Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) is an international, independent, medical humanitarian organisation that delivers emergency aid to people affected by armed conflict, epidemics, natural disasters and exclusion from healthcare. It offers assistance to people based on need and irrespective of race, religion, gender or political affiliation.

MSF was founded in Paris, France in 1971. Today, it is a worldwide movement of 24 associations. MSF International, which binds these associations together, is based in Geneva, Switzerland. It operates programmes in more than 60 countries worldwide. Its work is carried out by thousands of health professionals, logistical and administrative staff, the vast majority of whom come from the countries where the organisation is providing medical assistance.

MSF provides medical care to help people survive catastrophic situations, where communities and health structures may be overwhelmed. The core work is providing emergency medical assistance in situations of armed conflict. MSF’s actions are guided by medical ethics and the principles of neutrality and impartiality. It does not take sides but seek to bring assistance to those who need it most urgently. In situations of conflict, it does not accept funds from governments or other parties who are directly involved.

MSF has a commitment to address the suffering people endure and the obstacles encountered in providing assistance. It is constantly seeking to improve the quality, relevance and extent of the assistance, and it is dedicated to the pursuit of innovation. When it witnesses serious acts of violence, neglected crises, or obstructions to its activities, MSF may speak out about this.