



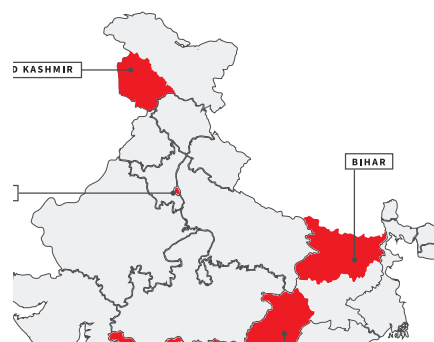
MSF INDIA ACTIVITY REPORT **2021**

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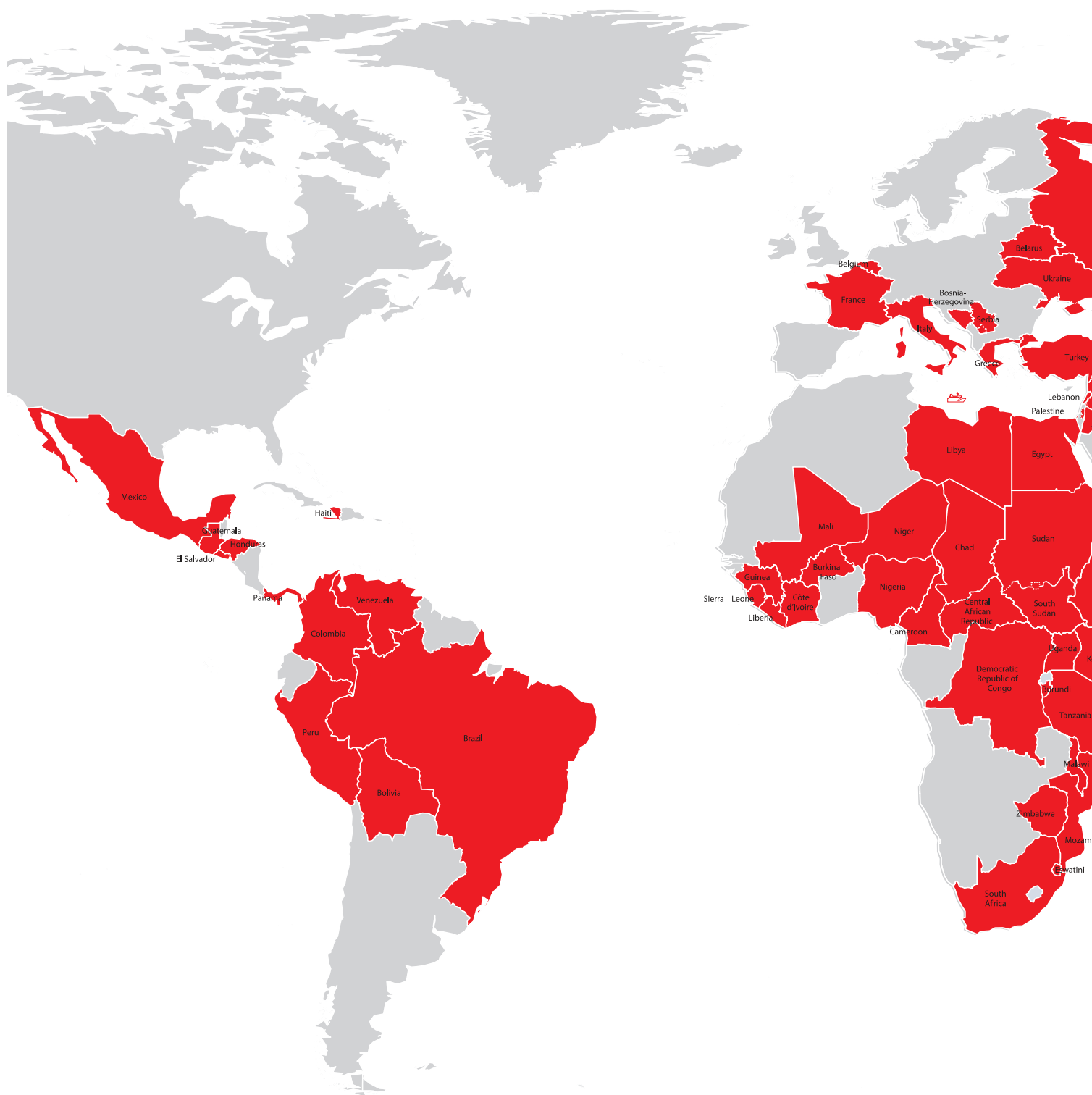
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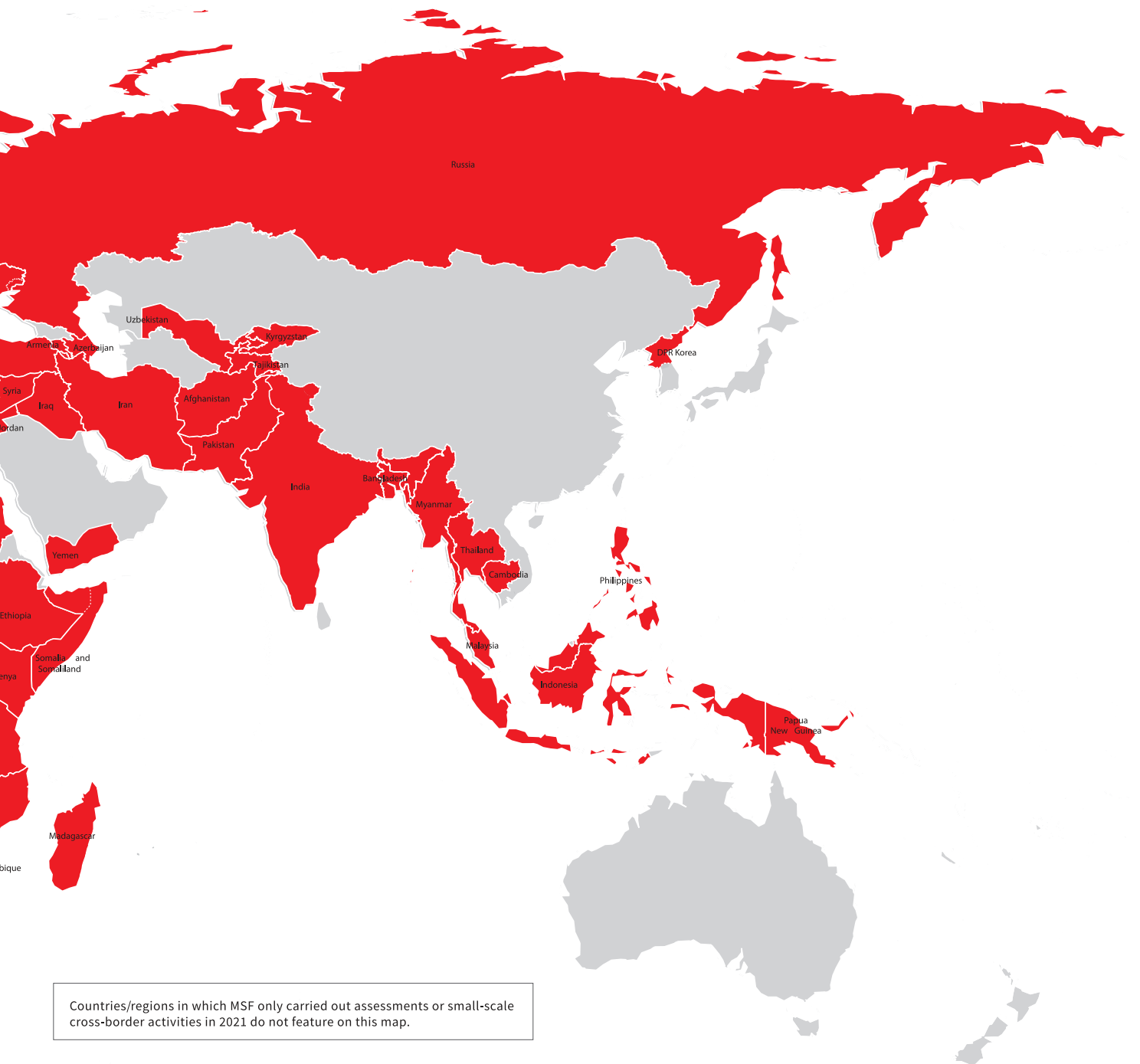




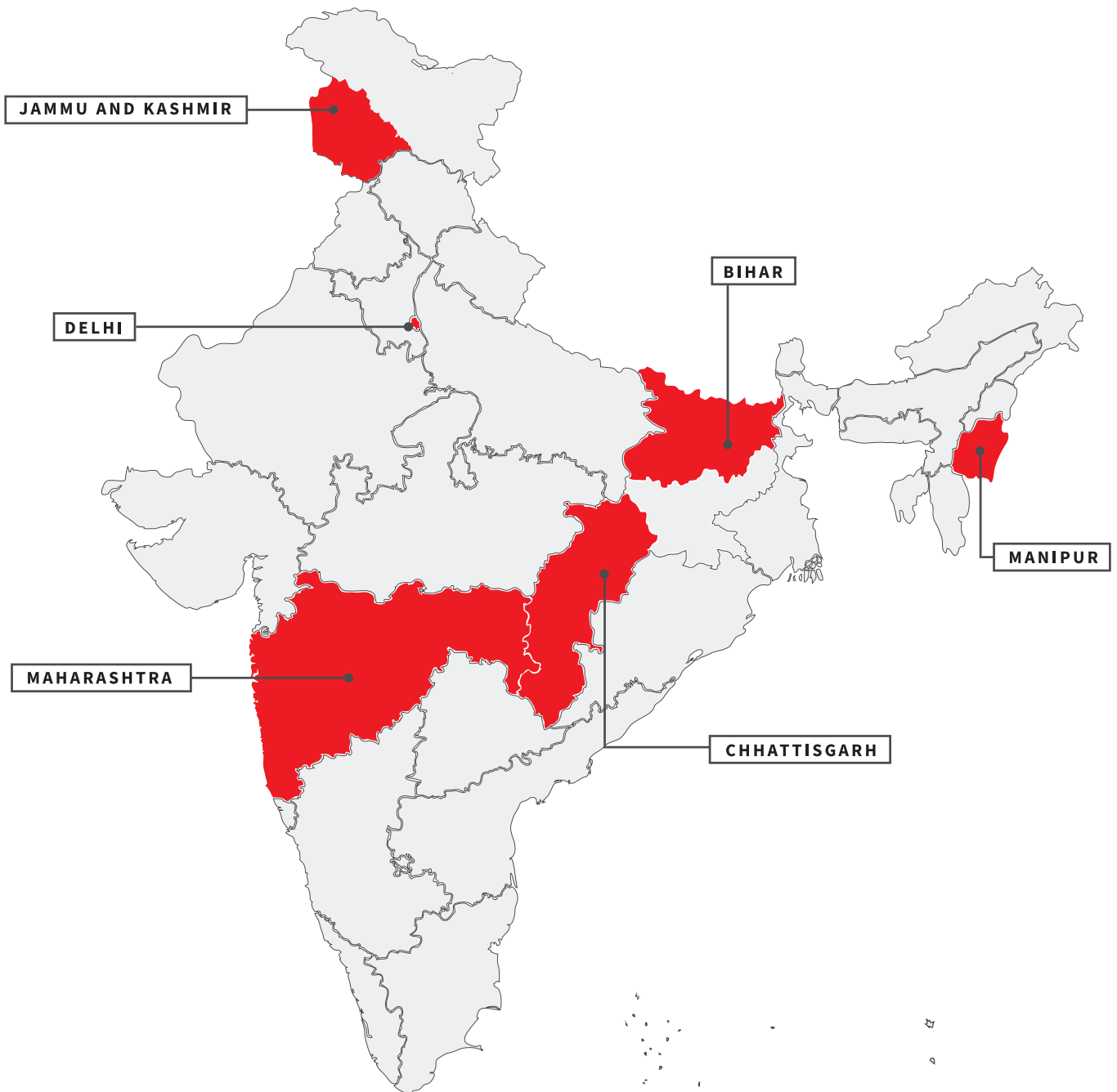
Doctors Without Borders / Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) is an international, independent, medical humanitarian organisation that delivers emergency aid to people affected by armed conflict, epidemics, natural and man-made disasters and exclusion from healthcare in more than 70 countries. MSF offers assistance to people based on need and irrespective of race, religion, gender or political affiliation.

MSF has worked in India since 1999. Our teams currently run medical projects in Jammu & Kashmir, Delhi, Bihar, Manipur, Chhattisgarh and Maharashtra. We also advocate for the development of more effective and affordable medicines to improve access to treatment globally.

MSF was awarded the 1996 Indira Gandhi Prize for Peace, Disarmament and Development and the 1999 Nobel Peace Prize.



MSF IN INDIA



Disclaimer : This map does not reflect any position by MSF on the legal status of the territory of India.

INDIA ACTIVITY HIGHLIGHTS 2021



20,165

OPD consultations



14,143

Mental health Counselling sessions
provided to individuals,
caretakers and families



11,282

Psycho-educational sessions
conducted at community
level



8,296

Patients treated
for malaria



988

Advanced HIV
inpatient admissions



956

DRTB patients initiated
on treatment



788

Antenatal care
consultations



617

SGBV survivors treated



© Siddharth Singh



BIHAR

The issue: In Bihar, persons living with HIV suffer from a routine lack of access to basic healthcare. They also face well as financial and social isolation due to stigma, as well as from disease-associated unemployment and rejection by society, family and friends. Many spend unaffordable sums on accessing expensive private care before receiving an HIV diagnosis. This treatment places a significant mental health burden on patients that impacts on access to diagnosis, treatment and on adherence.



WHAT WE DO

MSF offers a lifesaving, holistic HIV care package for an extremely vulnerable cohort of highly stigmatized advanced HIV patients who have a high mortality rate in the absence of alternative treatment options. MSF is providing care to patients with advanced HIV in Guru Gobind Singh Hospital in Patna, in collaboration with the Bihar State Health Mission and Bihar State Department of Health and Family Welfare, to reduce morbidity and mortality associated with the disease in its advanced stages. Our project also aims at improving targeted HIV testing, early antiretroviral treatment initiation and optimal support, care and management of patients in public healthcare facilities. The project also works on reducing discrimination against people living with HIV in health facilities.

In 2021

MSF work with state and national level AIDS control programme leadership to contribute knowledge and experience. In 2021, a workshop was conducted with the ART doctors to bridge the gap between ART centres and districts hospitals. The COVID-19 pandemic had a substantial impact on access to care for advanced HIV patients, with a 50 per cent reduction in the number of patients seen in the hospital over the year, highlighting in part the precarious situation in which this cohort of patients' lives. The team worked hard to maintain access to patients and continue delivering lifesaving services, managing eight patients with advanced HIV and COVID-19 infection, of whom the majority survived.



1,121

Individual mental health consultations to patients, caretakers and families



988

Advanced HIV inpatient admissions



394

co-infected advanced HIV patients with TB



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• CHHATTISGARH

The issue: Due to a longstanding, low-intensity conflict, large sections of the population of Chhattisgarh have extremely limited or no access to healthcare, especially in remote areas of the states. Medical facilities are few and far between, and in such a scenario even preventable, treatable conditions such as malaria can become fatal.



WHAT WE DO

MSF conducts mobile clinics to take basic healthcare to people living in remote villages, who find it extremely difficult to access medical care. Our teams provide free treatment for malaria, respiratory infections, pneumonia and skin diseases among others. The clinics also offer a separate area for women to address needs in reproductive health, where group and individual sessions are conducted on topics such as hygiene, care of newborns, and sexually transmitted infections.

In 2021

We continued to provide primary healthcare in Chhattisgarh through mobile clinics in the area around the town of Bijapur. Additionally, we screened our patients for symptoms of COVID-19 and provided referrals for testing and treatment.



20,165

OPD consultations



8,296

Patients treated for malaria



373

Mobile clinics conducted



788

Antenatal care consultations



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DELHI

The issue: Sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) is a medical emergency. Survivors of SGBV require immediate medical care in order to limit some of the serious consequences to their health, such as unwanted pregnancy and sexually transmitted infections. Violence can also affect the mental health of survivors, and lead to anxiety, depression and post-traumatic stress disorder.



WHAT WE DO

Since November 2015, MSF is providing integrated medical and psychological care to survivors of sexual and gender-based violence SGBV through a community-based clinic in Jahangirpuri, northwest Delhi. MSF provides survivor-centered, non-stigmatizing and confidential SGBV care, 24/7 and free of charge, across all age groups and genders. Based on the needs of the survivor, we offer quality treatment including wound care, prophylaxis, diagnosis and treatment of sexually transmitted diseases, post-exposure prophylaxis for HIV, emergency contraception and access to termination of pregnancy services, vaccination and psychosocial support. Our community health workers engage with the community in Jahangirpuri to raise awareness on the health consequences of SGBV and facilitate access to quality medical care. We also offer short-term shelter for women and child survivors and facilitate referrals to tertiary care, social welfare and legal services. Our model of care is based on international evidence, experience and learnings from the community.

In 2021

The project decided to expand further with a more community-based approach, which led to the opening of a simplified community clinic within the target area. This year also saw the project emphasizing its efforts to reach out to high risk groups, such as Transgender and female sex workers.



617

SGBV survivors treated



960

Individual mental health sessions conducted



38

patients from high risk groups



35,445

people reached with health promotion activities



© MSF



JAMMU & KASHMIR

The issue: Years of conflict in Kashmir have taken a toll on people's mental health in the state. According to a survey conducted by MSF in 2015, nearly 1.8 million adults (45% of the adult population) in Kashmir show symptoms of significant mental distress. This is compounded by the stigma associated with mental illness.



WHAT WE DO

MSF has been providing free, high-quality counselling to people affected in the valley since 2001. Currently, our teams provide counselling services at hospitals in five districts: Baramulla, Shopian, Pulwama, Srinagar and Sopore. To combat the stigma associated with mental illness, MSF teams also raise awareness on the importance of mental health and the need for availability of mental health services in the valley.

In 2021

We continued to provide counselling services through four district hospitals and primary healthcare centers in the Kashmir division, and added coverage for a fifth as we expanded our program in Sopore. Additionally, we provided phone counselling services due to movement restrictions associated with the COVID-19 pandemic, and expanded this remote service by offering both individual and group sessions through online video calls.



3,547

Patients newly enrolled
in our program



12,062

Mental health counselling
sessions provided



11,282

Psycho-educational sessions
conducted at community level



MANIPUR

The issue: Manipur has a high prevalence of HIV, TB (both drug-sensitive and drug-resistant TB) and hepatitis C. In cases of co-infection, each disease speeds up the progress of the other, making the patient more vulnerable and the treatment more difficult. A holistic patient-centered approach can have positive outcomes.



WHAT WE DO

MSF started providing specialized care for HIV and TB in Manipur in 2005 and 2007 respectively. At our clinics located in Churachandpur, Chakpikarong and Moreh (on the Indo-Myanmar border) MSF provides free, high-quality screening, diagnosis and treatment for HIV, TB, hepatitis C and co-infections. As treatment for DR-TB has significant side effects, making it difficult for patients to adhere to their treatment regimen, MSF provides pre and post-test adherence counselling to ensure a successful outcome for the patients. Our health education teams also raise awareness on getting tested and treated. MSF also treats hepatitis C patients (mono-infected) in an opioid substitution therapy centre in Churachandpur, along with treating partners of co-infected patients.

In 2021

We continued to provide medical care for HIV, TB, DR-TB and hepatitis C through our clinics in Churachandpur, Chakpikarong and Moreh. In our HIV centres, we adopted a simplified model of care that determined medical attention based on patient needs. We supported the HIV antiretroviral treatment centre and inpatient management of HIV in the district hospital of Churachandpur while providing homeless intravenous drug users with support in the form of food coupons and dry food rations. In addition, MSF also provided Non-Food Item support to refugees coming into India from Myanmar. As part of the organisation's efforts to tackle COVID -19 in every project location in 2021, Manipur project also operated a COVID-19 High Dependency Unit with a 12 bed capacity in Churachandpur District Hospital.



205

Hepatitis C
(mono and co-infected)
patients treated



29

Severe
COVID -19 patients
treated



157

New drug-resistant
TB patients initiated
on treatment



1,292

Myanmar refugees
assisted with NFIs



178

New patients initiated
on antiretroviral therapy



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MAHARASHTRA

The issue: India has the world's highest burden of TB. As per the 2021 WHO Global Tuberculosis report, India accounts for 26% of global cases, which is more than double the burden of the next country, China (8.5% of global cases). India accounted for 34% of global TB deaths (with 300,000 deaths projected each year i.e. over 800 per day). Limited national surveys estimated multi drug resistance levels of 3% among new TB cases and 12-17% among previously treated cases. Emergence of MDR and XDRTB has become a major public health problem in India.

WHAT WE DO

MSF provides free, comprehensive diagnostics and treatment services at its clinic in Mumbai to people with severe forms of drug-resistant tuberculosis (DRTB). Patients seen by MSF have previously been treated with ineffective regimens for long durations by public and private practitioners. Some are believed to have been directly infected in the community by extensively resistant strains. MSF also supports TB diagnostics and treatment at a public DRTB treatment centre in M-East Ward (MEW), Mumbai in collaboration with the National Tuberculosis Elimination Programme. In collaboration with national and international partners, MSF is conducting two Phase III randomized controlled trials, endTB & endTB-Q, which use the new generation of TB drugs to find radically shorter (6 or 9 months), more tolerable, injection-free treatments for DRTB.

In 2021

The National Tuberculosis Elimination Programme (NTEP) of India updated treatment guidelines, creating access to more effective, all-oral regimen for patients with drug-resistant TB. Due to COVID-19 and associated restrictions, DRTB services were modified. Virtual consultations and counselling sessions were done and medications were delivered to patient homes. MSF provided support to increase the COVID-19 vaccination coverage among DRTB patients in MEW and MSF clinic.

Paediatric DRTB services were improved with a focus on child friendly services. The project developed and implemented paediatrics counseling guidelines and set up dedicated consultation days, while exploring improved child friendly diagnostics tools and access to paediatric formulations. Patient enrolments under endTB (MDR TB FQ sensitive patients) clinical trial was completed after enrolling 34 patients. Patient enrolments for endTB-Q (MDR TB patients resistant to FQ) is ongoing and 74 patients enrolled in 2021.

For HIV DRTB patients, comprehensive care is being provided in collaboration with Anti-retroviral treatment (ART) centres. For Diabetes mellitus (DM) DRTB patients, close monitoring is being done with regular testing for HbA1C. We are also providing and exploring other comprehensive care models for DRTB patients requiring palliative care.



179

Paediatric DRTB patient initiated on treatment



956

DRTB patients initiated on treatment



782

Patients initiated on new TB drugs (BDQ/DLM)



730

DRTB patients cured and completed their treatment with new drugs (BDQ/DLM)



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COVID-19 RESPONSE

The issue: From April to July 2021, India was hit by a devastating second wave of COVID-19. Over 20 million people were infected. As the health system was caught unprepared with hospitals lacking oxygen capacity across the country, over 300,000 COVID-19- related deaths were reported during this period (The Lancet).

MSF COVID-19 INTERVENTION IN MANIPUR

MSF decided to quickly open two COVID-19 care facilities where the needs were high at the peak of the second COVID-19 wave. We launched a project in Imphal, Manipur. This emergency operation combined Mobile Response Teams providing home care to people with severe COVID-19 symptoms, along with two facilities with a 42-bed capacity, active from May to November.

MSF COVID-19 TELEMEDICINE HELPLINE

During COVID-19, the entire public health system was overstretched. Based on the statistics, 80 percent of the cases were mild, moderate, and 20 percent were severe cases. MSF had launched a free and confidential 24X7 telemedicine helpline in August to tackle COVID cases in the country and provide immediate care to those affected. The helpline provides medical assistance in 18 regional languages from certified nurses and registered medical doctors through teleconsultation. Intelehealth provides the technical assistance for the project. The telemedicine helpline staff answered more than 668 calls so far 301 registered patients have been provided COVID counselling. Community engagement activities include - 62 meetings with 1341 participants from 296 NGOs across India.

COVID-19 RESPONSE IN MUMBAI

MSF supported COVID-19 services in BKC jumbo facility in Mumbai with human resource and capacity building support for managing moderate COVID-19 cases through use of High-flow nasal cannula (HFNC) oxygen machines. MSF also organized COVID-19 management trainings for MoH staff in Palghar district, Maharashtra.

MSF COVID-19 MENTAL HEALTH HELPLINE

The Home Society Solidarity Project (HSSP) was piloted in India and Nepal for three months during the first COVID-19 wave (April to November 2020) and then reviewed. The strategy was to launch 24 x 7 toll free helpline in these countries run by MSF trained tele-counsellors reach out to those in lockdown in need of mental health counselling. When cases declined, we decided to close the helpline services temporarily. During the second wave spike in 2021, we decided to resume the helpline in India and Nepal to cater to the urgent mental health needs for both healthcare workers and the general population. The services were provided by six counsellors that delivered tele-consultation services in seven languages. We have received approximately 2500 calls so far on the helpline between May to December.

NOTES



MEDECINS SANS FRONTIERES INDIA
136, Second floor,
Zamrudpur,
New Delhi-110048

Telephone: +91 11 49010000

Email: india.info@new-delhi.msf.org