

## ENVIRONMENT AND HEALTH: MOVING TOWARDS RESPONDING TO THE CLIMATE CRISIS AND ENVIRONMENTAL CHALLENGES IN HUMANITARIAN SETTINGS

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While the current climate change and environmental degradation crisis keeps exacerbating humanitarian needs and vulnerabilities, humanitarian medical organizations like MSF have responded to the consequences of the crisis. A growing movement within MSF has also engaged in different ways worldwide, acknowledging the relevance of the topic for MSF, both for operations and institutional responsibility. The concerns have their roots in what MSF is witnessing in the field, working with vulnerable populations and responding to emergencies, aligned with the increasing scientific evidence.



Due to the challenges that such a complex topic represents, sometimes the discussions have provoked skepticism regarding the MSF's capacity or willingness to take action or its role in advocacy. However, the reality is that the world is changing rapidly, and people's health is affected differently, especially for the most vulnerable.

Within a broad yet unknown territory for MSF, different OCBs have taken different approaches to take on board the topic. By now, all MSF OCBs have an initiative to either map, explore and/or implement actions regarding climate, environment and health (CEH). The discussion and initiatives across the movement have served as a foundation for MSFOCB to start moving towards defining a vision using the lenses of Climate change and environmental degradation. The creation of the OCB Circle on CEH has provided an enormous push to potential areas for research and operational action thanks to developing an action plan and the OR agenda supported by Luxor. This action plan was built with strong field participation, in which more than 50 staff in the missions provided their input.



We believe there is a momentum to listen to some of the experiences from key actors and exchange with other MSF sections to inspire OCB. It is also an excellent moment to debate the implications,

limitations and opportunities for advocacy on climate and environmental degradation for MSF, exchanging ideas on various aspects, such as:

- Current challenges for implementation
- Prioritization of analysis and activities/geographic areas, based on criteria as:
  - o Vulnerable populations
  - o MSF's capacity and expertise
  - o Building capacity to adapt and mitigate with community participation
- Conducive ways of working for MSF
  - o Exchanging experiences within and out of MSF
  - o How to better integrate the topic within the multiple MSF operational priorities.
  - o How to better integrate the topic in OCBs existing technical expertise groups (Medical department circles and other)
  - o How should MSF position itself publicly
  - o Which are the limits on advocacy regarding the climate crisis and environmental degradation and health

For this reflection, we want to invite all people working for MSF OCB for a series of webinars:

The main objective of these webinars is:

- To inform and raise awareness on the topic, the relevance of CEH for the settings where we work and the impact on people's health with a specific focus on the most vulnerable
- To share what has been done within MSF in terms of reflection, planning, documentation, commitment etc.
- To display some examples on CEH action from other humanitarian/health actors and other MSF OC's, as inspiration and to collect input for the action plan.
- To open the debate on MSF's role on advocacy and its positioning regarding advocacy, the space and the main topics that MSF should raise in the global agenda.

# WEBINAR AGENDA:

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Main organizer: Analysis department

To: OCB field and HQ + Asso

Facilitator: Robin Vincent- Smith (process and virtual technology)

Platform: Zoom Pro Webinar

Language: English

## **Session 1**

**Thursday January 28<sup>th</sup>: Climate change, environment and health: Where are we within MSF?**

**Where are we heading to?: an Informative session. Total duration 120 min**

11:00 am Opening and welcoming from the analysis department and introduction to the session.

Angela Uyen/Robin Vincent-Smith

05 Mins

11:05am Welcome and intro Director of Operations OCB

05 Mins

11:10am OCB Field initiative (Project or research)

\*Pakistan: Dengue and Climate change

\*Zimbabwe: Mining environment and health

\*Sierra Leone: Implementing Solar panels

15 Mins

11:20 Q&A

15 Mins

11:35 Circle introduction and initiatives in OCB;

05 Mins

Maria Ten

11:45 Q&A

15 Mins

12:00 BREAK

05 Mins

12:10 am Building the evidence: OR agenda luxor

10 Mins

Describe the objectives of the agenda, the possibilities and some of the proposals.

Umberto Pellecchia

12:20 Climate change, environment and health: why are humanitarian settings particularly relevant?

*A short review on affected areas, affected populations, health topics affected by Climate change & Envi*

Caroline Voute

10 Mins

12:30 Q&A: 20 mins

12:50: Wrap up and reflections of the session 10 mins

Sebastian Spencer Medical director OCB/Robin Vincent Smith

## **Session 2**

**Thursday February 4<sup>th</sup> : Medical humanitarian responses to the challenges posed by climate change and environmental degradation. What can MSF learn from others? What lessons learned by the different OCs? PANEL DISCUSSION Total duration 120 mins**

11:00 am Opening and Welcome

Robin Vincent-Smith 05 Mins.

### ***SHARING EXPERIENCES: PANEL WITH EXTERNAL ACTORS.***

11:05 Moderator: Lachlan MCiver 05 Mins.

11:10 am Medical humanitarian organizations and the experiences on mitigating the effects of the CC crisis: Conflict settings ICRC

10 Mins.

11:20 am Climate change, environment and health: Building resilience in communities. How to adapt to the new challenges? IFRC

10 Mins

11:30 am Vulnerabilities and the neglect of the CC and environmental degradation crisis: TBC

10 mins

11:40 Q&A and wrap up

20 mins

12:00 BREAK 05 mins

### **MSF's OTHER SECTIONS OPERATIONAL AND RESEARCH INITIATIVES**

12:05 The MSF planetary health approach: OCG initiatives

Brian Willet 10 mins

12:15 Caroline Voute OCA initiatives 10 mins

12:25 Leo Tremblay MACA project 10 mins

Discussion and Q&A 20 mins

12:55 Closure and wrap up

### **Session 3**

**Thursday February 11<sup>th</sup>: The MSF voice on Climate crisis and environmental degradation: What is the MSF role on advocacy on CEH?: Discussing positioning and advocacy**

### **DEBATE Total duration 90**

11:00 am Opening and welcoming from the analysis department and introduction to the agenda.

05 Mins.

Moderator: Angela Uyen

*Welcome and highlight the relevance of MSFs voice on Global health* 05 min

11:10 Advocacy on CC and environmental degradation: Challenges and ways forward

Participants: TBC

40 mins debate

11:50 BREAK and we come back for the wrap up and questions 05 mins

12:00 Q&A and Wrap up 20 mins

12:20 Groups discussion and exercise 20 mins

12:40 Every group will have 3 mins to show their conclusions 10 mins

12:50 Closure: Aurelie Pontieu Head of the analysis department