

# HUMAN WELLBEING

## Taking Action



### Student Workbook

#### STARTER ACTIVITY



► Study this logo and answer the following questions:

- a) Do you recognise this logo?  
 yes    no    unsure
- b) Is this a government or non-government organisation?  
 government    NGO    unsure
- c) What work do you think they do?
- d) What countries do you think they work in?
- e) Why do you think the term 'without borders' is significant?

#### ACTIVITY 1: ROLE OF NGOS AND MSF

► Read the following information and answer the following questions.

##### NON-GOVERNMENT ORGANISATIONS (NGOS) PLAY A CRUCIAL ROLE IN IMPROVING WELLBEING

and providing access to some of life's essential needs. NGOs are organisations independent of states and governments, and some of them, such as Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) are financially independent to ensure their actions can remain immediate and effective.

For MSF, this means that the organisation can get involved where others cannot. It is often the first and only organisation on the ground when emergencies occur. While certain governments will only provide aid to specific beneficiaries, independent NGOs consider all the needs without favouring or discriminating against anyone. A patient is a patient, regardless of social, political or religious affiliation.

- a) List all the NGO's you know working in the humanitarian field, helping those in need:

- b) Is the United Nations an NGO? Why/why not?



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## MSF OVERVIEW

**Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF), translated to Doctors Without Borders, is an international, independent, medical humanitarian relief organisation.**

MSF exists to save lives by providing medical aid where it is needed most – in armed conflicts, epidemics, famines, healthcare exclusion and natural and man-made disasters. All these situations call for a rapid response with specialised medical and logistical help. But, MSF also runs longer-term projects, tackling health crises and supporting people where the need is greatest.

MSF works independently of political, religious or military agendas, delivering medical assistance based on human need. MSF often works in difficult contexts where others are unable or unwilling to go. MSF's independence enables it to bear witness to human rights violations, expose human suffering and speak up for the world's most disadvantaged.

Founded in France in 1971, MSF now has offices around the globe, including Australia. Each year, thousands of medical and other professionals work with MSF in more than 70 countries. MSF was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1999.

MSF recruits field staff from a many different professional backgrounds, including doctors, nurses, logistical experts, water and sanitation experts and administrators. MSF recruits both international staff and local staff where MSF works in the field. Roughly 9 out of 10 field staff are hired locally in the field where MSF works.

### FURTHER EXTENSIVE READING

[Medecins Sans Frontieres: Who we are](#)

c) What are some examples of emergencies where doctors would be needed?

d) Why would MSF not accept funding from governments? What does this enable MSF to do?

e) **EXTENSION:** Research why MSF was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1999.

► **Read MSF's organisational charter. Circle any key words.**  
Underline any words you don't know and look up their meaning.

"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 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."

## WHAT ARE 3 OF MSF'S GUIDING PRINCIPLES?

1. **I**..... (helps all people, regardless of where they are from).



2. **N**..... (doesn't pick sides in a war or conflict)

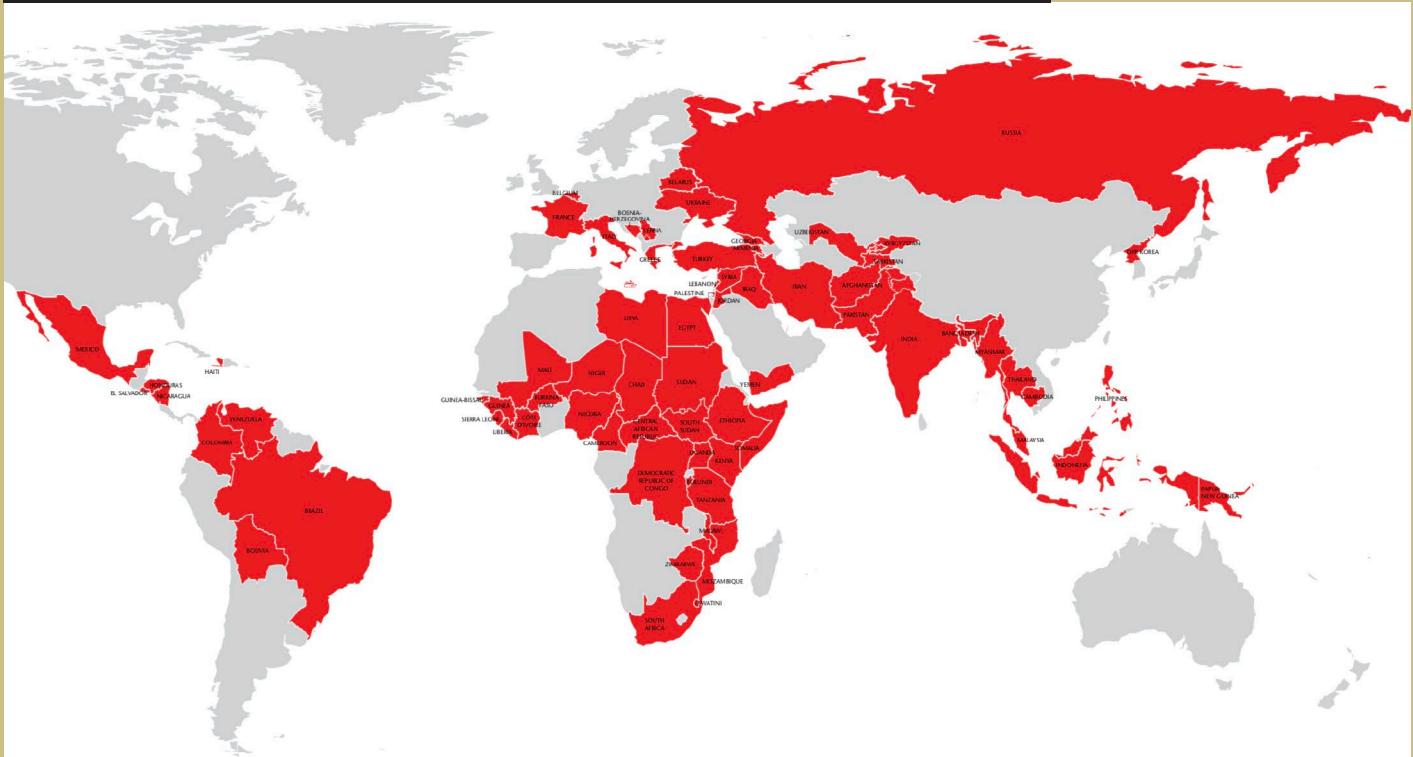
3. **I**..... (decides for itself where it thinks emergency medical aid is needed)



© Chris Huby

## **ACTIVITY 2: WHERE WE WORK**

**MSF IS A GLOBAL MOVEMENT. AROUND 40,000 STAFF WORK IN THE FIELD RESPONDING TO CRISES EVERY YEAR IN MORE THAN 70 COUNTRIES AROUND THE WORLD.**



- Look at the above map, and if needed visit the website below to list 3-5 countries that MSF works in the following regions:

 [Medecins Sans Frontieres: Where we work](#)

AFRICA

ASIA & THE PACIFIC

## **EUROPE & CENTRAL ASIA**

THE AMERICAS

## ACTIVITY 3: WHAT WE DO

For more than 40 years Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) has cared for millions of people caught up in crises.

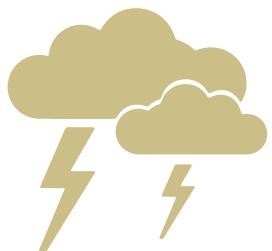
MSF delivers emergency medical aid to people affected by armed conflict, epidemics, natural disasters and exclusion from healthcare. These people are provided urgent medical care regardless of the race, religion, political affiliation or financial capacity.



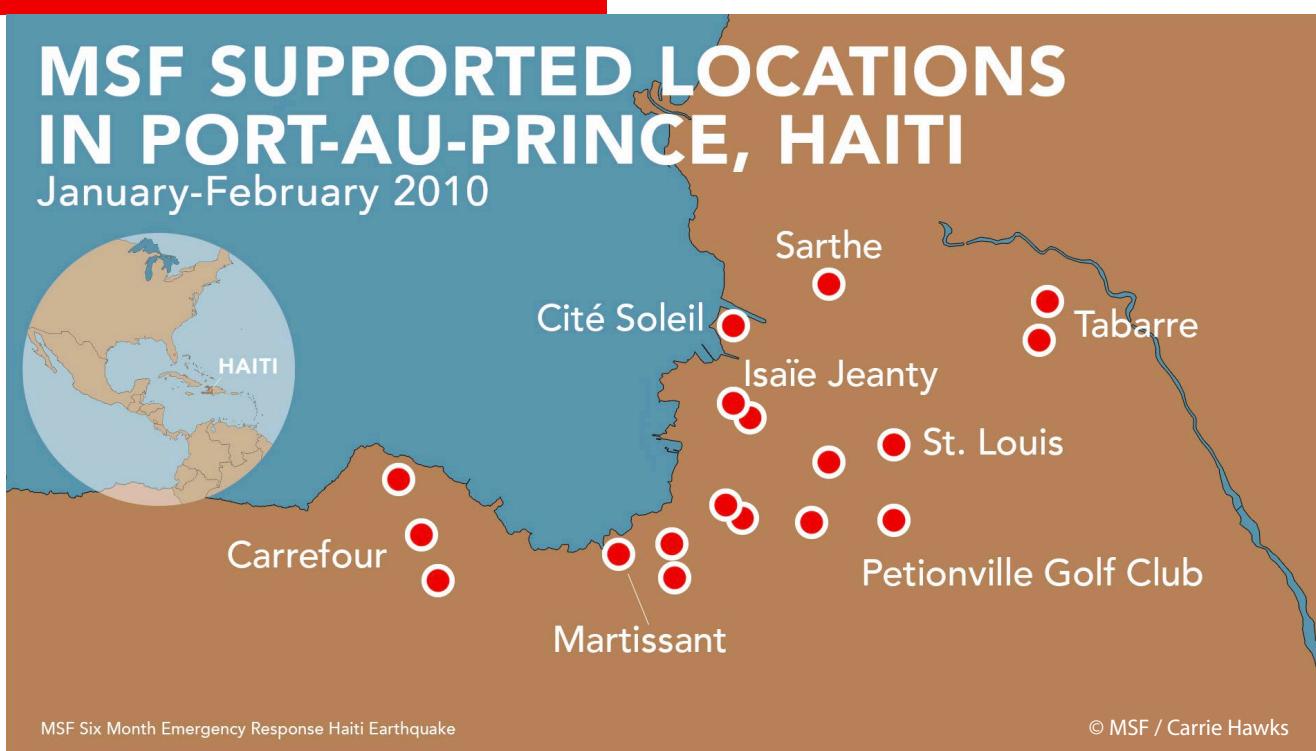
► Read the following information and case studies on 5 types of emergencies MSF responds to.

### A) NATURAL DISASTERS

From large-scale catastrophes to local emergencies, MSF's network of aid workers and supplies around the world means we can quickly respond to disasters like floods, cyclones, and drought.



#### CASE STUDY: EARTHQUAKE IN HAITI, 2012



The emergency response to the 2012 earthquake in Haiti is MSF's largest natural disaster response to date. The earthquake killed 220,000 people, left 1.5 million homeless and destroyed 60 per cent of health facilities, including two MSF hospitals.

 [Medecins Sans Frontieres: Haiti Earthquake](#)

MSF responded by recruiting thousands of new staff, mostly Haitians, who worked in 26 medical centres – including an inflatable hospital on a football field. In 10 months MSF treated 350,000 patients, performed 16,000 surgeries, and when cholera broke out treated 60 per cent of cases countrywide. In the longer term, MSF needed to contain and limit the spread of infectious diseases, re-establish healthcare systems and support people who had lost their homes and were living in temporary shelters.

## B) EPIDEMICS AND MEDICAL CARE



Our medics carry out more than eight million patient consultations a year and our medical activities run from basic vaccination campaigns to complex surgery. Our emergency medical work extends to neglected, forgotten diseases and long-term care for chronic conditions. We also advocate for affordable, high-quality medicines for the world's poorest people.

Some of the medical care provided aims to treat cholera, malaria, HIV/AIDS, malnutrition, Ebola, maternal health issues, measles, meningitis, tuberculosis, mental health and sexual and gender-based violence.



© Morgana Wingard



### CASE STUDY: EBOLA OUTBREAK, WEST AFRICA 2014-2015

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[MSF: Deadly Disease Ebola](#)

## C) REFUGEES

Over 68 million people are currently fleeing conflict or persecution around the world. Due to their race, religion or nationality, these people's communities are not safe places to live and their governments do not protect them.

MSF works around the world to provide asylum seekers, migrants, refugees and internally displaced people (IDPs) with medical care - from psychological care to lifesaving nutrition. MSF sets up hospitals in refugee camps, helps women give birth safely, vaccinates children to prevent epidemics and provides access to safe drinking water.



### CASE STUDY: BANGLADESH, 2017<sup>2</sup>

In 2017, approximately 700,000 Rohingya people fled to Bangladesh following targeted violence against them in neighbouring Myanmar. They had little choice but to create makeshift settlements along the border without adequate access to shelter, food, clean water or latrines.

More than 2,000 MSF staff provided medical services and solutions to the world's biggest refugee camp at the time. This included setting up toilet facilities, clean water systems, treating cholera and other disease outbreaks and treating hundreds of survivors of sexual violence<sup>3</sup>.



© Vincenzo Livieri

## D) CONFLICT AND WAR

MSF is providing medical care to those wounded in warfare and those who are fleeing violence and persecution and do not have access to medical attention.

### AFGHANISTAN 2015-2017<sup>4</sup>

Despite deadly attacks on staff and hospitals, Médecins Sans Frontières has been working in Afghanistan since 1980, providing emergency surgical care. In October 2015, MSF's Kunduz trauma centre - the only facility of its kind in northeast Afghanistan - was destroyed in a US military airstrike. Forty-two people were killed, including 14 MSF staff, and thousands were left without access to medical care. MSF operations restarted in Kunduz in July 2017 with the opening of an outpatient clinic for stable patients with minor burns, wounds from previous surgical interventions, minor trauma or chronic non-communicable diseases. MSF continues to run a small stabilisation clinic in Chardara district outside the city. MSF also focuses on mother and child healthcare in Afghanistan, which has one of the highest maternal mortality rates in the world.



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<sup>1</sup> UNHCR: Global Trends 2017 <sup>2</sup> MSF: Rohingya Refugee Crisis <sup>3</sup> MSF: Crisis update May 2019 <sup>4</sup> MSF: Conflict rages MSF: 1 year after Kunduz

# E) NEGLECTED PEOPLE

A large part of MSF's work focuses on providing care in hidden emergencies which, while receiving little media coverage, can be just as serious. MSF supports people who may be overlooked by the authorities or by other aid groups. These might include prostitutes, street children, prisoners, drug addicts or the mentally ill. In some contexts, entire populations are systematically neglected by the relevant authorities due to ethnic or political reasons.



## CASE STUDY: PHILIPPINES, 2015-2017<sup>5</sup>

Following a 2015 assessment, MSF confirmed the need for sexual and reproductive health services in the densely populated and impoverished districts of the country's capital, Manila. In collaboration with a local organisation, Likhaan, MSF staff offer sexual and reproductive health services at two clinics based in the Tondo and San Andres slum communities.

MSF offers family planning services and care for victims of sexual violence, human papilloma virus (cervical cancer) vaccines, as well as screening and treatment for cervical cancer.

 <sup>5</sup> [MSF: Activity Report: Philippines](#)



© Hannah Reyes Morales

► **Choose one of the 5 case studies above and create a news article about it.**

Alternatively you can choose another MSF case study by visiting the following website:

 [Medecins Sans Frontieres: News Stories](#)

Imagine you are a journalist reporting on this crisis for the first time. Write a news article or video story reporting on the crisis for people in Australia, using the template below.

To do so, research more information about the crisis, such as how many people were affected, the history of the crisis and/or country, the impact it has had on the local people/economy etc.

use the next page →

# THE WEEKEND NEWS

Name

Day

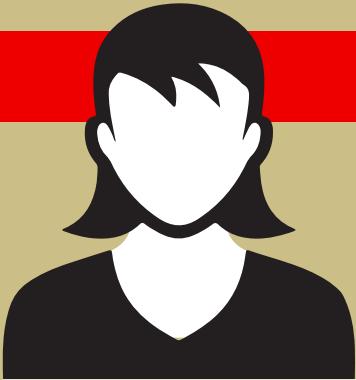
Month

Year

Headline

Caption

Caption



## ACTIVITY 4: ROLE OF INDIVIDUALS

Being independent from government, MSF relies on individuals and groups from the public to support its critical work.

MSF and people like you work in partnership to help improve the wellbeing of those who need it most around the world.



### DID YOU KNOW?

**\$60** could buy **142 PACKS OF THERAPEUTIC FOOD** for malnourished children

**\$160** could buy **TWO SURGEON'S TOOL KITS**, including everything from scalpels and forceps to scissors and clamps

**\$270** could buy **15 SAFE DELIVERY KITS** to assist mothers and babies during childbirth

### WAYS TO HELP

**MSF is always seeking people to join our global movement for change.**

Together we can provide urgent medical care. There are many ways one can help, but three key ways include:

#### DONATE

Providing financial donations helps ensure hundreds of thousands of people around the world can receive urgent medical care.

#### FUNDRAISE FOR MSF

Hosting your own fundraising event, such as a dinner or movie night, or asking people to sponsor you for challenges like climbing a mountain, can help raise vital funds needed.



#### SPREAD THE WORD

Are you on Facebook, Instagram, YouTube or Twitter? Watch and read the many stories, videos and news we post. Spread the messages with your networks to help raise awareness of the critical work taking place.

► In pairs, come up with an idea for a fundraising event to raise money for NGOs like MSF.

Consider who would be your target audience, what materials you would need and how you would promote your event.

Idea	Venue
	
Target audience	Materials needed
	
Promotion	Fundraising target
	 <b>FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT: <a href="http://MSF.ORG.AU">MSF.ORG.AU</a></b>