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NURSING STAFF

In MEDECINS SANS FRONTIERES projects, patient care is mainly carried out by local nursing staff. As an international staff member you will be working with the doctors to plan and organise medical nursing care. You will identify health risks, organise mass vaccination campaigns, coordinate programmes for malnourished children and manage and train 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 nurse with MSF you will need ...

- successfully completed training as a general or pediatric nurse
- at least two years of professional experience after qualifying as well as experience in management and teaching
- significant experience of travelling or working in a 'developing' country
- if you have no professional experience in the tropics, a course in tropical medicine (can commence after the application interview)
- ideally experience in intensive medicine, emergency care, pediatrics, surgery, neonatology, hygiene, teaching, supervising and organising
- work experience in another medical system, such as Great Britain, France or Switzerland, an advantage
- fluency in English and good knowledge of French, Arabic or Russian
- 12 to 24 months availability

"I worked with in basic healthcare provision and was responsible for two projects. We did everything from treating respiratory infections, malnutrition, diarrhoea and minor wounds, right through to assisting in childbirth. I was also jointly responsible for the organisation of the whole nursing team, and for recruiting and training new staff – and, if need be, dismissing them. Maintaining contact with the local authority was also one of my tasks. I learnt an incredible amount with MSF, such as how you diagnose and treat malnutrition, assist in childbirth and deal with diseases like malaria. And, last but not least, I experienced first hand just how much you can achieve if a team is working well." Stefan Schöne, Sudan

"For me, some of the happiest moments in our feeding centre came when mothers expressed their gratitude. It was normally really hard for us to understand one another – even with the help of national nursing staff, who often acted as interpreters. But when we were able to treat their malnourished children and discharge them after two or three weeks, there was always a spontaneous little party. I found this very moving – and it really created a bond between us." Susanne Stein, Niger and other places

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

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➔ www.aerzte-ohne-grenzen.de/mitarbeiten to find out more.
There you can also download an application form.

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