



2020

ANNUAL REPORT

I R A Q



أطباء بلا حدود

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MSF AT A GLANCE

Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) translates to Doctors without Borders. It is an independent medical humanitarian movement that aims to deliver emergency medical care where it is needed the most. MSF works in 72 countries around the world.

MSF offers neutral and impartial medical assistance regardless of race, religion, gender or political affiliation. To ensure its independence, MSF does not accept funding from any government or international agency for its programs in Iraq, relying solely on private donations from the general public around the world to carry out its work.

MSF PRINCIPLES

MSF was founded in 1971 in Paris by a group of journalists and doctors. Today, we are a worldwide movement of more than 42,000 people.

We provide medical assistance to people affected by conflict, epidemics, disasters, or exclusion from healthcare. Our teams are made up of tens of thousands of health professionals, logistic and administrative staff - bound together by our charter. Our actions are guided by medical ethics and the principles of impartiality, independence and neutrality. We are a non-profit, self-governed, member-based organization.

PATIENTS FIRST

MSF's actions are first and foremost medical. The notion of quality care for the individual patient is central to our humanitarian objective. We seek to provide high-quality care and to act always in the best interest of patients; to respect their confidentiality, their right to make their own decisions and above all, to do them no harm. When medical assistance alone is not enough, we may provide shelter, water and sanitation, food or other services.

IMPARTIALITY

We offer assistance to people based on need. It doesn't matter which country they are from, which religion they belong to, or what their political affiliations are. We give priority to those in the most serious and immediate danger.

INDEPENDENCE

Our decision to offer assistance is based on our evaluation of medical needs, independent of political, economic or religious interests. Our independence is rooted in our funding; over 90 per cent comes from individual private donors giving small amounts. We strive to freely evaluate needs, access populations without restriction, and to directly deliver the aid we provide.

NEUTRALITY

We do not take sides in armed conflicts nor support the agendas of warring parties. Sometimes we are not present on all sides to the conflict; this may be because access is denied to us, or due to insecurity, or because the main needs of the population are already covered.

BEARING WITNESS

Neutrality is not synonymous with silence. Our proximity to people in distress implies a duty to raise awareness on their plight to ultimately help improve their situation. We may seek to bring attention to extreme need and suffering, when access to lifesaving medical care is hindered, when our teams witness extreme acts of violence, when crises are neglected, or when the provision of aid is abused.

TRANSPARENCY

We take responsibility of accounting for our actions to our patients and donors, and being transparent on the choices we make. Evaluations, critical reviews and debate on our field practices, our public positioning and on wider humanitarian issues, are necessary to improve what we do.

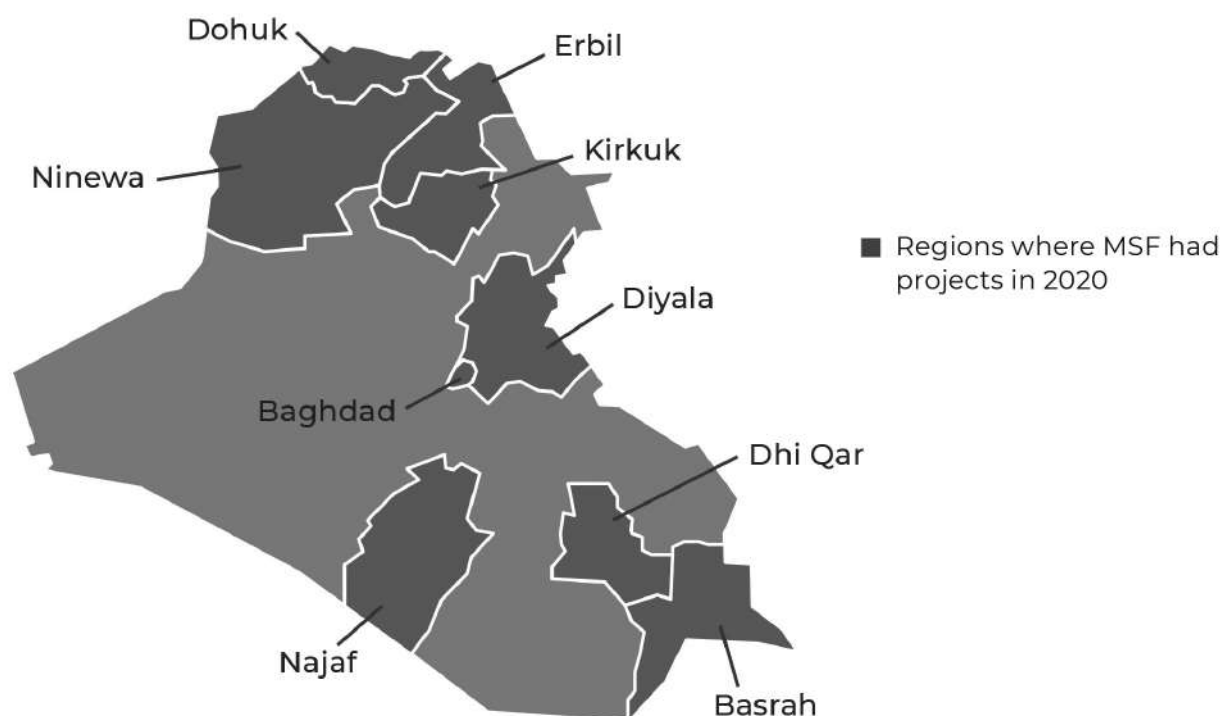
THE MSF CHARTER

MSF provides assistance to populations in distress, to victims of natural or man-made disasters and to victims of armed conflict. They do so irrespective of race, religion, creed or political convictions.

MSF observes neutrality and impartiality in the name of universal medical ethics and the right to humanitarian assistance and claims full and unhindered freedom in the exercise of its functions.

Members undertake to respect their professional code of ethics and maintain complete independence from all political, economic or religious powers.

MSF PRESENCE IN IRAQ IN 2020



QUICK OVERVIEW OF MSF ACTIVITIES IN IRAQ IN 2020

The effects of years of conflict and instability are still felt in Iraq and 2020 brought new challenges upon the country. The mass protests that started at the end of 2019 continued into the first months of 2020. At the same time, the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic had a significant impact on the ongoing health system recovery and on the population's ability to access healthcare services.

Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) teams continued to provide essential healthcare services, to respond to the health emergencies caused by the recent war against the IS group, the consequent displacement of millions of people, the mass demonstrations taking place across Iraq and the COVID-19 pandemic.

Many health facilities that were damaged during recent conflicts have yet to return to full capacity. Compounded by the shortage of specialized healthcare staff and drugs, it was clear that the local health system would struggle to cope with the increased needs and challenges generated by the pandemic. MSF decided to maintain its lifesaving medical operations while enhancing infection prevention and control measures, and putting in place triage and referral procedures to ensure the protection of patients and staff.

At the same time, MSF provided specific training and support to the Iraqi health authorities in Baghdad, Mosul, Erbil and Dohuk to help them cope with the spread of COVID-19. In the second half of 2020, MSF started treating severe and critical COVID-19 patients in specialized intensive care facilities in Baghdad and Mosul.

Throughout the year, we maintained our primary and secondary health services, including maternity and neonatal care, emergency room care, specialized surgery, comprehensive post-operative and rehabilitative care, treatment of non-communicable diseases (NCDs), specialized burns treatment, and mental health support for displaced people, returnees and vulnerable communities. In addition, we continued supporting the National TB Program with the introduction of a new, more effective oral treatment for drug-resistant TB.



2020 : MSF IRAQ IN NUMBERS

1,578	Number of COVID patients treated
2,467	Surgical procedures
3,412	Patients admitted to inpatient wards
16,239	Individual mental health consultations
14,442	Births assisted including 1,783 C-sections
70,900	Emergency room consultations
1,196	Physiotherapy sessions
36,057	Outpatient department (OPD) consultations
29,108	Non-communicable diseases consultations
1,629	National staff
177	International staff

\$47,601,741

Budget allocated to humanitarian work in Iraq
(from private donations)

11 Projects

- 3 Hospitals
 - 3 Camps
 - 5 Special care centres
 - 6 Mental health activities
 - 4 COVID-19 activities
-

HIGHLIGHTS 2020

After four years of building the capacity of many local medical specialists, and setting up specialized healthcare units in Qayyarah, MSF began to hand over its medical activities to the Ministry of Health hospitals and medical facilities. In January, MSF handed over the paediatric and neonates malnutrition unit to the Qayyarah General Hospital.

JANUARY

MARCH

Between March and December, MSF temporarily repurposed its Comprehensive Post-Operative Care Facility in East Mosul to serve as a COVID-19 treatment centre, expanding to 72 beds, with inpatient wards and isolation rooms for confirmed and suspected COVID patients.

In Baghdad, MSF teams started supporting the Al-Kindi Hospital respiratory care unit, by providing training for staff on administering ventilation, on disinfection and on techniques for the treatment of COVID.

JUNE

JULY

Following the outbreak of COVID-19, the teams at MSF's Baghdad Medical Rehabilitation Centre moved to provide physiotherapy and mental healthcare to patients through online communications and Skype sessions, to ensure patients with severe injuries from accidents or violent incidents received ongoing care to ensure their recovery. In July, following the implementation of infection prevention and control measures to ensure the safety of staff and patients, MSF resumed in person OPD services for patients already enrolled in programs.

OCTOBER

MSF completed the handover of its activities in Qayyarah to the local public hospital, and to Mosul's Jimhori Hospital for burn specialized care, and to other organisations for mental health. As part of the handover process, MSF teams provided support with deep cleaning, training of staff, HR support and the donating of medical and non-medical supplies.

NOVEMBER

A 16 -bed COVID19- intensive care unit, run by MSF in collaboration with the Ninewa Directorate of Health, opened in the Al-Salam Hospital in East Mosul, providing advanced care for critical and severe cases of COVID-19. The facility is equipped with ventilation and oxygen machines to ensure oxygen provision to patients with acute respiratory symptoms.

In Hawija and Al-Abbasi towns MSF teams supported health centres with primary healthcare, maternity and sexual and reproductive health services, treatment for NCDs, mental health support and health promotion activities. MSF teams also provided medical services in Laylan camp for displaced people, until the camp's closure in late November.

MSF moved its COVID-19 activities from the respiratory care unit in Al-Kindi Hospital, in Baghdad, to the newly constructed Al-Shifaa 13 COVID-19 centre, in Al-Kindi, where we started to provide care to severe and critically ill COVID-19 patients.

DECEMBER

MSF PROJECTS IN IRAQ

NINEWA GOVERNORATE

More than three years have passed since the end of the war against the Islamic State group but the devastating impact it had is still felt in Ninewa. Large numbers of people are still displaced, the mental health trauma among the population remains largely unaddressed and, despite the ongoing reconstruction and recovery efforts, many of the health facilities destroyed during the conflict have yet to be rebuilt and resume activities. The COVID-19 pandemic complicated the situation further, causing health structures to suspend activities and overwhelming the ones that remained active. In response to this, MSF conducted information campaigns, enhanced infection prevention and control measures and established management, triage and referral procedures for patients with respiratory symptoms in all its facilities, all while keeping its life-saving services running. In addition, MSF opened a COVID-19 intensive care unit in Al-Salam hospital, converted our surgical hospital to COVID-19 treatment centre for six months and conducted infection prevention and control trainings for staff in 9 health facilities, as well as PPE and hygiene material donations.



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Paediatric care in Nablus hospital, Mosul

WEST MOSUL

Nablu Field Hospital

MSF runs a comprehensive maternity unit in Nablu Field hospital with capacity for caesarean sections. Our team provided emergency obstetric and neonatal care, inpatient paediatric services, as well as emergency treatment and stabilisation of patients before referral to other hospitals. MSF teams also ensured provision of reproductive health activities and mental health services.

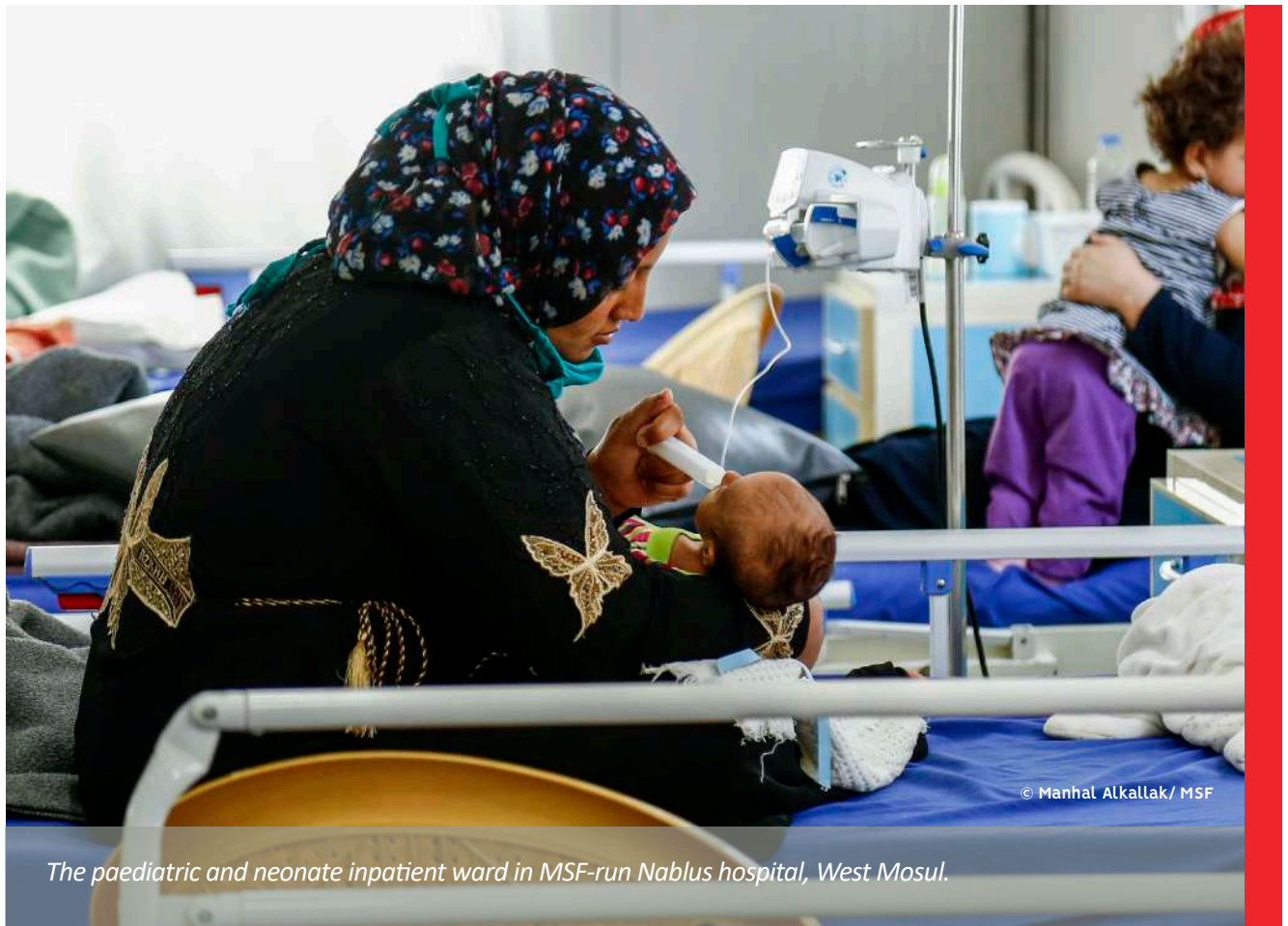
With the emergence of COVID-19, MSF teams enhanced infection prevention and control measures and established triage, stabilisation and referral procedures for patients with respiratory symptoms to ensure the safety of our staff and patients.

In 2020, our team in Nablu Field hospital increased surgical capacity by going from one to two operating theatres for caesareans and other obstetric emergencies, conducted 1,783 deliveries by caesarean section, assisted in an additional 9,050 normal deliveries, performed 41,069 emergency room consultations, treated 2,086 children in the inpatient ward, and provided 2,156 individual mental health consultations.



Emergency healthcare in Nablu hospital, Mosul

© Manhal Alkallak / MSF



© Manhal Alkallak/ MSF

The paediatric and neonate inpatient ward in MSF-run Nablus hospital, West Mosul.

**NINEWA GOVERNORATE
NABLUS FIELD HOSPITAL, WEST MOSUL**

9,050	Births assisted
1,783	C-sections
41,069	ER consultations
2,086	Neonates and paediatrics admissions
2,156	Mental health consultations



© Manhal Alkallak/ MSF

EAST MOSUL

Covid19- Intensive Care Unit In Al-Salam Hospital

The 16-bed COVID-19 intensive care unit - run by MSF in collaboration with the Ninewa Directorate of Health – was opened mid-November, and offers advanced care for critical and severe cases of COVID-19. The facility is equipped with ventilation and oxygen machines to ensure oxygen provision to patients with acute respiratory symptoms. By the end of the year 14 patients were admitted to the ICU.



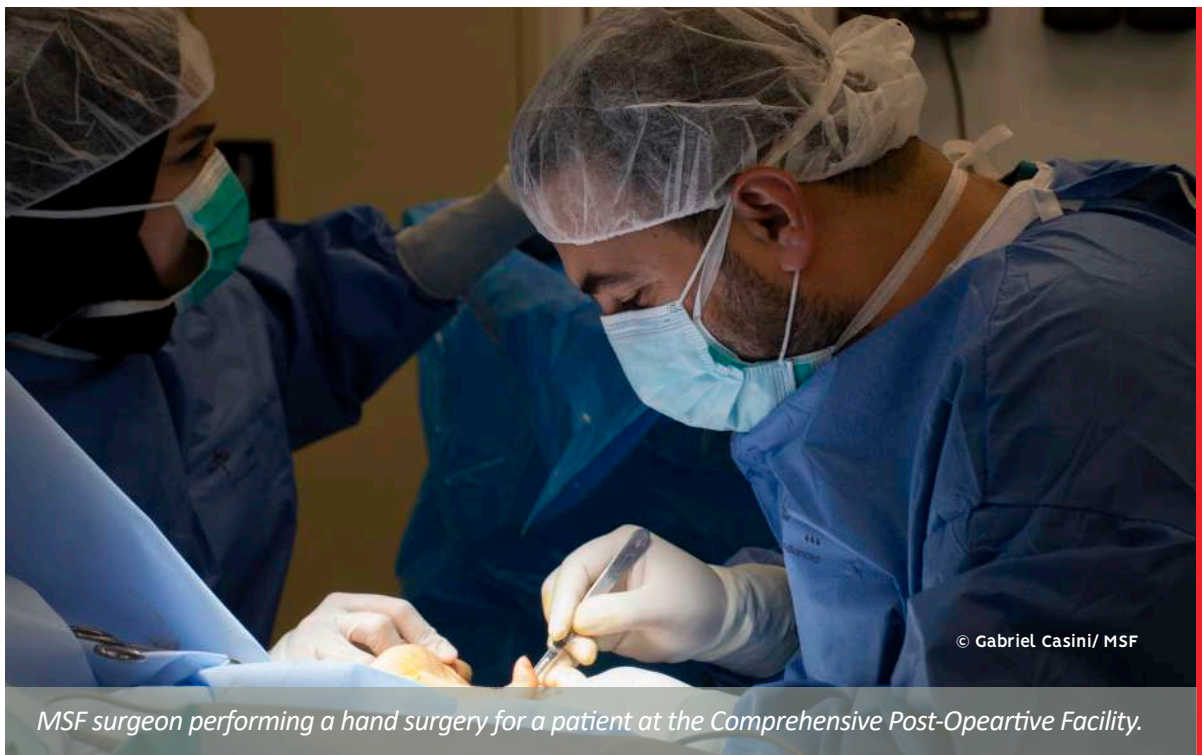
EAST MOSUL COVID19- INTENSIVE CARE UNIT IN AL-SALAM HOSPITAL

16 Beds
14 Patients admitted

EAST MOSUL

Comprehensive Post-Operative Care Facility

To address the shortage of skilled surgery and post surgical care, since 2018 MSF has run a comprehensive facility for patients with violent or accidental trauma injuries in east Mosul. The hospital is equipped with two permanent operating theatres (up from the single mobile one used until beginning of 2020), a 40-bed inpatient ward, recovery rooms and rehabilitation units. Between March and December 2020, MSF temporarily repurposed the facility to serve as a COVID-19 treatment centre, expanding to 72 beds, with inpatient wards and isolation rooms for confirmed and suspected COVID-19 patients. During 2020 MSF teams conducted 506 surgical interventions, consulted 1,560 patients in the outpatient department and admitted 975 COVID-19 patients.



EAST MOSUL COMPREHENSIVE POST-OPERATIVE CARE FACILITY

506	Surgical procedures
1,560	Outpatient consultations
975	COVID-19 patients

WEST MOSUL

Maternity And Newborn Care Al Rafedein Maternity Clinic

In the Al-Rafedein basic healthcare centre, MSF provides sexual and reproductive healthcare such as non-surgical obstetric and maternity services, antenatal and postnatal consultations, family planning and mental health consultation. In 2020, our teams assisted in 2,560 deliveries, provided 10,335 antenatal consultations and 691 postnatal consultations.



MSF midwife midwife, taking care of a women about to deliver her baby at Al Rafadain maternity.

WEST MOSUL MATERNITY AND NEWBORN CARE AL-RAFEDEIN MATERNITY CLINIC

2,560	Deliveries
11,026	Maternal care consultations

MOSUL

Mental Health Support To Primary Health Centres

The need for mental health support in Iraq is very high. In addition to the integrated mental health component in the majority of our structures, MSF runs dedicated mental health support activities in al-Karama and 17th of July primary health centres in Mosul. In these 2 centres in 2020, MSF conducted 3,547 individual mental health consultations and 790 new patients were enrolled in the mental health program.



MOSUL MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT TO PRIMARY HEALTH CENTRES

3,547 Mental health consultations
790 New patients

SINJAR DISTRICT

Sinuni General Hospital

MSF provides emergency care and referral, maternity and paediatric inpatient services, and mental healthcare at Sinuni General Hospital. After movement restrictions between governorates were introduced in response to COVID-19, MSF teams received a higher number of patients than usual, and directly referred patients needing specialist care to hospitals in Mosul. In response to the pandemic, infection prevention and control measures were reinforced, triage and referral procedures for patients with respiratory symptoms were established and 4 beds were dedicated to stabilisation and observation of COVID-19 patients. In 2020, MSF conducted 14,725 emergency room consultations, provided 12,537 sexual and reproductive health consultations (including antenatal and postnatal consultations), admitted 645 children for inpatient treatment, assisted in 883 births and conducted 1,252 individual mental health sessions.



The entrance of the Sinuni General Hospital in the Sinuni subdistrict of Sinjar District.

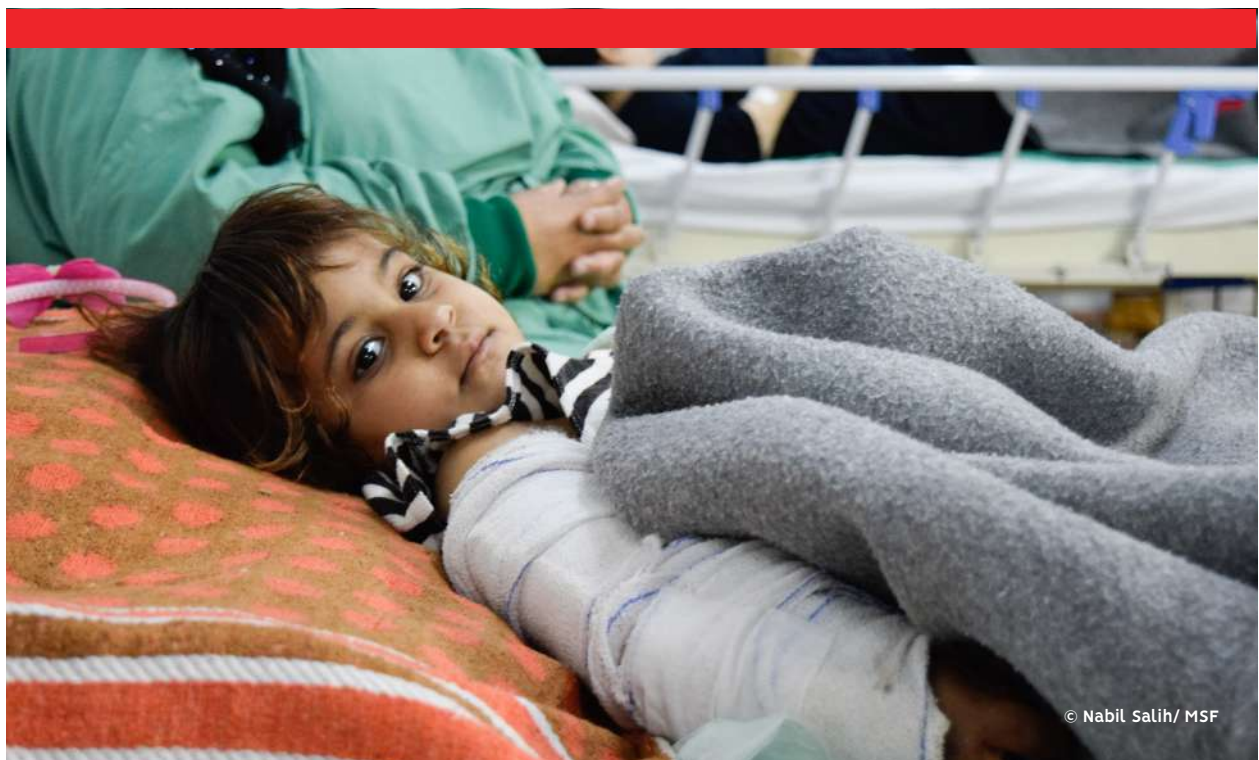
SINJAR DISTRICT SINUNI GENERAL HOSPITAL

14,725 Emergency room consultations
5,992 Mental health consultation (individual + group sessions)

QAYYARAH

At its hospital in Qayyarah, MSF provided medical support including emergency response, intensive care, burns treatment, physiotherapy and mental healthcare. In Qayyarah camp for displaced people, MSF teams provided general healthcare services, including basic emergency obstetric and newborn care, emergency room services, treatment and follow up of non-communicable diseases, mental healthcare and health promotion activities. With the emergence of COVID-19, our teams set up isolation tents for suspected COVID-19 patients. At the start of the year, MSF transferred its paediatric and neonatal units to the newly rehabilitated public hospital. In October 2020, MSF completed the handover of its remaining activities to Qayyarah public hospital, to Mosul's Jimhori Hospital for burn specialized care, and to other organisations for the mental health component. As part of the handover process, MSF teams provided support with deep cleaning, training of staff, HR support and the donating of medical and non-medical supplies.

Between January and October 2020, our teams conducted 15,106 emergency room consultations, treated 255 burns patients, conducted 5,146 physiotherapy sessions, 2,238 surgical procedures, 6,472 individual mental health consultations, 2,803 non-communicable disease consultations, 1,236 sexual and reproductive health consultations, and 27,119 outpatient consultations.



© Nabil Salih/ MSF

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The five-year old hasn't spoken to people other than her immediate family members in years

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Telha, Grandmother



© Ahmed Kaka/ MSF

Qayyarah Burns Patient, Firdous

Inside the hospital, the cries and shouts of a five-year-old Mosulawi girl ring out in one burns unit. Firdous Salah took her family members by surprise when her mother wasn't around. She reached out to a kettle of boiling water resting on an oil heater, and then flipped it over her body. Her right arm, abdomen and both thighs were scalded.

Her grandmother, Telha Ahmed, accompanies her as her mother is preoccupied with caring for Firdous's siblings in the tent that has become their sanctuary, in the wake of a devastating war to retake Iraqi cities from Islamic State (IS) group - a war that has left scores of the citizenry stranded in ramshackle camps across Iraq.

"It's difficult, very difficult," says Telha, describing life in Jada'a camp, where Firdous is growing up in the outskirts of the urban town of Qayyarah – a harsh environment no child could bear.

Unlike her peers, Firdous, holding a green teddy rabbit with her left arm, doesn't utter a word. The five-year old "hasn't spoken to people other than her immediate family members in years," Telha, says.

"It's the shock," she laments, referring to the deafening sound of bombing that rocked the city of Mosul - the city Firdous's family escaped when she was a baby - and left irreversible damage on countless humans.

QAYYARAH

Emergency room consultations	15,106
Surgical procedures	2,238
Consultations for non-communicable diseases	2,803
Burns treatment	255

KIRKUK GOVERNORATE

Restoring healthcare for IDPS and returnees

After having helped to restore healthcare facilities in Hawija and Al-Abbasi towns in 2019, in 2020 MSF teams continued to support health centres with primary healthcare, maternity and sexual and reproductive health services, treatment for NCDs, mental health support and health promotion activities. MSF teams also provided medical services in Laylan camp for displaced people, until the camp's closure in late November 2020. Throughout 2020, MSF provided 25,757 non-communicable disease consultations, 1,309 sexual and reproductive health consultations and 3,058 individual mental health consultations in Kirkuk. With the emergence of COVID-19, our teams set up a triage system and surveillance in all locations, accomplished health education and cloth masks distribution for Laylan camp population and prepared a 20-bed treatment facility for severe COVID-19 cases in Laylan camp to be ready to respond to an outbreak. In the end, the COVID-19 treatment facility was not opened, because there were very few severe cases and local health providers had good capacities to manage those cases.



KIRKUK GOVERNORATE

25,757	Consultations for non-communicable diseases
1,309	Sexual and reproductive health consultations
3,058	Mental health consultations



© Narmeen Abbas/ MSF

Hameed Hilal: MSF Health Promoter in Laylan Camp.

Hameed Hilal. 26 years old, MSF health promoter in Laylan Camp, Kirkuk governorate.

«Like many of the camp residents, I fled my hometown - Al-Rashad sub Subdistrict in Hawija District- three years ago when the area was under the control of the Islamic State (IS) group.

We made a long journey by foot before ending up in this camp and we weren't able to return home yet.

With the COVID-19 pandemic, living in the camp has become more stressful than before for most of the residents.

On top of the previously existing difficulties of life in a camp, the frequent lockdowns and the movement restrictions put in place by the government are leaving people struggling to find jobs or daily work. Even as the lockdown is lifted, finding jobs is much more difficult than before as due to the economic crisis- business everywhere is much slower and working hands are in less demand.

DIYALA GOVERNORATE

In Diyala, MSF teams addressed the needs of displaced people, returnees and host communities by offering primary healthcare, mental health support, sexual and reproductive healthcare services, treatment for NCDs and health promotion. MSF teams worked in Khanaqin and Alwand camp and in health facilities in Sinsil and Al-Muqdadiyah. During the second quarter of 2020, MSF saw stability in the context and growing capacity by local health providers and other NGOs in Diyala governorate and handed over its project to other organisations working in the area in August 2020.

Between January and August 2020, MSF provided 1,571 non-communicable disease consultations, 1,475 sexual and reproductive health consultations and 3,864 mental health consultations.



Alwand camps for internally displaced people in Khanaqin.

© Hassan Kamal Al-Deen/ MSF

DIYALA GOVERNORATE

1,571	Consultations for non-communicable diseases
3,864	Mental health consultations
1,475	Sexual and reproductive health consultations

BAGHDAD GOVERNORATE

Baghdad Medical Rehabilitation Centre (BMRC)

The focus of activities at Baghdad Medical Rehabilitation Centre is to provide comprehensive rehabilitative care, including pain management, physiotherapy and mental health support, for people injured in violent incidents or accidents. After the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, teams at MSF's Baghdad Medical Rehabilitation Centre continued to provide physiotherapy and mental healthcare to patients through online communications and Skype sessions, as patients with severe injuries from accidents or violent incidents needed ongoing care to ensure their recovery. In July 2020, following the implementation of all the necessary infection prevention and control measures to ensure the safety of staff and patients, MSF resumed in person OPD services for patients already enrolled in the programs and started admitting new ones in the IDP in November.



BAGHDAD GOVERNORATE BAGHDAD MEDICAL REHABILITATION CENTRE (BMRC)

7,378 Outpatient consultations
155 New patients post-operative (OPD)



Drug Resistant Tuberculosis Project

To support the National Tuberculosis Programme (NTP) in transitioning to an all-oral medication for the treatment of drug-resistant tuberculosis (DR-TB), in 2020 MSF supported the enrolment of 98 patients, including DR-TB patients on bedaquiline and delamanid. This oral treatment is better tolerated by patients and improves their chances of recovery, while preventing the side effects caused by the old injectable drugs. MSF provided the medications needed for the treatment, patient monitoring tools, counselling sessions for patients and education sessions about TB for patients and their families. Our teams also provided staff and helped build technical and laboratory capacity to improve TB/DR-TB case finding at the National Reference Laboratory and to improve treatment adherence and patient care at Rusafa chest and respiratory department and Sadr tuberculosis medical unit. MSF also provided transport reimbursement and food packages for selected DR-TB patients.

BAGHDAD

DRUG RESISTANT TUBERCULOSIS PROJECT

49	Patients enrolled in oral therapy
113	Counselling sessions

COVID-19 Support

So far, Baghdad has been the city hardest hit by COVID-19 in Iraq. MSF teams supported two COVID-19 treatment centres in the capital (Ibn Al-Khateeb and Al-Kindi), providing training on patient triage and infection prevention and control in order to ensure the safety of health staff and patients.

COVID-19 Ward And Intensive Care Unit In Al-Kindi Hospital

In June 2020, MSF teams started supporting Al-Kindi respiratory care unit, first by providing training for staff on administering ventilation, on disinfection and on techniques for the treatment of COVID-19 and then, from September, with the direct management of patients in collaboration with the Directorate of Health staff. In December, MSF moved activities to the newly constructed COVID-19 ward and intensive care unit in Al-Kindi hospital. Between September and December 2020, our teams treated 239 COVID-19 patients.



COVID-19 patient in Al-Kindy hospital, Baghdad

© Nabil Salih/ MSF

ERBIL AND DOHUK GOVERNORATES

COVID-19

MSF teams provided training sessions on infection prevention and control measures in hospitals to help them protect their health staff and patients during the COVID-19 pandemic. During 2020, MSF teams trained health staff in Erbil Emergency Hospital, Rizgary and Emirati Attaya hospitals in Erbil governorate and in Lalav, Cavin and Burn hospitals in Duhok governorate. MSF also donated infection prevention and control supplies and cleaning materials to all six hospitals as well as to Shirkan hospital in Duhok.



© Hassan Kamal Al-Deen/ MSF

MSF nurses providing an infection prevention and control training to the staff at the Rizgary General Hospital in Erbil.

NAJAF, DHI QAR AND BASRA GOVERNORATES

Emergency Response

N A J A F

The mass demonstrations that took place in early 2020 also affected Najaf governorate; as a result, healthcare facilities received people wounded in violent incidents. In early 2020, MSF provided training in mass casualty planning to staff at Najaf's Al-Hakim general hospital, Al-Sadr teaching hospital and Al-Furat central hospital to help them deal with a sudden influx of patients. MSF also donated 60 triage kits to equip the hospitals' ambulances. MSF teams also trained 20 health specialists in these hospitals, including ambulance staff, doctors and nurses.



© Hassan Kamal Al-Deen/ MSF

N A S R I Y A H

MSF teams supported the emergency room of Al-Hussein hospital, providing training on trauma care to further strengthen the skills of 78 doctors and 168 nurses in the emergency room, with a focus on critical injuries and resuscitation. Our teams also helped adapt the hospital's workspaces to accommodate more patients and donated medical equipment to the facility. MSF also provided trauma first aid training to 80 participants from various medical facilities.

B A S R A

Basra was also the scene of mass demonstrations and trauma incidents. In response, MSF teams provided a practical skills training on emergency preparedness at city level and trauma training for 21 paramedics, in collaboration with the Department of Health operational centre, to improve the quality of pre-hospital trauma care. Our teams also provided assistance with trauma training for 65 new graduate doctors as part of their emergency orientation training.



**YEARS
OF HUMANITY**

