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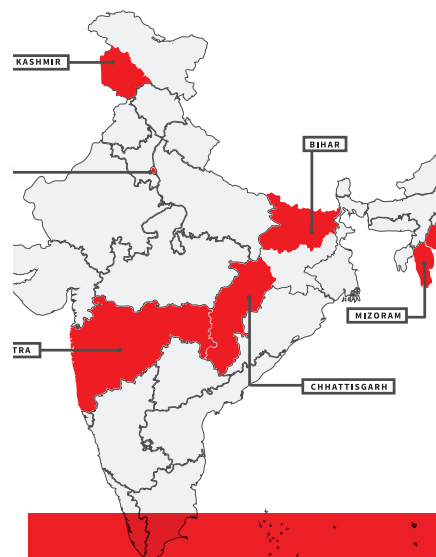
MSF INDIA **ACTIVITY** **REPORT** **2023**

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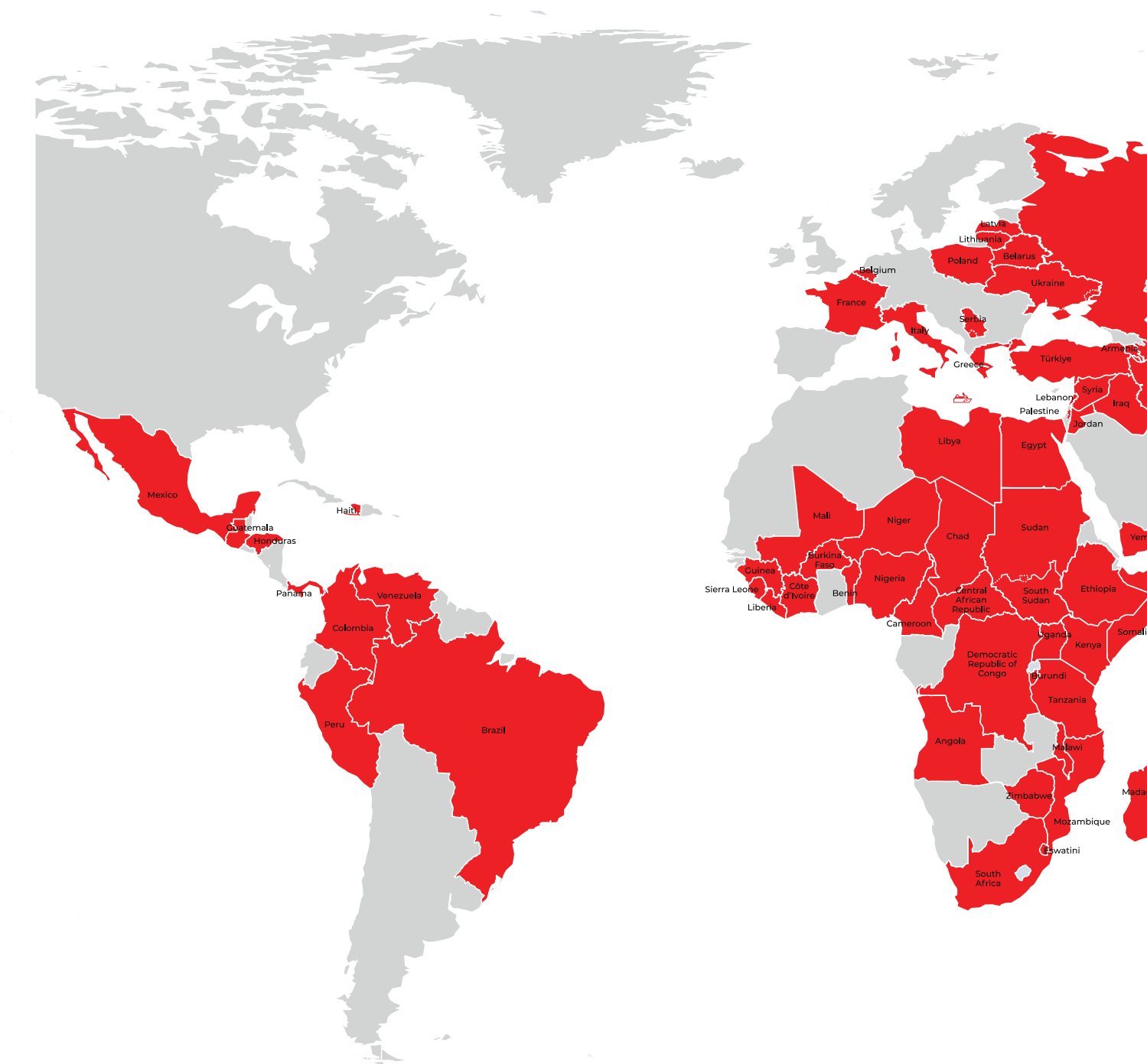


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DELHI



MSF PROGRAMMES AROUND THE WORLD



Médecins Sans Frontières/Doctors Without Borders(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.

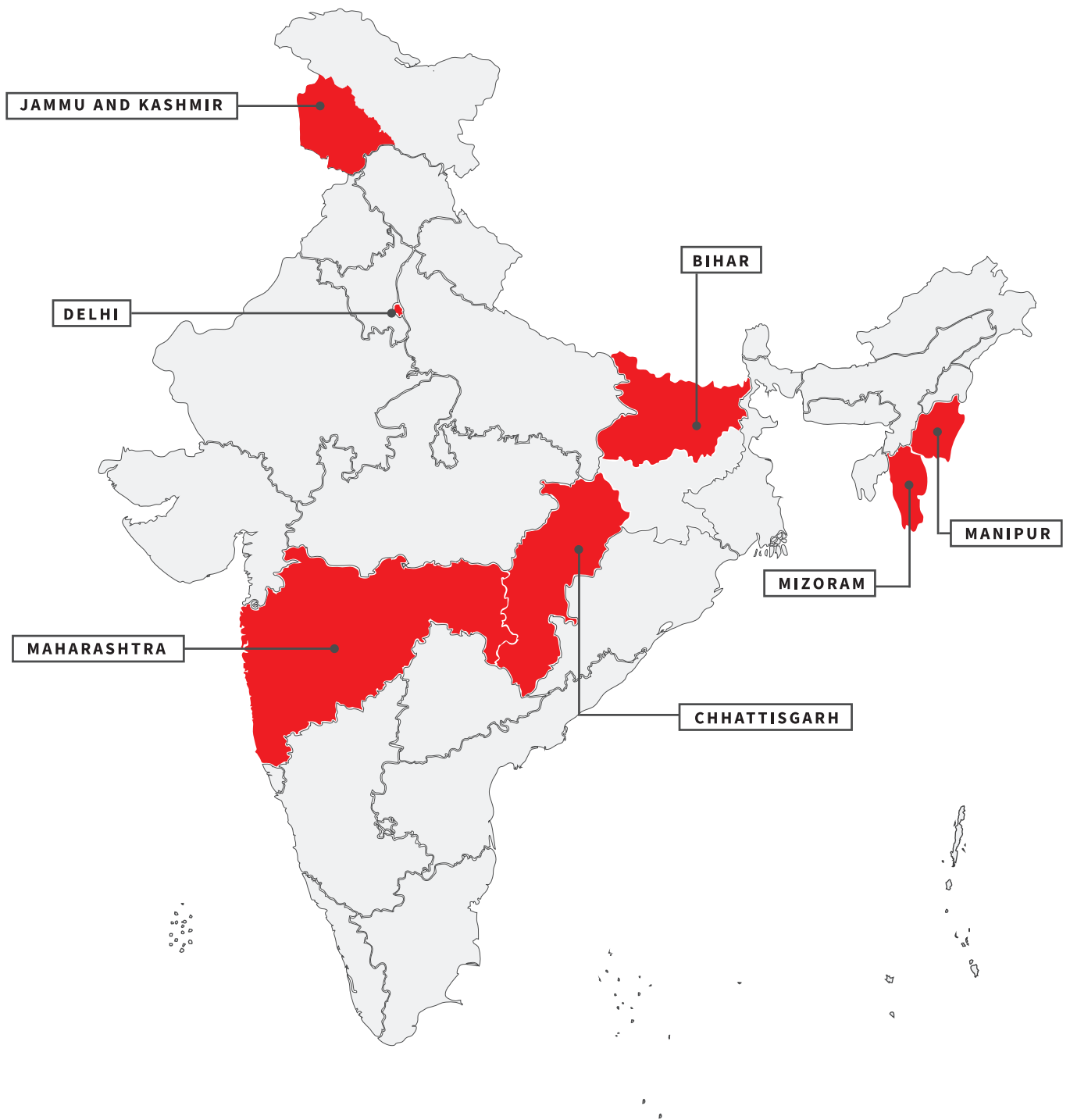
MSF has worked in India since 1999. Our teams currently run medical projects in Jammu & Kashmir, Delhi, Bihar, Manipur, Mizoram, Chhattisgarh and Maharashtra. We also advocate for the development of more effective and affordable medicines to improve access to treatment globally.

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



Countries/regions in which MSF only carried out assessments or small-scale cross-border activities in 2023 do not feature on this map.

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 2023



27,868

consultations held



22,037

psycho-educational sessions
conducted at community level



15,000+

mental health counselling
sessions provided



12,000+

people reached with health
promotion activities



6,185

patients treated for malaria



1,380

households (about 7,000 individuals)
supported with non-food items



685

(79%) drug-resistant tuberculosis
patients with successful outcome
from cohort initiated in 2021



676

sexual and gender-based
violence, survivors treated



BIHAR

The issue: People living with HIV in Bihar face challenges such as lack of access to basic healthcare, financial and social isolation due to stigma, disease-associated unemployment, and rejection from society, family, and friends. Patients often have to bear the high costs of private care before receiving an HIV diagnosis, which can result in significant mental health burdens that impacts their ability to access proper diagnosis, treatment, and adherence.



WHAT WE DO

MSF offers a lifesaving, holistic HIV care package to an extremely vulnerable and highly stigmatised group of advanced HIV patients who have limited treatment options and a high mortality rate. Working in collaboration with the Bihar State Health Mission and Bihar State Department of Health and Family Welfare, MSF offers care to these patients at Guru Gobind Singh Hospital (GGSH) in Patna. The objective is to reduce the morbidity and mortality associated with advanced HIV by improving targeted HIV testing, early antiretroviral treatment initiation, and optimal support, care, and management of patients in public healthcare facilities. The project also aims to address discrimination against people living with HIV in health facilities.

IN 2023

In addition to the ongoing medical activities (treatment of advanced HIV in Patna, support to 7 ART centers and health promotion activities), the project established a mobile unit to extend medical care directly to patients in their communities. Additionally, efforts were made to enhance the quality of care by refining standard operating procedures for patient treatment and implementing WHONET, a laboratory database software, to facilitate quicker and more accurate analysis of culture samples.



3,732

Patients visited MSF
supported clinics/hospitals



1,071

advanced HIV
consultations held



996

advanced HIV
inpatient admissions



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• CHHATTISGARH

The issue: In Chhattisgarh, due to a prolonged low-intensity conflict, a significant percentage of the population, particularly in remote areas, has limited or no access to healthcare. Medical facilities are scarce, and even preventable and treatable conditions such as malaria can prove fatal under such circumstances.



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 malnutrition, malaria, respiratory infections, pneumonia, and skin diseases among others. The clinics offer a designated area for women to address needs in reproductive health, where group and individual sessions are conducted on topics covering hygiene for reproductive healthcare, care of newborns, and sexually transmitted infections.

IN 2023

MSF lost access to one of its clinic sites in Adepalli due to external issues. Overall, in 2023, the team faced a couple of outbreaks, such as infectious eye diseases and mumps, which required support from the team in contact tracing and treating the cases. Our community activity has expanded due to an increase of community health workers for our Integrated Community Case Management (iCCM) component.



24,458

OPD consultations



6,185

patients treated for malaria



1,985

antenatal care
consultations



491

mobile clinics conducted



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DELHI

The issue: Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV) is a medical emergency. Survivors of SGBV require immediate medical care to limit serious consequences to their health, such as unwanted pregnancies and sexually transmitted infections. Violence can also affect the mental health of survivors, leading 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 SGBV through a community-based clinic in Jahangirpuri, northwest Delhi. MSF provides survivor-centered, non-stigmatising, 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 of 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 evidence, experience, and learnings from the community.

IN 2023

MSF closed its sexual violence treatment centre in Delhi in November 2023. MSF will continue to work together with other stakeholders to advocate for improved access to care for survivors of sexual violence in India. This involves addressing legal and medical barriers to care for survivors, improving models of care including for marginalised and vulnerable groups, and incorporating SGBV care into curriculums and trainings for medical practitioners.



11,711

people reached with
health promotion
activities



676

SGBV survivors
treated



519

therapeutic counselling
sessions conducted



354

individuals received
therapeutic mental
health consultations



226

patients reached
from high risk
groups



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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 services to people affected in Kashmir since 2001. Currently, our teams provide counselling services at hospitals in five districts: Baramulla, Shopian, Pulwama, Srinagar, and Sopore. Along with this, to combat the stigma associated with mental illness, MSF teams also raise awareness on the importance of mental health and the need for mental health services in the region. The project is increasingly providing mental health care to more people, closer to their communities.

IN 2023

The MSF team is seeking to reach those people who are isolated and most vulnerable to mental health issues by setting up a mobile response unit, enabling the team to reach these border areas and provide training to the community and medical staff. With the ongoing challenging context, MSF conducted a qualitative field analysis to understand the access to care in last quarter of 2023. This analysis will further guide our activity in 2024.



22,037

psycho-educational sessions
conducted at community level



14,774

mental health counselling
sessions provided



4,711

patients enrolled



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MANIPUR

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

WHAT WE DO

MSF started providing specialised 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 causes significant side effects, MSF provides pre and post-test adherence counselling to help patients successfully complete their treatment regimen. Our health education teams also raise awareness about testing and treatment options. Additionally, MSF also treats mono-infected hepatitis C patients in an opioid substitution therapy centre in Churachandpur, and provides treatment to partners of co-infected patients.

IN 2023

In the first quarter MSF transitioned the patient cohort to the MOH and the same was planned for Chakpikarong cohort by the end of the year. However, in May 2023, ethnic conflict erupted resulting in a clear ethnic division that halted our activities for a few months. In the last quarter 2023, we were able to restart our activities intermittently due to the context and trace our cohort. However, in Moreh, we face ongoing challenge with the Myanmar cohort in terms of access. With the protracted conflict, the MSF team conducted an exploratory exercise to assess the health needs in the multiple IDP camps in the third quarter of 2023. This resulted in an intervention planned in early 2024.



64

new patients initiated
on antiretroviral therapy



17

hepatitis C
(mono and co-infected)
patients treated



4

DR-TB patients initiated
on treatment



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MAHARASHTRA

The issue: Worldwide, an estimated 10.6 million people developed tuberculosis (TB) in 2022, up from best estimates of 10.3 million in 2021 and 10.0 million in 2020. India continues to be the country with the highest burden of TB worldwide, accounting for over a quarter of cases and deaths related to TB. According to Global TB report 2023, India accounts for 27% of global TB burden, 27% of estimated incident TB and 29% of TB deaths globally.



WHAT WE DO

MSF offers comprehensive diagnostic and treatment services to individuals affected by the most severe forms of drug-resistant tuberculosis (DR-TB) in Mumbai. MSF also supports TB diagnostics and treatment, patient support and community engagement activities at public DR-TB treatment centre in M-East ward Mumbai, in collaboration with Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) and the National Tuberculosis Elimination Programme (NTEP). MSF is also conducting two multi-country Phase-III randomized controlled clinical trials- the endTB (results being submitted to World Health Organization TB Guidelines Development Group) and the endTB-Q (ongoing-till December 2024), which use the new-generation of TB drugs to identify and establish evidence for effective, radically shorter (6 or 9 months) all-oral treatment for DR-TB.

IN 2023

MSF continued providing treatment to a complex cohort of DR-TB patients referred from across Mumbai. Additionally, MSF offered support in basic palliative care to a limited number of DR-TB patients. The diagnosis of TB in paediatric cases was strengthened especially among malnourished children by using newer sensitive molecular diagnostic tools as recommended by World Health Organization (WHO). Projects operational research on 'digital support technology for treatment adherence' and 'contact tracing' was presented in The Union World Conference on Lung Health 2023 in Paris.



918

active DR-TB patients
under treatment



685 (79%)

DR-TB patients with
successful outcome from
cohort initiated in 2021



603

DR-TB patients
initiated on
treatment



176

pediatric and adolescent
DR-TB patients (0-18 years)
initiated on treatment



137

DR-TB patients
enrolled under
endTB-Q trial



31

DR-TB patients
enrolled under
endTB trial



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MIZORAM

The issue: A military coup toppling the Myanmar government in February 2021 deteriorated into civil war with fighting particularly affecting the populations living in peripheric states of Myanmar. As a result, the ongoing conflict in Chin State between the military junta and People Defence Force since the coup has led to population displacement into neighbouring Mizoram state in India.



WHAT WE DO

To respond to the needs of the displaced populations from Chin State, Myanmar, MSF is present in the southern border districts of Champhai, Siaha and Lawngtlai in Mizoram state, India to provide humanitarian medical assistance since mid-2022.

IN 2023

MSF provided OPD and emergency room medical care, mental health and SGBV care at the MSF-operated clinic in Zokhawthar and facilitated patient referrals to local secondary and tertiary health structures when required. MSF also provided non-food item (NFI) kits to newly arriving households and supported displaced persons settlements with water, hygiene and sanitation structures facility, rehabilitation and maintenance.



64,800

litres of water storage capacity built in settlements



26,370

meters of pipelines built in settlements



5,293

patients treated at the MSF clinic



1,380

households (about 7,000 individuals) supported with NFI kits



1,243

referrals facilitated to health structures



338

water, hygiene, and sanitation structures have been built and rehabilitated in settlements



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MSF TELEMEDICINE DIABETES MELLITUS TYPE 2 CARE

The issue: Diabetes is a public health emergency. India has the second highest burden of Diabetes Mellitus (DM) globally. The International Diabetes Federation (IDF) estimates that there were 72.9 million people with diabetes in India in 2017, which is projected to rise to 134.3 million by the year 2045. Type 2 DM accounts for the majority of the cases, and its impact on morbidity and mortality is substantial. To effectively manage DM, access to comprehensive care that includes diet, lifestyle modification, and medication adherence is crucial. However, such services are often lacking in resource-limited settings, leaving patients vulnerable.



WHAT WE DO

In May 2022, MSF initiated the implementation of the Diabetes Mellitus care project, a comprehensive pan-India toll-free helpline for patients with DM Type 2, aimed at providing medical care to patients from low-income groups. The project was launched in collaboration with four health organisations based in Maharashtra and Delhi. The project's primary objective was to provide support to patients in managing DM effectively. This is achieved through a hybrid model that includes telemedicine intervention by trained healthcare professionals such as nurses, dieticians, and mental health counselors. Patients receive support in various ways, including healthy meal plans, promoting self-monitoring of health and well-being, intake of medication, and routine follow-ups. By supplementing patient education and counselling, the project aims to reduce the burden of doctors and relevant organisations working with MSF in the DM space thereby improving the quality of care for patients. Trained professionals provide safe and effective care to patients over the phone, making it easy for patients to manage their condition from the comfort of their own homes.

IN 2023

MSF expanded its services and involved two more NGOs providing healthcare in Jharkhand and Ladakh. The project was completed in October 2023. In order to understand the impact of this project, a qualitative research study was conducted with Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital, an esteemed medical institute in India. The study duration was 6 months. The findings indicate that the project had positively raised awareness. Patients reported improved understanding of their condition, treatment plans, and self-management strategies, leading to steady changes in medication adherence and dietary habits. Additionally, the patients expressed high levels of satisfaction with the quality of consultations they received from the experienced nurses, mental health counselors, and dieticians involved in the project.

Telemedicine Helpline

1800 309 4144

6,790

outgoing calls



1098

patients were counselled
and completed the follow-ups



799

incoming calls

NOTES



msfsouthasia.org

