



Medical Adviser – Paediatrics Job Description

Location:	Dakar OR home based OR MSF office closest to home
Reporting to:	Head of Medical Unit – Sydney, through Head of Medical Unit Sydney to OCP Medical Director
Travel:	Yes
Supervising:	N/A
Status:	Full time – fixed term Parental Leave Cover (9 months)
Band / Grade:	C4
Start Date	August 2021
Date:	June 2021

Organisational Context

Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) is an international, independent, medical humanitarian organization created in 1971 that delivers emergency aid to people affected by armed conflict, epidemics, healthcare exclusion and natural disasters. MSF offers assistance to people based only on need and irrespective of race, religion, gender or political affiliation. The French section (Operational Centre Paris) is present in around thirty countries.

MSF OCP consists of four partner sections (Paris, New York, Tokyo and Sydney) as well as an office in Dubai. MSF OCP carries out operations according to a common strategic and medico-operational plan.

The Sydney Medical Unit is part of the MSF OCP Medical Department and is responsible for medical support of operations in the field of Women's and Child Health and response to Sexual Violence.

In 2018, to provide improved regional support to the projects in West and Central Africa, the MSF OCP operations department decided to move some operational capacity (an operational cell) from Paris to Dakar. Two other operational centers (OC Geneva and Barcelona) have also shifted some of their medico-operational support structure from their respective headquarters to Dakar to West Africa, and future collaboration and synergies between OCs are desired where feasible.

Overall Responsibility

The MSF-Operational Centre Paris (MSF-OCP) Medical Department is seeking a Paediatric Advisor to enhance MSF's ability to improve and broaden the quality and effectiveness of

medical care.

The overall purpose of the medical department is to achieve MSF's social mission by its leadership, expertise and advocacy through:

- The co-creation of medico-operational strategies and priorities
- Pertinent, context-adapted medical support
- Leading/oversight of/support for continuing improvement of quality of care and respect for medical ethics
- Conducting operational research and new medical approaches
- Internal and external advocacy based on field needs, our experience and the results of our research
- The development of links between MSF and the medical world

The Paediatric Advisor will contribute to the improvement of care of patients in MSF projects, the care of the severely sick child, including neonates or children with specific diseases prevalent in MSF contexts (malaria, other infectious diseases like HIV/TB, chronic diseases, etc). They will work on developing medical strategies of care including prevention, primary and secondary care and continuum of care.

They will work alongside a team of other colleagues: child health and women's health experts (based in Sydney, Australia) and other medical colleagues specialized in related fields (based in Paris, New York, Dakar etc). They will have an overview over programs providing paediatric care, with an emphasis on countries in West and Central Africa.

As this is a temporary contract, while the paediatric advisor is usually located in Dakar, Senegal, the parental leave cover will not necessarily be located in Dakar, Senegal. Depending on the nationality of the person selected, the position may be located in Dakar, the place where they are currently based OR the nearest MSF office to where the person is currently based (dependent on local factors, capacity for work visa in Dakar, medico-operational needs of OCP). If not based in Dakar, the advisor would be expected to spend time in Dakar working with the cell and in projects dependent on medical need.

The advisor reports to the Head of the Medical Unit Sydney, who is under the hierarchical responsibility of the Medical Director of MSF OCP.

Main Tasks and Duties

1/ Provide advice and support to cells and missions:

- They will predominantly be providing support to field projects in sub-Saharan Africa including the ones of the Dakar cell and other cells of MSF OCP.
- In conjunction with cell teams, actively participate in the development and monitoring of paediatric and neonatal activities.
- Support the field and headquarters' managers in decision-making related to paediatric and neonatal care and ensure good practice, taking into account specific context constraints.
- Ensure that guidelines, protocols and tools to guarantee quality of care, are available to field teams.
- Be responsible for alerting the operational managers and the medical directorate in case of non-application of procedures, strategies or protocols.
- Provide (de-) briefings to headquarters and field personnel related to her/his specialty.
- Visits field projects to support teams and evaluate the projects

2/ Participate in the Medical Department activities:

- Participate in the definition of medico-operational policies, aligned with the MSF OCP strategic plan, by contributing their specialist expertise and supporting their implementation.
- Participate in the creation of the action plan of the Medical Department.
- Participate in the definition of training content and participate in the trainings as facilitator.

- Participate in defining the indicators needed for monitoring and reporting on paediatric and neonatal care; analyse the data for all missions; and regularly share the results of this analysis with the coordination teams and medical managers.
- Write protocols and guidelines.
- Participates in the placement in projects of international staff.
- Collaborates closely with other members of the Medical Department.

3/ Maintaining and overview of their specialty:

- Monitor R & D and technical developments in paediatric and neonatal care in order to develop innovative practices and standards.
- Develop and propose new tools according to developing medical standards: medicines, materials, strategies, techniques, procedures, protocols, guidelines (including budget data).
- Propose, develop and monitor operational research projects in their domain, at the field level, in collaboration with the cells, Epicentre and other research partners.
- Develop a network of medical and research actors, humanitarian actors and others in their specialty.

4/ Be the contact person in their field of activity within and outside of the MSF movement:

- In collaboration with child health colleagues, share technical advances, methods and background material with other MSF operational section counterparts.
- Represent MSF-OCP in their specialty outside the movement at the request of the medical direction.

Specifics for Parental leave cover:

- During the 9-month cover, a minimum of 2 field visits is required, the total time spent in the projects will not exceed 50% of the position. Visits will be pre-planned with the relevant cells and the current paediatric advisor and a provisional 9-month agenda will be in place. Visits can be rearranged depending on changing circumstances and priorities throughout the months, respecting the overall 2021 visit requests from all cells. Potential countries requiring visits include Nigeria.
- The countries to be supported will remain the same as those currently under the responsibility of the Paediatric Advisor based in Dakar. The Paediatric Advisor based in Dakar is responsible for paediatric activities in all countries in Cell 3 (Niger, Nigeria, Burkina Faso and Mali), Cell 4 (Lebanon), and Cell 6 (Liberia).
- Specific topics that are under the responsibility of the Paediatric Advisor based in Dakar will remain the same: Sickle Cell Disease in Niger (in collaboration with the others Paediatrics Advisors), Epilepsy in Liberia (in collaboration with NCD Advisor), Stewardship in West African projects (in collaboration with IPC/Infectious Disease/Lab Advisors), E-care in Mali (in collaboration with E-care, field team and the E-care Paediatric Advisor) and asphyxia prevention strategy in Nigeria (in collaboration with SRH advisors and field team).
- They will be responsible for the paediatric and neonatal component of training strategy for OCP, in collaboration with the Paediatric Nursing Advisor and Training Unit.
- They will be responsible for supervision and on-time written technical support of all telemedicine cases coming from the projects under their portfolio, and covering for the other two advisors during leave if asked.
- It is anticipated that there will be an overlap of the positions both before and after the period of parental leave – during this period, the temporary advisor will be asked to either work on specific projects for the Paediatrics team, cover the workload of other Paediatrics advisors to allow them to work on specific project and/or cover project visits for the newly returned Paediatric Advisor post parental leave.

Selection criteria

Essential criteria

- Medical doctor with degree or board certification in paediatrics
- Field experience with MSF, preferable in MSF OCP
- Capacity and willingness to work outside regular office hours (early mornings/evening tele/videoconferencing)
- Languages: Excellent communication skills in English and French (written and oral) – at least C1 in both. Other languages an asset.
- Ability to work in a team, with other specialists, as well as independently
- Organizational skills, solution-oriented thinking, initiative and good communication skills.
- Ability to negotiate and convince.
- Ability to anticipate and plan.
- Skills in analysis, interpretation of medical data and publications.
- Ability to write well-structured, concise reports.

Desirable criteria

- Coordination experience (project manager, medical team leader ...)
- Headquarters experience in MSF
- Master's degree in Public Health or Tropical Medicine

In MSF Australia, we believe the following 5 values form the foundations of our culture – **Transparency, Respect, Understanding of Diversity, Stepping In** and **Collaboration**. At MSF Australia we value T.R.U.S.T as an essential element to how we operate and believe that these organisation values flow from this trust that we build.

Applications

Applications **MUST** address individual selection criteria. You should also write a cover letter indicating why you want to work for Médecins Sans Frontières Australia and attach a copy of your CV.

Please note that a criminal record check may be required as part of the selection process. Applicants with criminal records will not automatically be ineligible for the position they are applying for. Médecins Sans Frontières Australia has a Child Protection Policy in place and all employees are required to comply with this policy.

Médecins Sans Frontières Australia is committed to creating an inclusive workplace for all our staff. We believe that a diverse team helps us better serve those most in need, we encourage flexibility (in all its forms) and we encourage people from a wide range of backgrounds to apply for this role, including Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, LGBTQIA+, people from other culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) backgrounds and people with disabilities. People with a disability can request support from our Domestic HR Department if you think you may require reasonable adjustment during the recruitment process.

Applications close: 4 July 2021

Applications and enquiries to
Email: officerecruitment@sydney.msf.org