised some humanitarian and medical activities and personnel. Our staff have been arrested in Syria, military investigations into our activities have taken place in Nigeria and non-state armed groups have attacked and kidnapped humanitarian workers. International sanction regimes and restrictive state measures also affect the financial transactions of aid organisations by, for example, placing restrictions on where funds can be transferred. We have experienced this first-hand, notably when we endeavoured to transfer money to pay our staff in Somalia.

Monitoring and assessing how these restrictive measures threaten the security of our staff and impede our work is a priority for us, as is mitigating the way in which humanitarian action and principles are impacted. Security and humanitarian frameworks should be able to coexist so that people affected by conflict and violence are not denied the assistance they are entitled to.

Climate change, a human-induced reality, is also of great concern to us, as it may well alter the dynamics of conflict and the incidence of disease, impacting communities already at risk. Following a motion passed by our International General Assembly in 2019, we are evaluating how we can address environmental issues most effectively. On the basis of scientific reports outlining what can be expected in the future, it is vital that we prepare to assist the people who will be affected. At the same time, we need to assess our own carbon footprint and take steps to incorporate environmentally responsible working methods, products and equipment into our projects. Adapting the way we operate could greatly impact the communities we serve, which is why we must define and adopt a strategy as a matter of urgency.

The following pages present an overview of MSF’s work in 2019. We extend our deepest gratitude to our donors, whose trust and generosity allow our organisation to continue to provide vital humanitarian and medical assistance wherever we can.

Dr Christos Christou
INTERNATIONAL PRESIDENT

Christopher Lockyear
SECRETARY GENERAL
THE YEAR IN REVIEW

By Oliver Behn, Dr Marc Biot, Dr Isabelle Defourny, Kenneth Lavelle, Bertrand Perrochet and Teresa Sancristoval, MSF Directors of Operations

In 2019, the Ebola outbreak declared in northeastern Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) in August 2018 continued to rage, alongside the worst-ever measles epidemic, while further east, two cyclones and severe flooding devastated parts of Mozambique, Sudan, and South Sudan. There was an upsurge in conflict across the Sahel and in Yemen, and thousands of migrants, refugees and asylum seekers remained trapped in Libya, Greece and Mexico, exposed to violence and disease.

Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) teams responded to all these crises, and other emergencies around the world, during the year, with a workforce of approximately 65,000 people – around 80 per cent of whom were hired in the countries where we work.

Deteriorating situation for people and relief providers

Living conditions, including access to medical care, significantly deteriorated for many people in countries across the Sahel region – especially Mali, Niger and Burkina Faso – during 2019. Armed groups and intercommunity violence have made parts of the region extremely insecure and forced people to flee their homes. MSF provided care to address the immense medical needs, including worrying levels of malnutrition and malaria, particularly among children. However, intense violence and the ever-present threat of abductions meant that it was no longer safe for our teams to work in some areas. We worked where it was safe to do so, although the precarious context requires a lot of time and staff resources to manage the risks, restricting who and where we are able to help.

In northwest and southwest Cameroon, where violence between government forces and separatist armed groups escalated sharply, MSF teams extended their activities. The conflict has displaced over 500,000 people since 2016, leaving them in dire need of humanitarian assistance.
In Yemen, where the war entered its fifth year, people are still dying from preventable diseases, due to the collapse of both the economy and the health system. An MSF report released in 2019 showed that a significant number of expectant mothers and sick children had died because of the delay in receiving care. Though the rate of airstrikes slowed in 2019, the fighting that has torn the country apart continued to rage on many of the frontlines. We struggled to provide relief in a context characterised by insecurity and bureaucratic restrictions imposed in Yemen’s north.

In the Central African Republic (CAR), there were numerous attacks against civilians and civilian infrastructure in 2019. In late May, gunmen shot dead more than 50 people they had brought together under the pretence of organising a community meeting. The conflict severely limited access to medical care: when MSF teams came to administer vaccines in Mingala town, residents had not seen a doctor or humanitarian worker for more than two years.

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In October, due to the Turkish military operation in northeast Syria, we were forced to reduce our presence or withdraw teams from several locations, including Tal Kocher, leaving vulnerable people with limited access to healthcare. Ain Issa displaced persons camp was entirely dismantled, leaving people to seek safety once again. MSF teams also reduced our presence in both Raqqa city and in Al-Hol camp, where 70,000 people – 94 per cent of whom are women and children – are held.

Against all odds, we still maintain a presence in Syria and try to provide assistance where possible; much of our work is in supporting medical networks and local hospitals, which are able to provide some level of care to people. However, we are not currently able to work in the country to the level that we would like and that also meets people’s needs.

Responding to epidemics

Large-scale measles outbreaks swept across several countries during 2019, resulting in thousands of deaths. DRC was particularly hard hit, with 310,000 cases reported and around 6,000 deaths, three-quarters of them children under the age of five. In one week alone in November, nearly 10,000 cases were recorded across the country.

Yet the epidemic has attracted very little international attention and funding; by August, only US$2.5 million out of the required $9 million had been raised for the UN-led response plan. In DRC, MSF launched activities in 16 provinces, vaccinating over half a million children and treating more than 30,000 patients. Our intervention has not been without its challenges, however; insecurity, vaccine stockouts and logistical issues have hindered operations in some areas.

MSF also responded to measles outbreaks in Cameroon, Nigeria, Chad and Lebanon, conducting vaccination campaigns and setting up new measles wards in health facilities.

By the end of the year, the Ebola outbreak in northeastern DRC had claimed over 2,200 lives. Despite the lessons learned from the West Africa epidemic and the availability of two new vaccines and investigational treatments, two-thirds of infected people died. MSF was frustrated with the slow, opaque and restricted vaccination efforts, leaving MSF vaccination teams on standby for weeks, while we publicly called on the World Health Organization for greater
vaccine supply transparency. Our teams continued to tackle the disease in North Kivu and Ituri provinces but insecurity and the failure to gain people’s trust impeded activities. Two of the Ebola treatment centres we ran in North Kivu were attacked and burned down within days of each other in February.

Responding to natural disasters

In March, a weather system dumped heavy rain on Malawi, leading to severe flooding, before heading out to sea and developing into Cyclone Idai, which hit Mozambique first, and then Zimbabwe. Around 80 per cent of Beira town in Mozambique was destroyed in the storm. MSF launched a large-scale intervention to provide medical care, conduct water and sanitation activities, rebuild damaged health facilities and assist local authorities to contain a cholera outbreak, including through vaccination campaigns.

In October, parts of South Sudan, Sudan and Somalia were severely affected by floods. South Sudan was hard hit, with hundreds of thousands of people displaced and unable to meet their most basic needs. The price of food tripled, making it unaffordable for many. In the eastern town of Pibor, the MSF hospital flooded and had to move, before the new area also flooded, significantly reducing our lifesaving activities and access to healthcare for people.

Assistance to migrants and asylum seekers

Migrants and asylum seekers continued to be abandoned, neglected or pushed back by authorities across the world. From central America to the Horn of Africa, our teams see the suffering of people on the move. While MSF was able to resume our Mediterranean search and rescue operations in August with a new boat, the Ocean Viking, thousands of migrants were trapped in Libya in a context of increasing violence. When conflict broke out in Tripoli in early April, many remained locked up and abandoned in detention centres. On 2 July, two airstrikes hit the Tajoura detention centre, killing at least 53 people.

In Europe, governments continue to sit on their hands while migrants trying to flee Libya are picked up and returned there by EU-funded Libyan coastguards, and thousands of people languish in miserable conditions on the Greek islands. MSF teams treat people in both places, including those with severe mental health issues that have developed as a result of their plight.

Medical advocacy in action

2019 marked 20 years since MSF was both awarded the Nobel Peace Prize and established the Access Campaign with the subsequent prize money. During the last two decades, the Access Campaign’s advocacy work for more affordable and accessible drugs has enabled MSF to scale up treatment for a number of diseases, including HIV, hepatitis C and tuberculosis.

Twenty years after the then-MSF president Dr James Orbinski delivered the Nobel Prize lecture, the words in his speech still resonate: “As an independent volunteer association, we are committed to bringing direct medical aid to people in need. But we act not in a vacuum, and we speak not into the wind, but with a clear intent to assist, to provoke change, or to reveal injustice.”

We are grateful to our donors whose support make our work possible, and to all MSF staff working in our programmes, who give their time and skills to assist others at often considerable risk to themselves. Our thoughts remain with Romy, Richard and Philippe, our colleagues abducted in DRC in July 2013, who are still missing.
OVERVIEW OF ACTIVITIES

Largest country programmes
By expenditure

1. Democratic Republic of Congo  €133.1 million
2. South Sudan  €85.4 million
3. Yemen  €74.9 million
4. Central African Republic  €58.2 million
5. Nigeria  €47.2 million
6. Iraq  €46.4 million
7. Syria  €41.4 million
8. Afghanistan  €35.4 million
9. Lebanon  €30.9 million
10. Bangladesh  €29.4 million

The total budget for our programmes in these 10 countries was €582.3 million, 53 per cent of MSF’s operational expenses in 2019 (see Facts and Figures for more details).

By number of field staff

1. South Sudan  3,615
2. Democratic Republic of Congo  3,173
3. Central African Republic  2,775
4. Yemen  2,538
5. Nigeria  2,448
6. Afghanistan  2,388
7. Bangladesh  1,871
8. Niger  1,829
9. Pakistan  1,510
10. Iraq  1,379

By number of outpatient consultations

1. Democratic Republic of Congo  1,687,910
2. South Sudan  1,120,925
3. Central African Republic  967,031
4. Bangladesh  556,336
5. Syria  515,068
6. Niger  436,141
7. Sudan  434,765
8. Ethiopia  355,148
9. Mali  350,088
10. Tanzania  319,072

Context of intervention

- **Armed conflict** (123 projects) 28%
- **Stable** (184 projects) 42%
- **Internal instability** (116 projects) 27%
- **Post-conflict** (14 projects) 3%
- **Type of context**
- **Type of context**
- **Type of context**
- **Type of context**

**Note:**

1. **Staff numbers** represent full-time equivalent positions (locally hired and international) averaged out across the year.
2. **Outpatient consultations** exclude specialist consultations.
2019 ACTIVITY HIGHLIGHTS

- 10,384,000 outpatient consultations
- 329,900 births assisted, including caesarean sections
- 47,000 people treated for cholera
- 840,000 patients admitted
- 1,320,100 vaccinations against measles in response to an outbreak
- 2,638,200 malaria cases treated
- 112,100 surgical interventions involving the incision, excision, manipulation or suturing of tissue, requiring anaesthesia
- 28,800 people treated for sexual violence
- 4,970 people treated for meningitis
- 76,400 severely malnourished children admitted to inpatient feeding programmes
- 16,800 people started on first-line tuberculosis treatment
- 1,048,800 emergency room admissions
- 59,400 people on first-line HIV antiretroviral treatment under direct MSF care
- 2,000 people started on drug-resistant tuberculosis treatment
- 11,100 people on second-line HIV antiretroviral treatment under direct MSF care (first-line treatment failure)
- 400,200 individual mental health consultations
- 346,900 families received distributions of relief items
- 479,900 births assisted, including caesarean sections
- 112,100 surgical interventions involving the incision, excision, manipulation or suturing of tissue, requiring anaesthesia
- 28,800 people treated for sexual violence
- 4,970 people treated for meningitis
- 76,400 severely malnourished children admitted to inpatient feeding programmes
- 16,800 people started on first-line tuberculosis treatment
- 1,048,800 emergency room admissions
- 59,400 people on first-line HIV antiretroviral treatment under direct MSF care
- 2,000 people started on drug-resistant tuberculosis treatment
- 11,100 people on second-line HIV antiretroviral treatment under direct MSF care (first-line treatment failure)
- 400,200 individual mental health consultations
- 346,900 families received distributions of relief items

The above data groups together direct, remote support, and coordination activities. These highlights give an approximate overview of most MSF activities but cannot be considered complete or exhaustive. Figures could be subject to change; any additions or amendments will be included in the digital version of this report, available on msf.org.
THE EBOLA RESPONSE IN THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO

By Dr Mercedes Tatay, MSF International Medical Secretary

Why did game-changing tools not work to their full effect?

In August 2018, the authorities in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) declared an Ebola outbreak, which turned out to be the largest the country had ever known. The epidemic spread through communities in North Kivu and Ituri provinces that were already severely affected by decades of armed conflict.

This time, it seemed that we were better prepared to respond than in previous Ebola outbreaks; we had new ‘game-changers’ – tools that could potentially bring the outbreak to a quick end. These tools, which could perhaps determine the length and extent of the outbreak, included two vaccines and two therapeutic drugs. From the start, we had one vaccine with proven efficacy. During the outbreak, Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) participated in a clinical trial that determined two new therapeutic drugs were effective to treat the disease, and we tested a second new vaccine to reduce transmission. Despite the proven efficacy of these new tools, two of every three people with Ebola died and the virus continued to spread for more than 18 months.

With the promising resources at hand, we should have been able to reduce the number of deaths and number of new cases. But this did not happen. People slipped through the net and were not cared for by those responding to the Ebola outbreak. At some points in the epidemic, more than half of Ebola-related deaths were occurring within the community, with people never reaching Ebola treatment centres (ETCs). Those who did, arrived too late, when treatments were less likely to prevent a fatal outcome.

Why didn’t these game-changers have a greater impact?

The care proposed by the Ebola response did not always meet patients’ needs, including those who were not sick with Ebola. Having not gained the trust of the community, the response was perceived by people as hostile. Often, people were offered care in isolation, far away from their families and communities. Considering people perceived the mortality rate for Ebola patients in the ETCs to be high, for many, the proposed healthcare was not reassuring enough and did not offer much.

> ABOVE PHOTO: Medical and hygienist staff don personal protective equipment before going into the high-risk zone of the Ebola transit centre in Bunia. Democratic Republic of Congo, June 2019.
In North Kivu and Ituri provinces, Ebola is often not the top health priority. People in these areas face other life-threatening diseases such as measles, malaria and malnutrition, as well as a strained health system impacted by the ongoing armed conflict. The overall response was centred on the Ebola outbreak rather than patient and community health needs. It absorbed a lot of the fragile health system’s already limited resources, leaving many seriously sick people without critical care. The failure to focus on local-level coordination and provide an individualised response for patients in each disease hotspot meant that MSF and other organisations tackling the disease were unable to obtain the trust and acceptance of the communities.

An important way of reducing the number of people infected with Ebola is preventing ongoing transmission through vaccination. The strategy implemented by the response in DRC was to vaccinate people who had been in close contact with confirmed Ebola patients, and people in contact with those contacts. Despite the effective vaccine, identifying contacts proved difficult in practice, with fewer people qualifying for vaccination, thereby limiting the effectiveness of the targeted vaccination strategy. The restricted supply of the vaccine also impacted the strategy’s implementation and its unregistered status made vaccination time-consuming. Overall, the vaccination strategy applied did not prevent the further spread of the virus quickly enough. Initially, MSF focused on vaccinating frontline workers. As the outbreak continued, we pushed for an adapted strategy that would reach more people and we participated in the testing of a second vaccine.

How do we address these issues in the future?
To get the best of any new ‘game-changers’ in an outbreak response, community ownership and social mobilisation are vital. For this to be achieved, patients and communities must clearly see the benefits of the response. We have progressively moved away from Ebola-centric approaches to focus on the overall needs of communities. This includes decentralising Ebola triage to existing MSF healthcare facilities, so that both Ebola and non-Ebola care is addressed and is closer to communities, and conducting more outreach activities so that patients can seek our assistance before it is too late.

We also need to make sure treatment is adapted to specific patient needs, rather than treating everyone the same way. For some patients, it may be possible to provide home-based care; others could be treated in smaller health units closer to where they live. Some people at risk of infection may benefit from the prompt use of post-exposure prophylaxis treatment, while others may need to go to a health centre on a regular basis.

In terms of prevention during an outbreak, we should also facilitate the development and testing of more vaccines and diverse vaccination strategies, adapted to context and addressing the expectations of communities. They should be easy to use in the context of an outbreak, with fast-tracked licensing if needed, while the vaccination strategy should facilitate access for those that need it. To better respond to future Ebola outbreaks, the medical response strategies should not be viewed alone. Patient-centred approaches and community ownership are the real game-changers.
THE SAHEL: CIVILIANS TRAPPED IN A DEADLY SPIRAL OF VIOLENCE

By Côme Niyongabo, MSF’s Deputy Head of Programmes for the Sahel

A complex security crisis has been developing across the Sahel since 2012, due to the emergence and proliferation of armed groups across the region. Beginning in northern Mali and then spreading to its central regions, the crisis has gradually engulfed northern Burkina Faso and western Niger and is threatening the stability of all the other neighbouring countries.

Government forces have responded to the violent activities of these groups, and there has been increasing international intervention, with the Barkhane counter-terrorism operation led by France in the G5 Sahel member states, and the deployment of United Nations forces in Mali.

In this volatile context, access for Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) and other humanitarian organisations has become increasingly difficult, yet ever more urgent. The fragile health systems in these countries are struggling to function and the risks of food insecurity and epidemics remain very high.

The tragic example of Mali

One of the most serious problems caused by the clashes between these armed groups has been the explosion of intercommunity violence. Longstanding quarrels among ethnic groups – traditionally grain or livestock farmers – have been exploited and exacerbated by the different parties to the conflict. In central Mali, we saw attacks on an almost weekly basis in 2019, often in areas where there were no government representatives or any basic services. Our teams collected numerous testimonies from survivors, describing scenes of unprecedented violence: children and women burned alive, entire villages razed to the ground. More than 4,700 deaths were reported in 2019, the highest number since the conflict broke out in 2012, and almost twice as many as in 2018.

To date, neither the government nor international efforts (which have been largely limited to military actions) have been able to contain this violence or protect the civilian population. On the contrary, the state has lost control of entire areas, and the lack of protection and the fear of retaliation have given rise to a climate of hostility towards international forces. Furthermore, organised crime has increased significantly, since these conflicts are taking place around the country’s main roads, and especially along the only road that connects the south and the north. This road, which is extremely dangerous in places, with kidnappings and carjackings common, undermines humanitarian operations.

Despite the extremely difficult situation, MSF, which in some places is the only humanitarian organisation present, continues to provide medical care, mental health...
support, protection and other types of assistance to people displaced and affected by conflict.

**Civilians, trapped between belligerents**

Unfortunately, it is civilians, as usual, who bear the brunt of this spiralling violence. Not only do they face targeted killings, kidnappings, displacement, looting, death or injury from mines and harassment by the various armed groups, but also restrictions on their movements and access to basic services, such as healthcare and food supplies. On many occasions – and because of this juxtaposition of conflicts – entire populations are criminalised, ending up being directly associated with one of the warring parties, according to their ethnicity.

In addition to the lack of basic services, one of the main humanitarian needs for civilians is protection; they live in permanent fear of new attacks, which forces them to leave their homes and search for a place of safety in other regions of their countries or across borders. Frequently, they choose not to settle in camps, out of fear, and instead seek refuge in neighbouring villages, where it is more difficult for MSF to reach them. They have lost everything and need urgent help: food, shelter and medical care, as well as mental health support, due to the violence they have witnessed. Often these people return to their village of origin, even if it is has been burned to the ground and no assistance is available there.

**The limited humanitarian response**

Access – for both humanitarian workers to reach people, and people to reach services such as healthcare – is tremendously complex, due to the presence of many small, highly mobile armed groups and physical barriers such as road blockages. This explains in part the limited presence of aid providers on the ground. Many do not have the capacity to react to violent events or forced displacements, or they do so too late.

Another problem is the instrumentalisation of humanitarian aid by military forces in the region. In Mali, for example, international armies (one of the main parties in the conflict) have taken it on themselves to distribute medicines in facilities supported by MSF in order to win the hearts and minds of the population, without any concern for the transfer of the risk of being associated with these parties to MSF staff and the population. In such a polarised context and with so many armed groups with different interests fighting on the same territories, it is essential that humanitarian action is carried out in a neutral and impartial way.

In this cross-border armed conflict that severely affects the civilian population, MSF remained the main health provider in this part of the Sahel at the end of 2019, with projects in Koro, Douentza and Ansongo in Mali; Djibo and Fada in Burkina Faso; and Tillabéri in Niger. We are firmly committed to continuing our activities in the region, assisting people in distress and fighting to preserve humanitarian principles and space.

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1. The G5 Sahel is a framework created in 2014 by five countries (Burkina Faso, Chad, Mali, Mauritania and Niger) to collaborate in terms of development and security.

2. In the framework of the MINUSMA (Multidimensional and Integrated United Nations Mission for Stabilization in Mali) deployed under a UN Security Council mandate.

3. ACLED, Armed Conflict Location and Event Data Project.
People leave their homes for many reasons. Some are fleeing war, others persecution or extreme hardship. Whatever the reason, they usually share a common objective, which is to secure a safe and dignified future. Across the world, Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) cares for people on the move, acting on health-driven needs and vulnerabilities alone. Our teams see people struggling to survive not just harrowing journeys, but also the harmful and inhumane policies put in place by governments trying to keep out refugees, migrants and asylum seekers at all costs.

In Europe, migration controls have been extended far beyond the continental borders. People in need are often met with punitive border policies, ‘contained’ in countries en route and deterred from seeking asylum on European soil. Policies can criminalise migrant status or deny refugees and migrants access to medical care and protection measures that would ensure their safety and dignity. Misleadingly, European states have co-opted the language of humanitarianism to justify these restrictive measures, claiming to save lives by deterring migrants from undertaking risky journeys. This ignores the dangers people face in their countries of origin that force them to leave their homes, and those they encounter in transit.

Furthermore, the lack of safe and legal alternatives means that people’s only chance of reaching safety is to attempt a dangerous journey to Europe. They are left at the mercy of a criminal underworld who run the smuggling routes.

‘Contained’ out of sight in Libya

The majority of people attempting to reach Europe by crossing the Central Mediterranean pass through Libya, where they are exposed to horrific violence, kidnapping, torture and extortion. Despite the reality on the ground, and the fact that Libya is a country in active conflict, the main objective for European states remains the containment of migrants and refugees there, at any cost.

While claiming success in migration management, European states have implemented brutal containment and push-back policies. They have dismantled search and rescue capacities at sea, while sponsoring the Libyan coastguard to intercept refugees and migrants in international waters and forcibly return them to Libya, in violation of international law. To stem the flow of arrivals, they have made deals with militia groups in the country, despite their links with criminal and smuggling networks. As a result, the trafficking, abduction, detention and extortion of migrants and refugees continues. The chance of drowning in the Mediterranean while attempting to reach Europe has only increased.

In 2019, MSF resumed our lifesaving search and rescue work in the Central Mediterranean and rescued 1,373 people in distress at sea.

Trapped on the Greek islands

Back in 2016, the EU and Turkey signed an agreement in which Turkey would prevent asylum seekers and migrants from reaching the EU in exchange for €6 billion in assistance for refugees in Turkey and other incentives. At the time, MSF warned of the likely humanitarian consequences of such a deal, highlighting that it undermined the right to asylum. In protest, we stopped accepting funds from the EU and its member states. Rather than acknowledging the flaws in the entire logic of this EU-Turkey deal and its humanitarian cost, European leaders continue to call it a success and ask the Greek authorities to implement it more forcefully.

By Victoria Russell
For those refugees and migrants now trapped in deplorable living conditions on the Greek islands, the situation has become a chronic emergency. The situation exposes just how far Europe is willing to go in denying basic values of humanity and dignity to people in need of protection.

MSF teams have treated people whose health is suffering as a consequence of these policies, feeling compelled to do work that European and Greek authorities have refused to do. But the work that we can do is limited because, after treating patients, medics must send them back to the same conditions that made them ill.

**Stranded at borders in the Balkans**

In 2019, thousands of migrants and refugees attempted to cross the Balkans in the hope of reaching other European destinations but were violently pushed back. Stranded, many live in informal settlements and abandoned buildings in border areas.

In Serbia, MSF ran a clinic for migrants and refugees in the capital Belgrade and carried out outreach activities in informal settlements for people living outside Serbian reception centres. In Bosnia, we provided medical care in collaboration with the medical authorities to people living both inside and outside the official camps. Most of the conditions we treated – such as skin diseases and respiratory tract infections – were linked to poor living conditions.

**Unable to access protection**

In France, many asylum seekers, migrants and recognised refugees are forced to live in squalid camps or on the streets, caught up in an endless cycle of having belongings confiscated, temporary evacuation and police harassment. Of particular concern are unaccompanied minors, often teenagers who arrive in France traumatised by violence suffered on their journeys. They face difficulties even registering for the protection to which they are entitled. Hundreds of young migrants and asylum seekers across France are being forced to sleep rough because of the state’s failure to provide them with accommodation, despite having a legal obligation to do so.

MSF continues to assist young, unaccompanied migrants. We offer respite and care, and facilitate access to legal support and medical, social, psychological, and administrative services in partnership with other organisations in an MSF-run centre in Pantin, a suburb of Paris. A total of 734 minors benefited from these services in 2019.

**Let humanity prevail**

Europe must fundamentally change its approach to migration and asylum. No political reasoning can ever justify measures that deliberately and consciously inflict harm. The devastating consequences of these policies cannot be ignored and should not be normalised. This is not an acceptable price to pay to keep as many people as possible out of Europe.

In the current political climate, refugees, migrants and asylum seekers are considered by many to be less than human. Respect for human life as a fundamental humanitarian value seems to have become an act of defiance. At MSF, we stand firmly in solidarity with people on the move and know that many citizens of Europe stand with us, whether as individuals, healthcare professionals, members of civil society organisations or representatives of local authorities.

© Anna Pantelia/MSF

In the olive grove next to the overcrowded Moria refugee camp on the island of Lesbos, people share tents with strangers and the level of hygiene is very low. Greece, October 2019.
Médecins Sans Frontières medical teams have long faced challenges in getting effective and affordable treatments for people in our care. In the late 1990s, as frustration mounted over people dying from treatable diseases, MSF began to document the problem, joining with patient groups to speak out forcefully and demand action.

In 1999, MSF publicly launched the Campaign for Access to Essential Medicines, now the Access Campaign, to tackle the policies, and the legal and political barriers that prevent people from accessing treatment in the communities where we work and beyond. That same year, MSF was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize and put the funds towards improving treatments and boosting research for neglected diseases, merging with the Campaign’s work.

At the time, the HIV/AIDS epidemic was still raging across the world. While lifesaving antiretroviral medicines had transformed HIV into a manageable chronic condition in wealthy countries, treatment was priced out of reach for almost everyone else. In addition, treatments for neglected diseases such as tuberculosis, malaria and sleeping sickness were often ineffective, toxic, ill-adapted for use in the places we work, or simply did not exist at all.

For 20 years, MSF has worked with civil society to ensure that pharmaceutical corporations, governments and others, prioritise people’s lives and health over patents and profits. The access to medicines movement overcame patent monopolies to make way for generic production and competition of antiretrovirals, and prices dropped 99 per cent over 10 years. This and other achievements of the Campaign, including for hepatitis C, malaria, pneumonia, sleeping sickness and TB, are highlighted on the following pages.

But many new drugs, diagnostics and vaccines are being sold at increasingly high prices, and monopolies are becoming more entrenched. We are still missing the tools we need to control rising antimicrobial resistance and outbreaks of epidemic diseases such as Ebola and COVID-19. MSF, through the Access Campaign, continues to advocate the transformation of the medical innovation ecosystem to better address the health needs of people in our care. For example, given that medical research and development is heavily financed by governments, MSF is calling for increased transparency in drug development and production costs, and a larger role for the public in making sure that medicines are made affordable and accessible.

The crisis of access to medicines and innovation is no longer affecting only low- and middle-income countries; it is now truly global. Our slogan, Medicines Shouldn’t Be a Luxury, is still valid; together we must drastically step up efforts to expand people’s access to lifesaving health tools.

**2001**

**Big Pharma vs. Nelson Mandela.**

One of the Campaign’s first priorities was to increase access to lifesaving antiretroviral drugs, then sold at more than US$10,000 per person per year. In South Africa, an epicentre of the AIDS epidemic, a 1997 lawsuit by 39 drug companies threatened to block imports of low-cost, generic treatments. MSF supported civil society protests, defiance campaigns and legal actions, and more than 300,000 people from 130 countries signed MSF’s international ‘Drop the Case’ petition. In April 2001, facing a public relations disaster of global proportions, the companies announced they would unconditionally drop their legal case.

**1999**

MSF launches the Campaign for Access to Essential Medicines to improve access to treatment and spur needed medical research.

**2000**

MSF helps bring down exorbitant prices for five key drugs used to treat drug-resistant tuberculosis.

**2001**

A landmark $1-a-day price for HIV medicines, publicly offered to MSF, boosts political will to treat HIV/AIDS in low- and middle-income countries.
2001

Reviving treatments for sleeping sickness. In the late 1990s, the few drugs that could be used to treat sleeping sickness were at risk of going out of production, with companies claiming they weren’t profitable. The disease is fatal without treatment. After lengthy negotiations with MSF and the World Health Organization (WHO), Aventis agreed to resume production of eflornithine. MSF also helped persuade Bayer to restart production of two other drugs used to treat the disease.

Dr Bernard Pecoul, MSF Access Campaign’s first executive director

“The atmosphere in the hospital where we were treating sleeping sickness was very tense because one in twenty of the patients who came to us died simply from the toxicity of the treatment. That’s been my fight ever since, for more than 35 years, to try to bring something better for those patients.”

2003

ACT NOW campaign for malaria. In the 1990s, MSF medical teams were starting to observe chloroquine (a drug introduced in the 1940s for the treatment of malaria) becoming less effective. At the time, one to two million people were dying each year from the disease. After conducting studies to document resistance, MSF launched the ACT NOW campaign to urge countries to switch to artemisinin-based combination therapy (ACT), which put pressure on WHO to revise its guidelines and led to wider adoption of ACTs.

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2006

Don’t shut down the pharmacy of the developing world.

Swiss drug company Novartis takes legal action to gut India’s section 3(d) patent law. A Novartis victory would have effectively cut the lifeline of affordable newer medicines from India, upon which millions of people rely. MSF’s ‘Novartis, Drop the Case!’ campaign collected nearly half a million signatures, including from Archbishop Desmond Tutu. Novartis lost the case and appealed it all the way to the Supreme Court, but the decision against the corporation was finally upheld in 2013.

Leena Menghaney, lawyer, MSF Access Campaign, India

“We did everything we could; we shamed the company (Novartis), we went to shareholder meetings, we marched against them, we delivered petitions. I remember being so big and pregnant, and it being so hot, and we were all marching toward the court, and we were so determined. The only thing that we had were our voices.”

2015

A Fair Shot campaign for affordable vaccines.

MSF’s ‘A Fair Shot’ campaign kicks off, calling on Pfizer and GSK to reduce the price of the pneumonia vaccine – the most expensive standard childhood vaccine – to $5 per child. In 2016, a price of $9 per child is offered to humanitarian organisations like MSF, for use in emergencies. But millions of children are unvaccinated in countries where the vaccine is still too expensive; we continue to demand an affordable price for all low- and middle-income countries.
**2014**
The West Africa **Ebola outbreak** spurs research and development (R&D) into vaccines and treatments; MSF later supports clinical trials and pushes for affordable, accessible tools.

**2018**
DND’s collaborative, public interest R&D approach delivers a **new oral drug for sleeping sickness**, filling a longstanding medical need.

**2019**
After years of MSF advocacy, WHO releases its global strategy for the prevention and control of snakebite envenoming.

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**ACCESS CAMPAIGN: 20 YEARS OF ADVOCACY IN ACTION**

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**Price reductions for hepatitis C medicines.** Today’s hepatitis C medicines are very effective, but high prices have prevented access, especially in middle-income countries. MSF and other civil society groups challenged patents and pressured pharmaceutical companies to reduce prices; in 2017, MSF obtained a price of $120 per 12-week treatment – less than a tenth of what we had been paying, and a fraction of the commercial launch price of $147,000. As MSF scaled up hepatitis C treatment, we advocated for all governments to have access the same low price.

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**2019**
**Affordable access to TB treatment.** MSF has joined TB activists and civil society around the globe to demand that critical medicines to treat drug-resistant TB (DR-TB) be made more affordable. DR-TB remains exceedingly difficult and expensive to treat, with severe side effects and dismal cure rates. In 2019, MSF launched a global campaign calling on pharmaceutical corporation Johnson & Johnson (J&J) to lower the price of its TB medicine bedaquiline to no more than US$1 per day for people everywhere who need it, in order to allow scale-up of treatment and reduce deaths.

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**Din Savorn, police officer, now cured of hepatitis C, Phnom Penh, Cambodia**

“We were always desperately seeking a cure everywhere. Some people were bragging to me about getting (the new) treatment in Singapore for $10,000 or in Vietnam for $8,000. If I wanted to have treatment, I would need to sell my house. So, I decided to wait and if I died, well at least my kids would be left with the house. I am very grateful to now have this cure from MSF. It gives hope to my children and the chance to see their father’s face when they are grown up.”

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**Civil society groups protest against the high price of lifesaving TB medicines, Hyderabad, India.**
### ACTIVITIES BY COUNTRY

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A man takes his daughter to MSF’s measles vaccination site under the shade of trees in an isolated community in Kieke, within Zakouma National Park. Chad, April 2019. © Juan Haro
Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) has helped to tackle resistant forms of tuberculosis (TB) in Armenia since 2015. In 2019, we handed over our remaining activities to the national health authorities.

Armenia has one of the highest rates of drug-resistant TB (DR-TB) in the world. In 2005, MSF began working with the national tuberculosis programme to provide treatment for patients with this form of the disease in the capital, Yerevan. Ten years later, Armenia was one of the first countries to use delamanid, a drug that promised to be less toxic and more effective. Between 2015 and 2019, over 1,700 patients were enrolled in our DR-TB programme. More than 1,500 received conventional treatments, while 107 participated in the endTB observational study, an international initiative aimed at finding shorter, less toxic and more effective treatments for DR-TB. Other patients received bedaquiline, another of the newer drugs, as part of a compassionate use programme, whereby patients are given access to investigational drugs. Such drugs are not approved for mass production but there is sufficient evidence of their potential benefits and limited risks.

With the National Control Centre for Tuberculosis (NTCC), the MSF-supported project in Armenia was able to implement many innovative advances, including systematic testing for chronic active hepatitis among multidrug-resistant TB (MDR-TB) patients, treatment with direct-acting antivirals and all-oral regimens. We handed over activities to the NTCC once the endTB study was complete.

We first worked in Armenia in 1988 to respond to medical needs following the Spitak earthquake. Over the next three decades, activities included the provision of medical equipment and support during the Nagorno-Karabagh war (1992–1997), a TB project in Nagorno-Karabakh (1997–2002) and a project for children experiencing cruel treatment in a special education complex in Yerevan (1997–2004).

In 2019, thousands of migrants and refugees attempted to cross the Balkans in the hope of reaching other European destinations.

In the Serbian capital, Belgrade, Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) continued to run a clinic providing general healthcare, mental health services, social support, and water and sanitation activities for migrants and refugees. Between January and December, we conducted 12,000 medical consultations and 590 individual mental health sessions in the city.

Our teams also carried out outreach activities in several informal settlements around the border towns of Šid, Subotica and Kanjiža for people living outside the Serbian reception centres. We provided a total of 560 medical consultations, 20 individual mental health consultations and 22 group mental health sessions.

In the second half of the year, we saw an increase in the number of people arriving in Bosnia-Herzegovina with the intention of entering Croatia and continuing further west. Thousands tried to cross the Croatian border during the summer, and at times there were more than 3,500 people living in informal settlements and abandoned buildings around the border towns of Velika Kladuša and Bihać.

We returned to Bosnia to offer medical and mental health assistance in collaboration with the medical authorities to people living outside the official camps and in the new camp, Vučjak. We conducted a total of 3,560 medical consultations. Most of the conditions we treated – such as skin diseases, respiratory tract infections and musculoskeletal pain – were linked to poor living conditions.

Our teams also treated 116 patients for intentional physical violence. Of these, 104 (90 per cent) reported that the perpetrators were either state or border authorities.
AFGHANISTAN

No. staff in 2019: 2,388 | Expenditure in 2019: €35.4 million | Year MSF first worked in the country: 1980 | msf.org/afghanistan

KEY MEDICAL FIGURES:

- **307,200** outpatient consultations
- **59,900** births assisted
- **6,280** surgical interventions
- **1,160** people started on treatment for TB

More than 40 years of conflict and instability have left Afghanistan’s economy and infrastructure in ruins, and many people dependent on humanitarian assistance.

Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) ran six projects in six provinces in 2019, with a focus on emergency, paediatric and maternal healthcare.

The crisis in Afghanistan is characterised by upsurges in conflict, recurring natural disasters, widespread internal displacement, very low health indicators, extreme poverty, and an overburdened and underfunded healthcare system. In 2019, presidential elections and peace talks between the US and the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan (IEA), better known as the Taliban, led to renewed violence, which had a severe impact on people’s access to healthcare. It is estimated that around one-third of the population does not have a functional health centre within two hours of their home.1

Activities in Kabul

The Ahmad Shah Baba project in eastern Kabul was the first one we opened when we returned to Afghanistan in 2009. Since then, MSF has worked to upgrade Ahmad Shah Baba to a district hospital, strengthening the emergency department, maternity services and treatment protocols and increasing the medical services available so that fewer patients require referrals. In March, we completed our gradual handover to the Ministry of Public Health. Between 2009 and 2018, our teams conducted more than one million outpatient consultations, nearly half a million emergency room consultations and assisted over 124,000 births.

In 2019, we continued to deliver comprehensive emergency obstetric and neonatal care in the hospital in Dasht-e-Barchi, a neighbourhood of more than one million people. We supported the maternity and neonatology departments, as well as the operating theatre, and provided ante- and postnatal care and family planning. Other services included health promotion and psychosocial counselling for patients and their caregivers. During the year, our teams assisted nearly 16,000 births and admitted almost 1,500 newborns to the neonatal unit. We also supported maternity care in another public hospital in the area with staff, training and essential drugs.

Khost maternity hospital

Since 2012, MSF has been running a dedicated 24-hour maternity hospital in Khost, eastern Afghanistan, providing a safe environment for women to give birth. The team assisted over 23,000 births in 2019. We estimate that this is nearly half the total births for Khost province, but after many years of seeing increasing numbers of women giving birth at the hospital, we are
beginning to observe a plateau. MSF teams also continued their support to five health centres in outlying districts, increasing their capacity to manage normal births.

**Boost hospital, Lashkar Gah**

In 2019, we celebrated the 10th anniversary of our project in Boost provincial hospital, one of only three referral facilities in southern Afghanistan, where we work to support the Ministry of Public Health. The hospital is located in the capital of Helmand province, an area severely affected by active conflict and insecurity, with very few fully functional medical facilities. Our teams assisted over 18,000 births, performed more than 184,000 emergency room consultations and treated more than 87,000 children, nearly 4,000 of whom for severe acute malnutrition, one of the main causes of child mortality in the province. In 2019, we extended our training and bedside coaching activities with rural healthcare workers to improve early referral of complicated births and reduce maternal deaths related to late arrival at the hospital.

**Emergency and paediatric care in Herat**

In 2018, an estimated 150,000 internally displaced people arrived in the city of Herat, having fled their conflict- and drought-affected villages. To respond to their needs, MSF opened a clinic on the outskirts of the city in December 2018, offering medical consultations, treatment for malnutrition, vaccinations, ante- and postnatal care and family planning. Over the course of 2019, MSF teams treated more than 44,000 patients, most of whom were children suffering from acute respiratory infections and watery diarrhoea.

We ended our support to the emergency department of Herat regional hospital, one of the largest health facilities in western Afghanistan, in late 2019. From October, we started running an inpatient therapeutic feeding centre in the hospital’s paediatric department. Around 350 children were admitted between October and December.

**Drug-resistant tuberculosis in Kandahar**

Drug-resistant TB (DR-TB) is a major concern in Afghanistan, exacerbated by a lack of knowledge about the disease and poor availability of treatment. MSF has been supporting the health ministry in the diagnosis and treatment of DR-TB in Kandahar province since 2016, during which time 126 DR-TB patients have been enrolled in the programme. In December, we introduced a nine-month oral regimen allowing DR-TB patients to change from injectable drugs to pills and reduce their number of consultations at the hospital. Thirteen patients were enrolled before the end of the year.

We also continued to support the ministry in Mirwais regional hospital and at the provincial TB centre, providing care for drug-sensitive TB patients.

**Trauma care in Kunduz**

In 2019, due to increased awareness of our project, the number of patients attending the wound care clinic in Kunduz rose by almost 30 per cent. Our team treated a total of 3,383 people and conducted 21,148 follow-up appointments. The clinic, which we opened in July 2017, treats stable patients with wounds from minor burns, trauma, previous surgery or diseases such as diabetes that cause chronic skin lesions. We also run a small stabilisation clinic in Chardara district, west of Kunduz city, where we stabilised 3,177 patients in 2019.

Construction of the new MSF trauma facility in Kunduz continued despite challenges linked to the weather and the security situation in the region. It is due to open in late 2020.

1. Afghanistan Humanitarian Needs Overview 2020, United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) continues to respond to the medical and humanitarian needs of Rohingya refugees and vulnerable Bangladeshi communities, and to address healthcare gaps in Dhaka's Kamrangirchar district.

At the end of 2019, MSF remained one of the main providers of medical humanitarian assistance to the stateless Rohingya, approximately one million of whom live in the largest refugee camp in the world, in Cox’s Bazar. More than two years since the initial emergency, people still live in the same overcrowded and basic bamboo shelters, entirely dependent on aid and with little hope for the future. Outbreaks of waterborne and vaccine-preventable diseases, such as measles, acute watery diarrhoea and diphtheria, pose a serious ongoing threat.

Throughout 2019, MSF teams focused on improving the quality and reach of our healthcare, working closely with the refugee community to improve our understanding of their needs and build trust in our services. This resulted in a significant increase in the number of people, especially women, attending our facilities. More women are now giving birth in our maternity units, with 2,670 births across all our facilities in Cox’s Bazar.

We began to adjust our activities to ensure longer-term sustainability and handed over a number of facilities to local organisations, including an extensive network using solar energy to power the supply of clean drinking water. By the end of 2019, we were running three hospitals, three general health centres, one health post, two specialised clinics and four outbreak response facilities. These provide a range of inpatient and outpatient services, including emergency and intensive care, paediatrics, obstetrics, sexual and reproductive healthcare, as well as treatment for victims of sexual violence and patients with non-communicable diseases, such as diabetes and hypertension. Our teams celebrated the 10th anniversary of Kutupalong field hospital, which has served Rohingya refugees and the local Bangladeshi community since it opened in 2009.

Rohingya refugees struggle with unemployment, dire living conditions and a sense of hopelessness, coupled with traumatic memories; we have seen an increasing number of people with mental health problems in our facilities. We have expanded our mental health services in response to the evolving needs, and more people are attending our individual and group counselling sessions. In Cox’s Bazar, MSF remains the largest provider of specialised psychiatric care for Rohingya refugees and local Bangladeshis suffering from mental disorders such as psychosis, anxiety and epilepsy.

Kamrangirchar

Our teams in Dhaka continue to run a unique occupational health programme in Kamrangirchar, an inner-city area close to hundreds of small-scale factories. We deliver medical care tailored to the needs of the people working there in conditions that are often extremely hazardous. In 2019, we conducted 10,500 occupational health consultations for factory workers and started a new mobile health clinic specifically for tannery workers. We also run sexual and reproductive health services for girls and women, carrying out almost 11,500 antenatal consultations and assisting 700 births during the year, and offering comprehensive treatment for victims of sexual and intimate-partner violence, with integrated mental health support.
**Belarus**

No. staff in 2019: 30  |  Expenditure in 2019: €1.7 million  |  Year MSF first worked in the country: 2015  |  msf.org/belarus

Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) supports the Belarusian Ministry of Health to treat patients with multidrug-resistant tuberculosis (MDR-TB).

Belarus is listed as a high-burden country for MDR-TB in the World Health Organization’s 2019 Global Tuberculosis Report.

In 2019, we supported the Ministry of Health in four TB facilities in Minsk, the capital, and in Volkovichi village in Minsk region. Our teams also regularly visited a penal colony in Orsha to assist with the treatment of inmates with drug-resistant TB (DR-TB) and co-infections. By the end of 2019, 54 patients with hepatitis C had received treatment with direct-acting antiviral drugs.

MSF, together with the Ministry of Health, devised a harm-reduction programme whose aim is to help patients with DR-TB and alcohol use problems to manage their dependency on alcohol and other substances in order to finish their treatment successfully. Our psychosocial support team conducted a total of 4,255 consultations in 2019, with around 70-80 patients receiving consultations each month. We also initiated a study to demonstrate the effectiveness and feasibility of this programme.

**Medical research**

Minsk is one of the five sites of the MSF-sponsored TB PRACTECAL clinical trial, which is looking into short, innovative MDR-TB treatment regimens.1 By the end of 2019, 51 patients had been recruited for the trial.

Minsk is also one of the 17 sites of the endTB observational study, which is evaluating the safety and efficacy of the newer TB drugs bedaquiline and delamanid. In 2019, the team continued to follow up the 122 patients enrolled in the study.

**Belgium**

No. staff in 2019: 13  |  Expenditure in 2019: €0.8 million  |  Year MSF first worked in the country: 1987  |  msf.org.belgium

The situation for migrants and asylum seekers in Belgium worsens every year, due to restrictive policies that make access to basic healthcare very difficult.

In 2019, Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) continued to play a key role, alongside six other organisations, in running a ‘humanitarian hub’ in Brussels. This is a place where migrants and asylum seekers can find services that are not available to them elsewhere in the city, such as medical and mental healthcare and socio-legal advice, as well as assistance with family tracing and clothing. Many migrants and asylum seekers make use of these services, and overall the hub receives around 50,000 visits each year.

The main focus of MSF activities is mental healthcare. In 2019, we conducted individual consultations with 534 people. Most were men from Sudan, Ethiopia and Eritrea.

Our intervention operates on two levels. In the hub itself, we provide psychological support to people who need it, and at another site nearby, we offer more specialised care through psychologists or psychiatrists for those with more acute needs.

After ending our activities in several reception centres managed by the Belgian authorities in December 2018, we shared with other organisations the tools and approaches developed during this pilot project, such as specially adapted psychosocial and mental health modules. This was part of our effort to push for improved access to psychosocial support for vulnerable migrants and asylum seekers.

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1 Led by MSF UK and conducted in partnership with the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, other global leaders in medical research, as well as the ministries of health of Belarus, South Africa and Uzbekistan. TB PRACTECAL is an innovative research project that seeks to find injection-free, short, tolerable, and effective treatments for people with DR-TB.
BOLIVIA

No. staff in 2019: 23 | Expenditure in 2019: €1.3 million | Year MSF first worked in the country: 1986 | msf.org/bolivia

Bolivia is one of the countries with the lowest health indicators in Latin America. Despite increased investment in public health facilities in recent years, availability and quality of care remain poor.

The rate of deaths due to pregnancy and childbirth in Bolivia, for instance, is the worst in Latin America. Within the country, it is highest in La Paz department, specifically in the in El Alto municipality, which is adjacent to the capital city, La Paz. The municipality also has the largest adolescent population and, according to national surveys, almost one-third of 19-year-old women are already mothers.

In 2019, Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) opened a small sexual and reproductive health programme in El Alto. The project focuses on the local indigenous population, among whom teenage pregnancies and death during pregnancy and childbirth occur most frequently. In September, we opened a maternity ward in the city’s Franz Tamayo primary healthcare centre, and by the end of the year, our teams had assisted 54 births and organised 68 ambulance referrals to the centre.

The opening of a second maternity unit, in El Alto’s San Roque neighbourhood, scheduled for mid-November, was delayed until mid-December due to political unrest. In its first month of activity, the team at San Roque assisted 27 births.

We work in close collaboration with the Ministry of Health at both centres, with the main objective of reducing deaths during pregnancy and childbirth and improving access to safe births through high-quality, culturally adapted services.

At the height of the unrest, we continued with our sexual and reproductive health activities in El Alto and offered mental health services in a health centre in La Paz. We were in touch with several hospitals in case they were in need of any ad hoc support, such as medical supplies, which we provided to Senkata hospital.

KEY MEDICAL FIGURES:

- 960 antenatal consultations
- 500 consultations for contraceptive services

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BRAZIL

No. staff in 2019: 26 | Expenditure in 2019: €1.1 million | Year MSF first worked in the country: 1991 | msf.org/brazil

Tens of thousands of Venezuelans have crossed into northern Brazil, seeking refuge from the political and economic crisis that is ravaging their country.

The crisis has generated the largest human displacement in Latin America’s recent history, with approximately 4.5 million people having fled the country. Most Venezuelans entering Brazil arrive in Roraima, the least-developed state in the country, putting an additional strain on its already precarious public services. In 2019, due to the large influx of refugees, its population rose by five per cent, by far the highest rate in the country. The state now hosts between 50,000 and 60,000 Venezuelans.

Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) returned to Brazil in 2018, to address the health needs of Venezuelans and the local population in the state capital, Boa Vista. Our work includes health promotion activities and mental health sessions in official shelters, which are home to around 6,000 migrants and refugees. We also carry out water and sanitation activities, such as the distribution of hygiene kits.

By June, we had expanded our activities to include the provision of basic medical services and antenatal care in two health facilities run by Boa Vista city government. By the end of the year, our teams had conducted almost 7,580 outpatient consultations, including nearly 500 antenatal consultations, and reached over 18,000 people through health promotion activities. MSF is also the only organisation offering mental health assistance to Venezuelans in Roraima – over 3,500 people benefited from individual or group mental health sessions in 2019.

By the end of the year, our teams were also visiting informal shelters and abandoned buildings, as part of the strategy to reach the most vulnerable people in Roraima.

KEY MEDICAL FIGURES:

- 7,580 outpatient consultations
- 940 individual mental health consultations
- 290 mental health consultations provided in group sessions
In 2019, Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) responded to major outbreaks of malaria and cholera across Burundi, while continuing to offer high-quality care for victims of trauma in the capital Bujumbura.

There was a significant increase in malaria cases in Burundi in 2019, with close to nine million recorded between January and December. MSF launched a response to this outbreak in Kinyinya health district, one of the most severely affected in the country. In June, our teams started supporting 14 health centres and two hospitals by providing free malaria treatment, and then in September, conducted an indoor residual spraying campaign, a technique that involves spraying individual houses with insecticide to kill off mosquitoes. In just one month, our teams sprayed 59,731 homes, protecting close to 287,000 inhabitants for the next six to nine months. In April and December 2019, we conducted similar campaigns in three camps for Congolese refugees.

In response to an unprecedented cholera epidemic, MSF built and supported four treatment facilities in Bujumbura, Cibitoke and Rumonge provinces, trained public health staff and assisted with awareness-raising campaigns. We also built an extensible 50-bed capacity cholera treatment centre in Kamenge, Bujumbura, co-managed by MSF and the Ministry of Health.

We continued providing care for victims of trauma and burns in the 68-bed l’Arche de Kigobe trauma centre in the capital. Our medical teams performed surgeries and carried out 13,500 outpatient consultations. In June, simple trauma cases were decentralised to four MSF-supported public health centres in Bujumbura.
CAMBODIA

New, more effective diagnosis and treatment strategies for hepatitis C proved successful in Cambodia in 2019.

Hepatitis C is endemic in Cambodia yet access to diagnosis and treatment is virtually non-existent. After three years of collaboration with Preah Kossamak hospital in the capital, Phnom Penh, and the introduction of simplified diagnosis and treatment, Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) handed these activities over to the hospital’s hepatology department in June. We continue to treat patients in the Municipal Referral Hospital with the aim of identifying barriers to hepatitis C care in this urban context.

MSF scaled up hepatitis C care in two rural operational districts in Battambang province. The team continued to work on identifying the most efficient screening strategies (e.g. active case finding) for communities unaware of the disease.

Our staff participated in a technical working group on viral hepatitis that resulted in the development of a five-year national strategic plan and hepatitis C/hepatitis B clinical guidelines, based on the evidence provided by MSF’s activities. These were endorsed by the Cambodian Ministry of Health and represent important steps towards tackling hepatitis C in the country.

In May, we organised a well-attended workshop in Phnom Penh to share the lessons learnt from our successful malaria project in northern Cambodia. The following month, we handed over the project to the NGO Malaria Consortium and the government. The project included passive screening, whereby patients visit health centres on their own initiative; proactive screening (the detection of malaria cases by health workers among communities and households); and reactive screening, involving people potentially linked to confirmed cases.

CÔTE D’IVOIRE

Supporting local health authorities to take over our activities in Katiola was the key focus for Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) in Côte d’Ivoire in 2019.

The Ivorian health system is slowly recovering from the political and military crisis that overwhelmed the country from 2002 to 2010. Due to the high rate of deaths during pregnancy and childbirth, the Ministry of Health has made maternal healthcare a priority, offering it free of charge to all pregnant women. However, budget restrictions, drug stockouts and a lack of trained staff mean that access to good quality services for women and their newborns is not always guaranteed.

For five years, we supported the ministry in rural areas of Hambol region in central Côte d’Ivoire, working in the maternity unit, neonatology ward and operating theatre at Katiola referral hospital. In 2019, we admitted 700 newborns for care and strengthened the referral system for obstetric and neonatal emergencies. We also supported Dabakala and Niakara hospitals and six health centres.

In order to reduce perinatal transmission of hepatitis B, we collaborated with the Ministry of Health to introduce systematic vaccination immediately after birth in all MSF-supported facilities in the area. A total of 3,150 newborns were vaccinated against hepatitis B in 2019.

In view of the relatively low levels of activity, decreasing numbers of obstetric complications and limited prospects for development, we made the decision to progressively hand over all our activities in the country to the local health authorities. We stopped our support to health centres in April, to the maternity unit in June and to the operating theatre and neonatology wards at the end of the year.
CAMEROON

No. staff in 2019: 712  |  Expenditure in 2019: €17.8 million  |  Year MSF first worked in the country: 1984  |  msf.org/cameroon

In 2019, Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) continued to assist displaced people, refugees and vulnerable host communities in areas affected by conflict and violence in Cameroon.

Fighting intensified between government forces and secessionist groups in Southwest and Northwest regions, while violence and attacks by armed groups increased in bordering northeastern Nigeria, pushing thousands to flee across the border into the Far North region.

Civilians caught up in violence in Northwest and Southwest regions

The violence in Northwest and Southwest regions of Cameroon has displaced more than 700,000 people, according to the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), and has hugely impacted the provision of health services in those regions.

To improve access to care and respond to increasing needs, our teams supported around 30 hospitals and health centres in Bamenda, Widikum, Kumba and Mamfe, and ran a free 24-hour ambulance service, which managed over 9,000 referrals throughout the year. The focus of our activities is emergency care, especially for victims of armed and sexual violence, children and pregnant women.

We also provided training to community health workers to conduct health promotion activities and treat simple cases of the most common diseases, such as malaria and diarrhoea. Such community-based health support is key as many have fled to the bush, where they have no access to healthcare or other basic services.

During the year, we provided close to 150,000 consultations through our community health workers, the majority being linked to malaria cases.

Refugees and displaced people in Far North region

People in Cameroon’s Far North continue to suffer daily violence from the conflict, while also facing extreme poverty in a region subject to an unpredictable climate.

We have teams working in hospitals in Mora and Maroua, where they offer medical support, including nutritional care, mental health services, health promotion and emergency surgery in the event of mass casualties.

Closer to the Nigerian border, our teams assist health centres with basic healthcare and hospital referrals. In 2019, we also trained over 40 community health workers in Kolofata and Limani to diagnose and treat simple cases of the most common childhood diseases and identify complicated cases to be referred to health centres or hospitals.

Early in the year, we provided emergency assistance in Goura to around 35,000 Nigerians who had fled across the border from Rann, following a violent attack by the opposition armed group.

During the year, our teams conducted around 75,000 consultations, 5,000 mental health consultations and 5,700 reproductive health consultations in our projects in Far North. In addition, we treated more than 23,000 children for diseases such as malaria, diarrhoea and malnutrition (in our facilities or within the communities), and performed 4,000 surgical interventions.

Response to disease outbreaks

We continued to respond to an ongoing cholera outbreak in the North and Far North regions and also launched activities to tackle a new one on Bakassi peninsula, in Southwest region. Our teams treated 260 patients for cholera and vaccinated more than 35,500 people against the disease. We also conducted epidemiological surveillance and health promotion.

In addition, we supported the response to a measles outbreak in Maroua, where we treated more than 1,300 patients in outpatient consultations and nearly 400 severe cases were admitted to the treatment centre at Dougoi.
Despite the peace agreement signed by the government and armed groups in the Central African Republic (CAR) in February, violence has continued unabated in many parts of the country.

Although there have been fewer large-scale attacks on civilians, thousands of people are still living in constant fear, exposed to beatings, rape and murder, with no access to healthcare or other basic services. By the end of 2019, over 687,000 people were internally displaced, while the number of refugees from CAR in neighbouring countries had risen to 592,000.

The pervasive insecurity repeatedly hampered the ability of Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) to deliver medical care and respond to the urgent needs of vulnerable people. Nevertheless, we continued to run 12 projects for local and displaced communities in six prefectures and the capital, Bangui, providing general and emergency care, trauma surgery, maternal and paediatric services, assistance to victims of sexual violence and treatment for malaria, HIV and tuberculosis (TB). In addition, we launched a number of emergency interventions during the year and maintained our assistance to Central African refugees living in Ndu, Democratic Republic of Congo, across the River Mbomou from CAR’s Bangassou.

Protecting women’s health

In Bangui, we focused on improving sexual and reproductive healthcare with the aim of reducing sickness and death from obstetric complications, as well as from the consequences of unsafe terminations of pregnancy, which are the main cause of death among women at MSF-supported maternity facilities in the city. In 2019, our teams assisted a total of 11,400 births in Bangui. We also supported new health structures in the provision of sexual and reproductive health services. These included family planning services to prevent unwanted pregnancies, for example by providing condoms, contraceptive implants and pills, tubal ligation, and safe abortion care if requested. In addition, we supported the organisation of high-level meetings aimed at finding solutions to the impact of unwanted pregnancies and unsafe abortion on maternal mortality.
Despite recurring insecurity incidents, we continued to run maternal health services and emergency obstetric surgery in our projects in other areas of CAR, including Batangafo, Kabo, Bossangoa and Bangassou.

**General healthcare and paediatric activities**

Malaria remains the main killer of children under five in CAR, and its effects are often exacerbated by the precarious conditions in which they live, exposed to malnutrition, infections, measles and other preventable diseases. Insecurity, drug stockouts, long distances to health facilities and transport costs are some of the barriers restricting access to effective and timely medical care for children.

Our teams intervene at all levels to address these challenges in all our projects outside Bangui.

Strategies to deliver care nearer to people’s homes included supporting community health workers to test and treat patients with simple forms of malaria and diarrhoea cases in their villages in Bambari, and deploying teams to hard-to-reach areas and displacement sites, such as PK3 camp in Bria and the Catholic parish in Bangassou. In 2019, our teams assisted more than 50,000 displaced people as well as local communities in remote locations, such as Nzako in Mbomou prefecture, where the inhabitants have been trapped by three years of relentless violence.

MSF supplied health centres with medicines and equipment, staff and technical training and supported hospital emergency rooms and paediatric wards, enabling the most severely ill children to obtain free specialist care. In total, 31,300 children were admitted to MSF-supported hospitals in 2019.

Prevention is essential to saving lives, which is why our efforts were also directed towards supporting routine vaccination and mass vaccination campaigns. During the year, our teams carried out vaccinations against diphtheria, tetanus, hepatitis B, whooping cough, polio and measles for children in Yakaka prefecture and set up two multi-antigen vaccination campaigns in Pombolo, Ouango district.

**Trauma surgery and comprehensive support to victims of sexual violence**

MSF is the main organisation delivering medical and psychosocial care for victims of sexual violence in CAR, and we have progressively integrated it into our programmes across the country. In Bangui, 3,230 victims of sexual violence received medical and psychological assistance in the outpatient department of SICA hospital, a surgical trauma facility we built in 2017. The hospital has 80 beds, an emergency room and two operating theatres, and offers comprehensive treatment, including post-operative care and physiotherapy. Of the 9,810 trauma patients we treated at the hospital in 2019, 80 per cent were victims of road accidents, and around 20 per cent victims of violence, with bullet or stab wounds.

We also launched a new project called Tongolo – meaning ‘star’ in the Sango language – offering comprehensive care for sexual violence, specifically adapted to male, child and adolescent patients, in four of Bangui’s health facilities.

**Tackling HIV and TB**

Another focus of our activities in CAR is HIV/AIDS, a leading cause of death among adults, as the country has Central Africa’s highest HIV prevalence. Our teams work to make treatment as accessible as possible in our projects in Carnot, Paoua, Boguila, Kabo, Batangafo and Bossangoa. We started similar activities in Bria, and in October, we launched a new project in Bangui, which aims to reduce sickness and death related to HIV/AIDS and tuberculosis. Our teams also offer care, treatment and training in the university hospital and support partner health structures.

Despite available funding, less than half of the 110,000 people living with HIV in CAR receive care. In 2019, when the country experienced a major stockout of antiretroviral (ARV) medication, we responded by providing emergency supplies to the Ministry of Health and medical facilities, while also maintaining provision to our regular HIV programmes. For example, in Carnot, where we follow a cohort of 1,850 patients, antiretroviral treatment was initiated for 414 patients, including 27 children. Six hundred and four adult patients were admitted into MSF-supported internal medicine hospital wards in Paoua, mainly due to advanced HIV and tuberculosis.

In addition, we worked with the Ministry of Health to set up more community-based patient groups with the aim of mitigating the daily challenges faced by people living with HIV and making it easier for them to adhere to treatment. For example, group members take it in turns to pick up each other’s ARV medication, thereby reducing the number of times each person has to travel to a health facility. In the Carnot area alone, there are more than 60 patient groups. The groups also function as psychological support systems in which people can speak openly about their HIV status – in Zémio they hold their meetings outside under the mango trees. One group decided to jointly purchase chickens, not only to eat as a source of protein, but also to sell as a source of revenue to enable them to travel to health centres.

**Responding to outbreaks of violence and disease**

Throughout the year, we supported health centres in Alindao and Mingala in Bassa-Kotto, where violence between armed groups continued despite the peace agreement, forcing thousands to flee. Our teams treated thousands of people for malaria and administered vaccines to children and pregnant women. We also conducted nutritional needs assessments and donated medical supplies to facilities in Zémio and Djema.
COLOMBIA

No. staff in 2019: 117  |  Expenditure in 2019: €3.9 million  |  Year MSF first worked in the country: 1985  |  msf.org/colombia

KEY MEDICAL FIGURES:

63,700 outpatient consultations
15,200 consultations for contraceptive services
10,900 individual mental health consultations
460 women received safe abortion care

Colombia saw a resurgence of violence in 2019, as armed groups fought over disputed territories. Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) assisted Colombians who were forcibly displaced and confined, and supported Venezuelan migrants.

In the department of Cauca, we offered mental health assistance to the Nasa indigenous community after a massacre in which several of their members were killed. In Chocó, our teams ran general and mental health services for members of the Wounaan Nonam indigenous community displaced by clashes between armed factions in Docordó town centre. In the last week of the year, an MSF team in Norte de Santander provided general and mental healthcare and shelter kits to more than 100 people confined in a school in Hacarí.

Our mobile emergency response team focused exclusively on humanitarian emergencies in the department of Nariño, one of the regions most affected by the renewed conflict and other violent events in the country. We offered medical and mental healthcare to people confined and displaced by clashes between armed groups in the municipalities of Olaya Herrera, Roberto Payán, Maguí Payán and Tumaco, among others. We also donated shelter kits to hundreds of families in temporary settlements.

Yet again, our teams witnessed the effect of displacement and confinement on people’s mental health. Stress, worry and fear add to the psychosocial impacts of exposure to acts of violence. In addition, the absence of timely

responses from the authorities intensifies the feeling of lack of protection and uncertainty.

In Colombia, we also address the effects on mental health of the threats, targeted killings and intraurban displacement associated with urban violence. In Buenaventura, we continued to offer consultations through a dedicated telephone helpline and comprehensive care for victims of sexual violence and women seeking access to termination of pregnancy.

Assisting Venezuelan refugees and migrants

In the midst of this panorama of increasing violence resulting from the inconsistent implementation of the peace agreements, Colombia has become a country of transit and refuge for millions of people fleeing Venezuela’s social, political and economic crisis. According to official figures, there are around 1.6 million Venezuelans in Colombia, and although most of them live in the main cities, thousands have settled in departments near the border with Venezuela, such as La Guajira, Norte de Santander and Arauca, where they are affected by the conflict and the government response is much more limited.

In response to the growing needs of the Venezuelan population in Colombia, MSF established three projects focused on general healthcare, mental health and sexual and reproductive health in these departments, targeting in particular pregnant women and children under the age of five. Our teams provided assistance in the municipalities of Ríohacha, Tibú and Tame and conducted mobile clinics several times a month in places such as Uribia, Maicao and Manaure in La Guajira; Puerto Santander and La Cabarra in Norte de Santander; and Saravena and Arauquita in Arauca.

During their activities, our teams observed the multiple vulnerabilities of Venezuelan migrants and asylum seekers who have not been able to regularise their status in the country. As well as the risks of recruitment by armed groups and forced prostitution, they face problems in obtaining medical assistance, as the public health system excludes them from all services other than childbirth, vaccination and medical emergencies. They also struggle to access education, shelter and work where they are not exploited or exposed to danger.

Advocating on behalf of vulnerable women and migrants

Our advocacy work is aimed at improving women’s access to safe termination of pregnancy. As part of the strategy, the report Unsafe Abortion, Women at Risk was published to expose the social, economic and institutional barriers that prevent access to this service. The report highlighted that 88 per cent of the 428 patients treated by MSF in 2017–2018 faced at least one of the following barriers: social obstacles (social stigma or harassment by family members and friends); economic or geographical obstacles; a lack of information about the law regarding the termination of pregnancy. Twenty-seven per cent of our patients who requested a safe abortion in a health facility prior to coming to MSF had had their request refused.

MSF helped 460 women in the termination of their pregnancies and accompanied 120 to have the procedure carried out in a public hospital. As a result of the findings in the report, we called on the health authorities to ensure the prevention of unwanted pregnancies by increasing and simplifying access to efficient family planning services, with an emphasis on adolescents living in poverty or in rural environments. We also called on them to prevent deaths and other consequences of unsafe abortions by making comprehensive safe abortion services available and accessible to women and girls across the country.

MSF called for greater international investment and operational presence, particularly in conflict zones, and for more assistance in sexual and reproductive health activities for the migrant population.
In 2019, Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) launched several interventions across Chad to help control the measles epidemic that has continued to intensify since it was declared in May 2018.

In Chad, measles outbreaks usually begin in spring and die out when the rainy season starts in June, but the 2018 outbreak continued into 2019 and eventually spread to 75 of the country’s 126 districts.

Our teams arrived in Am Timan in January when a new peak was declared. In four weeks, we vaccinated 107,000 children in the city and 13 other locations across the district. We also helped to manage measles patients in Am Timan hospital and three health centres.

In the capital, N’Djamena, we converted our inpatient feeding centre, which was originally set up for a one-off emergency intervention in 2018, into a measles unit to provide care for the most severely affected children. We also supported 21 health centres to treat patients in the city.

In Bongor, Bousso, Ba’illi and Kouno districts, in the southwest of the country, and Bodo district, in the south, we vaccinated over 245,000 children, and supported five hospitals and 66 health centres to treat patients. In Bodo district, where measles was not the only life-threatening disease affecting children under five years of age, we provided treatment for malaria and acute malnutrition.

Responding to other emergencies

Malnutrition is endemic in the Sahel, the strip of land that runs across the middle of Chad. In recent years, several factors have exacerbated the prevalence and incidence of malnutrition, including severe seasonal food insecurity, a general lack of purchasing power and the deepening economic crisis.

Measles and malnutrition together are a deadly combination: measles can worsen a child’s nutritional status, while low immunity caused by malnutrition increases the severity of measles and even the risk of death.

In N’Djamena, the few facilities offering treatment for severe malnutrition were again overwhelmed from June to September by large numbers of patients. In response, we reopened an MSF-run inpatient feeding centre in the N’Djarri neighbourhood. By the time we closed the centre in October, we had treated 970 children with severe malnutrition and medical complications.

In the southwest of the country, we also responded to a meningitis outbreak, treating over 750 children, 245 of whom received care at Goundi hospital from January to April 2019.

Improving mother and child healthcare in Moissala

In 2019, our teams treated over 90,600 children for malaria in MSF-supported health facilities in Moissala, in southern Chad. Of those, nearly 7,000 were admitted to Moissala hospital paediatric wards for severe malaria. We also decided to expand our activities in the area to improve access to health services for women and children at all levels, from community health centres up to inpatient care. During the year, we supported operating theatres, maternity, paediatric and neonatology wards in Moissala hospital and obstetric care in two health centres.
**Regions where MSF had projects in 2019**

- CHINA
- CHONGJIN
- NORTH HAMGYONG
- SOUTH KOREA

**Cities, towns or villages where MSF worked in 2019**

- EGYPT
- DEMOCRATIC PEOPLE’S REPUBLIC OF KOREA

**No. staff in 2019:**
- 3

**Expenditure in 2019:**
- €1.4 million

**Year MSF first worked in the country:**
- 1995

**msf.org/dpr-korea**

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**Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) initiated activities in the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea (DPRK) in March 2019, aiming to help improve general healthcare and in particular, treatment for tuberculosis (TB).**

Around nine million people in the DPRK have limited access to adequate healthcare, and the country has one of the highest burdens of TB and multidrug-resistant TB (MDR-TB) in the world. However, the capacity to care for patients with TB is extremely limited. During the year, MSF helped improve TB diagnosis and treatment by upgrading laboratories and X-ray facilities at the two TB hospitals we support in North Hamgyong province. We supplied laboratory and medical equipment, such as X-ray machines, and training for clinicians and technicians, with a view to commencing medical activities in 2020. MSF also provided logistics support at the hospitals, such as electrical infrastructure. In addition, our teams worked to strengthen general healthcare, with a focus on paediatrics and neonatology. This included training clinicians, supplying therapeutic and supplementary food for the treatment of children with malnutrition, improving sterilisation and referral capacity, and providing medical consumables such as protective equipment, needles, syringes and laboratory items.

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**KEY MEDICAL FIGURES:**

- **16,400** outpatient consultations
- **8,600** individual mental health consultations

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**EGYPT**

**No. staff in 2019:**
- 156

**Expenditure in 2019:**
- €3.1 million

**Year MSF first worked in the country:**
- 2010

**msf.org/egypt**

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**In Egypt, Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) runs services tailored to the needs of migrants, refugees and asylum seekers living in the cities of Cairo and Alexandria.**

By the end of December 2019, more than 250,000 refugees and asylum seekers were officially registered in Egypt, according to the United Nations refugee agency, UNHCR. More than half of them were from Syria; the others came from countries such as Ethiopia, Eritrea, South Sudan, Sudan and Yemen. Our Cairo programme, launched in 2012, has a multi-disciplinary approach adapted to the specific needs of migrants and refugees, consisting of medical and mental healthcare, sexual and reproductive health services, physiotherapy and social support. During the year, we conducted a total of 16,300 outpatient consultations, including 8,250 individual mental health consultations and 2,260 for physiotherapy. We also provided nearly 2,050 social support sessions.

In 2019, our teams enrolled 737 new survivors of ill-treatment/physical abuse in the programme. We strengthened our therapeutic mental health group approach, conducting more than 110 sessions with a total of 1,140 participants. We provided a comprehensive package of care for 1,330 victims of sexual violence, 739 of whom received care within 72 hours of the incident. We also increased our engagement with civil society, government, key medical providers and academic institutions regarding the issue of violence against women. As part of this effort, we organised a conference at the end of the year to discuss the medical and mental health consequences of sexual and gender-based violence and find ways to improve access to care for victims.

MSF established a Medical and Psychological Support Unit (MPSU) to enable clinics run by partner organisations to offer comprehensive services to victims of sexual violence. The MPSU will support these organisations to integrate, maintain and sustain the services independently. It is currently partnered with three organisations in seven clinics in Alexandria and Greater Cairo.

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In the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), we are working to tackle the country’s largest outbreaks of measles and Ebola to date, while continuing to address its many other health needs.

In 2019, Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) teams worked in 21 of DRC’s 26 provinces, providing a wide range of services including general and specialist healthcare, nutrition, vaccinations, surgery, paediatric care, support for victims of sexual violence, as well as treatment and prevention activities for HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis (TB), measles, cholera and Ebola.

The world’s largest measles epidemic
The measles outbreak, the largest recorded, has ravaged DRC since mid-2018 and was declared a national epidemic by the Congolese government in June 2019. According to the World Health Organization, in 2019, more than 310,000 people contracted measles and over 6,000 died from the disease in DRC. MSF’s response included support for local surveillance activities, mass vaccination campaigns and treatment for complicated cases in 16 provinces: North and South Kivu, Bas-Uélé, Kasai, Kasai Central, Kwilu, Mai-Ndombe, South Ubangi, Tshopo, Tshuapa, Ituri, Kongo Central and the four ex-Katanga provinces. Our teams vaccinated over 679,500 children and treated some 48,000 in our facilities.

Measles is a vaccine-preventable disease but the failure to cover all health zones with routine vaccination and the delay in organising supplementary campaigns are among the reasons this outbreak is so big. In DRC, factors contributing to low coverage include the lack of vaccines, vaccinators and access to healthcare facilities, as well as logistical difficulties such as transport. The outbreak occurred at the same time as the Ebola epidemic, which complicated the response.

Assisting displaced people
Longstanding intercommunal violence in Ituri flared up again in Djugu and Mahagi territories, displacing over a million people. At the end of the year, around 200,000 people were sheltered in some 80 makeshift sites,

Five-year-old Souffrance undergoes treatment at the MSF-run measles unit at Biringi Hospital, Ituri province. Democratic Republic of Congo, November 2019.
where the living conditions were extremely poor. Our teams provided medical care and distributed water, mosquito nets and relief items at around 30 sites.

Until February, we continued supporting health facilities in Mai-Ndombe, following two days of intercommunity violence in December 2018, during which there were many casualties. We treated injuries and burns, ran mobile clinics and distributed relief items to around 2,850 displaced households. In North Kivu, we assisted displaced people in four camps through mobile clinics and water, hygiene and sanitation activities. In Kasai Central, we ran mobile clinics and health promotion activities to assist Congolese people pushed out of neighbouring Angola.

Comprehensive care in the Kivu provinces
In the Kivu provinces, which have been plagued by conflict for many years, MSF has maintained some long-term projects that ensure continuity of care, while also responding to epidemics, mass displacement and other emergencies.

In North Kivu, our teams operate in Goma, Mweso, Walikale, Masisi, Rutshuru, Bambu and Kibirizi health zones to support the delivery of general and specialist healthcare in hospitals, health centres and posts, and through mobile clinics and community-based outreach activities. Our services include emergency and intensive care, surgery, referrals, neonatal, paediatric and maternal healthcare, mental health support, HIV and TB programmes, vaccinations, nutrition and treatment for sexual and gender-based violence.

In South Kivu, we support hospitals and health centres in Baraka and Mulungu, Kalehe and Kimbi-Lulenge health zones, offering treatment for malnutrition, HIV, TB and other infectious diseases, mental health support, and maternal and reproductive healthcare. In Baraka and Kimbi we work closely with communities to respond to the three main illnesses affecting the population; malaria, diarrhoea and respiratory tract infections. In 2019, we started constructing a new hospital in Baraka and upgraded Kusisa and Tushunguti hospitals by installing a solar energy system.

A doctor listens to a patient at one of the health centres in Beni, North Kivu, where MSF provides medical staff support and treatment, and donates medical supplies. Democratic Republic of Congo, June 2019.
Treating victims of sexual violence
We have teams working in clinics in both Kivu provinces, as well as Kasai Central, Maniema and Ituri, offering reproductive healthcare, including safe abortion care, and medical and psychological treatment for victims of sexual and gender-based violence. With multiple forms of violence often perpetrated at community level, MSF is training people to be first responders, or trusted focal points, for victims in their own communities. In Kimbi-Lulenge and Kamambare health zones (South Kivu), and in Salamabilia (Maniema), Masisi (North Kivu) and Kananga (Kasai-Central), MSF works with 88 such focal points. Most are female, as the majority of victims are women and girls. MSF tries to tackle the prejudice that leads to stigma and even family rejection, and tries to organise referrals to other organisations who can offer socioeconomic assistance.

Responding to epidemics
Throughout the year, our teams supported the national response to large cholera outbreaks across both Kivu provinces. Our teams treated patients in cholera treatment centres (CTCs) and ensured that they and their carers were made aware of good hygiene and sanitation practices to reduce the risk of spreading. We also carried out epidemiological surveys and donated medicines. During an outbreak between May and September, we opened a temporary CTC in Kyeshero (Goma), Lubumbashi (Katanga) and four more in Masisi, where we treated almost 700 patients in one month, most of them displaced people living in precarious conditions in camps.

Malaria also continues to be a major health issue in DRC. At Baraka hospital in South Kivu, we increase treatment capacity every year with 100 beds to respond to the seasonal peak. In 2019, we introduced larvicide spraying in mosquito breeding hotspots as a preventive strategy. In Bili health zone, North Ubangi, where malaria is hyper-endemic, our teams ran a project across 62 health facilities focused on treating young children.

HIV/AIDS remains another deadly threat in DRC, with less than 60 per cent of people living with the disease having access to antiretroviral (ARV) treatment. Limited ARV supply, lack of information and prevention services, stigma and cost are some of the obstacles to care.

In the capital, Kinshasa, and Goma, we support 11 healthcare facilities to expand access to HIV treatment and screening, strengthen follow-up and ensure a steady supply of ARVs. In Kinshasa, we provided medical and psychosocial care for 3,167 HIV-positive patients at Kabinda hospital and seven other facilities. In Misisi health centre in South Kivu, MSF community health educators are part of an HIV support group called the Social Committee for Health Promotion, which raises awareness and fights stigma in the community. In 2019, the group followed 1,821 patients registered in HIV programmes in Misisi, Lulimba and Nyange health centres.

Throughout 2019, we continued our advocacy efforts to address the lack of bed capacity for advanced HIV/AIDS patients, tackle ARV stockout problems and enhance specialist care for paediatric patients.
EBOLA IN DRC

KEY MEDICAL FIGURES:

3,800 people admitted to
Ebola treatment centres, of whom
170 were confirmed as having Ebola

The Ebola outbreak declared
on 1 August 2018 in the
Democratic Republic of Congo
continued throughout 2019,
although the number of new
cases decreased significantly
towards the end of the year.

In July 2019, the World Health Organization
declared the Ebola epidemic a public health
emergency of international concern. By
31 December, there had been approximately
3,300 confirmed cases and 2,200 deaths,
making it the second-largest outbreak ever
recorded, after the one in West Africa in
2014-2016. Over 1,000 patients survived
the disease.

During the year, MSF teams continued
to provide assistance to people in North
Kivu and Ituri, including medical care for
confirmed and suspected Ebola cases and
vaccinations for people who had been in
close contact with those diagnosed with
the disease. In addition, we worked to reinforce
access to general healthcare in the region,
develop community engagement and
integrate Ebola care into local healthcare
facilities. The aim was to adapt our activities
to address the full medical and humanitarian
needs of the population, which go well
beyond Ebola.

In February, the Ebola treatment centres
we supported in Butembo and Katwa
came under violent attack, forcing our
teams to leave the area. Over the following
months, we scaled up our support to
hospitals and health centres at a time when
the contamination of facilities and the
reassignment of local health staff to Ebola
activities was reducing their capacity to
provide healthcare.

Between July and August, confirmed Ebola
cases were reported in Goma city and South
Kivu province, as well as in neighbouring
Uganda. In each location, we supported the
health authorities to manage the response.
These occurrences, which could have
signalled a major expansion of the outbreak
to new areas of the country and across the
border, turned out to be short-lived, and
North Kivu and Ituri continued to be the
hotspots for the rest of the year.

Progress was made in 2019 with respect to
the new medical tools being used to tackle
the virus; preliminary analyses indicated
that the rVSV-ZEBOV vaccine, in use since
the start of the outbreak, is effective in
preventing infection, while two of the four
developmental treatments subject to the
randomised controlled trial gave positive
indications and remained the only two
treatments in use. A clinical study of a
second potential Ebola vaccine was launched
in September.

In a context marked by violence against Ebola
responders – over 300 attacks were recorded
in 2019, resulting in an increased presence
of security and military forces around Ebola
treatment facilities – our ongoing challenges
are gaining the trust of the population and
getting local communities to participate in
the response effort. These are crucial for an
effective response strategy.

An MSF-supported Ebola transit centre in Bunia.
In Ethiopia, Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) fills critical gaps in healthcare, responds to disease outbreaks, and assists internally displaced people and refugees.

By the end of 2019, Ethiopia was hosting 750,000 refugees, most of whom were from neighbouring South Sudan, Eritrea and Somalia. The country with the second-biggest population in Africa witnessed episodes of intercommunal violence, which led to waves of displacement. Mainly for economic reasons, Ethiopia was also the origin of a fluid migration route towards Saudi Arabia.

MSF continued to work with the Ethiopian authorities to respond to emergencies such as cholera and measles outbreaks, and deliver healthcare to remote communities, refugees and displaced people, and providing treatment for snakebites, kala azar (visceral leishmaniasis) and other neglected diseases.

Displacement crisis
In the first quarter of the year, teams were still working in some woredas (administrative areas) in western Ethiopia, with a focus on emergency healthcare and water and sanitation for people displaced by violence on the border between Benishangul-Gumuz and Oromia. We concluded these activities in April.

In the same month, we launched another emergency intervention in Gedeo, in the southern part of the country, only three months after closing one in the same place. This was in response to a huge deterioration in the humanitarian situation of the uprooted populations and assessments that showed alarming malnutrition levels among children and lactating women.

In five months, MSF teams treated 5,100 patients, 3,820 of them severely undernourished children under the age of five, in inpatient and outpatient therapeutic feeding programmes. In August, we ended these activities due to a sharp decrease in admissions following the government’s...
relocation of most of the internally displaced people to neighbouring West Guji.

These two displacement crises, both linked to ethnic tensions and conflict, were the worst to take place in Ethiopia in 2018 and 2019, with a total of around 1.2 million people displaced during peak periods.

MSF teams responded to outbreaks of violence elsewhere in the country with smaller, short-term interventions, for example in Moyale in Somali region, and Gondar and Metekel in Amhara and Benishangul-Gumuz regions respectively.

**Deported migrants**

Ethiopians continued to migrate from rural areas with the aim of reaching Saudi Arabia and other Gulf countries and finding better paid jobs. According to the International Organization for Migration, 138,000 people – mostly Ethiopians, but also people from other African countries – set off from the Horn of Africa across the Gulf of Aden towards Yemen in 2019; this exceeds the number who crossed the Mediterranean seeking safety in Europe.

At the same time, an average of 10,000 Ethiopians per month arrived in the capital, Addis Ababa, on flights from Jeddah, as part of a deportation drive that the Saudi authorities initiated in 2017.

Our teams maintained a medical screening project at the airport and mental health support at a counselling centre in the city. The migrants undergo an extremely perilous journey, during which most witness or experience traumatic violent incidents either at the hands of traffickers while crossing war-torn Yemen or in detention in Saudi prisons.

**Somali region**

In Doolo zone, we expanded our work to reach the most vulnerable pastoral communities. By the end of the year, we were operating in 18 flexible mobile clinic sites, offering comprehensive general healthcare, including maternal health services. We also strengthened a dynamic health surveillance system via ‘tea teams’ to engage the community over tea, as per local tradition.

In September, we handed over to the local health authorities our last medical activities in Dolo town, in Liben zone, after a continued presence of nearly a decade. Over the previous years, health indicators stabilised and there were no significant arrivals of refugees from Somalia.

**Gambella region**

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**Tigray region**

More than 70,000 Eritrean asylum seekers sought refuge in Ethiopia in 2019, adding pressure on registration and reception facilities and exacerbating the already dire conditions in the camps. In Hitsats camp in Tigray region, our teams conducted over 3,000 psychiatric outpatient consultations and 1,160 individual mental health consultations, with both refugees and the host community.

**Amhara region**

In and around Abdurafai, in Amhara region, we continued to focus on visceral leishmaniasis, also known as kala azar, and on the management of snakebites. It is mostly seasonal migrant workers who are affected by both neglected diseases, as they have not built up an immunity to kala azar, live in poor living conditions and work unprotected in the agricultural sector, making them an easy target for snakebites.

We screened over 2,100 suspected cases of kala azar and treated 320 patients with the disease. We also continued with clinical research to develop safer treatment and better diagnostics.

Our teams treating snakebites witnessed an exponential increase in cases, from 647 in 2018 to 1,431 in 2019, which reflects the extent of the problem and the need to invest more in snakebite treatment research.
In 2019, Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) continued to provide medical and psychological care in areas of San Salvador, El Salvador, labelled as ‘red zones’ due to their high levels of violence.

El Salvador is ranked among the countries with the highest homicide rates in the world: 36 per 100,000 inhabitants in 2019, according to the police. Gang violence and conflict with security forces have created humanitarian consequences and affected access to healthcare.

Unable to move freely between neighbourhoods in areas dominated by rival gangs, people struggle to access health services. In some ‘red zones’, the Ministry of Health has suspended services due to violence and threats.

In 2019, as part of our health promotion and community-strengthening activities, we formed six health committees in neighbourhoods in San Salvador and Soyapango, a nearby city. These committees were then able to liaise directly with the Ministry of Health to provide care.

In response to the community work of our health promotion team, the health committees also developed activities with local authorities to promote healthy habits and disease prevention. Water disinfection, sanitation campaigns, prevention of mosquito-borne diseases and first-aid training were among these activities.

MSF also collaborated with the Ministry of Health to facilitate access to communities perceived as dangerous, where they were unable to provide medical care and health promotion. As a result, vaccination and sexual and reproductive health services resumed and we were able to provide mental health services in medical facilities.

In partnership with the Emergency Medical System (a national ambulance service) and Rescue Corps (an association of volunteers), we continued to operate emergency and ambulance services in Soyapango. These enabled over 1,650 urgent referrals to be made from communities where healthcare is unavailable.

MSF also started evaluating the extension of services to the nearby city of Ilopango.

In addition, we collaborated with state-run institutions and other NGOs to provide aid and shelter to migrants, as well as deported and displaced people. We responded to the medical and mental health needs of 2,284 people.

In El Salvador, one in six women were victims of sexual violence in 2019. MSF gave mental health assistance to 71 victims of sexual violence. In addition, our social workers and medical teams worked with people affected by the murder or forced disappearance of family members, as well as those threatened or at risk of being forcibly recruited by gangs – all of them in need of protection.

MSF also advocated safe access to allow our staff to work in areas where violence is endemic.

During 2019, we ran approximately 7,100 community activities and MSF’s mobile clinics conducted around 10,500 medical consultations and more than 2,900 sexual and reproductive health consultations in El Salvador.
ESWATINI

No. staff in 2019: 157  |  Expenditure in 2019: €3.8 million  |  Year MSF first worked in the country: 2007  |  msf.org/eswatini

Key Medical Figures:

6,900 people on first-line ARV treatment, and 230 on second- and further-line treatment in MSF-supported programmes

260 people started on treatment for TB, including 36 for MDR-TB

In Eswatini, we are supporting the Ministry of Health to curb the dual epidemic of HIV and tuberculosis (TB), which, although showing signs of stabilising, remains one of the worst globally.

Around one-third of adults in Eswatini are currently living with HIV, and many of them are co-infected with other diseases, such as TB. Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) continues to look at ways to reduce the incidence and transmission of the diseases and improve patient care.

In 2019, our focus was to ensure that effective, innovative and sustainable HIV/TB prevention, diagnosis and treatment interventions were available to vulnerable people in Shiselweni region.

The first new initiatives were the introduction of postnatal clubs for mothers and their babies, as well as clubs for youths and teens, and the establishment of health posts in remote communities. We also piloted the timely diagnosis of Acute HIV Infection (AHI), the first stage of HIV, which is not detected with routine testing, to prevent the early spread of the disease. Approximately four per cent of patients who came for outpatient consultations with symptoms suggestive of HIV infection presented with AHI and initiated HIV treatment.

Our teams also improved interventions at general healthcare and at community level, for example making pre-exposure prophylaxis more easily available for people at high risk of HIV infection and training community health workers and traditional healers to distribute HIV self-testing kits. In addition, we began preparations to integrate care for non-communicable diseases (hypertension and diabetes) into 10 ‘one-stop shop’ HIV/TB general healthcare clinics.

We continued to work on improving drug-resistant TB diagnosis and care, including preparing for the implementation of orally shorter course treatment regimens (9-12 months). Advocating better treatment options for patients with advanced HIV remained a cornerstone of our work.

Finally, the cervical cancer screening programme and the viral load/TB laboratory were handed over to the Ministry of Health.

FRANCE

No. staff in 2019: 18  |  Expenditure in 2019: €2.8 million  |  Year MSF first worked in the country: 1987  |  msf.org/france

Key Medical Figure:

1,820 individual mental health consultations

Many unaccompanied minors who arrive in France are traumatised by violence and abuse suffered on their journeys. For most, obtaining recognition of their minority status is an arduous process.

In 2019, Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) continued to provide assistance to young, unaccompanied migrants. Many of them had seen their applications for child protection turned down because they were not recognised as minors, often for disputable reasons.

We offer respite and care, and facilitate access to legal support and medical, social, psychological and administrative services in partnership with other organisations in an MSF-run centre in Pantin, a suburb of Paris. A total of 734 minors benefited from these services in 2019.

During the year, in partnership with Utopia 56, an association that helps migrants, we focused on expanding a network of volunteer families across the country to host minors throughout the course of their appeal, during which time they are excluded from any protection or assistance from the state. Hundreds of young migrants and asylum seekers across France are being forced to sleep rough because of the state’s failure to provide them with accommodation, despite having a legal obligation to do so.

In response, from December, MSF started to provide emergency accommodation for up to 150 unaccompanied minors each night in Paris and Marseille.

We also ran mobile healthcare clinics for migrants of all ages in Paris and continued to monitor the situation across the country, especially along the borders with Italy and Spain. At the end of the year, we called for a parliamentary investigation to look into violations committed by public authorities and take action to stop the patterns of abuse and violence against migrants and people standing in solidarity with them.
GREECE

We continue to provide medical services to migrants and refugees in Athens and other parts of the Greek mainland, as well as on the islands of Lesbos, Samos and Chios.

Since the implementation of the EU-Turkey deal in March 2016, thousands of people on the move have remained trapped for an indeterminate period of time in five hotspots in the five Aegean Islands – Lesbos, Chios, Samos, Kos and Leros – and forced to live in inhumane and degrading conditions while they wait for a decision on their asylum claims. In 2019, Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) teams conducted almost 46,600 outpatient consultations across Greece.

In the second half of 2019, the humanitarian situation in the five reception centres quickly deteriorated. At the same time, the new Greek government approved a new, stricter law on international protection, which reduced the already limited ability of asylum seekers to obtain healthcare. The new law also means that minors can now be detained, and post-traumatic stress disorder no longer qualifies as a vulnerability. As a result, even extremely vulnerable people have to spend long periods living in precarious conditions, which exacerbates their medical and mental health problems.

MSF doctor Leonidas Alexakis examines a child in the MSF paediatric clinic outside Moria camp on the island of Lesbos. Greece, January 2019.

In response to the massive increase in arrivals on Samos, we scaled up our activities. We installed a water and sanitation system for the people who live around the official reception centre, providing them with clean drinking water and toilets. This is the first step in an intervention that will also involve the construction of showers, to prevent health problems associated with water shortage and poor hygiene. Near the camp, we run a day centre offering mental health support and sexual and reproductive healthcare.

Our services on Chios include general healthcare, sexual and reproductive healthcare, mental health support, social care and travel medicine for people at Vial camp, as well as cultural mediation services at the local hospital.

We run two clinics in Athens to respond to the specific needs of people on the move. The first, a day centre, provides sexual and reproductive healthcare, mental health support, treatment for chronic and complex diseases, social and legal assistance, as well as travel medicine for people planning to move on from Greece. The second offers comprehensive care to victims of torture and other forms of violence and is managed in collaboration with two other organisations, the Day Centre Babel and the Greek Council for Refugees. It implements a multidisciplinary approach, comprising medical and mental healthcare, physiotherapy, and social and legal assistance.

Vathy camp, built for 650 people, hosts more than 7,300, including over 2,500 children. Samos, Greece, November 2019.
GEORGIA

No. staff in 2019: 15 | Expenditure in 2019: €0.6 million | Year MSF first worked in the country: 1993 | msf.org/georgia

After 25 years in Georgia, Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) activities, which have mainly focused on the treatment of multidrug-resistant tuberculosis (MDR-TB), are nearing completion.

Georgia is one of the 30 countries with the highest rates of MDR-TB. MSF first supported TB activities in Abkhazia and South Ossetia regions between 1993 and 1994, and drug-resistant TB (DR-TB) care in Abkhazia between 2001 and 2014.

In 2014, we began supporting the use of bedaquiline in Georgia through the compassionate use mechanism, whereby patients with life-threatening conditions gain access to investigational drugs. The following year, Georgia became one of 17 participating countries in the endTB observational study of bedaquiline and delamanid to find shorter, more tolerable, injection-free treatments for MDR-TB. A total of 297 patients were enrolled in this study. In 2017, the first patient was enrolled in the endTB clinical trial – a randomised trial that followed the endTB study in the search for better MDR-TB treatment.

Today, Georgia is one of only four MDR-TB high-burden countries to have implemented all-oral regimens for more than 95 per cent of MDR-TB patients.

MSF began working in Georgia in 1993 to deliver healthcare to people affected by internal displacement and conflict. Activities included surgery, vaccinations and supplying drugs to health facilities. Over the following years, we provided assistance to Chechen refugees in Pankisi Valley, running medical and surgical programmes as well as donating drugs. From 2000, we expanded our activities to include general healthcare for vulnerable people and treatment for visceral leishmaniasis.

When the last patients in the endTB trial complete their follow-up in 2020, MSF programmes in Georgia will close.

GUINEA

No. staff in 2019: 303 | Expenditure in 2019: €8.4 million | Year MSF first worked in the country: 1984 | msf.org/guinea

Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) continued to respond to malaria and HIV/AIDS – two of the main killers in Guinea – and conducted a selected catch-up vaccination campaign in Conakry.

In 2019, we expanded our community-based child health programme to cover the whole Kouroussa prefecture, providing training and logistical support to 152 community health volunteers and 23 health posts and health centres to improve the detection, treatment and referral systems for patients with malaria, malnutrition and respiratory infections. Thanks to this approach, 47,927 children were diagnosed with malaria using rapid tests, and more than 38 per cent of them were treated directly in the community.

Meanwhile, we continued our medical and logistical support to Kouroussa prefectural hospital, where nearly 2,460 children were admitted and treated for severe forms of malaria during the year. As we plan to close the project by the end of 2021, a roundtable with local, regional and central authorities was organised in order to guarantee continuity and community engagement.

Another focus of MSF activities in Guinea is HIV care. Fewer than half of HIV-positive patients have access to treatment and HIV-related deaths are on the rise. In the capital, Conakry, we continued to support testing, treatment and follow-up services for HIV patients through eight health centres and provide specialised care for advanced-HIV patients in the 31-bed unit at Donka hospital that we rehabilitated this year. We also ran public testing campaigns and awareness-raising activities, which led to 4,397 people being tested over the year.

In addition to running these regular projects, MSF conducted a selected catch-up vaccination campaign in Conakry’s Matoto district, vaccinating nearly 14,800 children with measles, oral polio and 5-in-1 vaccines (diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis, hepatitis B and Haemophilus influenzae type B), and treated 1,390 patients for measles.
Guinea-Bissau has been plagued by political instability for decades, resulting in a lack of development and weak public services. Healthcare is severely limited due to insufficient resources and qualified staff.

The focus of Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) activities in Guinea-Bissau is paediatric care. The main diseases affecting children in the country are respiratory infections, malaria, diarrhoea and meningitis; for newborns, the principal causes of death are asphyxia and neonatal sepsis.

Our teams manage the paediatric emergency room as well as the paediatric and neonatal intensive care units in the country’s only tertiary facility, Simão Mendes national hospital, in the capital, Bissau. We have established a triage system in the paediatric emergency unit to guarantee faster and more efficient treatment and have worked closely with the Ministry of Health to ensure that the correct protocols and treatment procedures are implemented to reduce child mortality. We also support Ministry of Health staff with training and management skills development.

Neonatal care requires many resources, but we have proved it is possible to go beyond the basics by introducing new protocols and technologies that are not usually in place in low-income countries. In order to address the needs of our most complex and critical patients, we have introduced new tools and technologies, such as continuous positive airway pressure (CPAP) devices for respiratory problems, incubators, C-reactive protein (CRP) tests for sepsis diagnosis, and specific infection prevention and control protocols.

The long-running Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) programme in Honduras focuses on assisting victims of violence. This year we also responded to a dengue fever outbreak in the north.

In 2019, MSF continued to deliver comprehensive care to victims of violence, including sexual violence, in the capital, Tegucigalpa. Our teams provide medical treatment for rape, including post-exposure prophylaxis to prevent HIV and hepatitis B infection, and treatment for other sexually transmitted diseases such as syphilis. Counselling, group therapy and psychological first aid are also available.

Another team at a mother and child clinic in Choloma assists births and offers family planning, ante- and postnatal consultations and psychological support to victims of violence, including sexual violence. Health promotion teams in this industrial city visit sites such as factories and schools to raise awareness of the clinic’s services and provide information about sexual and reproductive health for adolescents.

We continue to advocate access to comprehensive medical care for victims of sexual violence in Honduras, where emergency contraception is still banned.

During eight months in 2019, we responded to a dengue fever emergency in the north, mainly in Cortés department. In February, we deployed a team to support the paediatric dengue unit at the Mario Catarino Rivas national hospital in San Pedro Sula city. Between February and April, as the number of cases kept growing, we triaged patients with a fever and fast-tracked them to the dengue unit. We also deployed staff to four general healthcare centres in Choloma, to take care of patients who did not need to be admitted to hospital.
Rising tensions severely strained all aspects of medical care in Haiti throughout 2019, and Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) treated increasing numbers of patients, especially for trauma and violence-related injuries.

Since mid-2018, Haiti has been in the grips of a major political and economic crisis. In 2019, this led to massive demonstrations that shut down much of the country for months at a time, as streets were barricaded and protesters clashed with the police. Many public medical facilities struggled to keep running due to shortages of drugs, blood, oxygen, electricity, fuel and staff. Private medical centres were also badly affected and forced to reduce staff or even shut down altogether. During the worst of the violence, medical facilities were looted, and healthcare workers and ambulances attacked.

In the five medical facilities where MSF works in Port-au-Prince and Port-à-Piment, our teams observed the effects of the crisis firsthand. In a rapidly deteriorating situation, we had to deal with increasing demand for care.

Health services in Port-au-Prince

In November 2019, in order to meet the needs of people seeking lifesaving surgery, we opened a trauma hospital in the former MSF-run Nap Kenbe facility in the Tabarre neighbourhood. We quickly expanded its capacity to 50 beds, and in the first five weeks alone, we saw 574 people at our triage. Of these, 150 were admitted with life-threatening injuries, 57 per cent of them with bullet wounds.

Our emergency and stabilisation centre in Martissant, a slum area severely affected by gang violence, treated 29,452 patients in its emergency room, 2,669 of whom had violence-related injuries. Patients requiring specialist care were referred to other hospitals, including the Haiti State University Hospital, which we supported by donating medical equipment and supplies, rehabilitating facilities and training staff.

We continued to run the 40-bed Drouillard hospital, the only specialist burns facility in Haiti, which is located in Cité Soleil slum. In 2019, we admitted 580 patients for care and conducted 27,800 outpatient consultations. Because of school closures during demonstrations, we saw a spike in the number of children injured in domestic accidents, for example while playing too close to stoves. We also treated several patients with burns from street fires or fire bombs used by protesters.

Port-à-Piment

In the southwest of the country, we supported emergency and maternity services, in Port-à-Piment health centre. During the year, our team there assisted 1,070 births and provided family planning services to more than 1,420 patients. We also supported health centres in Côteaux and Chardonnières by donating supplies, training staff and organising referrals.

In addition, MSF provided support to victims of sexual and gender-based violence in two public hospitals and at our own Pran Men’m clinic in the Delmas 33 neighbourhood. In 2019, we treated more than 1,260 patients. The number of patients decreased during the months when the city was on lockdown, because insecurity prevented people from seeking care. In Haiti, sexual violence remains a neglected and largely under-reported medical emergency.
Despite improved access to healthcare in India, a combination of high costs, poverty, social exclusion and an over-burdened public health system prevents people from seeking medical assistance.

Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) continues to work with vulnerable communities, providing mental healthcare and treatment for infectious diseases, drug-resistant tuberculosis (DR-TB), sexual violence and malnutrition.

Specialised care for TB, HIV and hepatitis C in Manipur

Manipur has a high prevalence of HIV, hepatitis C and both drug-sensitive and drug-resistant forms of TB. Due to limited healthcare services in the state, it also has a high incidence of co-infection, making patients more vulnerable and treatment more difficult.

Through our clinics in Churachandpur, Chakpikarong and Moreh, and a new one built and inaugurated in 2019 in Chakpikarong, near the Myanmar border, our teams offer screening, diagnosis and treatment, as well as counselling and health education for all three diseases.

Mental healthcare in Jammu and Kashmir

Since 2001, we have been offering counselling services in Jammu and Kashmir, where years of conflict have taken a severe psychological toll on residents. This is compounded by the stigma associated with mental health issues. In 2019, our teams worked in hospitals in four districts – Srinagar, Baramulla, Pulwama and Bandipora – and assessed the mental health situation in most of the rest of the state. As a result of our findings, we are expanding our activities at community level in Sopore and Pulwama districts.

Sexual and gender-based violence in Delhi

In 2015, we opened a 24-hour clinic in North Delhi’s Jahangirpuri district for victims of sexual and domestic violence. Services include post-exposure prophylaxis to prevent HIV/AIDS, unwanted pregnancies and sexually transmitted diseases, as well as psychosocial support. We also run counselling services at the local district hospital.
We continued to work with local authorities and community-based organisations to raise awareness of our services throughout 2019. We also published the initial findings of our Knowledge, Attitudes, Practices (KAP) survey, which will increase the understanding of sexual violence and help MSF and others address it more effectively.

**Advanced HIV project in Bihar**

Patients with HIV continue to face substantial discrimination and limited access to care within the public and private health systems. Bihar, one of the most populous states in India, remains far from the UNAIDS 90-90-90 targets for people living with HIV. MSF has in 2019 been focused on providing high level holistic care to the most vulnerable and unwell population of people living with HIV/AIDS, those with advanced HIV. We support the Ministry of Health in managing a dedicated holistic care inpatient ward that ensures patients are treated in a dignified manner, while providing safe and targeted treatment and – where appropriate – palliative care for their life-threatening opportunistic infections. In parallel, we work with the government and the Access Campaign to improve the guidelines and access to essential diagnostics and drugs that these critical patients require.

**Treating severe acute malnutrition in Jharkhand**

MSF has been working with the health authorities in Jharkhand to identify and treat children with severe acute malnutrition since 2017.

In 2019, we treated nearly 1,000 children with severe acute malnutrition through 47 outpatient feeding centres in rural and tribal areas of the state. MSF also conducted operational research to identify the optimal mid-upper arm circumference (MUAC, a screening method used to assess a child’s nutritional status) for management of children with severe acute malnutrition. The aim is to give policymakers the best chance of upscaling community-based management of this condition. The results of the study will be shared with policymakers and health workers to demonstrate a model for better identifying child malnutrition.

**Treating DR-TB and HIV in Mumbai**

Since 1999, MSF has been working in close collaboration with the national TB and HIV programmes in Mumbai to reduce the incidence and mortality rates of the diseases. In M/East ward, which has one of the highest rates of TB in the city, we run an independent clinic that offers comprehensive care for HIV and DR-TB patients, including those with very complex drug-resistance patterns. These patients require treatments that are difficult to obtain in either the public or the private sector. Our project was one of the first sites in the world to provide the newer drugs, bedaquiline and delamanid, to both adult and paediatric patients with advanced DR-TB resistance.

In addition to the cutting-edge work undertaken in our clinic, we work with the national TB programme to strengthen DR-TB management in M/East ward through the outpatient department of a public hospital. We also support a TB hospital in Sewri in south Mumbai – the biggest in Asia – by providing DR-TB treatment for complicated cases and psychosocial assistance. In 2019, we extended our TB activities to eight health posts in the community.

**Treating hepatitis C in Uttar Pradesh**

Since 2017, we have supported the Ministry of Health in Meerut, Uttar Pradesh, to develop an effective, decentralised and simplified programme to diagnose and treat hepatitis C. We handed the programme over to the ministry in 2019. In two years, more than 10,000 people were tested for hepatitis C. Of those, 3,675 initiated treatment, 3,435 finished it and 3,430 were cured. During August and December 2019, 433 community influencers and service providers (village heads, rural practitioners, barbers), 1,156 community-based health workers and 2,978 students received basic training in raising awareness about hepatitis C prevention in western Uttar Pradesh.

**Healthcare for hard-to-reach communities**

MSF runs mobile clinics offering general healthcare to people living in remote villages in Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh and Telangana, three states in eastern India affected by longstanding, low-intensity conflict. General healthcare, treatment for malaria, TB and respiratory infections, ante- and postnatal care, vaccinations and referrals are all available through the clinics. We also carry out health promotion and disease surveillance activities.

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1 The globally agreed 90-90-90 targets require that 90 per cent of people living with HIV know their status, that 90 per cent of people diagnosed with HIV initiate and remain on ARV treatment, and that 90 per cent of people on ARV treatment reach and maintain an undetectable viral load by 2020.
In 2019, Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) continued to provide essential healthcare services in Iraq, where people are suffering from the effects of years of conflict and ongoing instability.

Although displaced people continued to return to their homes in 2019, more than a million still face significant barriers that prevent them from doing so. Some have been living in camps for years, with little access to basic services. At the end of the year, the violent crackdown on protests in various cities across the country put additional pressure on the health system. Many healthcare facilities have been destroyed and there is an overall shortage of healthcare specialists and services, vitally needed to address primary and secondary healthcare needs and trauma resulting from ongoing violence. Our teams have observed an increase in mental health needs generated by prolonged suffering among both internally displaced people and the rest of the Iraqi population, including trauma related to domestic violence, psychosomatic disorders, post-traumatic stress disorder, depression and anxiety.

In 2019, we maintained our range of basic and secondary health services, such as maternity and neonatal care, emergency rehabilitation, treatment for non-communicable diseases, surgery and post-operative care, and mental health support for displaced people, returnees and vulnerable communities. From October, when the demonstrations started, our teams also provided medical supplies and technical support to various hospitals across the country. Throughout the year, our teams operated hospitals and clinics in some of the most war-affected regions to help restore some of the most indispensable healthcare services for the Iraqi people.

**Ninewa governorate**

The war against the Islamic State group had a devastating impact on Ninewa, resulting in severe physical and mental trauma among its inhabitants, the destruction of health facilities and the displacement of large numbers of people. Mental healthcare was a main component of all MSF services in Nineva, and our teams of psychologists conducted a total of 14,000 individual mental health consultations there in 2019.

To address the shortage of skilled surgery and post-surgical care, MSF opened a comprehensive centre for patients with violent or accidental trauma injuries in east Mosul in 2018. The hospital has a mobile operating theatre, a 33-bed inpatient ward, recovery rooms and rehabilitation units. During 2019, MSF teams conducted nearly 580 surgical interventions. We also donated

to the Department of Health a newly built facility dedicated to the treatment of infectious diseases in east Mosul.

In west Mosul, we run a comprehensive maternity unit in Nablus hospital with surgical capacity for caesarean sections. Our team there provides emergency obstetric and neonatal care, inpatient paediatric services, as well as emergency treatment and stabilisation of patients before referral to other hospitals. During 2019, they conducted 43,100 emergency room consultations and assisted 9,300 births.

As displaced families returned to west Mosul, we set up maternity services in Al-Rafedein basic healthcare centre to respond to the increased demand for sexual and reproductive healthcare.

We also extended our outreach activities for Yazidis and other communities in Sinjar district, offering sexual and reproductive health services, including births, and paediatric care through our hospital and in the displacement camps. We treated a total of 14,581 patients in the emergency room in 2019.

In Qayyarah subdistrict, we continued to run an emergency room and offer paediatric and maternity services, nutritional support, surgery and rehabilitative care, as well as treatment for burns. These services benefit host communities as well as internally displaced people. During 2019, our teams conducted 2,670 surgeries, and were also able to boost the capacities of local healthcare providers through training and donations, and hand over our neonatal and paediatric activities.

**Kirkuk governorate**

In this conflict-affected area, MSF teams helped to restore healthcare facilities in Hawija, and provided health services in Al-Abbasi town and Laylan camp. Our teams provided basic healthcare, maternity and sexual and reproductive health services, treatment for non-communicable diseases, mental health support and health promotion activities.

In addition, we supported the emergency room, laboratory and infection prevention department in Hawija general hospital.

**Diwala governorate**

In Diwala, MSF teams addressed the needs of displaced people, returnees and host communities by offering basic healthcare, mental health support, sexual and reproductive healthcare services, treatment for non-communicable diseases and health promotion in Khanaqin and Alwand camp, and through facilities in Sinsil, Sadiya, Al-Muqdadiyah and Jalawla.

**Baghdad governorate**

The focus of activities at Baghdad Medical Rehabilitation Centre is rehabilitative care, including pain management, physiotherapy and mental health support for people injured in violent incidents or accidents. After the mass protests broke out in October, we increased capacity from 20 to 30 beds. In addition, we gave mass casualty triage training to 80 doctors and nurses working in the emergency department at Imam Ali hospital in Sadr city, to enable them to cope with approximately 20,000 patients every month. We also opened a project aimed at providing shorter and injection-free treatment for drug-resistant tuberculosis patients and supported local diagnostic capacities for the disease.

**Dohuk governorate**

From the beginning of the clashes in northeast Syria in October until the end of 2019, more than 17,000 people crossed the border into Iraq. In October, we conducted mobile clinic activities in Bardarash camp and at the Sahela border reception site to provide refugees and internally displaced people with general healthcare services and mental health consultations.

**Dhi Qar governorate**

When protests started in southern governorates at the end of 2019, MSF launched an emergency response in Nasiriyah, which included training staff to deal with mass casualties, and supporting the emergency preparation of first-aid posts.
INDONESIA

No. staff in 2019: 39  |  Expenditure in 2019: €0.9 million  |  Year MSF first worked in the country: 1995  |  msf.org/indonesia

KEY MEDICAL FIGURES:

- 180 antenatal consultations
- 150 postnatal consultations

In Indonesia, Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) focuses on improving adolescent healthcare.

The main goal of our adolescent healthcare programme in Jakarta province and Pandeglang district, Banten province, is to continuously improve the quality and availability of targeted health services for adolescents, such as antenatal and postnatal care for pregnant girls and young mothers, by building connections between local communities, schools and health service providers. Our team supports local health centre staff to run adolescent health services and strengthens capacity through mentorship and training. We also deploy staff to run health promotion activities and education sessions for teens and parents in their villages or in the MSF education centre, the Saung Rhino Youth Corner in Banten.

During 2019, we provided 75 counselling sessions, supported 5,161 consultations in adolescent healthcare services and carried out ante- and postnatal consultations with 297 pregnant adolescents. In addition, we initiated five health programmes in schools.

Indonesia is located on the tectonic ‘Ring of Fire’ and prone to natural disasters. Drawing on the lessons learned from our interventions in three major natural disasters in 2018, MSF is engaging with Indonesian disaster management agencies with the aim of offering crucial technical support and assistance with the development of national response capacity.

We also continued our response to the December 2018 tsunami in the Sunda Strait. Our team conducted nearly 2,100 primary healthcare consultations and 34 individual and group mental health sessions in 2019, before ending the intervention in April.

IRAN

No. staff in 2019: 86  |  Expenditure in 2019: €3.9 million  |  Year MSF first worked in the country: 1990  |  msf.org/iran

KEY MEDICAL FIGURES:

- 41,700 outpatient consultations
- 5,410 individual mental health consultations
- 180 people started on treatment for hepatitis C

Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) runs programmes to assist refugees, migrants and other vulnerable groups in Iran who face barriers when seeking healthcare, despite government efforts to implement universal health coverage.

Iran officially hosts 950,000 Afghan refugees, although the UN refugee agency, UNHCR, estimates that between 1.5 and 2 million undocumented Afghans also live there. They, and other excluded and marginalised groups, such as drug users (around three per cent of the population), homeless people and the Ghorbati ethnic community, struggle to obtain medical assistance.

In 2019, our teams continued providing comprehensive care to vulnerable groups at high risk of infectious diseases in South Tehran via a health facility and a mobile clinic. Services here include medical consultations, testing for communicable diseases (HIV, tuberculosis, hepatitis B and C), treatment for hepatitis C and sexually transmitted infections, specialist referrals, as well as ante- and postnatal care, midwifery and family planning. A team of peer workers, social workers and psychiatrists offer mental health support.

We deliver similar services for refugees and host communities in our project in Mashhad, near the Afghan border, via mobile clinics in Esmail Abad and Golshar. We also run a fixed clinic in Golshar, where most of the 320,000 Afghans officially living in Mashhad have settled.

Following flash floods affecting several provinces, MSF launched an emergency operation in Lorestan at the end of April. For three months, we ran mobile clinics, where we provided 7,260 consultations in remote villages, and distributed hygiene kits. To mitigate the effects of heat in the summer, we set up evaporative water coolers and installed metal roofs in some of our health posts. We also donated medical material, hygiene kits and cooking sets in Golestan.
ITALY

No. staff in 2019: 32  |  Expenditure in 2019: €2.4 million  |  Year MSF first worked in the country: 1999  |  msf.org/italy

The Italian government has introduced tougher asylum and migration policies, making access to healthcare even more difficult for people in need.

Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) continued to address gaps in medical services for the most vulnerable people and challenge these restrictive policies in 2019.

From July to November, we ran a mobile clinic in Basilicata region in southern Italy to provide healthcare to migrants working as daily labourers in agriculture. Most of them live in crowded, unsanitary conditions in remote rural settlements, in makeshift camps or rural squats. In five months, MSF carried out more than 900 medical consultations and over 400 consultations for legal support via partners. At the end of the year, we identified a group of local doctors to take over these activities.

In November, we closed the rehabilitation centre for victims of torture that we opened in Rome in 2016. The project, run in collaboration with local partners Medici Contro la Tortura and ASGI, implemented a multidisciplinary approach. This comprised medical and psychological consultations, physiotherapy and social support for over 200 patients. Most of our patients were discharged in 2019, with the most critical (around 10) being referred to our partners or other organisations.

Our teams continue to offer psychological first aid at disembarkation for people who have suffered traumatic events while crossing the Mediterranean. In 2019, MSF teams of psychologists and intercultural mediators assisted more than 38 people in two interventions in Lampedusa and Catania.

Throughout the year, in Palermo, Rome and Turin, we helped around 1,060 people to access national health services, in partnership with local health authorities.

KYRGYZSTAN

No. staff in 2019: 87  |  Expenditure in 2019: €2.5 million  |  Year MSF first worked in the country: 1996  |  msf.org/kyrgyzstan

In 2019, Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) concluded tuberculosis (TB) activities in Kyrgyzstan. The seven-year project had successfully supported the Ministry of Health to improve quality and accessibility of care.

Since 2012, MSF has been working to introduce a decentralised model of care for drug-resistant TB (DR-TB) in Kara-Suu district, Osh province, thereby reducing hospital visits and admissions for patients. Between January and November 2019, an average of 80 per cent of patients received outpatient care. MSF has helped introduce new and innovative DR-TB diagnosis and care, including video-observed treatment to support adherence. We also promoted new, less toxic, shorter drug regimens, and improved case detection. Throughout the seven years of the project, our teams supported more than 11,000 people to undergo TB testing with GeneXpert, and around 705 of those confirmed to have the disease started treatment for DR-TB. Social and psychological assistance formed part of their comprehensive care package.

In Aidarken, Batken province, we continued to address the high incidence of non-communicable diseases in a context of possible environmental pollution. In August, we assisted with an environmental risk assessment in Kadamjay district. This assessment will inform future health interventions aiming to mitigate exposure to heavy metal pollutants. In close collaboration with the Ministry of Health, MSF teams also provided care for women and children, including the piloting of a cervical cancer screening and pre-lesion treatment programme. MSF and the Ministry of Health conducted a total of 4,794 outpatient consultations in Aidarken in 2019.
In Kenya, Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) provides care to refugees, drug users and victims of violence, and responds to public health challenges such as advanced HIV and non-communicable diseases.

Kenya is MSF’s largest programme outside a conflict zone or emergency crisis. In the sprawling slums of Nairobi and in the three-decade-old Dadaab refugee camp, for example, many people still struggle to obtain effective diagnosis and care for life-threatening diseases.

Treating non-communicable diseases
Since 2017, we have been working in Embu to integrate management of non-communicable diseases into general healthcare facilities. In that time, more than 4,000 patients with non-communicable diseases have enrolled for treatment. In August, the second cohort of 18 trainees taking part in our staff mentoring scheme graduated, having successfully completed their modules. They are now able to manage patients with non-communicable diseases independently.

We support the adult medical wards (90 beds) in Homa Bay county referral hospital. In 2019, 3,054 people were admitted, most with severe underlying chronic and non-communicable diseases. We assisted the hospital by improving the quality of care through early identification and monitoring of severe cases. We also opened an outpatient clinic for closer follow-up of unstable/very sick patients after they are discharged from the inpatient wards.

Advanced HIV care
In Homa Bay, we continued to work on improving HIV care and reducing transmission and mortality rates. We finalised a study to assess the results of the new approaches implemented in our HIV activities in Ndhiwa subcounty between 2014 and 2018. The programme, aimed at reducing new infections through treatment as a prevention strategy, is based on the idea that an HIV-positive person whose viral load is suppressed by effective treatment is unable to transmit the virus to others. We tested as many people as possible,
A doctor examines a baby in Dagahaley, Dadaab refugee camp, where MSF also provides healthcare to the host communities. Kenya, July 2019.

Comprehensive obstetric care in Likoni
In Likoni subcounty, Mombasa, we support the Department of Health to provide comprehensive emergency obstetric and neonatal care in the fully renovated Mrima health centre. Our teams there assist an average of 6,000 births every year, perform lifesaving obstetric surgery and support ante- and postnatal care, as well as screening for cervical cancer, HIV and other sexually transmitted diseases.

Responding to medical emergencies
The high incidence of snakebites in Baringo county, northwestern Kenya, has been largely under-reported due to a lack of appropriate monitoring tools. For three months, an MSF team trained medical staff in prevention strategies and administering antivenoms and first aid to snakebite victims. We also donated antivenom vials to boost the county’s supplies.

In addition, we responded to malaria outbreaks in Baringo and neighbouring Turkana county. In September, more than 45,000 people tested positive for malaria, in the worst outbreak in Turkana since 2017.

Heavy rains later in the year led to flooding and displacement in some parts of the country. In West Pokot county, when flooding and landslides forced many people to flee their homes, we donated medical supplies and treated mosquito nets. We also provided emergency relief items and food to the most affected refugees in Dagahaley camp.
In Jordan, Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) offers reconstructive surgery to war-wounded patients from across the Middle East and healthcare to Syrian refugees and host communities.

Despite the cessation of hostilities in southern Syria and the reopening of the border with Jordan at Jaber in 2018, only a small proportion of Syrian refugees have returned to their homes. There are still more than 650,000 Syrian registered refugees in Jordan, most of whom rely on humanitarian assistance to meet their basic needs.

In early 2019, the Jordanian government reinstated subsidised healthcare for Syrian refugees, which was suspended in 2018.

Reconstructive surgery in Amman
Our reconstructive surgery hospital in Amman provides comprehensive care to patients injured in wars across the Middle East. We treat around 200 patients a month from places such as Yemen, and Gaza in Palestine, who have to make long and difficult journeys to reach the hospital. Our services include orthopaedic, plastic and maxillofacial surgery, physiotherapy, mental health support and fitting prosthetics.

Since 2016, we have been using 3D printing to create upper-limb prosthetic devices for patients. These prostheses help them to regain their autonomy and carry out many of the day-to-day activities that their injuries had prevented them from doing.

Non-communicable diseases
Our two clinics in Irbid governorate provide Syrians and vulnerable Jordanians with treatment for non-communicable diseases, a leading cause of death in the region. The teams offer medical and mental healthcare, including home visits, psychosocial support, physiotherapy and health education, to patients with diseases such as diabetes and hypertension. In 2019, we carried out 3,720 individual and group mental health consultations.

Mental health
In Irbid and Mafraq we run mental health services for children and their families who have been affected by the Syrian war or its consequences, such as displacement and poverty. Many of the patients we see now are not struggling so much with their experiences of the war, as with the fact that they still cannot return home and are living in very difficult circumstances as a result.

We offer individual, family and dyad therapy – whereby the parent and child are treated together – and also run group sessions and education activities.

Maternal and child health
In 2019, we handed over our neonatal care project in Irbid, which we opened in 2013 during an acute phase of the Syrian refugee emergency, to the International Medical Corps. Between 2013 and 2019, our staff assisted 17,272 births, including 1,365 caesarean sections, and admitted 2,779 newborns to hospital for treatment.
In a year marked by mass anti-government protests across Lebanon, Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) continued to provide general and specialist healthcare to host, migrant and refugee communities.

The demonstrations that took place in 2019 were the largest in terms of numbers, geographical spread, and diversity for decades. Thousands of people protested against the sectarian Lebanese political system, which fuelled years of institutional corruption, leading to a stagnant economy, unemployment and limited access to basic services such as electricity and clean water. The economic instability and political deadlock led to rapid inflation. As a result, living conditions deteriorated and health costs increased, affecting the most vulnerable fringes of society, whether Lebanese, migrants or refugees.

In Lebanon, the health system is highly privatised and fragmented, and free medical services are almost non-existent. Ensuring free access to high-quality general and specialist healthcare has been MSF’s main objective since 2008.

Bekaa Valley
In Bekaa Valley, an area with a dense Syrian refugee population, we run general healthcare services in Arsal, Hermel, Baalbek and Majdal Anjar clinics. We treat chronic non-communicable diseases and provide mental health support and sexual and reproductive healthcare services, with a focus on mother and child health in Majdal Anjar and Arsal. In 2019, MSF partnered with the Ministry of Public Health to implement the WHO mhGAP programme.

We also run a specialised paediatrics programme in Zahle that includes emergency consultations, paediatric intensive care and treatment for thalassemia at Elias Hraoui governmental hospital.

In Bar Elias, we provide care for severe wounds, with a focus on burns patients, and essential elective surgery for adults and children.

Northern Lebanon and Akkar
In Wadi Khaled, we offer general healthcare for vulnerable local communities, including mental health support, treatment for chronic non-communicable diseases, and paediatrics.

Our teams in Tripoli and Al-Abdeh continue to provide treatment for chronic non-communicable diseases, family planning services and mental healthcare. As in Bekaa, we are partnering with the Ministry of Public Health to implement the WHO mhGAP programme.

In 2019, we initiated new operational research to test the feasibility of using a fixed-dose combination medication for patients with cardiovascular disease, particularly those living in a refugee setting.

South Beirut
Our services in South Beirut include sexual and reproductive healthcare, treatment for chronic non-communicable diseases and mental health consultations, in Shatila refugee camp and at our family clinic in Burj Barajneh camp. We also offer maternity services in our birth centre in Rafik Hariri University Hospital.

South Lebanon
Our team in Ein Al-Hilweh, one of the most populated Palestinian refugee camps, operate a home-based care programme for patients with chronic non-communicable diseases and support medical personnel in the camp with emergency response training to enable them to stabilise patients with violence-related injuries.

A mother and baby at MSF’s birthing centre in Rafik Hariri University Hospital, Beirut, Lebanon, April 2019.
**LIBERIA**

No. staff in 2019: 334  |  Expenditure in 2019: €5.9 million  |  Year MSF first worked in the country: 1990  |  msf.org/liberia

Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) runs a paediatric hospital in the Liberian capital and implements a new model of care for people with mental health disorders and epilepsy.

MSF opened Bardnesville Junction hospital in Monrovia in March 2015 to address gaps in paediatric care during the Ebola epidemic.

The 92-bed hospital continues to provide specialised care for children from a large impoverished urban area with conditions such as malaria and severe acute malnutrition. It also serves as a training site for Liberian nurses, medical interns and nurse anaesthetists.

The team in the two operating theatres, which opened in 2018, performed a variety of procedures during the year, including urological and reconstructive plastic surgery. In 2019, we added a microbiology laboratory, which enabled us to better diagnose infectious diseases, tailor treatment for patients and monitor antibiotic resistance.

In July, we expanded our community-based care programme for people with mental health disorders and epilepsy into a fifth location, West Point, a densely populated township in Monrovia.

Working with the Ministry of Health, we supervised and supported clinicians to treat mental health disorders and epilepsy in general healthcare facilities, with active follow-up for patients and their families. We also assisted psychosocial workers and volunteers to provide health education on epilepsy, schizophrenia and other mental health conditions in the communities, helping patients overcome social stigma.

In total, we treated 1,690 patients with epilepsy or mental health disorders during the year.

**KEY MEDICAL FIGURES:**

- 5,320 people admitted to hospital, including 1,490 children to inpatient feeding programmes
- 1,100 surgical interventions

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**NICARAGUA**

No. staff in 2019: 18  |  Expenditure in 2019: €0.9 million  |  Year MSF first worked in the country: 1972  |  msf.org/nicaragua

Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) teams in Nicaragua expanded their activities in 2019 to offer medical, psychological and psychiatric care to patients affected by widespread political and social violence.

Throughout the year, MSF provided medical and mental healthcare to victims of traumatic episodes of violence experienced during armed unrest or while detained. We offered mental healthcare to patients and their relatives, most of whom were suffering from depression, anxiety and post-traumatic stress disorder. In addition to running basic medical services, MSF facilitated access to specialised care, such as physiotherapy and neurology and treatment for sexual violence. The teams strengthened their activities in the capital, Managua, and in Masaya, Jinotepe, León, Estelí, Jinotega and Matagalpa.

Until September, MSF staff also treated Nicaraguan patients who had crossed the border into Costa Rica to request asylum.

According to the UN refugee agency, UNHCR, Costa Rica has received more than 68,000 of the estimated 82,000 Nicaraguans who have fled the country since April 2018. Our teams there offered medical and psychological care and organised referrals to specialist services.

In both countries, MSF provided training in basic mental healthcare, psychological first aid and self-help to community leaders, groups and educators to enable them to give psychological support to others in crisis situations. After collaborating with other groups and organisations, the teams were able to extend these activities. At the end of the year, we handed over all services and referred patients to these organisations.

**KEY MEDICAL FIGURES:**

- 2,870 individual mental health consultations
- 50 mental health consultations provided in group sessions
In 2019, renewed conflict in Libya exacerbated the suffering of migrants and refugees trapped there without protection or assistance. Many who tried to flee across the Mediterranean Sea were forced back.

According to the United Nations refugee agency, UNHCR, there are more than 355,000 internally displaced people and nearly 50,000 registered refugees in the country.

In 2019, Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) treated men, women and children who had been arbitrarily detained in official detention centres run by the Libyan authorities, as well as those who had escaped clandestine prisons run by traffickers. Our teams also provided care to people who had been intercepted at sea by the EU-funded Libyan coastguard and forced back to Libya, the country they had been trying to flee.

In detention centres in Tripoli, Misrata, Khoms, Zliten and Dhar El-Jebel, MSF medical teams mainly treated medical complaints resulting from, or aggravated by, the dire hygiene conditions.

The overcrowded facilities do not have enough drinking water, latrines or ventilation, and detainees have little access to medical assistance. We treated people for scabies, lice and fleas, as well as infectious diseases such as tuberculosis (TB), which spread easily in squalid conditions. In Dhar El-Jebel, we started an intervention for 500 people detained in the centre, after 22 died from TB. In addition, our teams treated patients for malnutrition resulting from the lack of food in the centres and carried out mental health activities, supporting people living with the trauma of indefinite detention.

Most migrants and refugees are believed to be detained in unofficial prisons, out of reach and out of sight. In Bani Walid, we provided medical assistance to people who had managed to escape captivity, many of whom had been tortured.

On 2 July, an airstrike hit the Tajoura detention centre and instantly killed at least 53 people – the deadliest attack on civilians since the start of the conflict. We sent ambulances and a medical team to assist survivors, including mental health staff to support people left in limbo and in fear for their lives.

In port areas of Khoms, our teams offered general healthcare to people who had been forcibly returned to Libya, including minors and asylum seekers, and to survivors of shipwrecks.

The closure of detention centres led to increasing numbers of migrants and refugees living on the streets. More and more people were left stranded and vulnerable to human trafficking, violence, forced labour and exploitation. As the conflict intensified and the deterioration of public health services started to affect Libyan nationals, we also conducted outpatient consultations in Misrata.

As well as continuing to denounce the unacceptable situation in official and unofficial detention centres, MSF called on the UN to scale up its intervention in Libya to provide protection and assistance for refugees, asylum seekers and migrants trapped there. We also advocated an immediate end to forced returns, and ultimately, the evacuation of all migrants and refugees from a country at war to a place of safety.
No. staff in 2019: 452 | Expenditure in 2019: €11.7 million | Year MSF first worked in the country: 1986 | msf.org/malawi

HIV remains the leading cause of death in Malawi. Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) teams work there to improve detection and treatment, particularly for women, adolescents and other vulnerable groups.

Of the 300,000 people living in the rural district of Nsanje, in southern Malawi, around 25,000 are HIV positive. Many patients admitted to the MSF-supported hospital arrive at an advanced stage of the disease, despite having been on antiretroviral (ARV) treatment before. To tackle this issue, we focus on early detection of sick patients, treatment delivery at community level, improved care at the district hospital, post-discharge follow-up and a strong referral system. Since we initiated this model, the number of deaths due to advanced HIV at the hospital has decreased by half, to below 15 per cent.

In Nsanje, and also in Mwanza, Dedza and Neno districts, we provided peer-led outreach activities and a ‘one-stop’ clinic integrating HIV, tuberculosis (TB) and sexual and reproductive health services for almost 6,000 female sex workers. Around half of the enrolled patients are HIV positive and of those, 82 per cent are virally suppressed, thanks to the treatment they receive. In 2019, we specifically targeted girls under 18, who face even bigger challenges in accessing healthcare due to fear of legal consequences and stigma.

Focusing HIV care on adolescents and AIDS patients

In Chiradzulu, we continue to implement two different models of HIV care: comprehensive ‘teen clubs’ and ‘intensive clinic days’. In the clubs, teenagers with HIV are offered clinical consultations, individual counselling, health education, sexual and reproductive health services and group support sessions in a friendly environment, where peer presence and recreational activities encourage attendance and adherence to the treatment plan. ‘Intensive clinic days’ are held in 11 MSF-supported health facilities within the district, for patients whose treatment is failing or who have developed advanced HIV (AIDS). We provide them with consultations, counselling sessions, laboratory tests and hospital referrals.

Prevention and early treatment of cervical cancer

Cervical cancer is the most common cancer among women in Malawi, accounting for 45.4 per cent of all cancers and killing over 2,300 women every year. A major reason for this is the high prevalence of human papillomavirus, which causes cervical cancer, and inadequate screening and treatment services. Recently, MSF has been developing a comprehensive cervical cancer programme through primary, secondary and tertiary prevention. In 2019, we scaled up screening activities and opened a specialised operating theatre and inpatient ward at Queen Elizabeth Central Hospital in Blantyre. Our teams offer vaccinations, screening and diagnosis, treatment of various stages of cancer and palliative care for non-curable patients, as well as staff training and mentoring.

Prison project

Prisoners experience higher rates of TB and HIV than the general population due to factors such as overcrowding and delays in diagnosis. Through a partnership with the prison authorities, we provided systematic screening at entry, stay and exit for HIV and TB and access to treatment for prisoners at Chichiri prison in Lilongwe.

Emergency treatment

In response to flooding in Nsanje district in March 2019, we supported the local health authorities to deliver general healthcare. We also cleaned affected boreholes, set up latrines and showers and distributed hygiene kits to around 18,000 people.
Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) has been providing healthcare to Rohingya and other undocumented migrant communities in Malaysia since 2015.

Rohingya have been coming to Malaysia to escape discrimination in their native Rakhine state, Myanmar, for decades. While the urban environment in Malaysia offers refugees and asylum seekers some anonymity, there are few safety nets. Malaysia is not a signatory to the 1951 UN Refugee Convention, meaning refugees and asylum seekers are effectively criminalised by domestic law. In addition, they have no direct access to the UN refugee agency UNHCR.

The lack of legal status leaves them in a state of permanent stress. The constant fear of arrest, detention and even deportation pushes them underground. Most are reluctant to venture outside and delay seeking healthcare, even in emergencies, in case hospital staff report them to immigration services. Unable to work legally, they often disappear into Malaysia’s urban black-market economy, where they are vulnerable to exploitation, debt bondage or work accidents.

To respond to the gap in services for this vulnerable group, MSF provides healthcare, as well as mental health education, psychosocial support and counselling, via community-based mobile clinics and a fixed clinic in Penang. In 2019, our teams carried out more than 8,740 consultations at the fixed clinic and the mobile clinics run in partnership with the NGO ACTS. In addition, our teams offered nearly 490 basic healthcare, psychosocial support and counselling consultations in five government shelters for the protection of survivors of human trafficking (TIP shelters). These are located in Kuala Lumpur, Negeri Sembilan and Johor Bahru. After working for more than 18 months in the shelters, we ended these activities in late 2019.

In partnership with MERCY Malaysia and SUKA Society, we provide medical care in the immigration detention centres in Belantik and Juru, respectively. During the year, MSF teams ran monthly mobile clinics and have been working to upgrade the water and sanitation systems at these centres, where many refugees and undocumented migrants are held. In total, 189 mental health education sessions and 120 mental health counselling sessions were provided, and 3,025 people were reached through psychosocial education.

In 2019, we continued to advocate unfettered, direct access by asylum seekers to UNHCR, as part of a proactive strategy to overcome the barriers to healthcare. Asylum seekers from Myanmar, most of whom are the stateless Rohingya, represent almost 90 per cent of the asylum-seeker population in Malaysia. They are still barred from making asylum claims directly to UNHCR. MSF is one of the few NGOs that can refer asylum claims to UNHCR based on a set of additional vulnerability criteria. In 2019, we made 467 such referrals.

We also work alongside other organisations — including UNHCR and MERCY Malaysia — and Malaysia’s ministries of health and home affairs on longer-term improvements to access to healthcare for refugees. This includes advocating measures to protect migrants from immigration enforcement when they seek medical care at public health facilities and developing sustainable health insurance schemes. We also train staff in Malaysia’s public healthcare system in understanding the needs and vulnerabilities of undocumented people.
In 2019, spiralling violence in central and northern Mali continued to disrupt public services, restricting people’s movements and preventing them from obtaining medical assistance.

Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) programmes around the country focus on improving access to healthcare for the most vulnerable people in both rural and urban areas.

Responding to a growing crisis in central Mali

Insecurity in central Mali has reached an unprecedented level, with an increase in clashes between the military and non-state armed groups, together with a rise in intercommunal violence. In March 2019, 160 people were killed in an attack allegedly perpetrated by a militia group, sparking a cycle of violent reprisals in the region.

We have teams working in Douentza and Ténenkou hospitals in Mopti region, and organising referrals from surrounding rural areas. In the area surrounding Douentza, we worked in three health centres and implemented a community-based programme to provide healthcare in 26 sites in villages most affected by violence. Around Ténenkou, we deployed mobile teams to around 40 villages to deliver general healthcare to nearly 15,000 patients. We expanded our activities in Koro, Bandiagara and Bankass to assist some of the people most affected by the escalating violence in the region, providing them with general healthcare, mental health support and relief items, such as blankets. In June, we opened a new programme dedicated to women and children under 15 in Niono, in Segou region. In addition to supporting the maternity and paediatric units at Niono hospital, we work in five outlying health centres. In 2019, we conducted 4,590 outpatient consultations.

Bringing healthcare closer to nomadic communities in the north

In Ansongo, Gao region, and in Kidal, north of Gao, we ensure that healthcare is available to nomadic communities by training community health workers to diagnose and treat the most common diseases affecting pregnant women and children under five. In 2019, our teams worked in 62 nomadic camps in Kidal and Ansongo regions.

We also have teams in a hospital and four health centres in Ansongo, providing medical care and psychological support for victims of violence, and in six health centres in and around Kidal.

Caring for cancer patients in Bamako

Since November 2018, we have been working with the Ministry of Health in Bamako to facilitate access to diagnosis and treatment (radiotherapy, surgery, chemotherapy) of cervical and breast cancer. In order to assist patients receiving treatment in the capital’s Point G University Hospital, most of whom are in the advanced stages of the disease, with few or no treatment options, we run free palliative care and support services in both the hospital and their homes. In 2019, we also trained healthcare staff and carried out rehabilitation works at the hospital in partnership with the health authorities.

Ten years of child healthcare in Koutiala

In the south, we support nutrition and paediatric services at Koutiala hospital through our newly built 185-bed paediatric care unit. Our teams also conduct preventive and curative activities in 36 health centres, especially during the seasonal malaria and malnutrition peaks. During the year, they conducted a total of 165,000 outpatient consultations.
Two tropical cyclones hit Mozambique between March and April 2019, with devastating consequences for a country already facing considerable health challenges.

In addition to supporting the emergency response to these natural disasters, Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) continued to run regular projects providing care for HIV and tuberculosis (TB), a dual epidemic affecting a large proportion of the population: an estimated 2.2 million Mozambicans are living with HIV, and 34,000 of them are co-infected with tuberculosis (TB).

Responding to natural disasters
On 15 March, Cyclone Idai hit Beira in Sofala province, affecting some 1.85 million people. Homes, health facilities and other infrastructure were destroyed by the cyclone and subsequent flooding and more than 400,000 people were displaced. We deployed emergency teams to support the response and, 10 days later, a cholera outbreak was declared. As well as managing 57 per cent of cholera patients,1 we supported the Ministry of Health to vaccinate 900,000 people against the disease, set up two water treatment plants, rehabilitated 18 health centres and distributed relief items, such as soap, mosquito nets, cooking utensils, blankets, mats and buckets. In total, we conducted nearly 11,900 outpatient consultations, primarily for malnutrition and malaria, in 25 locations.

Six weeks later, when Cyclone Kenneth made landfall in Cabo Delgado province, we built cholera treatment centres in Pemba, Mecufi and Metuge, carried out water and sanitation activities and conducted general health consultations. The catastrophic impact of two cyclones in such a short space of time was compounded by months of drought later in the year. Together they exacerbated the already serious food insecurity and malnutrition situation in the country.

Fighting the dual HIV/TB epidemic
In the capital, Maputo, we are implementing specialised care and support packages for patients with advanced HIV who are facing the challenge of staying on lifelong treatment or have developed drug resistance. This includes improving the detection and rapid treatment of opportunistic infections.

In Mafalala slum, we work with a local organisation to run a drop-in centre for people who use drugs, where testing and treatment for HIV, TB and hepatitis C are available. It is the only programme in Mozambique offering comprehensive harm reduction services, including needle and syringe distribution.

In Beira, MSF runs mobile clinics providing sexual and reproductive healthcare, including HIV testing, counselling and family planning to vulnerable groups such as sex workers, who are at high risk of HIV infection. In 2019, we started offering advanced HIV care at Beira central hospital.

Delivering healthcare in conflict areas
In Cabo Delgado, access to healthcare is extremely limited due to violence and insecurity. In 2019, we started supporting a health centre in Macomia, with treatment for malaria, malnutrition and respiratory diseases. We also rehabilitated the centre, which was severely damaged by Cyclone Kenneth, ran training on maternal health, paediatrics and sexual and reproductive healthcare for Ministry of Health staff and upgraded the water supply system.

1 MSF emergency response to Cyclone Idai, report from Stockholm Evaluation Unit.

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Nurse Celina Feliz Berto gives medication to a woman with her child at one of MSF’s mobile clinics in Beira, an area hard hit by Cyclone Idai. Mozambique, March 2019.
Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) runs a number of projects across Mexico, providing medical and mental healthcare to migrants and refugees from Central America and Mexican nationals deported from the United States.

MSF teams in Mexico scaled up their activities along the northern border with the US during 2019, as the collapse of the protection system for asylum seekers in the region and migration policies based on criminalisation, deterrence and containment trapped thousands of migrants in dangerous Mexican cities. We saw an increasing number of women, children and entire families who had fled extreme violence and poverty in their home countries – Honduras, El Salvador and Guatemala, the so-called Northern Triangle of Central America – on a route previously undertaken mainly by men.

In February, we deployed a team to Piedras Negras, Coahuila state, to assist around 1,700 Honduran migrants who had taken shelter in an abandoned factory and were being prevented from leaving by the police and the military. The migrants were then forcibly transported by bus to other equally or more dangerous cities, such as Reynosa.

MSF teams already working in Mexico City (at the Centre for Victims of Extreme Violence and Torture), in Tenosique and Coatzacoalcos in the south, and in Reynosa and Matamoros in the north, established bases in Mexicali, Nuevo Laredo and Monterrey to serve an increasing number of people facing overwhelming physical, bureaucratic and political barriers, and unable to find refuge. Among those receiving care at the northern border were many Mexicans deported by the US.

Nuevo Laredo is the official port of entry into the US from Tamaulipas state, and one of the major points of repatriation for Mexican nationals. Here, and in other northern cities, migrants and asylum seekers are subjected to ‘metering’, a practice that limits the number of people who can request asylum at a port of entry on the US–Mexico border each day.

From July 2019, Nuevo Laredo also began receiving people sent back to Mexico to await judicial resolution after having applied for asylum in the US, under the so-called Migrant Protection Protocols (MPPs). MSF assists migrants in several shelters across the town and has repeatedly warned of the danger of forcing people to remain in cities like Nuevo Laredo, which, of all the places where we work, is the one where migrants are most exposed to kidnapping and extortion. Twenty-one per cent of the 643 migrants seen in our mental...
health programme in Nuevo Laredo in 2019 had been victims of kidnapping. Our patients have faced a long cycle of inescapable danger. Many were forced to flee their homes as the only option for survival and experienced targeted violence throughout the migration route in Mexico. In Tamaulipas, they are vulnerable to more violence. In Mexicali, we set up a consultation room providing assistance to migrants, refugees, deportees, internally displaced people and those returned to Mexico under the MPPs. In October, we also launched activities in Monterrey, one of the main migrant hubs on the northeastern route, with the objective of detecting patients in need of special care after incidents of extreme violence. In addition, we trained staff in shelters to identify such cases so they could be transferred to our specialised centre for victims of torture in Mexico City.

In 2019, we continued our project in Reynosa caring for victims of violence, including sexual violence, and Mexican returnees from the US. In April, we witnessed a rise in the number of migrants arriving in the city due to the ‘metering’ policy. We therefore had to increase our activities in order to maintain services for people living in the only shelter in the city. This shelter has capacity for 150 people, but at times up to 450 people were living there, and there were an estimated 2,000 on the waiting list, living outside it, vulnerable to kidnapping, extortion, theft and sexual violence.

We also had to expand our operations in Matamoros city to assist people on the move. For the first months of the year, these were mostly Mexican returnees, but this changed in August, when the MPPs were implemented in the city and up to 100 asylum seekers forcibly returned to Mexico arrived each day. An improvised camp was set up next to the international bridge but people there had no access to water, sanitation or any type of services.

In the south of the country, MSF works in the only shelter in Tenosique, a town next to the border with Guatemala, providing medical assistance and mental healthcare. In Tapachula, the main port of entry into Mexico, we carried out a short intervention similar to the one in Monterrey to assist with the detection of victims of torture and extreme violence. In Coatzacoalcos, a transit point where travellers usually take a break before continuing their journey aboard the Beast, the freight train that runs through Mexico, MSF teams operate a mobile clinic.

In June, MSF denounced the Mexican authorities for carrying out raids and mass detentions, even while our teams were present assisting patients. Although in Mexico ‘illegal entry’ is a civil offence and not a crime, apprehended migrants are locked up in detention centres and then deported to their countries of origin. We visited several detention centres and spoke out about the overcrowding, insufficient medical care, as well as the inadequate food, water and sanitation.

Increasingly, our staff in the north are seeing Mexicans who have fled from dangerous states such as Guerrero, where we also operate. Teams there assist communities affected or isolated by the pervasive violence in the area, perpetrated by numerous criminal groups. Three MSF teams run mobile clinics throughout Guerrero, targeting villages recently affected by attacks or violent events.
In Niger, the situation became increasingly unstable and violent in 2019, leading to further population displacements, particularly in the Lake Chad area.

Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) continued to assist refugees, displaced people and vulnerable communities, but rising insecurity severely restricted our ability to reach many in need.

Delivering healthcare in conflict areas

In 2019, there were numerous attacks and incursions in Diffa, the southeastern region bordering Nigeria. These often involved killings and kidnappings, and caused thousands of people to flee their homes, particularly in Diffa and Nguigmi departments.

In response to the increased needs in Diffa, we ran mobile clinics and expanded our nutrition activities at Nguigmi hospital and two specialised health centres. We also provided technical assistance to outpatient feeding centres treating severely malnourished children. Another focus of our work was the district hospital, where we supported the opening of an operating theatre.

On 26 April 2019, unidentified armed men attacked our office in Mainé-Soroa in Diffa. One staff member was slightly injured, four vehicles were set on fire and the premises were damaged. As we could not ensure the safety of our staff and patients, we decided to cease activities in June. The project, opened in July 2017, offered medical care to people both in Diffa and across the border in Nigeria.

In Tillabéri region, which shares borders with Mali and Burkina Faso, we worked to increase the availability of free healthcare for vulnerable and displaced people, refugees and local communities affected by the conflict by deploying mobile clinics to remote and inaccessible areas, administering vaccinations and screening for malnutrition.

Dr Claudine Meyer, MSF’s project medical referent in Maradi region, examines a child in Dan Issa health centre. Niger, July 2019.
During the year, our teams in Ayorou rural commune carried out 12,400 consultations through health centres in Koutougou and Ayorou and mobile clinics deployed to displacement camps in Kongokiré and Igagalan.

Following the almost daily attacks perpetrated by armed groups, the government declared a state of emergency covering Tillabéri and Diffa regions, and obliged humanitarian workers to use armed escorts. This had a serious impact on our activities and further reduced people’s access to healthcare and other public services.

**Increasing assistance for displaced people**

Niger is a major transit country for migrants, asylum seekers and refugees expelled from Algeria, returned from Libya or travelling north to Europe. These people are often victims of abuse and social exclusion.

In 2019, in Agadez region, we scaled up our activities to assist migrants who had been turned back at the border village of Assamaka and internal migrants working in the mining sites at Tabelot in Dirkou, as well as vulnerable host communities.

In Dirkou, we set up a search and rescue system for migrants lost/abandoned in the desert and a telephone hotline for migrants to call for assistance, and conducted search and rescue operations in Ténéré desert and Kawar.

**Addressing the annual malnutrition and malaria peak**

Each year between July and October, food shortages and heavy rains trigger a spike in malnutrition and malaria in Niger, especially in the southern regions.

Although remarkable progress has been made in the prevention and treatment of childhood diseases in Niger over the past decade, hundreds of thousands of children fall victim to this chronic emergency each year. Recently, violence and growing insecurity in Niger and neighbouring countries have put an additional strain on the health system.

In 2019, MSF collaborated with the Ministry of Public Health to treat 191,400 children for malaria and 43,400 cases of malnutrition in Madaoua, Madarounfa and Magaria. Most of the children who required inpatient care were admitted in July and August, the start of the seasonal peak.

Every year, to cope with the influx of patients, many of whom are in a critical condition, we increase our hospital capacity. In 2019, we admitted more than 15,300 children under the age of five – an average of 42 a day – to Magaria district hospital’s paediatric unit, and during the peak, we admitted 46 children to intensive care each day. We also provided care for over 17,000 children admitted to Madarounfa hospital’s paediatric wards and intensive feeding centre.

To reduce the number of patients with complications, we continue to focus on developing preventive and decentralised approaches. In Madarounfa, we have extended our activities from reinforcement during the peak period to year-round support to facilitate timely access to healthcare for children under the age of five. Community health workers worked throughout the year to test and treat simple cases of malaria, carry out nutritional screening and manage simple diarrhoea in children in their villages.

This strategy of decentralisation was mainly implemented to reduce the number of admissions to health facilities and prevent children from dying at home in their villages because no medical care is available. If sick children receive early care in their communities, their symptoms can be prevented from worsening and they are cured faster.

We also strengthened our community approach in Magaria, for example by providing early treatment for malaria, acute respiratory infections and diarrhoea. Our teams opened 30 malaria treatment sites during the peak period.

**Responding to disease outbreaks and other emergencies**

We continued to support the health authorities with vaccinations, epidemiological surveillance and emergency interventions to tackle disease outbreaks and other emergencies, including floods and mass displacements across Niger.

In 2019, our Sahel Mobile Emergency Team (Équipe Mobile d’Urgence Sahel, or EMUSA) focused on assisting displaced people, refugees and vulnerable local communities in conflict zones in Tillabéri and Diffa regions. The team also provided medical and humanitarian assistance following flooding, particularly in Kirkissoy, Agadez, Niamey and Bouza health districts, and in Diffa region.

In 2019, EMUSA and other regular projects also supported the Ministry of Health to run measles vaccination campaigns in four health districts, one in Niamey and three in Maradi region, which reached more than 354,200 children. In addition, EMUSA vaccinated 41,800 children in Madaoua and 5,060 in Dirkou against the disease.
In 2019, further intensification of violence and insecurity increased humanitarian needs in Nigeria. More than a million people are estimated to be entirely cut off from aid.

Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) continued to assist people affected by conflict and displacement across several states, while also maintaining a range of basic and specialist healthcare programmes.

Displacement and violence

Northeast Nigeria

In northeast Nigeria, more than a decade of conflict between the Nigerian government and armed opposition groups has taken a severe toll. The UN estimates that over two million people are now displaced, and around seven million depend on aid for survival. In 2019, as the situation further deteriorated, a number of aid workers were abducted and killed by armed opposition groups. In addition, new counter-terrorism laws increased restrictions on humanitarian action.

Only people living in government-controlled areas in and around the state capital, Maiduguri, were able to receive humanitarian assistance. In 2019, in the areas we could access, we managed hospital emergency rooms, operating theatres, maternity units and children’s wards. Services included nutritional care, vaccinations, treatment for malaria, tuberculosis and HIV, as well as for victims of sexual violence, and mental health support. We also ran water and sanitation activities.

Over the year, we admitted 34,900 patients for care and treated 106,300 on an outpatient basis. In Maiduguri, we run a therapeutic feeding centre and a paediatric hospital with an intensive care unit. At these facilities, more than 7,600 children were treated for severe malnutrition, around 7,700 for malaria and nearly 6,970 for measles during an outbreak that was exacerbated by the ongoing conflict. In Gwoza and Pulka, garrison towns controlled by the Nigerian military, our teams provided

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In the burns unit of Benue State University Hospital, an MSF nurse changes the bandages of a patient injured in an oil tanker explosion. Nigeria, August 2019.

In the burns unit of Benue State University Hospital, an MSF nurse changes the bandages of a patient injured in an oil tanker explosion. Nigeria, August 2019.
emergency care to nearly 18,600 patients in public hospitals. In Pulka, we treated 74,400 outpatients, most commonly for acute diarrhoea related to a lack of clean water. In displaced people’s camps in Ngala, we treated 550 severely malnourished children and assisted nearly 1,000 births. In Rann, we conducted 9,200 outpatient consultations. In addition, we implemented seasonal malaria prophylaxis in Banki and Bama.

**Zamfara state**

In Zamfara, tens of thousands of people fleeing violence in the north of the state sought shelter in and around the town of Anka. In this town, our teams conducted nearly 31,800 medical consultations and distributed cooking utensils and personal hygiene products to more than 1,000 families. We observed a high prevalence of malnutrition in children under the age of five, and our teams registered admissions of nearly 12,000 inpatients and outpatients at our intensive therapeutic feeding centre in the state capital, Gusau, and hospitals in Anka, Zurmi, Shinkafi, Talata Mafara and Bukkuyum. In addition, in Anka hospital and in clinics in 11 locations in Zamfara state, we treated nearly 27,300 patients for malaria and around 920 for measles.

**Benue State**

In Benue state, an estimated 16,000 people, who fled violence as herdsmen and farmers clashed over land in 2018, remain displaced. Around half of them live in official camps in and around the state capital, Makurdi. In 2019, our support to the Ministry of Health included carrying out nearly 27,300 medical consultations, distributing relief items, building shelters, latrines and showers, and supplying drinking water inside the official camps. We also extended our activities to assist people living outside the camps. Between July and December, we supported Benue teaching hospital with surgery, counselling and physiotherapy for burns patients following an oil tanker explosion.

**Cross River State**

Since July 2018, we have offered care to refugees from Cameroon’s Northwest and Southwest regions and host communities. In November 2019, we handed over our activities to the Ministry of Health. During the project, we conducted close to 36,000 consultations, treated over 4,400 cases of malaria and offered mental healthcare to nearly 1,300 people. We also rolled out sexual and reproductive health services, including responding to sexual and gender-based violence.

**Women’s health**

The focus of our activities in Jahun general hospital, Jigawa state, is comprehensive emergency obstetrics and neonatal care. In 2019, our teams assisted over 13,400 births, 70 per cent of which were complicated cases. A specialised team at the hospital also performed vesico-vaginal surgery on 302 women with obstetric fistula, a condition resulting from prolonged or obstructed labour. In addition, our staff supported basic emergency obstetric and neonatal care in four other facilities in the area.

In Port Harcourt, Rivers state, we run two clinics offering medical care and mental healthcare to an increasing number of victims of sexual violence. During the year, we treated 1,424 new patients, 61 per cent of them under 18 years old.

**Lead poisoning and noma**

In 2019, 938 patients completed chelation therapy in our treatment programme for children under five affected by lead poisoning associated with artisanal gold mining in Zamfara state. In October, together with the Ministry of Health, Occupational Knowledge International (OKI) and TerraGraphics International Foundation (TIF), we published results from the pilot programme we ran in Niger state from 2016 to 2018, showing how safer mining practices reduced blood lead levels by 32 per cent. We continue to treat lead poisoning cases, carry out operational research and advocate solutions with our partners and the federal authorities.

Noma is a gangrenous disease that causes disfigurement. It affects young children in particular, leaving scars that only complex reconstructive surgery can repair. Four times a year, we send specialised surgeons, nurses and anaesthetists to support noma treatment at Sokoto Children’s Hospital. As well as surgeries, we provide nutritional and psychosocial care and physiotherapy. In 2019, our teams carried out 170 surgical interventions and 530 individual mental health consultations. With the Ministry of Health, we also conduct outreach with a focus on early detection and treatment in Sokoto, Kebbi, Niger and Zamfara states.

In 2019, we continued to call for recognition of, and solutions to, noma, through medical conferences, advocating increased surgical capacity, and screening the MSF-supported documentary ‘Restoring Dignity’ across Nigeria and worldwide.

**Lassa fever**

In Ebonyi state, in response to an outbreak of Lassa fever – an acute haemorrhagic illness – which was declared a national emergency, we assisted the state and federal ministries of health and the Nigerian Centre for Disease Control with technical support and staff training at a teaching hospital in Abakaliki.
In Myanmar, Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) continued to provide treatment for HIV and hepatitis C, and assist vulnerable people affected by conflict.

In 2019, we ran projects across the country, addressing gaps in healthcare in hard-to-reach communities and responding to the immense needs of people affected by interethnic tensions and displacement.

Conflict and displacement
More than 50,000 people were displaced in 2019 and several civilians died, including children, as a result of the continued fighting between the Myanmar army and the ethnic Rakhine-backed Arakan army in Rakhine state. After several months of deadlock due to the authorities’ refusal to grant access to international humanitarian organisations, MSF was able to resume activities to assist the displaced, first in Buthidaung, in June, and then in Maungdaw in November. As well as running mobile clinics and conducting health education and psychosocial support sessions, our teams distributed relief items, such as mosquito nets, blankets and soap, and constructed shelters and sanitation systems.

We continued to work in displacement camps in Pauktaw township, central Rakhine, where thousands of Rohingya and other ethnic minorities such as Kaman, remain confined as a result of previous outbreaks of violence. We deployed seven mobile clinics offering general healthcare and emergency referrals around these settlements and in nearby villages, as well as in Aung Mingalar, a closed Muslim ghetto in Sittwe, where we also run a mental health programme.

MSF also opened two new project sub-sites in Kachin and Shan, neighbouring states in the north where there are large numbers of migrants, displaced people and groups vulnerable to HIV infection, such as drug users and sex workers. Our services include general healthcare and treatment for sexual and gender-based violence, HIV, hepatitis C and tuberculosis (TB).

HIV and hepatitis C
We are working closely with the Ministry of Health to transfer our HIV patients – including those co-infected with hepatitis C, TB and multidrug-resistant TB (MDR-TB) – to the decentralised national AIDS programme so they can receive care closer to home. A total of 8,012 patients from our projects in Kachin, Shan, and Yangon were transferred. In June, we closed Insein clinic in Yangon after a successful transition.

In Dawei, a port city in Tanintharyi, where many fishermen and migrants live, MSF offers comprehensive HIV care, treatment and prevention for people at risk.

In 2019, we also started working in partnership with Médecins du Monde to treat HIV patients co-infected with hepatitis C in Kachin. Our team offers technical support, follow-up and data management.

Healthcare in remote communities
Our mobile teams provide general healthcare to rural communities in Naga (Sagaing), a remote, impoverished region with few health facilities. The teams conducted 3,250 consultations in 2019, travelling by motorcycle across steep terrain to reach the 15 communities we have targeted. We are working there to strengthen the role of community health workers, promote health education and support the Ministry of Health with simpler, more accurate diagnosis of TB and MDR-TB.
PAKISTAN

No. staff in 2019: 1,510  |  Expenditure in 2019: €18.2 million  |  Year MSF first worked in the country: 1986  |  msf.org/pakistan

KEY MEDICAL FIGURES:

- **33,200** births assisted
- **6,550** people treated for cutaneous leishmaniasis
- **5,150** children aged under five admitted to hospital

Improving healthcare for mothers, children and newborns remains a priority for Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) in Pakistan. We also treat infectious diseases and respond to natural disasters.

The availability of free, high-quality medical care for women and children is limited, especially in rural areas of Pakistan. Even when services are available, many people cannot afford them. We provide reproductive, neonatal and paediatric care at five different locations in Balochistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa provinces. Local communities, Afghan refugees and people who cross the border from Afghanistan to seek medical assistance benefit from MSF’s comprehensive 24-hour emergency obstetric services, which include surgery and referrals for complicated cases.

In addition, we run an inpatient and outpatient therapeutic feeding programme for severely malnourished children in Balochistan. We treated 910 severely malnourished children in our inpatient feeding programmes and admitted 10,200 malnourished children to our outpatient therapeutic feeding programmes in four districts across the province in 2019. Our teams manage trauma cases in Chaman, a town on the border with Afghanistan. In 2019, we also ran the emergency department in Timergara hospital, Lower Dir district. But after over 10 years of services, MSF announced that we would gradually hand over our activities in Lower Dir to the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa health department by January 2021.

Treating endemic diseases

MSF runs four treatment centres for cutaneous leishmaniasis. This neglected parasitic tropical disease is transmitted by the bite of a sandfly and characterised by disfiguring and painful skin lesions. Although not life-threatening, the severe physical disfigurement can lead to stigmatisation and discrimination. Cutaneous leishmaniasis is endemic in parts of Pakistan, but treatment is either unavailable or too expensive for most people. Consequently, they rely largely on international organisations such as MSF for care. As well as diagnosis and treatment, our teams offer health education and psychological counselling. During an outbreak of the disease in 2019, we donated medical supplies to the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Department of Health.

Pakistan has one of the highest prevalence rates of hepatitis C globally. In Machar Colony, a densely populated slum in Karachi, MSF teams provided nearly 8,740 consultations for hepatitis C, which included 1,410 new patients who were enrolled on treatment. The clinic provides diagnosis, treatment, psychological counselling and health promotion activities at a basic healthcare level in a decentralised model of care introduced by MSF in 2015.

Responding to emergencies

MSF assists the Pakistani authorities with emergency response preparedness in case of disease outbreaks or natural disasters. In 2019, during a dengue fever outbreak across the country, we supported the health authorities through awareness campaigns and donations of mosquito nets, logistical and medical equipment and insecticide. We also donated medical equipment to a hospital in Pakistani-administered Kashmir after it was damaged by an earthquake in September.
In 2019, Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) provided surgical and post-operative care to thousands of people injured in protests in Gaza, and mental health support to victims of political tensions on the West Bank.

Gaza
The protests known as the Great March of Return, along the fence that separates Israel from the Gaza strip, continued throughout the year, with lower turnout and casualties compared to 2018. According to the United Nations Office for Humanitarian Affairs, 1,822 Palestinians were injured by the Israeli army with live ammunition in 2019, while thousands of people wounded in the protests during 2018 still required complex and lengthy treatment. Their massive medical needs far exceed the health system’s capacity, which has been crippled by the decade-long Israeli blockade, and lacks essential medical equipment and supplies.

We admitted 1,169 patients injured in the protests to four clinics in Beit Lahia, Gaza City, Middle Area and Khan Younis, where we provided post-operative dressings, physiotherapy and psychosocial support. In Dar Al-Salam hospital, southern Gaza, and in Al-Awda hospital, in the north, our services included surgery and post-operative care, treatment for bone infections, physiotherapy and mental health counselling to help patients through long and painful treatment processes. Our teams operated on 609 trauma patients, performing 1,950 surgical interventions.

Due to the severity and complexity of the injuries and the high rates of antibiotic-resistant infections among our patients, we expanded the hospital and surgical capacity to a total of 36 isolation rooms, 19 beds in general wards and three operating theatres in Dar Al-Salam and Al-Awda hospitals.

In April, we opened the first laboratory equipped to analyse bone and soft-tissue samples in Gaza, an essential service to detect the bacteria causing infections in our patients. Previously, samples had to be shipped to Israel for analysis – a more complicated and time-consuming procedure.

In addition to our work with trauma cases, we admitted 5,531 burns patients to our clinics and supported the burns unit at Al-Shifa hospital with a team to perform elective surgery.

In Hebron district, our team of locally hired and international psychologists, counsellors and medical staff conducted home visits, individual and group psychosocial sessions, and psychotherapy consultations with adults, teenagers and children directly and indirectly affected by conflict-related violence.

In Nablus and Qalqilya, we provided psychotherapeutic and psychiatric assistance, group therapy, group mental health awareness sessions and psychosocial support activities in two clinics, and in a new consultation room opened in Tubas in December.

We ran a total of 5,240 counselling and psychotherapy sessions throughout the year and 2,398 patients received psychotherapy support.
PAPUA NEW GUINEA

No. staff in 2019: 175  |  Expenditure in 2019: €4.4 million  |  Year MSF first worked in the country: 1992  |  msf.org/papua-new-guinea

In the Philippines, Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) works to improve sexual and reproductive healthcare for Manila’s slum dwellers and assist internally displaced people and returnees in post-conflict Mindanao.

Since 2016, we have been running a comprehensive sexual and reproductive health programme through clinics in San Andres and Tondo, two of the most densely populated and impoverished areas in the capital. Working in collaboration with a local organisation, Likhaan, and focusing in particular on the health needs of girls and young women, we offer family planning, ante- and postnatal care, management of sexually transmitted infections, and screening and treatment for cervical cancer. Victims of sexual violence face stigma in the Philippines, yet we continue to see a steady increase in the number coming to our clinic for treatment.

In Port Moresby, due to the high patient numbers, we built a dedicated TB clinic within the compound of Gerehu hospital. The new facility allows us to screen, diagnose and treat more patients safely.

We scaled up our mobile activities, running clinics in remote areas of Gulf province and providing better access to diagnosis and treatment for patients previously excluded from these services for geographical, economic or cultural reasons.

This decentralised model of care means that patients do not need to visit medical facilities so frequently, saving them transport costs. Throughout 2019, we introduced improvements in quality of care, with the integration of HIV testing, greater emphasis on counselling and closer monitoring of patients, their treatments and any side effects. This has helped to reduce the number of patients failing to complete treatment.

PHILIPPINES

No. staff in 2019: 56  |  Expenditure in 2019: €2.0 million  |  Year MSF first worked in the country: 1987  |  msf.org/philippines

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In Russia, Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) is collaborating with health authorities and academic partners in Arkhangelsk region to reduce the burden of drug-resistant tuberculosis (DR-TB) and improve treatment for the disease.

Working in line with the latest World Health Organization recommendations for DR-TB, our teams began providing drugs and technical advice to support the treatment of patients with the most severe forms of TB in Arkhangelsk region in January. By the end of the year, we had supported the treatment of 23 patients. In partnership with Arkhangelsk Regional Ministry of Health, Northern State Medical University and Arkhangelsk Clinical TB Dispensary, we are building on existing expertise and working together to implement novel all-oral short-course regimens. The aim of the collaboration is to provide evidence for future developments in TB policy in Russia and increase the availability of more effective models of treatment.

Our teams have been working in Russia since the early 1990s, running programmes in Moscow, Saint Petersburg, Kemerovo region, Chechnya, Ingushetia and Dagestan.

In Tajikistan, Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) collaborates with the Ministry of Health to detect and treat paediatric tuberculosis (TB). Drug-resistant forms of the disease remain a clinical and operational challenge.

Children are particularly vulnerable to TB, and paediatric forms of the disease are especially difficult to diagnose and treat. In Dushanbe, we support the Ministry of Health to provide paediatric and family TB care, focusing on drug-resistant TB (DR-TB).

Our innovative and person-centred model of care includes tracing and testing contacts, providing child-friendly formulations, implementing new drugs, shortened regimens, and strategies to improve adherence such as family-provided directly observed therapy, a practice whereby a family member watches the patient take each dose of their medication. In 2019, 40 of the 46 paediatric patients started on DR-TB treatment in Dushanbe benefited from injection-free regimens. The remaining six patients stopped injections within the first months of treatment to follow all-oral regimens. By the end of the year, 77 patients, including 49 children, three of whom were on treatment before 2019, were continuing with treatment. The majority (96 per cent) were being treated with newer drugs.

We plan to hand over our medical activities at the HIV project we run in Kulob district to the Ministry of Health by March 2020. The project successfully brought attention to paediatric HIV, especially nosocomial modes of transmission.

In early 2019, 110,040 schoolchildren (or their parents) consented to HIV testing at schools in Dushanbe as well as Kulob. Twenty of the 80 newly identified patients were from Kulob and subsequently started antiretroviral treatment. MSF has implemented the practice of HIV status disclosure to the children and by the end of 2019, more than 80 per cent of the children in the cohort have had their status disclosed.
In 2019, amid deteriorating conditions in Libya, Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) resumed search and rescue operations with a new vessel, the Ocean Viking, in partnership with SOS MEDITERRANEE.

For thousands of migrants and refugees caught in war-torn Libya, attempting a deadly journey across the Mediterranean is their only hope of escape. Without dedicated search and rescue interventions to save them from unseaworthy and overcrowded boats on the high seas, their desperate attempts are too often doomed to end in tragedy.

No one knows how many men, women and children have lost their lives while trying to make the crossing over the years. In 2019, at least 743 people drowned off the Libyan coast, according to the International Organization for Migration. In an interview with the German news magazine Der Spiegel, a Libyan coastguard official said half the boats that departed Libya during the year may have sunk undetected, without survivors.

As EU states failed in their responsibilities to save human lives in the Mediterranean, MSF took the decision to go back to sea in July 2019, seven months after our previous shared vessel, the Aquarius, was forced to cease operations.

By the end of December, the Ocean Viking had rescued 1,107 people from flimsy boats in distress. The continued lack of a coordinated response at sea or adequate disembarkation mechanisms resulted in drawn-out suffering for survivors. Safe ports for all these survivors were granted in Italy or Malta, in line with international and maritime law, but this often came after an unnecessarily long time on board, waiting for the authorities to assign a place of safety. In August, 356 vulnerable people had to wait for 14 days on board before being allowed to disembark.

The people we rescued came from African countries – such as Sudan, Libya, Somalia, Eritrea, Nigeria and Ethiopia – as well as from Bangladesh, Yemen, Syria and elsewhere in Asia and the Middle East. All had endured horrific violence in Libya, caught up in endless cycles of detention and abuse. Many had attempted the crossing numerous times.

With growing insecurity in Libya, people continued to attempt the crossing over the winter, despite the increased risks. European governments were aware of and acknowledged the dangers faced by migrants and refugees in the country, yet they still supported the Libyan coastguard, who, in 2019, returned over 9,000 vulnerable people to the same circumstances that they attempted to escape from in the first place. MSF continued to highlight the unimaginable human price being paid for these policies of interception and detention and advocate more humane responses based on what our teams witness first-hand.
In Sierra Leone, Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) supports the recovery of the health services following the 2014-2016 Ebola outbreak, focusing on staff training and improving mother and child healthcare.

Our teams work alongside the Ministry of Health and Sanitation in hospitals, general health facilities and in the community to increase access to healthcare and fill gaps in the provision of essential medicines.

Mother and child health
We are working with the Ministry of Health and Sanitation to strengthen the health system in Kenema district through comprehensive assistance to 13 peripheral healthcare units in three chiefdoms (Gorama Mende, Wandor and Nongowa) and our new hospital in Hangha town. The aim is to reduce sickness and death among children and women during pregnancy and childbirth in Sierra Leone, a country with one of the highest rates of maternal and child mortality in the world.

The hospital has a range of facilities for paediatric care, including an emergency room, an intensive care unit, an inpatient therapeutic feeding centre, a general ward and an isolation ward for patients with suspected Lassa fever, a disease that is endemic in the country. We have also built a laboratory and a blood bank.

In the most isolated chiefdoms of Gorama Mende and Wandor, malaria prevalence and mortality rates are high. With challenging geography, poor road conditions and dispersed communities, access to healthcare is extremely limited. MSF targets children under the age of five, pregnant women and lactating mothers, providing general healthcare and coordinating emergency referrals for specialist care.

Our mother and child healthcare programme in Tonkolili continues to support Magburaka district hospital and eight peripheral healthcare units, with improvements to infection prevention and control measures and water and sanitation systems, donations of drugs and staff training. As well as assisting with referrals from the healthcare units, we offered family planning sessions, psychosocial support and medical treatment to victims of sexual and gender-based violence.

Emergencies
In 2019, we provided logistical support to the Ministry of Health and Sanitation in Kambia district during a measles outbreak. Our teams also assisted with the catch-up measles and rubella vaccination campaigns in Kenema and Tonkolili districts by donating medical supplies, organising transport and safe waste management, and running awareness-raising and health promotion activities. Additionally, we helped manage Lassa fever cases in November, by sharing clinical protocols and guidelines, donating infection prevention and control materials and medical supplies to Kenema and Tonkolili districts and deploying ambulances to transport suspected and confirmed cases.

Human resources for health development
The professional development of national health workers is a top priority for MSF. On 18 December, the Nursing and Midwifery Council of Ghana inducted 47 Sierra Leonean registered nurses and midwives following their successful completion of a two-year MSF-sponsored Registered Diploma training course. The team will be deployed to work in our hospital in Hangha and other health facilities around the country. Another group of nurses enrolled in a diploma course in February.

Diagnosing and treating drug-resistant tuberculosis (DR-TB)
We also started a new drug-resistant TB project in Makeni town in Bombali district. Our teams are supporting the national TB programme efforts to decentralise DR-TB diagnosis and treatment by making it available in patients’ communities. In 2019, we helped upgrade the TB ward in Makeni by improving ventilation and building a recreation area for inpatients. The first patients started an all-oral treatment regimen, meaning no injections are required.
Due to prolonged conflict, drought and other climate hazards, over 2.6 million people were still displaced in Somalia and Somaliland in December 2019, and nearly five million were considered food insecure.¹

Access to healthcare remained limited in parts of the country, malnutrition rates among children were well above the emergency threshold in many areas and the number of deaths during pregnancy and childbirth ranked among the highest in the world.

Throughout the year, Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) continued rolling out new operations across Somalia and Somaliland, supporting medical activities in hospitals in towns and cities, with a focus on maternal, paediatric and emergency care, nutrition, and diagnosis and treatment of tuberculosis (TB). We also ran mobile clinics for internally displaced people.

To address the health needs of women and children, we supported the maternity ward at Bay regional hospital in Baidoa, South-West state, and started activities in the paediatric department.

In Baidoa, MSF carried out a fistula campaign, treating 34 women suffering from this stigmatising condition for which there are no available services in the public health system. We aim to carry out similar campaigns in other parts of the country in 2020.

We also scaled up medical care for women and children in Galkayo, a city in central Somalia divided administratively between Puntland and Galmudug states, where we first resumed operations after returning to the country in 2017. In addition, a team started assisting births and complicated pregnancies at the hospital in Las Anod, a city in Somaliland.

In Galkayo North, we strengthened our medical activities in Mudug regional hospital, the city’s main referral facility, and ran frequent mobile clinics in displacement settings. Our teams here worked on treating patients with TB, a highly prevalent disease that spreads easily in overcrowded living conditions. At the end of 2019, we started to support Galkayo South hospital.

In 2019, we launched a new TB project in Somaliland, supporting the treatment of the multidrug-resistant form of the disease in a dedicated hospital in Hargeisa and collaborating with TB centres in Burao, Berbera and Borama.

In addition to our regular malnutrition programmes in Galkayo and Las Anod, we frequently carried out short interventions focusing on nutritional care for malnourished children, but also providing vaccinations, eye surgery and staff training in Afmadow and Bardhere, in southern Jubaland state.

For the first time since 2012 and after our return to the country, we managed to launch an emergency response in a location without a regular project. In the last two months of the year, we responded to severe flooding in central Hirshabelle state. Beledweyne town, where the banks of the Shabelle river burst, was the most affected area, with approximately 270,000 people displaced.

In the first phase of the response, MSF trucked in safe drinking water and delivered tents and relief items such as cooking utensils and sachets of therapeutic food. In the second phase, the teams decontaminated water wells and provided healthcare through mobile clinics in displacement sites around the city, including nutritional support to malnourished children.

¹ OCHA Humanitarian Dashboard, December 2019
In South Africa, Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) continues to develop innovative strategies to prevent and treat HIV and tuberculosis (TB) and provide comprehensive care for victims of sexual violence.

In 2019, our large-scale community HIV/TB project in King Cetshwayo district, KwaZulu-Natal, run in collaboration with the Department of Health, became the first in South Africa to reach the UNAIDS 90-90-90 targets.¹ A survey supported by Epicentre, MSF's epidemiological research arm, revealed that 90 per cent of people living with HIV knew their status, 94 per cent of those were on antiretroviral treatment, and 95 per cent of people on treatment had a suppressed viral load. In response to the growing phenomenon of disengagement from HIV care, we have developed services in the urban slum of Khayelitsha to encourage patients, including those with advanced HIV, to restart treatment. In Khayelitsha and rural Eshowe, where young people, particularly women, remain highly vulnerable to HIV, we offered preventive treatment to 204 patients. We also continued to develop different HIV screening strategies, including distributing over 30,000 oral self-testing kits.

MSF supports two multinational, multi-site clinical trials: TB PRACTECAL and endTB, which aim to find shorter, less toxic and more effective treatment regimens for multidrug-resistant TB. In 2019, the endTB trial enrolled its 48th patient at the Khayelitsha site, and two new sites, Durban and Johannesburg, were added to the TB PRACTECAL trial, with a total of 70 patients enrolled by the end of the year. We welcomed the registration of the newer TB drug delamanid, and we continue to push for improved treatment for the disease nationally.

Sexual violence
MSF works with the provincial health department to provide victims of sexual violence with essential medical and psychosocial care through community clinics known as Kgomotso Care Centres on South Africa’s platinum mining belt. In 2019, we handed over two of the four clinics to the department. We also launched initiatives to identify victims of sexual violence, for example through our school health programme, which reached 26,000 students. Community-based initiatives accounted for at least 160 of the 1,294 new patients seen in 2019.

To meet the high demand for pregnancy termination, we trained 23 health providers in safe abortion care. In MSF-supported facilities, an average of 209 abortions were performed monthly in 2019.

Migration
In Tshwane, we opened a hub offering medical and psychosocial care to migrants, refugees and asylum seekers, who struggle to access public health services under South Africa’s increasingly restrictive migration policies. In 2019, 668 people received medical and psychological support and 456 attended group mental health sessions. In addition, our emergency teams responded to episodes of xenophobic violence against migrants in three provinces.

Access to medicines
We continue to call for wider availability of lifesaving drugs by addressing the patent, registration and financial barriers that prevent their supply. Through a national access programme set up by MSF, we donated 610 courses of flucytosine – an effective cryptococcal meningitis treatment not yet registered for use in South Africa – to 15 specialist facilities across the country. The programme seeks to build evidence to support its registration as an essential medicine.

¹ The globally agreed 90-90-90 targets require that 90 per cent of people living with HIV know their status; that 90 per cent of people diagnosed with HIV initiate and remain on ARV treatment; and that 90 per cent of people on ARV treatment reach and maintain an undetectable viral load by 2020.
In 2019, Sudan was the scene of mass protests, sparked by its deepening economic and political crisis.

The protests led to the ousting of President Omar al-Bashir in April after nearly 30 years of rule and paved the way for a political transition, agreed between civilian and military representatives.

Needs remained great throughout the year, with nearly two million people internally displaced, a severely weakened health system and huge numbers of refugees, mostly South Sudanese stranded in the country for years after fleeing the civil war, living in precarious conditions.

Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) reshaped some existing projects, launched assessments to start operations in different areas of the country and carried out frequent emergency interventions.

During the months of the protests, we treated people gathered in the crowded ‘sit-in’ area of the Sudanese capital for conditions such as dehydration. When clashes between demonstrators and security forces took place, our teams provided medical care and referred people to the main hospitals when necessary.

Other short-term interventions included addressing the needs of people affected by floods in Khartoum and White Nile states; and tackling outbreaks of disease, such as malaria in North Darfur state and cholera in Blue Nile, Sennar and Khartoum states.

MSF was the only international organisation directly supporting victims of violence during the protests in the emergency room of Khartoum’s largest hospital, Omdurman Teaching Hospital. The emergency intervention turned into a regular project by the end of 2019.

In Tawila, North Darfur, we handed over to the Ministry of Health and other organisations some of the activities we have been running since 2007 to assist isolated communities and people affected by chronic conflict and displacement.

In East Darfur, we continued to run our health structure in Kario, a camp that hosts around 28,000 refugees from South Sudan. Our teams offer primary and secondary healthcare, such as maternity services and nutritional support for children. The services are also accessible for local residents living in the region.

South Sudanese refugees have also been the main focus of our operations in White Nile state for the past five years. By the end of 2019, there were still approximately 248,000 refugees living there, mostly in camps. In December, we opened a new 85-bed hospital in Kashafa camp, upgrading existing services, and handed over a smaller health facility in Khor Wharal camp. The upgraded facility treats patients with complicated conditions, including severely malnourished children and people with chronic infectious diseases, such as HIV and tuberculosis.

In Al-Gedaref, we maintained our diagnosis and treatment programme for kala azar (visceral leishmaniasis) and other neglected tropical diseases in Tabarak Allah hospital. In 2019, our teams also provided supervision and training to local health workers and Ministry of Health staff and organised awareness-raising campaigns. Our team contributed to scientific research by participating in a phase two, randomised, multicentric clinical trial.

In South Kordofan, in areas controlled by both governmental and opposition armed groups, MSF continued to focus on sexual and reproductive health helping women and newborns affected by the humanitarian crisis in the region to obtain free, high-quality care and referrals for specialist services. Based in Dilling, support extends to other localities including Dalami and Habila.
Less than half the population of South Sudan has access to adequate medical services, despite a period of peace and a promise of unity after years of civil war.

Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) worked in 19 project sites across South Sudan in 2019. Activities ranged from treating gunshot wounds in Agok and providing comprehensive medical care in Protection of Civilians (PoC) sites, to vaccinating children against deadly diseases such as measles and ensuring Ebola preparedness at the border with the Democratic Republic of Congo.

Most medical services in South Sudan are delivered by NGOs, as only 2.6 per cent of the government’s budget is allocated to health. For many communities, treatment is often difficult to reach or simply inexistent.

**Responding to massive flooding**

Nearly one million people were affected by unprecedented heavy flooding, which began in July. On 30 October, the South Sudanese government declared a national state of emergency.

Thousands of people were displaced, including many of our local colleagues, who lost their homes, crops and livestock. To respond to the health needs, we deployed emergency teams in and around Pibor, Maban, Lankien and Ulang. In Pibor, one of the worst affected areas, our health centre was submerged and destroyed. A temporary tented facility was set up to provide care for people in Pibor, Maban and Gumuruk, including outpatient, inpatient and maternity services.

Mobile clinics were set up in all areas where we were working to prevent and treat malaria, respiratory tract infections, diarrhoea, skin infections and malnutrition. We also repaired latrines and boreholes, set up water purification systems to supply safe drinking water to the displaced and host communities and distributed thousands of relief items to those most affected by the flooding. These included water purification solution and mosquito nets people could use themselves to prevent diseases such as diarrhoea and malaria.

A child is checked for malnutrition during MSF’s emergency response to the unprecedented heavy flooding in Ulang. South Sudan, November 2019.
In 2019, malaria remained a major health concern in South Sudan. We treated more than 292,100 adults and children and ran prevention and awareness-raising activities in nearly all our projects. Strategies included distributing mosquito nets and implementing new outreach methods. For example, in March, we introduced integrated community case management in Old Fangak, delivering malaria rapid tests and treatment through trained community health workers in remote settings that have limited access to healthcare. Teams treated 530 patients for malaria and 3,450 patients for simple diarrhoea in 2019.

Our staff in Yambio also worked on treating and preventing malaria at a community level, conducting 38,000 general consultations and treating 24,900 patients, as well as administering seasonal malaria chemoprevention (oral treatment to prevent the disease) to more than 48,100 of the most vulnerable children aged between three and 59 months.

Responding to measles outbreaks
MSF vaccinated or supported the vaccination of over 96,400 children against measles in Yambio, Malakal, Bentiu PoC site, Aweil, Pibor and Maban. We also provided case management wherever possible.

Health services in Leer reopened
In April, we reopened our maternal, emergency and reproductive services in Leer, closed in 2016 due to repeated attacks on our patients and staff. In the first month alone, we treated 300 people, including more than 100 pregnant women.

Refugees and internally displaced people
There are an estimated 1.5 million internally displaced people in South Sudan, as well as nearly 300,000 refugees from neighbouring Sudan. In 2019, we offered medical assistance and distributed relief items to refugees and displaced people in Bentiu, Mundri, Lankien, Malakal, Yida, Yei, Leer, Old Fangak and Doro camp in Maban.

The United Nations PoC sites in Bentiu and Malakal, where we manage a hospital in each, offer protection to vulnerable people who would otherwise be exposed to armed violence. In these sites, the humanitarian and medical needs are great due to poor living conditions, ongoing violence and mental trauma. MSF has repeatedly called for conditions and services within the sites to be improved beyond current levels, in particular water and sanitation.

At our 55-bed hospital in Malakal PoC, where we offer a range of general and specialist services, mental health is also an important focus. Many of the patients have experienced extreme levels of violence and feel a sense of despair because of their environment and situation. We conducted 3,090 individual and group mental health consultations in 2019, most of them in the hospital’s outpatient department. In Bentiu, the largest PoC in South Sudan with over 100,000 people, we provide specialist healthcare, surgery and emergency services for adults and children in our 160-bed hospital. The Bentiu and Malakal projects also include community outreach activities, such as treatment for infectious diseases at local health centres, raising awareness on prevention and identifying people who may need medical treatment.

In Bentiu, the largest PoC in South Sudan with over 100,000 people, we provide specialist healthcare, surgery and emergency services for adults and children in our 160-bed hospital. The Bentiu and Malakal projects also include community outreach activities, such as treatment for infectious diseases at local health centres, raising awareness on prevention and identifying people who may need medical treatment.

In Yei, we support the hospital’s paediatric ward and manage a general healthcare clinic, which offers vaccinations, mental health support and referrals. Outside the town, our staff work in health centres in areas affected by the ongoing violence, which has displaced many people. In some areas of Yei River state, the security forces occupied clinics and there were reports of harassment and abuse of healthcare workers.

In Maban, we provide services in our hospital in Doro camp, which hosts around 60,000 refugees. Our staff also work in the outpatient department in Bunj hospital, which serves some 30,000 people. In 2019, an outreach team undertook regular assessments and spot interventions to address unmet needs around Maban county, such as a lack of basic healthcare and safe water for displaced people. Additionally, in its first phase of activities in South Sudan, the MSF Academy for Healthcare increased the number of trained healthcare professionals in Pibor by bolstering the skills of 42 students. We continued to assist Sudanese refugees in the area.

Mother and child healthcare
In Aweil, we manage a regional hospital that includes a maternity component. This hospital also serves as a training ground for nurses and midwives of a local school, while three physicians are receiving essential surgical skills training there.

Our 80-bed hospital in Lankien also provides obstetric and paediatric care, nutritional support and treatment for HIV, TB and kala azar. Treatment for victims of sexual and gender-based violence, which is integrated into all our projects in South Sudan, is available too.

Abyei Special Administrative Area
In Abyei, a disputed area between Sudan and South Sudan, we completed the reconstruction of our hospital in Agok in February. It is the only secondary healthcare facility in the region and has eight wards, an operating theatre and a pharmacy.
In Syria, civilian areas and infrastructure, including medical facilities, came under direct fire again in 2019. Thousands of people were killed or wounded, and many more driven from their homes.

Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) continued to operate in Syria but our activities were limited by insecurity and access constraints. In areas where access could be negotiated, our teams ran or supported hospitals and health centres and provided healthcare in displacement camps, following independent evaluations to determine medical needs. In areas where no direct presence was possible, we maintained our distance support, comprising donations of medicines, medical equipment and relief items; remote training of medical staff; technical medical advice; and financial assistance to cover facilities’ running costs.

Northwest Syria

In northwest Syria, hundreds of thousands of people were displaced as a consequence of the offensive launched by the Syrian government forces and their allies, notably Russia, in Idlib province, the last opposition stronghold, in April 2019. Most newly displaced people headed for densely populated areas where no clean water or medical care was available. They had few options, as most areas that were considered relatively safe were overcrowded and overstretched in terms of humanitarian assistance.

Schools, hospitals, markets and camps for internally displaced people were also hit and damaged during the offensive. On multiple occasions, most notably in August and from late October, medical teams at MSF-supported hospitals had to deal with mass-casualty influxes, with 10 or more wounded people arriving at once. Some MSF-supported hospitals were damaged by bombing, while others had to reduce or suspend their services, for fear of being hit.

We supported basic and specialist healthcare in several hospitals and clinics in Idlib and Aleppo governorates, in areas such as outpatient and inpatient departments, emergency rooms, operating theatres and maternity wards, in coordination with local partners or health centre managers. We also continued our co-management partnerships with three reference hospitals, which entail developing medical strategies and protocols...
with the hospital directors, supporting all services, donating drugs and other medical supplies, and covering the running costs (including salaries).

In Atmeh, we run a specialised burns unit, offering surgery, skin grafts, dressings, physiotherapy and psychological support. An average of 150 procedures per month were performed in 2019, and severe or complex cases were referred to Turkey by ambulance. We also maintained our support for the key departments in Al-Salama hospital in Azaz, an area hosting a large and increasing displaced population.

In addition, we supported vaccination programmes in health facilities, conducted vaccination campaigns in and around the camps and assisted with lifesaving medication and follow-up for almost 100 patients in Idlib who had received kidney transplants.

In response to the influx of displaced people in Idlib, we increased our activities in the camps, scaling up our distributions of relief items – such as hygiene kits and mattresses – as well as our improvements to water and sanitation systems and donations of emergency medical material. Following the intensification of the military offensive, we also scaled up the mobile clinics we had been running in displacement settlements, delivering general healthcare, maternal health services and treatment for non-communicable diseases.

**Northeast Syria**

In January, we launched a large emergency response in Al-Hol camp in Hassakeh governorate. The camp’s population of approximately 10,000 swelled after the arrival of 60,000 more displaced people. The camp is made up of 94 per cent women and children, who arrived from the Islamic State group’s last stronghold of Deir ez-Zor. In a highly politicised and militarised setting, we started by donating relief items and providing emergency care at the reception area of the camp, and then opened a comprehensive healthcare facility offering around-the-clock emergency care, and an inpatient nutrition centre. We began community-based surveillance, camp-wide water and sanitation activities, a tent-based wound care programme for those who could not reach the clinics, and referrals to an MSF surgical facility in Tal Tamer. We opened another primary healthcare centre in the ‘Annex’, as well as water and sanitation activities, in an area of the camp where foreigners are held.

The situation changed significantly in northeast Syria in October, with the sudden relocation of the US-led coalition forces further east. The Turkish military, alongside allied Syrian armed opposition groups, launched their ‘Peace Spring’ operation, aimed at clearing the Kurdish People’s Protection Units from a strip of land 30 kilometres long and 440 kilometres wide along the Turkish border. As a result, we had to suspend some projects and temporarily evacuate international staff to Turkey by ambulance. We then started supporting the local health authority hospital in Ain Issa with donations of medical supplies, before withdrawing due to insecurity. Comprehensive medical activities, including thalassemia treatment for more than 280 patients, were also suspended in Tal Abyad hospital after Turkish-backed groups took control of the area. Our programme in the hospital closed towards the end of the year, as we were unable to negotiate the resumption of our activities with the newly installed authorities.

In Raqqa city, we continued to run a general healthcare centre offering emergency care, outpatient consultations, mental health support and vaccinations. At Raqqa National Hospital, MSF completed a large rehabilitation of the facility, then set up and supported emergency, inpatient and post-operative care, general and orthopaedic surgery and radiology, as well as the blood bank and laboratory. We continue to support these activities at the hospital with regular donations of medical supplies and financial assistance for health workers.

We maintained our support for the maternity hospital in Kobané/Ain Al-Arab, in Aleppo governorate, with provision of medical supplies and financial support to health workers. We continued to support routine vaccination programmes (EPI) in 12 locations across the district and donated relief items to displaced families from Tal Abyad and Afrin.

Following the temporary evacuation of our international colleagues, we were also forced to suspend our activities in Tel Kocher in Hassakeh governorate, where we run a general healthcare centre serving a vulnerable Arab community, offering paediatrics, services for pregnant women and patients with chronic pathologies. From November, we gradually resumed some medical activities and started to deploy mobile clinics to assist displaced people in Newroz camp.

In October, our teams distributed relief items to displaced people living in camps, schools or with families and friends in Tal Tamer, Hassakeh and Newroz camp. We donated hygiene kits, blankets and multi-purpose tents. In Tel Kocher, we provided hygiene kits and blankets to victims of floods and donated 1,000 blankets and a tent for triage to Hassakeh National Hospital during a mass casualty response.
TANZANIA

No. staff in 2019: 279 | Expenditure in 2019: €6.7 million
Year MSF first worked in the country: 1993 | msf.org/thailand

Tanzania hosts more than half of all Burundians who fled their country after violence erupted in 2015. In 2019, they came under increasing pressure to return home.

Some 167,000 Burundians remain in Tanzania despite mounting pressure on them to leave. Towards the end of 2019, a meeting of the Tripartite Commission for the Voluntary Repatriation of Burundian Refugees in Tanzania, attended by representatives of the Burundian and Tanzanian governments and the UNHCR, its signatories, reiterated the commitment to ensuring returns are voluntary.

The Burundian refugee situation remains largely forgotten and chronically underfunded in the three refugee camps in Tanzania’s northwestern Kigoma region. In 2019, Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) continued to provide basic and specialist healthcare in Nduta, the camp hosting the largest number of Burundian refugees. We run a 150-bed hospital and four health posts in the camp and organise health promotion activities. Our services, which are also open to host communities from surrounding villages, include mother and child care, nutritional support and treatment for tuberculosis, HIV and non-communicable diseases. We also offer mental healthcare and treat victims of sexual and gender-based violence.

Mental health needs among refugees remain a key area of concern due to many compounding factors, which include the lack of access to basic services, fear of forced repatriation, limited mobility and few livelihood opportunities.

MSF also continued prevention and vector control activities to curb the spread of malaria, which is endemic in the camp.

In 2019, MSF renovated the operating theatre and sterilisation room in the nearby Kibondo district hospital, to ensure adequate surgical facilities for the referral of refugees.

We maintained our emergency response capacity. In addition to responding to a diarrhoea outbreak in Nduta camp, we supported the Ministry of Health to control a cholera outbreak in Dar es-Salaam and improve preparedness for Ebola.

THAILAND

No. staff in 2019: 27 | Expenditure in 2019: €1 million
Year MSF first worked in the country: 1976 | msf.org/thailand

In Thailand, Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) provides mental healthcare to people affected by years of unrest in the deep south, an area with a majority Muslim population near the Malaysian border.

The project aims to support the most vulnerable people, particularly those who may be hesitant to seek care.

In 2019, while continuing to run counselling centres in Pattani, Yala and Narathiwat provinces, we started to work in collaboration with government service providers, including public hospitals, and other NGOs, to offer medical care and social support, such as help with access to education and the job market.

We also increased our outreach programme of community-based engagement activities, particularly in Yala and Narathiwat provinces. This enabled our teams to provide support in areas where little medical care is available.

The focus of activities was raising awareness of mental health issues. By taking a preventive approach, we were able to reach people who had not yet experienced violent incidents and help them learn to develop mechanisms to cope with any future events. Our teams ran these activities, which included psychoeducation and psychological first-aid training, not only in our counselling centres, but also at times in mosques, schools and other locations within communities where there had been a large number of incidents.

MSF continues to share information and knowledge with local networks, groups and both state and non-state entities on various aspects of mental health, to strengthen their capacity and improve referral pathways to our facilities.
TURKEY

No. staff in 2019: 32 | Expenditure in 2019: €0.7 million | Year MSF first worked in the country: 1999 | msf.org/turkey

Turkey hosts the largest refugee population in the world – over four million – of whom 3.5 million are Syrian.¹

In 2019, Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) continued to provide support to a local organisation, the Citizens’ Assembly, which works with migrants and refugees in Turkey. As well as providing technical and financial support to local NGOs, we are engaging in efforts to renew our registration to operate directly.

The Citizens’ Assembly Nefes Centre provides support and advisory services in Istanbul for migrants and refugees who have suffered ill-treatment.

¹ United Nations refugee agency, UNHCR, 2019

UGANDA

No. staff in 2019: 415 | Expenditure in 2019: €6.1 million | Year MSF first worked in the country: 1986 | msf.org/uganda

In Uganda, where 1.2 million people are HIV positive,¹ Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) is working to address gaps in care, particularly for adolescents and people at advanced stages of the disease.

In Arua, our HIV programme focuses on children and adolescents and patients with advanced HIV disease or a high viral load, particularly those in treatment failure and in need of third-line regimens. In Kasese district, we provide HIV services for the fishing communities living around lakes George and Edward, facilitating access to testing and simplifying follow-up and drug refills to enable them to continue their work.

Our adolescent clinic in Kasese provides a safe space for teenagers to seek sexual and reproductive healthcare. Our services include contraception, treatment of sexually transmitted diseases, ante- and postnatal care, as well as recreational activities to encourage attendance. We also treat victims of sexual and gender-based violence and provide safe abortion care.

MSF teams have been working in refugee camps in north Uganda since 2016, when there was a large influx of South Sudanese refugees. Following the handover of some activities in 2018, we are now focusing on medical and psychological care for victims of sexual and gender-based violence in the Omugo settlement and providing safe abortion care.

Uganda has experienced recurring Ebola and Marburg outbreaks in recent years. After the declaration of the Ebola outbreak in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) in early August 2018, MSF started supporting the Ugandan national task force to improve Ebola response preparedness. Our teams set up Ebola treatment units in the districts bordering DRC. Only three Ebola cases were confirmed in Uganda in 2019.

¹ Uganda Population-Based HIV Impact Assessment (UPHIA), 2016-2017

KEY MEDICAL FIGURES:

- 44,400 outpatient consultations
- 15,100 individual mental health consultations
- 7,050 people on first-line ARV treatment, and 1,470 on second-line ARV treatment under direct MSF care
- 1,320 people treated for sexual violence

Cities where MSF supported projects in 2019

Regions where MSF had projects in 2019
In 2019, Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) continued to deliver healthcare in the conflict zone in eastern Ukraine and support the Ministry of Health’s hepatitis C and tuberculosis (TB) programmes.

For five years, MSF mobile teams have provided basic healthcare and psychosocial support to people living close to the frontline in eastern Ukraine. As public health facilities in the country’s conflict-affected regions gradually resumed services, we began transferring patients to the Ministry of Health for treatment. By the end of the year, they were all receiving care in the public system.

Treating hepatitis C in southern Ukraine
In Mykolaiv, we support the Ministry of Health in diagnosing and treating people with hepatitis C. Patients are treated with the highly effective direct-acting antiviral drugs daclatasvir and sofosbuvir. In 2019, psychosocial support and health education helped improve adherence to treatment and combat stigma and discrimination. This new model of care has achieved a cure rate of 97.4 per cent.

Drug-resistant TB (DR-TB)
In 2019, the project we run in Zhytomyr in partnership with the Ministry of Health initiated operational research to demonstrate that an effective model of treatment for DR-TB can be implemented in Ukraine. It involves reliable diagnostics, psychological and social support, and newer, more effective all-oral drugs (bedaquiline and delamanid), which have fewer severe side effects. Patients will spend less time in hospital and their treatment regimens will be shorter, lasting from nine to 12 months.

MSF is also building a state-of-the-art laboratory in the TB dispensary, which will be the first in the region with such an advanced level of biological safety.

In Uzbekistan, Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) focuses on improving diagnosis and treatment for people with tuberculosis (TB), including drug-resistant forms of the disease, and HIV.

In January 2019, we started to enrol new patients in Tashkent region for our multi-site TB PRACTECAL clinical trial. This trial was launched in 2017 in Nukus, Karakalpakstan, to evaluate the safety and effectiveness of two of the newer TB drugs – bedaquiline and pretomanid – on a much shorter and more tolerable regimen lasting just six months. By the end of 2019, we had 166 patients enrolled across the two sites.

We also work with the Ministry of Health at our project in Tashkent, which focuses on improving the availability of integrated care for HIV patients co-infected with TB, sexually transmitted infections and hepatitis C through a ‘one-stop shop’ model. Since the end of 2018, we have been providing services to high-risk groups, such as sex workers and people who inject drugs, in the greater Tashkent area. We are also moving forward with plans to use the TB LAM test to facilitate diagnosis of TB in HIV patients.

The Karakalpakstan TB project implements a comprehensive patient-centred model of care. In 2019, 2,130 patients received treatment as part of this programme, 660 of whom were treated for drug-resistant TB (DR-TB) and 1,470 for drug-sensitive TB. Towards the end of the year, as part of our commitment to introduce best practice guidance, we supported the Ministry of Health in the rollout of a TB care protocol based on the revised WHO consolidated guidelines for DR-TB treatment in Karakalpakstan. In line with the policy recommendations of the WHO consolidated guidelines, we upgraded the laboratory capacity by introducing drug-susceptibility testing for both new and repurposed TB drugs (bedaquiline, linezolid, clofazimine, moxifloxacin, amikacin and pretomanid).
The political and economic crisis in Venezuela continues to take a heavy toll, with millions of people facing severe shortages of food, medicines and other basic goods.

The state of public health services is particularly alarming. Many hospitals across the country do not have supplies, operating equipment or even access to basic services such as water.

In 2019, Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) scaled up our projects in Venezuela, rehabilitating hospitals and health posts, distributing medical supplies to facilities and patients, rebuilding water and sanitation systems and training staff, as well as continuing our usual medical activities.

In Amazonas state, we started rehabilitating the José Gregorio Hernández and the Mother and Child hospitals, as well as three clinics. In addition, we launched a pilot project to improve the medical supply system and the way we generate epidemiological data for each facility we support, in order to optimise our activities.

In Anzoátegui state, more than 25,300 people benefited during 2019 from the services we offer through a general healthcare centre, which include vaccinations, health promotion, and mental, sexual and reproductive healthcare.

In Caracas, one of the most violent cities in the world, we worked with local organisations and public institutions to provide medical treatment and mental health support to victims of sexual and urban violence in Libertador and Sucre municipalities. In 2019, we conducted nearly 580 medical consultations and 4,100 individual mental health sessions in the capital. In addition, we started supporting Vargas hospital, one of city’s major health facilities, through a technical rehabilitation process of the infrastructure and biomedical equipment.

We continued working with the national malaria programme in Sifontes, Bolívar state, a mining area with the highest number of reported malaria cases in the country. To support the Malariology Institute in Sucre state, where the numbers were particularly high, we detected the breeding hotspots for infected mosquitoes. Our activities in 2019 included diagnosing and treating 87,500 patients, distributing mosquito nets, running health promotion campaigns and improving vector control.

In Delta Amacuro state, we provided logistical and technical support to the Ministry of Health’s immunisation programme, which was expanded in order to reach remote communities in the far east of the country. By travelling along the waterways, it was possible to administer routine vaccinations to nearly 2,400 people against diseases such as polio, measles, hepatitis B, diphtheria and yellow fever.

In 2019, we also responded to emergencies. We offered mental healthcare to people affected by the violent events in the first quarter of the year, during which we donated essential medicines and medical supplies to health workers. In addition, when a nationwide electricity blackout in March led to water shortages, we prevented and treated outbreaks of diarrhoea. We also trained public institution staff on water conservation.

1 Venezuelan Violence Observatory, 2019
In Yemen's fifth year of conflict, violent clashes on frontlines and frequent attacks on health facilities prevented civilians from accessing critical healthcare.

Although the number of airstrikes decreased in the last quarter of 2019, ground fighting continued across several governorates throughout the year, as frontlines shifted, causing waves of displacement and many thousands of casualties.

The destruction of health facilities, and shortages of skilled medical staff, medicines and medical supplies, have contributed to the breakdown of the health system.

Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) worked in 12 hospitals and health centres and provided support to more than 20 health facilities across 12 governorates in Yemen in 2019.

Insecurity and access constraints prevented us – and other organisations – from collecting reliable data on nutritional and humanitarian needs across the country. In Hajjah, Sa’ada, Amran, Ibb and Taiz governorates, our teams treated 7,330 children for malnutrition in inpatient feeding programmes during the year.

Violence against civilians, medical staff and facilities

From the beginning of 2019, our staff witnessed numerous attacks on patients, medical facilities and civilians.

In April, we resumed our activities in Aden surgical hospital after a month of suspension following the kidnapping and killing of a patient. The situation in the city throughout 2019 remained unstable as different groups fought for power. The MSF hospital received mass casualties on several occasions; during an incident in August, our teams treated 119 people in less than 24 hours. In the same month, we performed 800 violence-related surgical interventions.

Displaced children in northern Abs, where MSF operated mobile clinics to provide consultations, vaccinations and referrals to the hospital we support there. Yemen, April 2019.
MSF-supported Al-Thawra hospital in Taiz city was subjected to 11 armed intrusions, during which one patient was killed. We reiterated our call for pledges ensuring the protection and safeguarding of health facilities, medical workers, patients and their caregivers to be upheld and respected.

On 6 November, a hospital we run in Mocha, southwestern Yemen, was severely damaged when surrounding buildings, including a military warehouse, were hit during an aerial attack. Fortunately, there were no casualties and we were later able to reopen the hospital.

MSF and MSF-supported facilities have been hit by aerial attacks six times since the start of the conflict, impeding our ability to provide care.

Assisting the displaced in Hajjah and Ibb governorates
The number of patients seeking healthcare in Abs hospital in Hajjah increased, partly due to ongoing fighting in the north of the district. In October, we admitted more than 7,000 patients to emergency rooms, the highest number since we started supporting the hospital in 2015.

Ibb, one of the most populated governorates in Yemen, is thought to host hundreds of thousands of displaced people who have fled the frontlines in neighbouring Hodeidah, Ad Dhale and Taiz. MSF runs the emergency room, operating theatre, intensive care unit and inpatient department at the hospital in Dhi As-Sufal district, close to Taiz, which serves a population of several hundred thousand.

Lifesaving care for mothers and children
MSF provides maternal and child healthcare in most of the governorates we support in Yemen. The demand is high and increases each year. On several occasions during 2019, our mother and child hospital in Taiz Houban, in Taiz governorate, was filled to capacity. In 2019, MSF teams assisted more than 5,900 births in Taiz, Hajjah and Ibb.

Many mothers, children and newborns died in or on arrival at hospitals that MSF runs or supports in Yemen. Many newborns brought to us for care had a low birthweight or were born prematurely, at home or in small private clinics. The most common causes of death among newborns were prematurity, birth asphyxia and sepsis.

The high numbers of deaths are linked to many factors, most of which are a direct result of the war. They include the lack of functioning health facilities, insecurity and active fighting preventing people from seeking care, and an inability to pay for treatment.

In response to the increased maternal and child healthcare needs, MSF started to build a new maternity hospital in Al-Qanawes to serve Hajjah and Hodeidah governorates.

An increase in the number of measles cases was reported between late December 2018 and February 2019. During this period, MSF treated people with measles in Abs, Haydan, Ibb, Khamer and Taiz. In mid-February, the local authorities in the northern governorates launched a measles vaccination campaign, which helped reduce the number of new cases.

Our teams also responded to outbreaks of diphtheria and dengue fever in Ibb, Taiz, Hajja and Hodeidah governorates, treating 720 people for diphtheria and 4,686 for dengue.
Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) continues to address gaps in healthcare in Zimbabwe, where chronic underfunding of the health sector has led to shortages of essential medicines and supplies and deteriorating facilities.

The socioeconomic situation remained unstable in 2019, with year-to-year inflation estimated at more than 500 per cent and teachers, doctors and other civil servants taking to the streets to protest over wages. There were frequent arrests, and doctors went on a four-month strike. In addition, an ongoing drought led to failed harvests, making food insecurity a real issue.

**Harare**
In the capital Harare, we provide sexual and reproductive healthcare for adolescents through our clinic in the suburb of Mbare. In 2019, we conducted consultations with over 5,900 adolescents aged between 10 and 19, including vulnerable people living with disabilities. A social media health promotion campaign led to improved reach and coverage.

There are frequent outbreaks of cholera and typhoid fever in the city, due to the unreliability of the public water supply. Using innovative borehole technology and empowering communities to manage their own water points, MSF has developed an environmental health toolkit to supply safe drinking water in vulnerable neighbourhoods. In 2019, we drilled three new boreholes, and trained three community health clubs in three suburbs. The toolkit developed in Zimbabwe was rolled out in Malawi and Mozambique.

**Manicaland province**
In Manicaland province, we run services for non-communicable diseases through a nurse-based model in rural clinics, thereby bringing care closer to patients. In 2019, 3,800 patients with moderate/severe diabetes and hypertension received care in MSF-supported facilities, including 120 patients on insulin. After Cyclone Idai hit Chimanimani district, we provided wound stabilisation, mental healthcare and water and sanitation support. We also took part in the cholera vaccination campaign led by the World Health Organization and the health authorities.

**Masvingo province**
In Gutu district, we performed close to 6,000 cervical cancer screenings in six health centres. More than 13,000 girls aged 10 to 15 years were vaccinated against human papillomavirus, a leading cause of cervical cancer. In 2019, nearly 200 women received cancer treatment.

In September, after three years supporting the health authorities to scale up access to HIV and tuberculosis treatment in Mwenezi, one of the most remote districts in rural Zimbabwe, we handed over the programme to the Ministry of Health and Child Care. At the time of the handover, more than 1,000 patients were receiving treatment for HIV. The 289 patients enrolled in the new delivery model, whereby trained community health workers distribute the antiretroviral medication to patients, were also handed over to the health authorities.

**Assistance for returning migrants**
We provided medical services for almost 2,500 returned migrants in a reception centre in Beitbridge, mainly coming from Lindela detention camp in South Africa. We also ran outreach services at informal border crossing points, where we treated more than 2,600 patients.
An MSF team heads to a village cut off by damage caused by Cyclone Idai to assess health needs and distribute medicines to clinics and village health workers. Chimanimani, Zimbabwe, March 2019.
© MSF
Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) is an international, independent, private and non-profit organisation.

It comprises 21 main national offices in Australia, Austria, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Denmark, France, Germany, Greece, Hong Kong, Italy, Japan, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Norway, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, the United Kingdom and the United States. There are also branch offices* in Argentina, China, Colombia, the Czech Republic, Finland, India, Ireland, Kenya, Lebanon, Mexico, New Zealand, Russia, Singapore, South Korea, Taiwan, the United Arab Emirates and Uruguay. MSF International is based in Geneva.

The search for efficiency has led MSF to create eight entities called ‘satellites’. These satellites provide specific activities to the benefit of the MSF movement and/or MSF entities, such as humanitarian relief supplies, epidemiological and medical research, fundraising, facility management and research on humanitarian and social action. As these entities are controlled by MSF, they are included in the scope of the MSF International Financial Report and the figures are presented here.

These figures describe MSF’s finances on a combined international level. The 2019 combined international figures have been prepared in accordance with Swiss GAAP FER/RPC. The figures have been audited by the accounting firm Ernst & Young.

The full 2019 International Financial Report can be found on www.msf.org. In addition, each national office publishes annual, audited Financial Statements according to its national accounting policies, legislation and auditing rules. Copies of these reports may be requested from the national offices.

The figures presented here are for the 2019 calendar year. All amounts are presented in millions of euros. Rounding may result in apparent inconsistencies in totals.

*Figures relating to all the branch offices are included in the International Financial Report although some are not disclosed separately.

WHERE DID THE MONEY COME FROM?

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Income Type</th>
<th>2019 (in millions of €)</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>2018 (in millions of €)</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<td><strong>Total income</strong></td>
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<td><strong>100%</strong></td>
<td><strong>1,536.4</strong></td>
<td><strong>100%</strong></td>
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6.5 million private donors

As part of MSF’s effort to guarantee our independence and strengthen our link with society, we strive to maintain a high level of private income. In 2019, 96.2 per cent of MSF’s income came from private sources.

More than 6.5 million individual donors and private foundations worldwide made this possible. Public institutional agencies providing funding to MSF included, among others, the governments of Canada, Japan and Switzerland, the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, and the International Drug Purchase Facility (UNITAID).
WHERE DID THE MONEY GO?

Countries where MSF expenditure was more than €15 million in 2019

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Expenditure (in millions of €)</th>
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<td>Côte d’Ivoire</td>
<td>4.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Guinea-Bissau</td>
<td>4.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Eswatini</td>
<td>3.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Egypt</td>
<td>3.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>613.3 (56.2%)</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ASIA AND THE</td>
<td>Yemen</td>
<td>74.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MIDDLE EAST</td>
<td>Iraq</td>
<td>46.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Syria</td>
<td>41.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Afghanistan</td>
<td>35.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Lebanon</td>
<td>30.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Bangladesh</td>
<td>29.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Jordan</td>
<td>20.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Pakistan</td>
<td>18.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Palestine</td>
<td>17.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>India</td>
<td>15.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Myanmar</td>
<td>13.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Uzbekistan</td>
<td>8.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Iran</td>
<td>3.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Cambodia</td>
<td>3.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Tajikistan</td>
<td>2.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Kyrgyzstan</td>
<td>2.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Malaysia</td>
<td>2.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Philippines</td>
<td>2.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>DPR Korea</td>
<td>1.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Thailand</td>
<td>1.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Other countries’</td>
<td>3.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>375.2 (34.4%)</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EUROPE</td>
<td>Greece</td>
<td>10.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Ukraine</td>
<td>7.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>France</td>
<td>2.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Italy</td>
<td>2.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Belarus</td>
<td>1.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Balkans</td>
<td>1.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Russia</td>
<td>1.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Belgium</td>
<td>0.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>28.3 (2.6%)</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OCEANIA</td>
<td>Papua New Guinea</td>
<td>4.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>4.4 (0.4%)</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UNALLOCATED</td>
<td>Other countries and transversal activities</td>
<td>20.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Search and rescue operations</td>
<td>3.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>23.6 (2.2%)</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>THE AMERICAS</td>
<td>Haiti</td>
<td>17.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Venezuela</td>
<td>12.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Mexico</td>
<td>5.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Colombia</td>
<td>3.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Honduras</td>
<td>3.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>El Salvador</td>
<td>1.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Bolivia</td>
<td>1.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Brazil</td>
<td>1.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Nicaragua</td>
<td>0.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>47.4 (4.3%)</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* ‘Other countries’ combines all the countries for which programme expenses were below €1 million.
### HOW WAS THE MONEY SPENT?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>2019</th>
<th>2018</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Social mission</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Programme expenses</td>
<td>1,092.2</td>
<td>1,047.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Programme support</td>
<td>208.4</td>
<td>209.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Awareness-raising and Access Campaign</td>
<td>45.0</td>
<td>46.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other humanitarian activities</td>
<td>25.2</td>
<td>15.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total social mission</strong></td>
<td>1,370.8</td>
<td>1,319.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Other expenses</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fundraising</td>
<td>228.8</td>
<td>208.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Management and general administration</td>
<td>85.0</td>
<td>80.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total other expenses</strong></td>
<td>313.8</td>
<td>289.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES</strong></td>
<td>1,684.60</td>
<td>1,608.30</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The biggest category of expenses is dedicated to personnel costs: 53% of expenditure comprises all costs related to locally hired and international staff (including plane tickets, insurance, accommodation, etc).

The medical and nutrition category includes drugs and medical equipment, vaccines, hospitalisation fees and therapeutic food. The delivery of these supplies is included in the category of transport, freight and storage.

Logistics and sanitation comprise building materials and equipment for health centres, water and sanitation and logistical supplies. Other includes grants to external partners and taxes, for example.

1 **Programme expenses** represent expenses incurred in the field or by headquarters on behalf of the field. All expenses are allocated in line with the main activities performed by MSF according to the full cost method. Therefore, all expense categories include salaries, direct costs and allocated overheads (e.g. building costs and depreciation).
### YEAR-END FINANCIAL POSITION

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2019 in millions of €</th>
<th>2018 in millions of €</th>
<th>percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cash and cash equivalents</td>
<td>678.2</td>
<td>726.1</td>
<td>54%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other current assets</td>
<td>254.5</td>
<td>266.1</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-current assets</td>
<td>327.3</td>
<td>289.6</td>
<td>26%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL ASSETS</strong></td>
<td><strong>1,260.0</strong></td>
<td><strong>1,281.8</strong></td>
<td><strong>100%</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Restricted funds (^1)</td>
<td>35.5</td>
<td>41.9</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unrestricted funds (^1)</td>
<td>882.0</td>
<td>927.6</td>
<td>70%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other funds (^4)</td>
<td>47.0</td>
<td>35.2</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Organisational capital</strong></td>
<td><strong>929.1</strong></td>
<td><strong>962.8</strong></td>
<td><strong>74%</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Current liabilities</td>
<td>230.7</td>
<td>202.6</td>
<td>18%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-current liabilities</td>
<td>64.7</td>
<td>74.5</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total liabilities</strong></td>
<td><strong>295.4</strong></td>
<td><strong>277.1</strong></td>
<td><strong>23%</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL LIABILITIES AND FUNDS</strong></td>
<td><strong>1,260.0</strong></td>
<td><strong>1,281.8</strong></td>
<td><strong>100%</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

\(^1\) Restricted funds may be permanently or temporarily restricted: permanently restricted funds include capital funds, where the assets are required by the donors to be invested or retained for long-term use, rather than expended in the short term, and minimum compulsory level of funds to be maintained in some countries; temporarily restricted funds are unspent donor funds designated to a specific purpose (e.g. a specific country or project), restricted in time, or required to be invested and retained rather than expended, without any contractual obligation to reimburse.

\(^2\) Unrestricted funds are unspent, non-designated donor funds expendable at the discretion of MSF's trustees in furtherance of our social mission.

\(^3\) Other funds are foundations' capital and translation adjustments arising from the translation of entities' financial statements into euros.

\(^4\) Staff numbers represent the number of full-time equivalent positions averaged out across the year.

\(^5\) Field positions include programme and programme support staff.

The result for 2019, after adjusting for exchange gains/losses, shows a deficit of €47 million (deficit of €72 million for 2018). MSF’s funds have been built up over the years by surpluses of income over expenses. At the end of 2019, the remaining available reserves (excluding permanently restricted funds and capital for foundations) represented 6.9 months of the preceding year’s activity.

The purpose of maintaining funds is to meet the following needs: working capital needs over the course of the year, as fundraising traditionally has seasonal peaks while expenditure is relatively constant; swift operational response to humanitarian needs that will be funded by forthcoming public fundraising campaigns and/or by public institutional funding; future major humanitarian emergencies for which sufficient funding cannot be obtained; the sustainability of long-term programmes (e.g. antiretroviral treatment programmes); and a sudden drop in private and/or public institutional funding that cannot be matched in the short term by a reduction in expenditure.

### HR STATISTICS

#### Staff positions \(^6\)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2019 no. staff</th>
<th>2019 percentage</th>
<th>2018 no. staff</th>
<th>2018 percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Locally hired field staff</td>
<td>37,670</td>
<td>83%</td>
<td>39,519</td>
<td>84%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>International field staff</td>
<td>3,627</td>
<td>8%</td>
<td>3,824</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Field positions</strong> (^6)</td>
<td>41,297</td>
<td>91%</td>
<td>43,344</td>
<td>92%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Positions at headquarters</td>
<td>4,072</td>
<td>9%</td>
<td>3,974</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL STAFF</strong></td>
<td><strong>45,369</strong></td>
<td><strong>100%</strong></td>
<td><strong>47,318</strong></td>
<td><strong>100%</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### International departures

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2019 no. staff</th>
<th>2019 percentage</th>
<th>2018 no. staff</th>
<th>2018 percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Medical pool</td>
<td>1,868</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>1,743</td>
<td>22%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nurses and other paramedical pool</td>
<td>1,924</td>
<td>26%</td>
<td>2,439</td>
<td>31%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-medical pool</td>
<td>3,721</td>
<td>49%</td>
<td>3,684</td>
<td>47%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL DEPARTURES</strong></td>
<td><strong>7,513</strong></td>
<td><strong>100%</strong></td>
<td><strong>7,866</strong></td>
<td><strong>100%</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The complete International Financial Report is available at www.msf.org

\(^6\) Staff numbers represent the number of full-time equivalent positions averaged out across the year.
Cholera

Cholera is a water-borne, acute gastrointestinal infection caused by the *Vibrio cholerae* bacterium. It is transmitted by contaminated water or food, or direct contact with contaminated surfaces. In non-endemic areas, large outbreaks can occur suddenly, and the infection can spread rapidly. Most people will not get sick or will suffer only a mild infection, but the illness can be very severe, causing profuse watery diarrhoea and vomiting that can lead to severe dehydration and death within a few hours after the start of symptoms. Treatment consists of a rehydration solution – administered orally or intravenously – which replaces lost fluids and salts. Cholera is most common in densely populated settings where sanitation is poor and water supplies are not safe.

As soon as an outbreak is suspected, patients are treated in centres where infection control precautions are taken to avoid further transmission of the disease. Strict hygiene practices must be implemented, and large quantities of safe water must be available. An oral vaccine is available as both a preventive measure and to respond during outbreaks.

MSF treated 47,000 people for cholera in 2019.

Ebola

Ebola is a virus that is transmitted through contact with the bodily fluids of an infected person, including someone who is deceased, or through surfaces contaminated with these fluids. Ebola first appeared in 1976, and although its origins are unknown, bats are considered the likely host. MSF has intervened in almost all reported Ebola outbreaks in recent years, but until 2014 these were usually geographically contained and involved more remote locations. Ebola has a mortality rate of between 25 and 90 per cent and starts with flu-like symptoms, followed by vomiting and diarrhoea, symptoms that are common to many illnesses. As the disease progresses, people in some cases experience haemorrhaging, and death. Despite being so deadly, it is a fragile virus that can be easily killed with sunshine, heat, bleach, chlorine, and even soap and water. Two investigational vaccines are available to help protect health workers and the contacts of infected people. Antiviral drugs have also been used in outbreaks to treat people on compassionate use and investigational bases. Otherwise, patient care is centred on rehydration and treating the symptoms such as fever and nausea.

Preventing transmission is essential: patients are cared for in Ebola treatment centres where strict infection control procedures are reinforced. Identifying people the patient was in contact with when they were ill becomes a priority to protect them and prevent further transmission, as do safe burials. Community health promotion is also important to inform the community about the risk of exposure and how to try and keep themselves safe, and what to do if they develop symptoms of the disease.

MSF treated 910 people for haemorrhagic fevers, including Ebola, in 2019.

Health promotion

Health promotion activities aim to improve health and encourage the effective use of health services. Health promotion is a two-way process: understanding the culture and practices of a community is as important as providing information.

During outbreaks, MSF provides people with information on how the disease is transmitted and how to prevent it, what signs to look for, and what to do if someone becomes ill. If MSF is responding to an outbreak of cholera, for example, teams work to explain the importance of good hygiene practices because the disease is transmitted through contaminated water or food, or direct contact with contaminated surfaces.

Hepatitis C

Hepatitis C is a liver disease caused by the blood-borne hepatitis C virus (HCV). It is most commonly transmitted through unsafe injection
practices, reuse or inadequate sterilisation of medical equipment, and the transfusion of unscreened blood and blood products.

The virus can cause both acute and chronic infection, ranging in severity from a mild illness lasting a few weeks to serious, lifelong illness. Infected people often do not show symptoms for many years, although those with acute infection may experience fever, fatigue, decreased appetite, nausea, vomiting, abdominal pain, dark urine, joint pain and jaundice.

It is estimated that 71 million people are chronically infected with hepatitis C. The disease kills an estimated 400,000 people each year, the vast majority of whom live in low- and middle-income countries where there is little or no access to diagnosis and treatment. While hepatitis C is found worldwide, central and east Asia, Egypt, China, and Pakistan are the regions and countries most affected.

In the last few years, new drugs called direct-acting antivirals (DAAs) have been developed that allow for treatment to be given orally, with few side effects, over a course of three months. These new drugs are very effective – with different combinations curing well over 95 per cent of patients – but can be very expensive in high- and middle-income countries. Prices for a three-month course of treatment in wealthy countries started at well above US$100,000, and treatment remains unaffordable for many, particularly in middle-income countries. Through the use of generic DAAs, MSF has been able to secure a price of just $75 per treatment in most projects.

MSF started 10,000 people on hepatitis C treatment in 11 countries in 2019.

HIV/AIDS

The human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) is transmitted through blood and body fluids and gradually breaks down the immune system – usually over a 3 to 15-year period, most commonly 10 years – leading to acquired immunodeficiency syndrome, or AIDS. As immunodeficiency progresses, people begin to suffer from opportunistic infections. The most common opportunistic infection that often leads to death is tuberculosis.

Simple blood tests can confirm HIV status, but many people live for years without symptoms and may not know they have been infected. Combinations of drugs known as antiretrovirals (ARVs) help combat the virus and enable people to live longer, healthier lives without their immune systems deteriorating rapidly. ARVs also significantly reduce the likelihood of the virus being transmitted.

As well as treatment, MSF’s comprehensive HIV/AIDS programmes generally include health promotion and awareness activities, condom distribution, HIV testing, counselling, and prevention of mother-to-child transmission (PMTCT) services. PMTCT involves the administration of ARV treatment to the mother during and after pregnancy, labour and breastfeeding, and to the infant just after birth.

In 2019, 144,800 people were on first-line or second-line ARV treatment under direct MSF care or in MSF-supported programmes.

Kala azar (visceral leishmaniasis)

Largely unknown in high-income countries, kala azar – Hindi for ‘black fever’ – is a tropical, parasitic disease transmitted through bites from certain types of sandfly. Of the estimated 50,000 – 90,000 annual cases, 90 per cent occur in Brazil, Ethiopia, India, Kenya, Somalia, South Sudan and Sudan, where the disease is endemic. Kala azar is characterised by fever, weight loss, enlargement of the liver and spleen, anaemia, and immune-system deficiencies. Without treatment, kala azar is almost always fatal.

Today, liposomal amphotericin B is becoming the primary treatment drug in Asia, either alone or as part of a combination therapy. While safer and cheaper than previously used medication, it requires intravenous administration, which remains an obstacle to its use in local clinics. An oral drug, miltefosine, is often added to optimise treatment regimens in some patients. In Africa, the best available treatment is still a combination of pentavalent antimonials and paromomycin, which is toxic and requires a number of painful injections. Research into other treatment combinations is underway.

Co-infection of kala azar and HIV is a major challenge, as the diseases influence each other in a vicious spiral as they attack and weaken the immune system.

MSF treated 1,970 patients for kala azar in 2019.

Malaria

Malaria is transmitted by infected mosquitoes. Symptoms include fever, pain in the joints, shivering, headache, repeated vomiting, convulsions and coma. Severe malaria, nearly always caused by the Plasmodium falciparum parasite, causes organ damage and leads to death if left untreated. MSF field research has helped prove that artemisinin-based combination therapy (ACT) is currently the most effective treatment for malaria caused by Plasmodium falciparum. MSF also piloted the use of injectable artesunate for the treatment of severe malaria in many countries.

Long-lasting insecticide-treated bed nets are one important means of controlling malaria. In endemic areas, MSF prioritises the distribution of bed nets to pregnant women and children under the age of five, who are most vulnerable and have the highest frequency of severe malaria. Staff advise people on how to use the nets.

Since 2012, MSF is also strongly involved in prevention strategies, such as ‘seasonal malaria chemoprevention’ (SMC), based on the use of antimalarial drugs, implemented in the Sahel, in which children under five take oral antimalarial treatment monthly over a period of three to four months during the peak malaria season.

MSF treated 2,638,200 malaria cases in 2019.

Malnutrition

Two of the most immediate causes of malnutrition are a reduced intake of food and/or essential nutrients and repeated episodes of illness which go untreated. Children under five, adolescents, pregnant or breastfeeding women, the elderly, and the chronically ill (e.g. with HIV, TB, diabetes) are the most vulnerable to malnutrition.

Acute malnutrition in children is usually categorised in two ways: it can be calculated from a ratio using weight and height or weight and age; or by measuring the mid-upper arm circumference (MUAC). Different measurements are used for different age groups. According to these measurements, malnourished children are diagnosed with moderate or severe acute malnutrition. Their clinical status and appetite is then assessed to determine whether they should be treated in hospital or receive outpatient care.

In outpatient clinics, MSF uses ready-to-use therapeutic food (RUTF) along with supportive medical treatment. Ideally, local foods should be used to treat malnutrition, but with RUTF’s long shelf-life which requires no preparation, these nutritional products can be used in all kinds of settings and allow malnourished patients to be treated at home, unless they are suffering severe medical complications. Malnourished children with medical complications are treated in hospital with therapeutic milks designed to stabilise their metabolism, and medication to treat their other illnesses. In situations where malnutrition is likely to become severe, MSF takes a preventive approach with our nutritional activities to cover at-risk individuals and prevent their condition from deteriorating further.

MSF admitted 76,400 malnourished children to inpatient feeding programmes and registered 109,300 admissions to outpatient feeding programmes in 2019.

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GLOSSARY OF DISEASES AND ACTIVITIES

International Activity Report 2019 97

continued overleaf
Measles

Measles is a highly contagious viral disease. Symptoms appear on average 10 days after exposure to the virus and include a high fever, rash, runny nose, cough and conjunctivitis. There is no specific treatment against measles; all patients receive vitamin A to prevent eye complications, antibiotics to prevent respiratory tract infections, and nutritional support. Other case-based care can include treating symptoms for stomatitis (a yeast infection in the mouth) and dehydration.

In high-income countries, most people infected with measles recover within two to three weeks, and mortality rates are low. In low- and middle-income countries, however, the mortality rate can be up to 10 per cent, rising to 20 per cent in outbreaks with limited access to care. Death is mostly due to severe respiratory infections, such as pneumonia; diarrhoea and stomatitis that can lead to malnutrition; and, more rarely, neurological complications such as encephalitis (inflammation of the brain).

A safe and cost-effective vaccine against measles exists, and large-scale vaccination campaigns have significantly decreased the number of cases and deaths. However, large numbers of children are left susceptible to the disease, especially in countries with weak health systems, where outbreaks are frequent and where there is limited access to health services.

MSF carried out 1,320,100 vaccinations against measles in response to outbreaks in 2019.

Meningococcal meningitis

Meningococcal meningitis is a bacterial infection of the thin membranes surrounding the brain and spinal cord. Symptoms may occur one to four days after infection. It can cause sudden and intense headaches, fever, nausea, vomiting, sensitivity to light and stiffness of the neck. The infection can progress rapidly, and death can follow within hours of the onset of symptoms. However, even with treatment, up to 10 per cent of people infected can die; in the absence of treatment this may rise to 50 per cent. Among survivors, 10 to 20 per cent are left with lifelong conditions such as deafness, intellectual disability and epilepsy.

Six strains of the bacterium Neisseria meningitidis (A, B, C, W135, X and Y) are known to cause meningitis. People can be carriers without showing symptoms and transmit the bacteria when they cough or sneeze. Cases are diagnosed through the examination of a sample of spinal fluid and treated with specific antibiotics.

Meningitis occurs throughout the world, but the majority of infections and deaths are in Africa, particularly across the ‘meningitis belt’, an east-west geographical strip from Ethiopia to Senegal. Prior to the introduction of a meningitis A conjugate vaccine in 2010, epidemics were mostly caused by meningococcus A. The first large-scale meningococcal C epidemic was recorded in Niger and Nigeria in 2015. Conjugate vaccines against multiple meningococcus strains (ACWY) are in extreme shortage, are very expensive and are therefore impossible to use for wide-scale preventive campaigns. However, a new meningococcus conjugate vaccine against the ACWYX strains is currently being developed and expected to be available at an affordable price in 2021 or 2022.

In total, MSF vaccinated 197,700 people against meningitis in response to outbreaks in 2019.

Mental healthcare

Mental healthcare refers to any type of activity that aims to protect or promote mental wellbeing of communities; to prevent the development of mental health conditions; and to treat or alleviate psychological suffering of people experiencing mental health problems and disorders, while improving their ability to continue performing life’s daily activities.

These goals are achieved by supporting people in using their strengths, developing their individual and collective adaptation strategies, reconnecting to their support networks, and managing their emotions, through individual, group, family and community interventions. These interventions are counselling, psychological support, medication, and other psychosocial activities.

People caught up in natural and man-made disasters, epidemics, war and conflict have an increased risk of experiencing distress and mental disorders. For this reason, mental healthcare is an essential part of MSF interventions.

MSF staff provided 400,200 individual mental health consultations and 104,200 consultations in group sessions in 2019.

Relief items distribution

MSF’s primary focus is on providing medical care, but in an emergency, teams often organise the distribution of relief items that are essential for survival. Such items include clothing, blankets, bedding, shelter, cleaning materials, cooking utensils and fuel. In many emergencies, relief items are distributed as kits. Cooking kits contain a stove, pots, plates, cups, cutlery and a jerrycan so that people can prepare meals, while a washing kit includes soap, shampoo, toothbrushes, toothpaste and laundry soap.

Where people are without shelter, and materials are not locally available, MSF distributes emergency supplies – rope and plastic sheeting or tents – with the aim of ensuring a shelter. In cold climates, more substantial tents are provided, or teams try to find more permanent structures.

MSF distributed relief kits to 346,900 families in 2019.

Reproductive healthcare

Emergency obstetrics and newborn care are an important part of MSF’s work. Medical staff assist births, performing caesarean sections when necessary and feasible, and mothers and newborns receive appropriate care during and after delivery.

Many of MSF’s programmes offer more extensive maternal healthcare. Several ante- and postnatal visits are recommended and include, where needed, prevention of mother-to-child transmission of HIV. Contraceptive services are...
offered, and safe abortion care is available. The need for medical care for terminations of pregnancy is obvious: in 2019, MSF treated 25,800 women and girls with abortion-related concerns and complications, many of which resulted from unsafe attempts to terminate pregnancy; we also provided safe abortion care to over 21,500 women and girls who requested it.

Skilled birth attendance and immediate postnatal care can prevent obstetric fistulas, a stigmatising medical condition resulting in chronic incontinence. MSF provides surgical care for fistula repair in some of the most remote areas.

Since 2012, MSF has piloted cervical cancer screening and treatment. Human papillomavirus infection is the main cause of cervical cancer and particularly affects HIV-positive women.

MSF assisted 329,900 births, including 27,300 caesarean sections in 2019.

Sexual violence

Sexual violence occurs in all societies and in all contexts at any time. Destabilisation often results in increased levels of violence, including sexual violence. Sexual violence is particularly complex and stigmatising, has long-lasting consequences, and can result in important physical and psychological health risks.

MSF medical care for victims of sexual violence covers preventive treatment against sexually transmitted infections, including HIV, syphilis and gonorrhoea, and vaccinations for tetanus and hepatitis B. Treatment of physical injuries, psychological support and the prevention and management of unwanted pregnancy are also part of systematic care. MSF provides a medical certificate to all victims of violence.

Medical care is central to MSF’s response to sexual violence, but stigma and fear may prevent many victims from coming forward. A proactive approach is necessary to raise awareness about the medical consequences of sexual violence and the availability of care. Where MSF sees large numbers of victims – especially in areas of conflict – advocacy aims to raise awareness among local authorities, as well as the armed forces when they are involved in the assaults.

MSF provided medical care to 28,800 victims of sexual violence in 2019.

Sleeping sickness

(human African trypanosomiasis)

Generally known as sleeping sickness, human African trypanosomiasis is a parasitic infection transmitted by tsetse flies that occurs in sub-Saharan Africa. In its latter stage, it attacks the central nervous system, causing severe neurological disorders and death if left untreated. More than 98 per cent of reported cases are caused by the parasite Trypanosoma brucei gambiense, which is found in western and central Africa. The reported number of new cases fell by 96 per cent between 1999 and 2018 (from around 28,000 to 977). During the first stage, the disease is relatively easy to treat but difficult to diagnose, as symptoms such as fever and weakness are non-specific. The second stage begins when the parasite invades the central nervous system and the infected person begins to show neurological or psychiatric symptoms, such as poor coordination, confusion, convulsions and sleep disturbance. Accurate diagnosis of the illness requires three different laboratory tests, including a sample of spinal fluid.

A new drug, fexinidazole – the first all-oral treatment that works for both stages of the disease – has been developed by Drugs for Neglected Diseases initiative (DNDi) and received approval in late 2018. While it is being made gradually available, nitirimox-eftorinithine combination therapy, or NECT, is a safe, highly effective but cumbersome treatment developed by MSF, DNDi and Epicentre in 2009.

MSF treated 48 people for sleeping sickness in 2019.

Tuberculosis (TB)

One-third of the world’s population is currently infected with the tuberculosis (TB) bacillus, but they have a latent form of the disease and so have no symptoms and cannot transmit it. In some people, the latent TB infection progresses to acute TB, often due to a weak immune system. Every year, over 10 million people develop active TB and 1.6 million die from it.

TB is spread through the air when infected people cough or sneeze. Not everyone infected with TB becomes ill, but 10 per cent will develop active TB at some point in their lives. The disease most often affects the lungs. Symptoms include a persistent cough, fever, weight loss, chest pain and breathlessness in the lead-up to death. Among people living with HIV, TB incidence is much higher, and is the leading cause of death.

Diagnosis of pulmonary TB depends on a sputum sample, which can be difficult to obtain from children. A molecular test that can give results in two hours and can detect a certain level of drug resistance is now being used, but it is costly and still requires a sputum sample, as well as a reliable power supply.

A course of treatment for uncomplicated TB takes a minimum of six months. When patients are resistant to the two most powerful first-line antibiotics (isoniazid and rifampicin), they are considered to have multidrug-resistant TB (MDR-TB). MDR-TB is not impossible to treat, but the drug regimen is arduous, can take up to two years and cause serious side effects. Extensively drug-resistant tuberculosis (XDR-TB) is identified when patients show resistance to the second-line drugs administered for MDR-TB. The treatment options for XDR-TB are very limited. Three of the newest drugs – bedaquiline, delamanid and pretomanid – can improve treatment outcomes for patients with drug-resistant versions of the disease, but their availability is currently limited.

MSF started 18,800 patients on treatment for TB in 2019, including 2,000 for MDR-TB.

Vaccinations

Immunisation is one of the most cost-effective medical interventions in public health; according to the World Health Organization, vaccination with a series of vaccines recommended by WHO and MSF prevents between two and three million deaths each year. Currently, these vaccines are BCG (against tuberculosis), poliomyelitis, DTP (diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis), hepatitis B, Haemophilus influenzae type b (Hib), conjugate pneumococcal, rotavirus, measles rubella, yellow fever and human papillomavirus – although not all vaccines are recommended everywhere.

In countries where vaccination coverage is generally low, MSF strives to offer routine vaccinations for children under five as part of our basic healthcare programme. Vaccination also forms a key part of MSF’s response to outbreaks of vaccine-preventable diseases such as measles, cholera, yellow fever and meningitis. In humanitarian emergencies, frequently involving population displacements or the rapid deterioration of living conditions and health, MSF conducts large-scale preventive campaigns to reduce the burden of vaccine-preventable diseases as well as to reduce the risk of outbreaks, such as measles or cholera.

MSF carried out 2,271,900 routine vaccinations in 2019.

Water and sanitation

Safe water and good sanitation are essential to medical activities. MSF teams make sure there is a clean water supply and a waste management system in all the health facilities where we work.

In emergencies, MSF assists in the provision of safe water and adequate sanitation. Drinking water and waste disposal are among the first priorities. Where a safe water source cannot be found close by, water in containers is trucked in. Staff conduct information campaigns to promote the use of sanitation facilities and ensure good hygiene practices.
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MSF is a non-profit organisation. It was founded in Paris, France in 1971. Today, MSF is a worldwide movement of 25 associations. Thousands of health professionals, logistical and administrative staff manage projects in more than 70 countries worldwide. MSF International is based in Geneva, Switzerland.

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Subhan calms his daughter Afia as she receives an injection for cutaneous leishmaniasis at MSF’s treatment centre in Naseerullah Khan Babar Memorial hospital, Peshawar, Pakistan, June 2019. © Nasir Chafoor/MSF