

# Médecins Sans Frontières

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# What is MSF?

MSF is an international, medical, humanitarian organisation, funded mostly by private donations

We were founded in 1971, by a group of French doctors and journalists

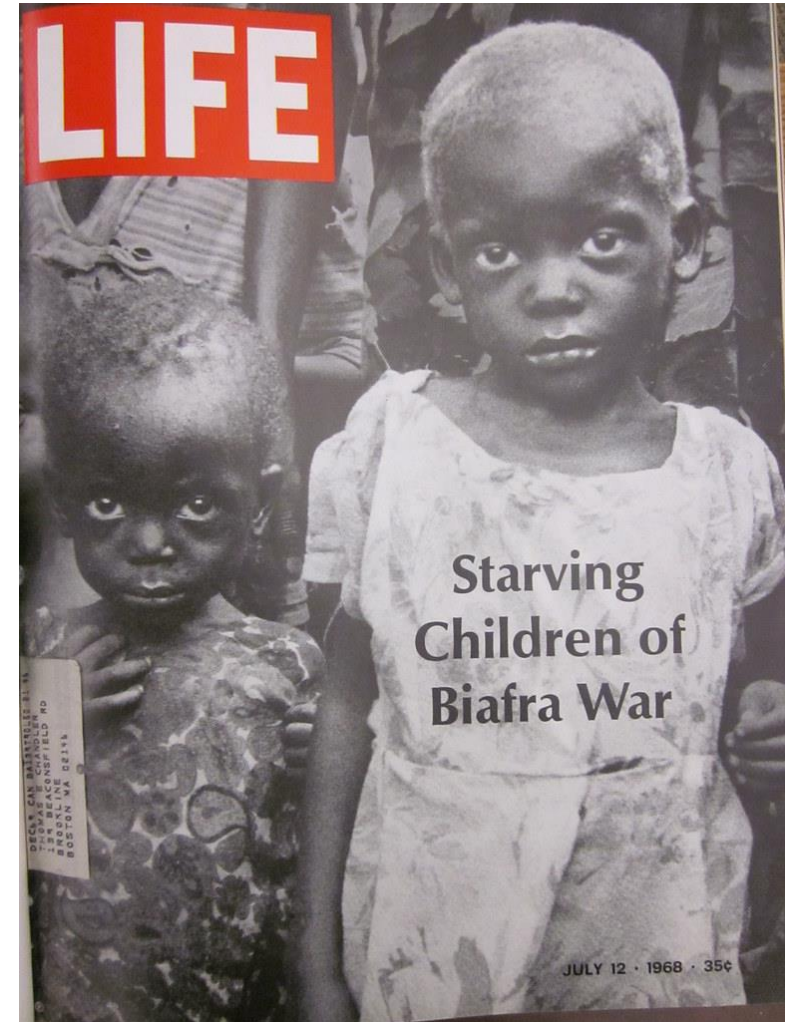


*A malnourished child is assessed in Nigeria.*

# Brief History of MSF

Key moment:  
The Biafra war  
(1968) and  
ICRC's position

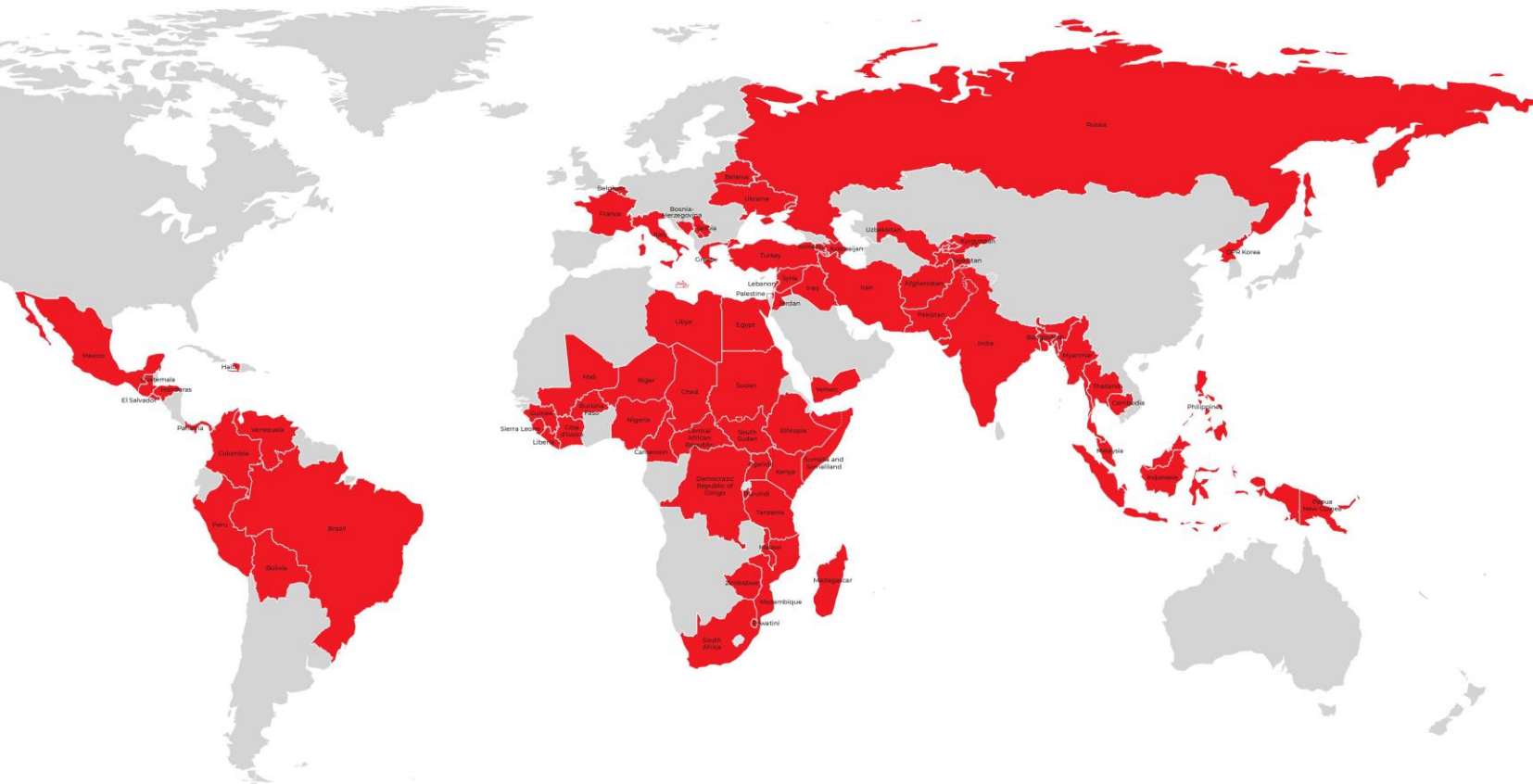
MSF is an  
international  
movement, with  
most of its  
operational HQs in  
Europe (Paris,  
Brussels,  
Amsterdam, Geneva  
and Barcelona).  
New HQ in Dakar.



*LIFE magazine coverage on Biafra*

# MSF Around the World

## MSF Programmes Around the World



Countries/regions in which MSF only carried out assessments or small-scale cross-border activities in 2021 do not feature on this map.



















- Around 67,000 staff
- More than 70 countries

MSF provides emergency medical aid to people affected by:

- Conflict
- Epidemics
- Disasters (man-made and natural)
- Neglected diseases
- Exclusion from healthcare



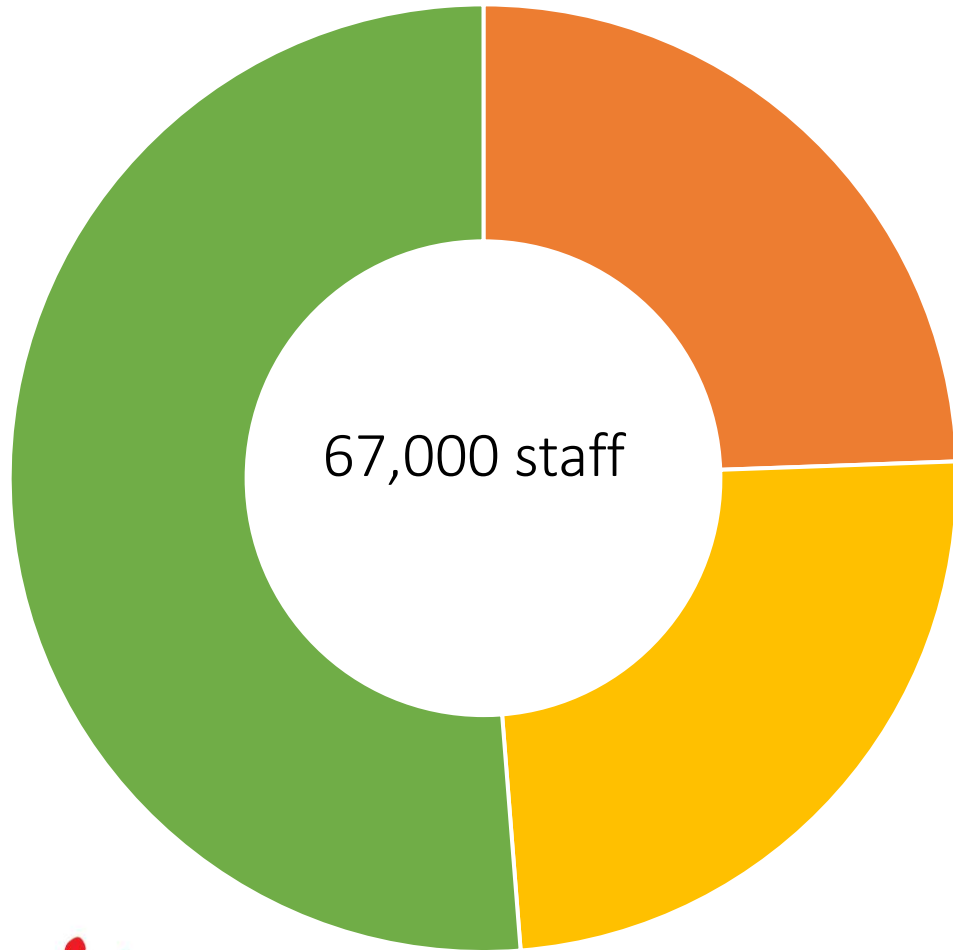
# 2023 in Numbers

<p>16,459,000 outpatient consultations</p> 	<p>3,724,500 malaria cases treated</p> 	<p>3,295,700 vaccinations against measles in response to an outbreak</p> 
<p>1,946,300 emergency room admissions</p> 	<p>1,368,700 patients admitted</p> 	<p>499,500 admissions of malnourished children to outpatient feeding programmes</p> 
<p>493,900 individual mental health consultations</p> 	<p>462,200 families received distributions of relief items</p> 	<p>337,000 births assisted, including caesarean sections</p> 
<p>161,000 severely malnourished children admitted to inpatient feeding programmes</p> 	<p>125,900 surgical interventions involving the incision, excision, manipulation or suturing of tissue, requiring anaesthesia</p> 	<p>70,600 patients treated for cholera</p> 
<p>62,200 people treated for sexual violence</p> 	<p>44,500 people receiving HIV antiretroviral treatment</p> 	<p>23,000 people with advanced HIV under MSF care</p> 
<p>22,700 people started on first-line tuberculosis treatment</p> 	<p>5,810 people started on hepatitis C treatment</p> 	<p>4,650 people rescued at sea</p> 



*A patient receives his COVID-19 vaccination in Venezuela.*

# MSF International Staff Roles - 2021

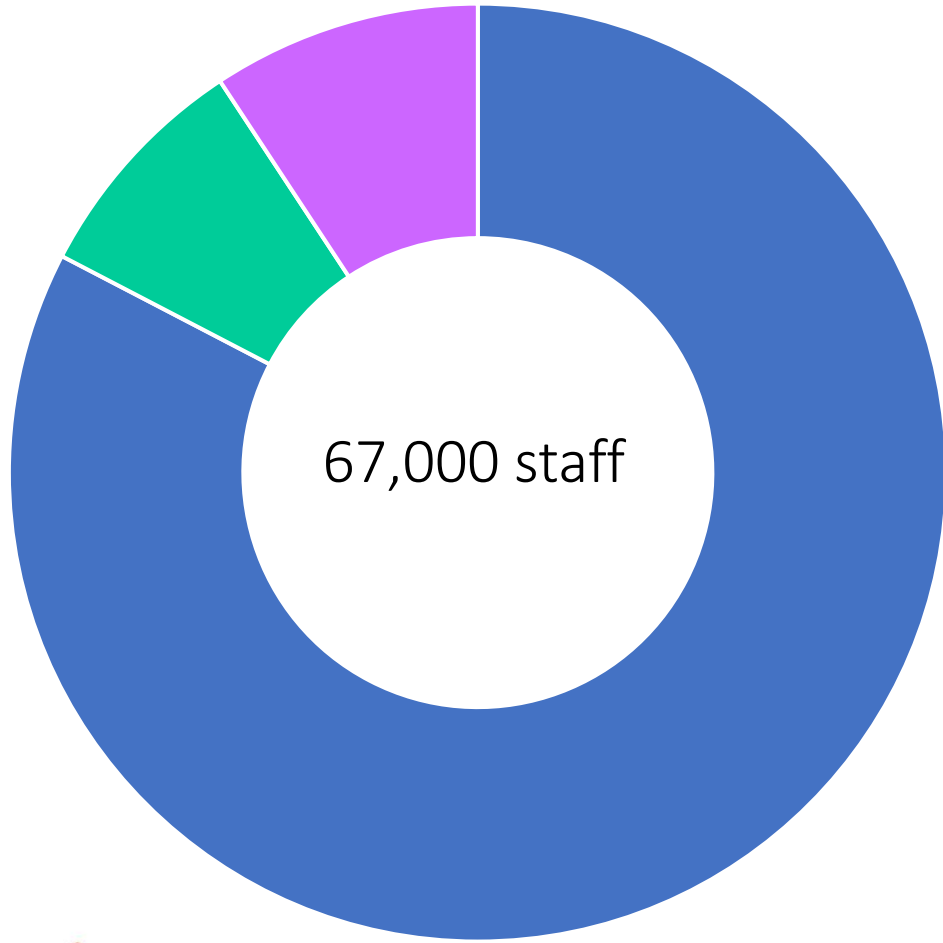


- Medical (25%)
- Paramedical (24%)
- Non-Medical (51%)



*An MSF staff member on board MSF's search and rescue ship in the Mediterranean.*

# MSF Staff Categories - 2021



- Locally Hired Project Staff (83%)
- International Project Staff (8%)
- Office Staff (9%)



*A patient undergoes physiotherapy in Haiti*

# Our Principles

*Guided by medical ethics: The patients always come first*

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We are:

- Impartial
- Neutral
- Independent

We treat patients regardless of:

- Race
- Religion
- Gender
- Politics
- Sexuality



*A young man has his wounds bandaged in Palestine.*



# Speaking Out - Témoignage

*"Silence has long been confused with neutrality, and has been presented as a necessary condition for humanitarian action.*

*From its beginning, MSF was created in opposition to this assumption. We are not sure that words can always save lives, but we know that silence can certainly kill."*

We speak out to:

- Report human rights abuses
- Demand access
- Raise awareness of crises
- Change policy
- Give our patients a voice
- Mobilise organisations and people



*James Orbinski, President of MSF, accepting the Nobel Peace Prize in 1999.*

# MSF, WHO and the West Africa Ebola Outbreak



MSF worker carrying a child in Ebola Treatment Centre, Getty

MSF has accumulated significant experience in dealing with Ebola outbreaks over the last 20 years. During the same period, operational capacities in the United Nations system have been gradually reduced through reforms. For example, the restructuring of the World Health Organization in Geneva has led to the closure of its viral hemorrhagic fever unit. Member states should be held accountable for an unceasing reduction of response capacity. A destructive spiral has materialised, leading to what we see today: lack of leadership, deficient coordination and, last but not least, a striking absence of operational capacity. This is compounded by the fact that the international community simply doesn't feel responsible for responding to what is happening in regions that are not perceived as politically or economically interesting.

Thomas Nierle (President) and Bruno Jochum (General Director) 29<sup>th</sup> August 2014

# Personal Experience with MSF

*Project Coordinator:*

*Central African Republic*

*Cote D'Ivoire*

*Ethiopia*

*Democratic Republic of Congo*

*Liberia (Ebola response)*

*Nigeria*



*Hospital of Rutshuru (DRC)*



# MSF and the UN

*The UN where?*

- *In the field: working with UN agencies field officers*
- *In urban centres: UN local offices*
- *In capitals*
- *Via global UN HQs*
- *In the GA*



*Field assessment trip Ethiopia 2013*



# Humanitarian Ambiguity and the UN

*The UN – Humanitarian NGOs relations:*

- *UN is not the leader of humanitarian NGOs and does not represent them*
- *UN is always pro-government: it cannot be neutral or independent*
- *UN peace-keepers have their own military agendas and practices (limited accountability)*
- *Relationships vary in practice between locations, agencies and individuals*



*UN APC in Lofa County - Liberia*