



THE MÉDECINS SANS FRONTIÈRES CHARTER

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 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.

EDITORIAL



Dr Chibuzo Okonta
Président

After responding to measles outbreaks, particularly in Niger, and providing medical-humanitarian support to populations affected by severe floods in Pakistan in 2022, our young operational directorate based in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire, has consolidated the foundations of our regular projects in our five countries of intervention in 2023.

In doing so, we faced an unprecedented diphtheria outbreak in northern Nigeria, where our emergency teams worked twice as hard to treat thousands of patients both in hospitalisation in our facilities and at home through a successful innovative approach.

Food insecurity in several countries where we work, such as Chad and Niger, has once again been one of our priorities. By working with local health authorities, we were able to treat a significant number of malnourished children.

Maternal and child health is another key focus of our operational strategy. We have continued to support health systems, both in monitoring pregnancies and assisting women through childbirth in several of our projects.

Finally, innovation remaining a cornerstone for our teams, we have continued our telemedicine project and care of epileptic patients in Côte d'Ivoire. At the same time, our teams have further developed our project in Kinshasa, aimed at improving the living conditions and medical care of people living with disabilities, who are too often stigmatised.

With a renewed ambition, we will continue in 2024 to prepare to respond to emergencies, to develop our patient and community-centered approaches, and certainly to open other projects beyond the African continent. As our charter reminds us, we are Doctors... Without Borders!



Dr SalHa Issoufou
Operations Director

Dr Chibuzo Okonta, President

Dr SalHa Issoufou, Director of Operations

KEY MEDICAL FIGURES IN 2023

DIPHTHERIA OUTBREAK

14'707 treated patients

8'091 Hospitalised patients (Nigeria)

PAEDIATRIC CARE

422'150 Outpatient paediatric consultations

40'310 Children hospitalised

REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH

46'600 prenatal consultations

6'900 postnatal consultations

3'600 family planning consultations

3'260 Deliveries

12 sexual gender-based violence cases taken in charge

20 post-abortion care

PEOPLE LIVING WITH DISABILITY

3'960 consultations

VACCINATION

266'000 Measles vaccinations

8'400 Routine vaccinations

NUTRITION

50'050 ambulatory Malnourished patients

14'200 Children hospitalised

TELEMEDECINE

8'500 consultations via telemedicine platforms, from which 755 patients referred to specialists

16'640 **pregnant women** benefited from routine tests (7'520 ultrasound)

MENTAL HEALTH & EPILEPSY

5'750 consultations for 2'468 patients' cohort.

102'000 sensitized persons

NIGER

CHAD

NIGERIA

CÔTE D'IVOIRE

CONGO (DRC)

5 COUNTRIES

10 PROJECTS

This projection, which conforms to the real surface, is based on the decimal grid of the map created by Arno Peters.

FOCUS : **EMERGENCY RESPONSE TO DIPHTHERIA OUTBREAK IN NIGERIA**

When the diphtheria outbreak was declared in Kano State, northern Nigeria, at the end of 2022, MSF recognised the magnitude of the challenge ahead in this

unprecedented in several ways. Nigeria recorded the highest number of confirmed cases in a calendar year in Africa since 1974^[1], with 13,387 cases reported in 2023. Kano

patients, positioning MSF as the key player in handling this outbreak, which also spread to other Central and West African countries. Previous diphtheria



state of nearly 20 million inhabitants, with over 4 million living in the capital city. The teams recall the response to the cholera outbreak the previous year and all its challenges. This outbreak proved to be

accounted for over 80% of laboratory-confirmed

outbreaks handled by MSF teams were not of the same

OVER A PERIOD OF 15 MONTHS, 14'000 PATIENTS HAVE BEEN TREATED. AMONG THEM 6'800 WERE HOSPITALISED.

^[1]WHO, The Global Health Observatory, website (link)



scale. For instance, the 2017/2018 outbreak in Bangladesh involved around 7,000 cases, while in 2019, only about 1,000 patients were treated in Yemen. The medical teams quickly had to increase their efforts to meet the needs. The first treatment center, initially with 30 beds, was quickly expanded to 85 beds and eventually reached a capacity of 115 hospitalised patients. A second center with 150 beds had to be opened. With the surge in cases in July 2023, MSF estimated the need for 500

hospitalisation beds. In collaboration with the Ministry of Health, an innovative approach was implemented: "Home-based Care," where the most stable patients continued their treatment at home. This approach, showing promising results, was also used in other countries and was integrated

into the national protocol of the Nigerian Ministry of Health. In addition to treating patients, MSF teams also provided training to nearly 65 health centers and emphasised the involvement of community leaders and the training of traditional medicine practitioners.



CÔTE d'IVOIRE

Staff in 2023: 98 - Budget: 3.1 M€



MEDICAL DATA BOUAKÉ

| | |
|---------|----------------------------------|
| 2'500 | Patients in the active cohort |
| 3'800 | Epileptic patients consultations |
| 1'500 | Mental Health consultations |
| 102'000 | People sensitised via |
| 770 | sessions |

We maintained our operations in Côte d'Ivoire in 2023, notably responding to the medical and humanitarian needs of refugees from Burkina Faso. Our project in Bouaké continues to assist people suffering from mental disorders and epilepsy. In Agboville, our teams continued the implementation of our telemedicine project.

Bouake Region

The project in Bouaké aims to provide quality mental health and epilepsy care to a population of 1.1 million inhabitants. This healthcare service is supported by community awareness activities about mental illness and epilepsy to reduce

stigma faced by patients and restore their dignity. We also strengthen the referral system at all levels of the healthcare pyramid. Advocacy actions are implemented to improve patient care at the local and national levels.

Agboville District

Ivory Coast has initiated a significant hospital reform in which telemedicine plays a crucial role. Since 2021, our teams, in partnership with the Ministry of Health, have implemented a telemedi-



cine project addressing the priorities and secondary care needs of the district's population. The new equipment enables improved patient care, particularly in gynecology, pediatrics, and cardiovascular diseases.

Response to the influx of refugees in Northern Côte d'Ivoire

Since 2020, following repeated attacks by armed groups in southern Burkina Faso, we estimate that more than 11,000 people have sought refuge across the

border. In response to the identified needs, MSF is developing a project to provide primary healthcare to refugees and host populations. This includes mobile clinics and support to health centers.

MEDICAL DATA AGBOVILLE

| | |
|--------|-----------------------------------|
| 66'000 | Consultations |
| 17'000 | Prenatal consultations |
| 8'500 | Telemedicine consultations |
| 755 | Patients referred to tele-experts |

MEDICAL DATA NORTHERN REGION

| | |
|--------|---------------------------------|
| 23'000 | Consultations among which |
| 2'000 | Refugees |
| 650 | Deliveries |
| 7'400 | Nutrition outpatients treatment |
| 14'000 | Patients treated for Malaria |



CHAD

Staff in 2023: 56 - Budget: 4.3 M€



MEDICAL DATA N'DJAMENA

| | |
|---------|---|
| 266'000 | Vaccinated Children (Measles) |
| 140'000 | Consultations |
| 55'500 | Malnourished patients treated (ambulatory) |
| 2'700 | Malnourished patients treated (hospitalisation) |
| 4'500 | Hospitalised Children |

In the country since 2022, our teams continue to implement a project to manage paediatric care, including malnutrition, in the city of N'Djamena.

In June 2022, the Chadian government issued a call for help to all its technical and financial partners, as well as humanitarian aid organizations. This call follows an acute nutrition crisis affecting the country, especially in the city of N'Djamena. This crisis stems from observed food deficits, putting thousands of people at risk of famine. In this context, MSF launched an emergency project to address not only the nutritional situation (with a malnutrition rate in N'Djamena of 11.7% in

2022) but also other crises faced by the country (violence, floods, measles). In 2023, we continued our activities in N'Djamena by adapting our approach from emergency response to a regular project. Our medical teams did a handover to the Ministry of Health in the Gozator district to focus efforts on the Toukra district, where they strive to reduce

morbidity and mortality among children under 5. This involves operational activities such as pediatric care, management at the Therapeutic Feeding Center (TFC), and support for 5 outpatient nutrition units. Simultaneously, MSF continues to support the Ministry of Health in responding to humanitarian emergencies in the country.



DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO (DRC)

Staff in 2023: 33 - Budget: 1.8 M€



MEDICAL DATA KINSHASA

3'960 Consultations of patients living with disability

MSF works in the city of Kinshasa with people living with disabilities, who have very limited access to healthcare and live in very difficult conditions.

Kinshasa Project

The stigma faced by people living with disabilities leads to their impoverishment and isolation. They are excluded from even the most basic services needed for dignified living and have very little access to healthcare. In this context, Médecins Sans Frontières teams operates in

the city of Kinshasa to support this community, providing both primary and

specialised healthcare services. To ensure the sustainability of the implemented activities, MSF is developing partnerships with civil society actors and administrative and traditional authorities in our areas of intervention. To have a tangible impact on the daily lives of people living with disabilities, our logistics teams have worked throughout the year to improve living conditions in shelters. This includes installing sewage systems, refurbishing septic tanks, and setting up tanks for clean drinking water.



NIGER

Staff in 2023: 202 - Budget: 8.1 M€



MEDICAL DATA MADAOUA

| | |
|----------------|------------------------------------|
| 117'200 | Consultations, among which |
| 29'900 | <i>Paediatric patients</i> |
| 23'000 | Hospitalised patients, among which |
| 12'500 | <i>Children under 5 y/o.</i> |
| 5'300 | Patients in Nutrition centers |
| 2'600 | Children vaccinated |

In Niger, our teams are in Tahoua and Maradi regions. They focused their interventions on maternal and child health, as well as responding to outbreak and other health emergencies.

Madaoua Health District

For several years, harvests in the region have met only about 50% of the estimated needs of the population, resulting in a challenging nutritional situation. This, combined with arid climatic conditions, has significantly worsened health indicators, leading to a resurgence of vector-borne and water-borne diseases such as malaria and cholera. In

response to a support request from health authorities, MSF and the Ministry of Health implemented preventive and curative activities throughout the district. This was achieved through community health

workers from the Ministry of Health, as well as support to health centers, health posts, and the Madaoua District Hospital. In collaboration with the Ministry of Health, MSF provides free care to children from 0 to 5 and



raises community awareness through health messages. With the establishment of an early warning system for outbreaks, our teams have been able to respond effectively to medical and humanitarian emergencies.

Guidan Roundji Health District

In the Guidan Roundji district, Médecins Sans Frontières operates in the fields of paediatrics and nutrition. Like other districts in the Maradi region, Guidan Roundji faces several humanitarian challenges: concerning food insecurity, the arrival of Nigerian refugees, an increase in malaria cases, and sporadic outbreaks of meningitis and yellow fever. Our teams have supported the Ministry of Health by assisting the Guidan Roundji District Hospital, establishing temporary paediatric units to handle malaria peaks, supporting 27 health facilities, and providing assistance to 5 integrated health centers, each serving a specific health zones.

| MEDICAL DATA GUIDAN ROUMDJI | |
|-----------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 68'800 | Consultations, among which |
| 13'300 | Children under 5 y/o. |
| 23'900 | Paediatric consultations |
| 21'100 | Hospitalised patients, among which |
| 10'600 | Children under 5 y/o. |
| 9'500 | Patients in Nutrition centers |
| 3'200 | Children vaccinated |



NIGERIA

Staff in 2023: 126 - Budget: 6.7 M€



In 2023, MSF maintained medical and humanitarian support in the regions of Kano and Cross River. Kano’s project focuses on maternal and child health, including nutrition, basic care for NOMA, and emergency response, particularly for cholera and diphtheria. Our project in the south, in the Cross River region, provides primary care, ensures medical referrals, and prepares for potential health emergencies.

Kano State

The project has been operational since 2020. MSF teams support the Ministry of Health in four specific areas: MSF WaCA Internal Primary health care, including nutritional care, through outpatient services with a particular focus on children under

5 years old. Maternal and child health, aiming to reduce maternal and neonatal morbidity and mortality in Kano State. Emergency interventions. And finally, support for the continuing education of healthcare providers in Kano through the establishment of the MSF Academy.

MEDICAL DATA KANO

| | |
|--------|---|
| 70’000 | Consultations among which |
| 65’000 | Children under 5. |
| 2’600 | Deliveries |
| 22’900 | Antenatal consultations |
| 5’100 | Postnatal consultations |
| 2’400 | Family planning consultations |
| 22’200 | Malnourished patients treated (ambulatory) |
| 1’710 | Malnourished patients treated (hospitalisation) |



This activity, started in 2022, continued in 2023 to support operations.

Akampka - Cross River State

Faced with the influx of approximately 15,000 refugees from Cameroon living within a host community estimated at around 50,000 people, existing health services are insufficient to accommodate the new arrivals. Geographical realities, poor road networks as well as lack of communication networks make access to healthcare difficult. Our operations started in March 2022 and continued throughout 2023, supporting two healthcare facilities (Akor and Old Ndebeji) to provide primary healthcare. Our objective is to contribute to the reduction of morbidity and mortality among children under 5 and pregnant women. These activities are supported by increased community awareness, capacities building of health workers, and providing functional ambulance system for medical referrals to other more suitable healthcare facilities. The project also aims to develop emergency response capaci-

ties within the state as well as in other neighboring southern states.

MEDICAL DATA CROSS RIVER

| | |
|---------------|-------------------------------|
| 24'700 | Consultations among which |
| 4'400 | <i>Children under 5</i> |
| 710 | Deliveries |
| 3'400 | Ante-natal consultations |
| 1'800 | Post-natal consultations |
| 1'200 | Family planning consultations |
| 700 | Family planning consultations |
| 2'600 | Vaccinated Children |
| 7'000 | Hospitalised Children |
| 20 | Post abortion care |



