



أطباء بلا حدود

Médecins Sans Frontières in Yemen Annual Report 2021



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The MSF Charter

All MSF 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 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.



MSF Field Hospital in Mocha © Athmar Mohammed/MSF

2. Data and Figures 2021

MSF medical data



12,217

War and violence related injuries treated



31,973

Deliveries assisted



2,539

Malaria cases treated



253,721

Patients received in Emergency rooms



9,951

Neonates admitted



1,826

Dengue fever cases treated



29,798

Surgical interventions performed



8,775

Malnourished children treated



1,078

Measles cases treated



14,033

Children admitted to paediatric wards



92,670

Outpatient departments consultations



39,815

Antenatal and postnatal care consultations



46,595

Mobile clinics consultations



35,995

Referrals to other health facilities

MSF logistic

861

tons of medical supplies received at Yemen



Human resources

2,829

Number of MSF personnel



1,489

Number of Ministry of Health personnel receiving incentives



Budget

84,627,929

EUROS



(3)

**The Year in Review:
MSF Regular Projects**

ADEN GOVERNORATE

MSF opened a hospital for emergent traumatology and surgery within **Al Sadaqah Hospital** complex in Aden in 2012 and has been running it independently since then. It is equipped with an emergency room, an inpatient ward, an intensive care unit, three operating theatres, an outpatient follow-up department, isolation rooms and a microbiology lab to identify bacterial resistance. MSF is receiving war-wounded patients through a referral system, alongside other trauma cases from Aden and surrounding governorates, and provides free medical care to all, including physiotherapy.

In 2021, the hospital started reconstructive interventions with internal fixations for bone fractures.

Furthermore, a mental health unit was established early 2021 to assist patients affected by the conflict, including victims of landmines, stray bullets and war-wounded.

Key challenge:

Bacterial resistance is one of the most important medical complications that MSF teams face in the hospital, as the use of antibiotics in Yemen is inappropriate, leading to the spread of antibiotic-resistant bacteria. As a result, some patients have to stay in the isolation department for weeks or even months for treatment before they fully recover.

6,508 surgeries performed and 4,771 emergency cases treated in Aden Trauma Hospital



ER doctor and nurse providing medical care to a patient with a mine explosion injury at MSF trauma hospital in Aden. © Athmar Mohammed/MS

AL HUDAYDAH GOVERNORATE

MSF has been working in **Al Salakhana and Ad Dahi** Hospitals in a complementary approach since 2019, supporting emergency care & surgery, and paediatric & neonatal care respectively, as well as epidemic response in both locations. In both facilities, MSF and Ministry of Health teams co-manage the emergency room, inpatient department and high dependency unit. While in Al Salakhana, MSF's support focuses on surgical cases, Ad Dahi Hospital's inpatient department specializes in paediatric and neonatal care. In both locations, medical teams routinely respond to neglected tropical diseases such as malaria and dengue.

In 2021, an increased focus has been put on paediatric and neonatal care in Ad Dahi Hospital, where the admissions rate increased by 65% and where the bed capacity was consequently doubled (from 20 to 40 beds). MSF also built a new emergency ward to improve the provision of quality emergency care to the patients in the area.

Throughout the year, various medical trainings were conducted for both Ministry of Health and MSF staff.

Regarding outbreak response, MSF set up COVID-19 screening and isolation tents in both locations and supported the COVID-19 isolation centre in Al Salakhana Hospital during the second half of 2021.

Additionally, MSF helped responding to an acute watery diarrhoea (AWD) outbreak in Ad Dahi Hospital, providing two tents to expand the capacity of

the diarrhoea treatment centre from 20 to 56 beds. This allowed to accommodate the significant overflow of AWD patients, most of whom were also diagnosed with underlying severe acute malnutrition.

In 2022, MSF plans to implement a paediatric emergency referral system in districts surrounding Ad-Dahi, in order to reduce the paediatric morbidity and mortality through timely access to free quality emergency health care. MSF in collaboration with the Ministry of Health has been running **Al-Qanawis Mother and Child Hospital** since December 2020 to provide maternity services including caesarean sections, inpatient neonatal care as well as psychological counselling. MSF is providing incentives to the Ministry of Health staff and supporting the laboratory, pharmacy and logistics activities in the hospital. A referral

system from Al-Qanawis Hospital to various hospitals in Hajjah city and Al Hudaydah city was put in place for patients requiring further medical care. In 2021, MSF built a new operating theatre in the hospital.

In 2022, MSF plans to inaugurate a paediatric ward and an inpatient therapeutic feeding centre for the treatment of malnourished children.

Finally, MSF conducted two training sessions for 20 Ministry of Health midwives from Haiz and Tuhayta area and provided a punctual in-kind donation to Tuhayta PHCC to support stabilization, outpatient and emergency care.



Orthopaedic surgeons conducting a surgery in the operation theatre of Al Salakhana Hospital supported by MSF in Al Hudaydah. © Majd Aljunaid/MSF



Nurse Tahani Abdu Mohammad holding baby Aisha in the Al-Qanawis mother and child hospital supported by MSF in Al Hudaydah © Nasir Ghafoor/MSF

**20,248 patients admitted in Ad Dahi Hospital
18,929 patients admitted in Al Salakhana Hospital
3,798 births assisted, and 903 neonates admitted in Al-Qanawis Hospital**

Key challenges:

MSF assists pregnant women and neonates presenting preventable medical conditions that could be addressed by implementing simple antenatal and postnatal care (for instance 40% of the mothers admitted suffered from anaemia that can be prevented by ANC Acid Folic treatment). Furthermore, medical teams are often confronted with patients presenting at a very late stage, with severe medical and nutritional complications which sometimes exceed the capacity of the MSF-supported hospitals.

AMRAN GOVERNORATE

MSF started working in Amran governorate in 2010 in response to the growing needs of people displaced by the conflict in Sa'ada. Since then, MSF has been supporting and working with the health authorities in **Al Salam Hospital in Khameer District and Huth District Hospital**. In the Al Salam Hospital, MSF is running an emergency room, intensive care unit, operating theatre, full paediatric services with neonate department, maternity, inpatient departments, a physiotherapy

department, an isolation unit and all support services. Additionally, MSF provides incentives to the Ministry of Health staff in the MSF-supported departments and covers the referral transportation costs for emergency obstetric cases from Khameer District to Al Salam hospital and from Al Salam hospital to Sana'a for tertiary healthcare.

For over 11 years, MSF supported Huth Hospital's emergency room, paediatric ward, inpatient therapeutic feeding centre,

maternity ward and isolation unit. In December 2021 these services were handed over to the Ministry of Health as MSF will fully withdraw its support from the hospital by March 2022.

In 2022, MSF plans to start supporting the maternity and paediatric departments in **Habur Zuleymah District Hospital**.



Physiotherapist Khadija Ali conducting last therapy session with Rawda, who went through physiotherapy for one year following burn injuries. ©Hareth Mohammed/MSF

37,301 emergency consultations and 13,772 admissions in Al-Salam Hospital

Key challenge:

As in many other locations, primary health care in the area is not sufficient. In 2021, MSF teams have observed an increase of measles and whooping cough cases due to EPI program gaps, attributed to the lack of cold chain capacity coupled with insufficient funding to conduct vaccinations campaigns.

HAJJAH GOVERNORATE

MSF has been supporting **Abs General Hospital (AGH)** since 2015, gradually raising its capacity from 30 to 288 beds over the years. In collaboration with the Ministry of Health, MSF is running the emergency room, operating theatre and surgical ward, paediatric and neonate wards, inpatient therapeutic feeding centre, maternity department and isolation unit; MSF also provides mental health care to the patients in the MSF-supported departments. Moreover, MSF provides incentives to the Ministry of Health staff in these departments, and supports the laboratory, pharmacy and logistics activities in the hospital. A system is in place to refer the patients requiring further medical care from AGH to various hospitals in Sana'a, Hajjah city and Al Hudaydah city. In addition, an outreach and surveillance team operates in the camps for internally displaced people and in the surrounding host communities in Abs District and parts of Al Hudaydah Governorate to identify and refer patients to AGH, as well

as to monitor disease outbreaks and displacements at community level.

In Hajjah city, MSF had been supporting **Al-Jumhuri Authority Hospital** since 2015. The support covered the emergency room, the operating theatre, the inpatient surgical department, the intensive care unit and the provision of mental health services. As announced in 2020, MSF has withdrawn its support to the emergency room in March 2021

and to the operating theatre, surgical inpatient department and intensive care unit in May 2021. At the same time (May 2021) MSF started running a specialized mental health clinic that provides people affected by the conflict with psychoeducation, counselling and psychotherapy, as well as psychiatric care to those with severe mental health conditions. The team in Hajjah also follows up on the medical referrals from AGH to Al-Jumhuri Authority Hospital in Hajjah city.



A view of the inpatient therapeutic feeding centre supported by MSF at Abs General Hospital in Hajjah. In times of peaks in malnutrition cases in 2021, the capacity was increased from 50 to 70 beds. © Nuha Haider/MSF

**78,995 patients seen in the emergency room in Abs General Hospital
3,152 counselling sessions and 2,410 psychiatric consultations in Hajjah
Al-Jumhuri Hospital**

Key challenges:

Most MSF-supported departments in Abs Hospital remain overwhelmed, especially the emergency room, the maternity and the inpatient therapeutic treatment centre. The average bed occupancy rate in the maternity reached 120% in 2021 due to the lack of available space to extend its capacity. The emergency room also serves as an outpatient department and has seen a whopping 23% consultations increase in 2021 compared to 2020. The limited availability of quality services at primary healthcare level contributes to overloading the hospital and to worsening the severity of the cases presenting at the hospital. For instance, only 10% of women who delivered in the hospital had attended at least one antenatal care consultation. Increased support to the primary health care system would be needed to relieve the pressure on the hospital.

IBB GOVERNORATE

MSF has been working in **Al Qa'idah General Rural Hospital of Dhi As Sufal District** since 2016. MSF is providing free medical services in the emergency room, operational theatre, intensive care unit and inpatient department, including physiotherapy and mental health care to patients of all age groups affected by severe medical conditions. MSF also provides support to the laboratory, blood bank and X-ray departments and supports mass casualty management capacity.

In August 2021, MSF opened a diarrhoea treatment unit for acute watery diarrhoea patients.

In 2022, MSF will support the Ministry of Health to take over the management of orthopaedic surgeries and the neonatal department.

Furthermore, MSF will implement an emergency referral system in districts surrounding Al Qa'idah Hospital in order to reduce morbidity and the mortality rate by providing timely access to quality emergency care.



MSF Health promotion team holding an awareness session to educate the local communities on improving health practices in Ibb governorate. © MSF

16,854 patients admitted and 4,129 surgeries performed in Al Qa'idah General Hospital

Key challenge:

The medical teams observe poor community awareness about communicable diseases and the risk of outbreaks. Unfortunately, as in other locations throughout Yemen, MSF teams routinely struggle to gain access to the communities for awareness and prevention activities.

MA'RIB GOVERNORATE

MSF runs a **mobile clinics programme** available to all internally displaced people (IDPs) and other marginalized communities such as Al Muhamasheen and African migrants, as well as the local population. The programme covers eight sites in the city and IDP camps, and the **Al Ramsah primary healthcare centre** in Al Wadi District. MSF provides primary healthcare to patients of all age groups, malnutrition treatment for children, mental health support and reproductive healthcare. MSF also covers referrals to secondary healthcare for children under five suffering from malnutrition and respiratory tract

infections, and emergency cases of pregnant women.

MSF launched an emergency intervention in **Marib General Hospital** in March 2021 and continued throughout the year to increase the hospital's capacity to deal with a regular influx of war-wounded and other trauma cases. MSF provides assistance to the emergency room, intensive care unit and operating theatre of the hospital through technical support, infection prevention and control, medical supplies and human resources.



MSF community health workers walking towards Al-Sweida camp in Marib. The community health workers identify cases of malnutrition, monitor disease outbreaks and deliver health promotion messages to people in the camp. ©Hesham Al Hilali

46,595 consultations conducted in mobile clinics
More than 6,000 war-wounded received at Marib General Hospital

Key challenge:

Due to the recurrent episodes of fighting, Ma'rib city continues to receive regular waves of IDPs from Ma'rib governorate and surrounding areas, resulting in an exponential increase of needs, which urgently requires the intervention of additional humanitarian actors.

SA'ADA GOVERNORATE

MSF first started working in Sa'ada Governorate in 2007 and provided medical care to people affected by the conflict for five years before withdrawing from the area. In 2015 MSF resumed its activities in the governorate supporting the **Haydan Rural Hospital**, running the emergency room, maternity unit, inpatient and outpatient departments, paediatrics ward, neonate unit, X-ray and various support services. MSF is also managing referrals of patients with complicated deliveries and severe acute malnutrition from the remote areas of Haydan District. Due to an increase in such cases coming from Lower Dhu'yab, in July 2021 MSF started working in **Jawhar PHCC**, supporting primary

healthcare including basic emergency obstetric and newborn care (BEMONC), providing capacity building and incentives to Ministry of Health staff, as well as medical supplies. A referral pathway between the PHCC and Haydan Hospital has also been established.

In addition, MSF occasionally supports **Al-Jumhuri Hospital** in Sa'ada with incentives and supplies for the inpatient department, stabilization unit and the management of mass causality incidents.

In 2022, MSF plans to start supporting Al-Ghafrah PHU in Ad-Daher District with the same activities provided in Jawhar PHCC.



MSF team working to construct medical wards to expand the capacity of Haydan hospital that was damaged by an airstrike in 2017. © Hareth Mohammed/MSF

10,718 ER consultations in Haydan Rural Hospital

Key challenge:

The patients face many challenges accessing healthcare in general, and services for non-communicable diseases (NCDs) in particular. As a result, MSF's outpatient department is chronically overwhelmed with patients seeking NCD care.

TAIZ GOVERNORATE

Since 2015, MSF has been independently running a **Mother and Child Hospital** in Taiz Houban, offering trauma care, maternity services for high-risk and complicated cases, paediatric and neonatal inpatient care and inpatient therapeutic feeding. The hospital also provides antenatal care for complicated pregnancies, alongside family planning and EPI vaccinations. For those who require further specialized care, MSF provides referrals to other health facilities

in the area. Outside the hospital, MSF provides drinking water to the internally displaced people and vulnerable host community through a water distribution point in Wadi Ameer area.

In Taiz city, MSF ended its support to Yemeni Swedish Children's Hospital and Al-Thawra Hospital in June 2021. MSF identified free and specialised secondary level reproductive healthcare services to be one of the main needs for the Taiz city

population, and therefore started supporting the **Al-Jumhuri Hospital** from June 2021. MSF in collaboration with Ministry of Health runs the maternal and neonatal healthcare activities in the hospital. MSF also offers technical support, incentives to Ministry of Health staff, medical and logistical supplies to run the maternity unit including caesarean section services. In 2022, MSF plans to start **primary healthcare services in Salah district** of Taiz



Wael Abdul Jabbar Mahyub holding his twin daughters Heba and Malath who are under treatment at special care baby unit supported by MSF at Al Ju mhouri hospital in Taiz City.

©Nasir Ghafoor/MSF



Fare' Safwan, who is suffering from fever and cough, receives treatment in the respiratory unit of MSF's Mother and Child hospital in Houban.

©Nuha Haider/MSF

MSF set up the **Mocha Surgical Field Hospital** for emergency surgery in 2018, and has been running it independently since then, providing 24/7 free quality care. It has an emergency room, operating theatre, intensive care unit and inpatient department, and was equipped with a laboratory, blood bank and X-ray

machine. The initial capacity of 25 beds was quickly increased to 36 beds, including 5 intensive care beds. The hospital offers lifesaving surgery for acute trauma, life-threatening surgical conditions and pregnant women requiring urgent surgery, as well as physiotherapy and outpatient care for the follow-up of the

patients who were treated in the hospital. Stabilization and referral to Ministry of Health hospitals are offered to patients who don't fit MSF's admission criteria, while in-criteria patients exceeding Mocha Hospital's capacity are referred by MSF ambulance to MSF's Trauma Hospital in Aden.

Finally, MSF provided punctual support through donations to Mafraq PHCC in order to assist the Ministry of Health with the management of a malaria outbreak.



MSF nurse giving medical care to a patient in the intensive care unit at Mocha hospital.

© Athmar Mohammed/MSF

**11,574 births assisted including 955 by C-sections in Taiz Houban and Taiz City
5,943 emergency cases treated, and 2,824 surgeries performed in Mocha**

Key challenges:

In all the hospitals MSF runs or supports in Taiz Governorate, the needs widely exceed capacities, due to the lack of available or affordable care in Ministry of Health facilities, and the insufficient presence of other humanitarian actors. As an example, Taiz Houban had to redirect over 9000 uncomplicated cases to primary healthcare facilities in 2021; unfortunately, some of these patients were unable to access the care they needed due to financial and other obstacles.

Throughout Yemen, MSF programs continue to face drug ruptures and shortages due to lengthy administrative processes for the importation of drugs and delays due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

4. Punctual support and donations in other Governorates



Mahnaf Hospital, Abyan governorate. © Athmar Mohammed/MSF

ABYAN GOVERNORATE

During the 1st quarter 2021, MSF supported **Mahfad Hospital** with drugs and medical equipment, with a particular focus on the maternity department. The donation included sterilization equipment and relevant trainings to Ministry of Health staff to improve infection control and

prevention measures, as well as a generator to allow the hospital to run during the frequent power cuts.

MSF has been supporting the emergency department in **Manhaf Hospital** (Lawdar District) since 2015 with incentives, in-

kind donations, infrastructure improvements and trainings, in order to improve access to secondary health care for the general population. In July 2021, MSF added support to the operation theatre following an influx of war-wounded to address urgent surgical needs.

AD DHALE GOVERNORATE

Early 2021, in response to an influx of war-wounded patients, MSF started supporting Ghul AL Daimah PHCC in Murais district for the stabilization of cases and referral to other hospitals, providing medical supplies and incentives for the medical team.

AL BAYDAH GOVERNORATE

In September-October 2021, when the conflict escalated in the area, MSF provided trauma drugs and surgical kits to As Swma'h Hospital in response to a high influx of war-wounded from the active frontlines.

AL JAWF GOVERNORATE

MSF has been providing technical support to Al Hazm General Hospital for the improvement of the mass casualty response in the emergency room since February 2021, and giving incentives to the ER, sterilization and hygienist teams.

MSF also supported Al Matammah Primary Health Care Unit for a period of three months with incentives, in-kind donations, infrastructure improvements and trainings, in order to contribute to improved access to primary health care for migrants and the general population

LAHJ GOVERNORATE

MSF has been supporting an Advanced Medical Post in Karesh PHCC since 2016, due to the high number of trauma cases seeking care there. MSF provides regular medical supplies for trauma cases, in addition to trainings and incentives for medical staff.

SANA'A GOVERNORATE

MSF continued to support to Al-Kuwait, Al-Thawra and Al Jumhuri Hospitals to respond to mass casualty incidents through donations of emergency medical supplies and equipment. MSF further donated drugs and medical supplies on quarterly basis to Al-Sabeen Mother and

Child Hospital to support services in the emergency room, maternity unit, operating theatre, inpatient care and laboratory. Palestine Mother and Child Hospital was also provided with occasional donations for the emergency room, maternity and operation theatre. In addition, MSF supported the waste management of the hospital with an incinerator and provided training and coaching to the Ministry of Health staff in this regard. Finally, MSF started supporting Sana'a central laboratory's microbiology department.

SHABWAH GOVERNORATE

In October 2021, after a shift in the frontline, MSF provided the local health authorities in Shabwah with dressing kits, trauma kits and other medication and medical materials needed to support emergency and surgical care.

Furthermore, MSF intervened in Bayhan Hospital due to an increase of trauma cases coming from Al Baydah Governorate; trainings were provided to the emergency room team, as well as incentives, ambulance support for referrals, and regular medical donations

5. COVID-19 Response

From the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic until the end of 2021, close to 300 million people had been infected worldwide and over 5 million of those had lost their lives due to the virus. It therefore stands to reason that COVID-19 has also taken its toll on Yemenis, but there are no reliable statistics on the actual COVID-19 burden, notably due to extremely limited testing throughout Yemen.

The limited data which is available from MSF-supported COVID-19 treatment centres points towards high levels of morbidity and mortality, the latter being likely due to patients seeking healthcare at a late stage – often, too late – when their condition is very critical. This can be attributed to a lack of adequate risk communication and prevention measures, and little trust in a generally collapsed healthcare system.

From the onset of the pandemic, MSF has been working on the COVID-19 response in Yemen, supporting Ministry of Health hospitals, running COVID-19 treatment centres, conducting trainings on infection prevention and control measures, triage and screening, health promotion, etc. MSF also put in place prevention measures in all the facilities it runs or supports so that they could continue to provide essential healthcare.

In 2021, MSF ran or supported six COVID-19 treatment centres to respond to the high number of patients during the successive COVID-19 waves.



In the intensive care unit of Al Kuwait hospital in Sana'a, the medical teams worked around the clock to admit patients and save their lives. © Hareth Mohammed/MSF

- **In Al Kuwait Hospital in Sana'a**, MSF continuously supported the COVID-19 treatment centre whose inpatient department has a maximum capacity of 72 beds, in addition to 15 beds in the intensive care unit and 7 in the high dependency unit.
- **In Khamer district**, Amran governorate, MSF is still operating a COVID-19 treatment unit to manage mild to moderate Covid-19 cases.
- **In Al Jumhuri Hospital in Sana'a**, MSF set up a COVID-19 treatment centre to manage the overflow of Al Kuwait hospital. Between April and November, MSF managed a 25-bed inpatient department and co-managed a 15-bed intensive care unit with Ministry of Health staff.
- **In Al Jumhouria Hospital in Aden**, MSF opened and operated a COVID-19 treatment centre between March and June. Ran by a team of close to 200 MSF staff, it had a capacity of 13 intensive care beds, and 67 inpatient beds and admitted 664 COVID-19 patients during the mentioned period.
- **In Al Sadaqa Hospital in Aden**, MSF together with the Ministry of Health ran a 35-beds COVID-19 treatment center from April 2021 to December 2021, and admitted 405 COVID-19 patients.
- **In Al Sahul COVID-19 treatment centre in Ibb**, MSF has been supporting the Ministry of Health's 18-beds intensive care unit and a 25-beds inpatient department since April and continues to do so.
- **In response to the Ministry of Health's request following an increase of COVID-19 cases**, MSF intervened in the Zinjibar COVID-19 treatment centre in Abyan from September to December 2021.
- **Finally, in Al-Jumhuri Hospital in Taiz City**, MSF in collaboration with the Ministry of Health ran the COVID-19 emergency room and isolation unit for mild cases from June to August and admitted 120 patients during this period.

As a general rule, MSF's contribution to the COVID-19 treatment centres it ran or supported included medical and non-medical supplies and equipment, staff incentives and provision of oxygen where needed; hands-on case management capacity, health promotion and trainings were also provided in most locations.

MSF's overall budget for the COVID-19 response in Yemen was just above 10 million USD in 2021.

Key challenges:

the lack of sustained health promotion activities resulting in the population's disregard of basic prevention measures and belief in false rumours; the insufficient medical response and availability of COVID-19 testing; the vastly inadequate vaccination coverage; the lack of basic COVID-19 infection prevention and control measures in regular health facilities – all this means that the country is likely to continue experiencing successive COVID-19 waves, that the few functioning COVID-19 treatment centres will continue to be under considerable pressure and that vulnerable groups such as the elderly and people with co-morbidities will continue to suffer high mortality rates if they get infected with COVID-19.

6. Challenges and Constraints

Severe gaps in the provision of primary health care (PHC) and their impact on secondary health care

As mentioned repeatedly throughout this report, the PHC system suffers from many gaps both in terms of the available services and the quality of the care provided. There are recurrent shortages of supplies, equipment, and staff – as the system relies on a workforce that is often not paid at all, or only irregularly. This is devastating for the patients, of course, but also severely impacts the hospitals MSF runs or supports, as they are overwhelmed with patients who should receive treatment at PHC level or patients presenting with acute medical conditions

or complications which could have been avoided with proper PHC care. 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.

Restrictions on MSF activities

Both the authorities in some parts of Yemen and the Saudi-led coalition continued to impose movement restrictions on humanitarians inside Yemen, hampering activities such as needs assessments and outreach activities. Administrative difficulties to obtain visas for international staff and importing drugs and medical/non-medical supplies also complicated the smooth running of activities and hindered the provision of aid.



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