



LOGISTICIAN

As a logistician you will have a vital role to play in the projects MEDECINS SANS FRONTIERES delivers. Depending on your specialisation and role with MSF, you may support the medical team and be responsible for the supply and maintenance of clinics and feeding centres; your work may include managing the warehouse and organising the supply of necessary drugs and other materials. Or you may install and maintain the technical systems, look after the water and sanitary facilities, take responsibility for managing the vehicle fleet and the technical implementation of security measures. You will work with and train a team of national staff.

Take the challenge – work with MSF

During your mission you will experience challenging working situations and living conditions that will connect you with the team and the local people. You will work with basic tools, share amenities with your colleagues, including computers, showers and refrigerators. Improvisational skills and independence will be essential, as will the ability to remain calm and capable of working constructively in a team even under strained circumstances. This is because you will be working on the ground with a small, international, multidisciplinary team and in close collaboration with your local colleagues. You will learn a lot: about the people in your project and about yourself.

To become a logistician with MSF you will need ...

- professional training and at least two years of relevant professional experience
- abilities in at least three of the following fields: vehicle mechanics, materials management, energy and electricity, water and sanitary facilities, construction, information technology, supply
- the ability to prioritise and take initiative
- experience travelling or working in a 'developing' country
- fluency in English; knowledge of French, Arabic and/or Russian an advantage
- at least nine to twelve months availability

"I worked in Afghanistan and in northern Sudan, both of which are Islamic cultures. Before I went on the missions I wasn't sure whether I would be accepted as a woman in the male preserve of logistics in these male-dominated societies. But my local colleagues very quickly laid these fears to rest. I always felt very welcome. It was a lot of fun to share my own knowledge and experience with the people. And, of course, to learn from them as well."

Anja Engel, Afghanistan, Sudan and other places

"The day in Haiti began at 6.15 am: Our security officer from the national staff would describe the security situation over the phone. Then our driver would take the midwives, doctors, nurses and administrators to their respective workplaces. Accompanied by my Haitian colleagues I would do my first rounds through the hospital and the store, then the day would begin in earnest: my work included carrying out repair work in the hospital, maintaining the fleet, drawing up duty rosters for drivers, mechanics and radio operators, preparing medicine orders, allocating vehicles to transport patients and a lot more besides. This would often be supplemented by urgent tasks, in particular dealing with the electrical system and the air conditioning. Curfew began at 6.30 pm. We would spend the evenings in the international staff hostel, either on our own or chilling out together." Niko Wiesner, Haiti

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Project work opens up whole new realms of experience: both professional and personal.

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