



SURGEON

With MEDECINS SANS FRONTIERES you will frequently be working in clinics in which there is a lack of surgical specialists – for instance, during or after (civil) wars. Among other things, you will be treating bullet and knife wounds and injuries from land mines, conducting fast-moving emergency operations and carrying out amputations and caesarean sections, as well as bearing the responsibility for training operating theatre and outpatient personnel.

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 surgeon with MSF you will need ...

- specialist medical training in surgery
- experience of treating open and old bone fractures, major wound infections, amputations, paediatric surgery and caesarean sections
- basic knowledge of gynaecology and obstetrics
- the ability to work under basic conditions (e.g. diagnosis without X-ray images)
- willingness to work in conditions of social and/or political instability
- psychological resilience (e.g. in doing triage)
- experience travelling or working in a 'developing' country
- fluency in English; knowledge of French, Arabic and/or Russian an advantage
- six to twelve weeks availability, at least eight weeks for the first mission

"With MSF I was able to treat people who would not otherwise have received any appropriate surgical care. At the same time, the medical conditions we were working under were very restricted. Nonetheless, as a team we still managed to provide good quality care for our patients. I also learnt a lot; I got to know some new operative techniques and symptoms that I had not come across before. I found the project work very fulfilling: it brought out the best in me, as a surgeon and as a human being."

Lynette B. Dominguez, Indonesia, Pakistan and other places

"In Bunia, a war zone in the east of the D. R. Congo, I worked in an old warehouse that had been turned into a hospital with an operating theatre. Every day we treated the war-wounded, dealing with bullet wounds, carrying out amputations, stabilising open fractures and operating on acute abdominal conditions such as perforations or abscesses. We had neither X-ray nor ultrasound equipment. In Bunia we used our five senses to make diagnoses and consulted one another within the team; additional help was provided by basic laboratory tests. Project work with MSF entails minimal red tape and hierarchy and a lot of medicine and responsibility, along with many difficult situations and decisions. And a large number of people who wait gratefully for us in the hospital. Every day."

Stefan Krieger, Democratic Republic of Congo, Chad 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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DONATIONS

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