

Mozambique

2023

Annual Activity Report



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The Médecins Sans Frontières

Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) is a private international association. The association is made up mainly of doctors and health sector workers and is also open to all other professions which might help in achieving its aims. All of its members agree to honour the following principles:

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, gender, 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.

As volunteers, members understand the risks and dangers of the missions they carry out and make no claim for themselves or their assigns for any form of compensation other than that which the association might be able to afford them.

This report presents the achievements of the activities carried out by MSF in Mozambique in the period from January to December 2023.

The year 2023 was characterized by extreme weather events, volatility in the security situation in Cabo Delgado province and, consequently, a high number of internally displaced people in need of basic emergency assistance.

In 2023, MSF responded to several crises, providing medical assistance to the people in need, focusing on people affected by internal displacements, HIV/Aids, tuberculosis and neglected tropical diseases. MSF provides access to health care, by supporting the reconstruction of health facilities, providing medical care, health promotion, water and sanitation, among others. This report focuses on the main outcomes of MSF work during the year.

The photographs presented in this report are of patients and people assisted by MSF. They have given permission for their photographs to be used.

Special thanks go to the Government of Mozambique through its various institutions, including the Ministry of Health, which MSF partners with, the National Disaster Management Institute (INGD), humanitarian and civil society organizations and, above all, the anonymous people and others who have contributed through their donations to making medical assistance increasingly possible for populations in situations of great crisis and vulnerability.

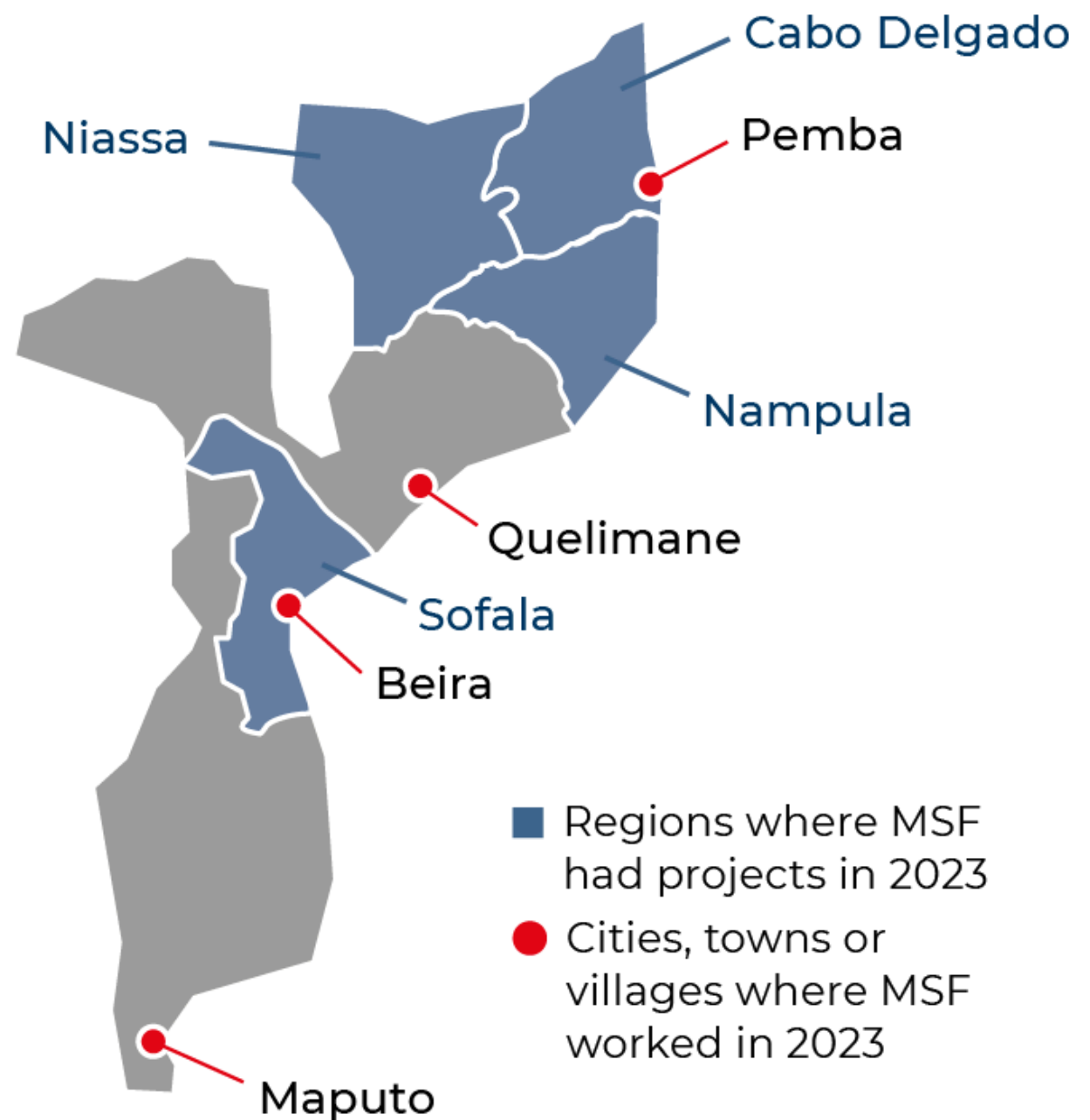


MSF In Mozambique Overview Of Activities

MSF has been present in Mozambique since 1984, marking 40 years of our medical and humanitarian action in the country, responding to disasters, conflicts and epidemics, cholera outbreaks and flooding, providing support to the health authorities in improving access to water and sanitation and basic health care.

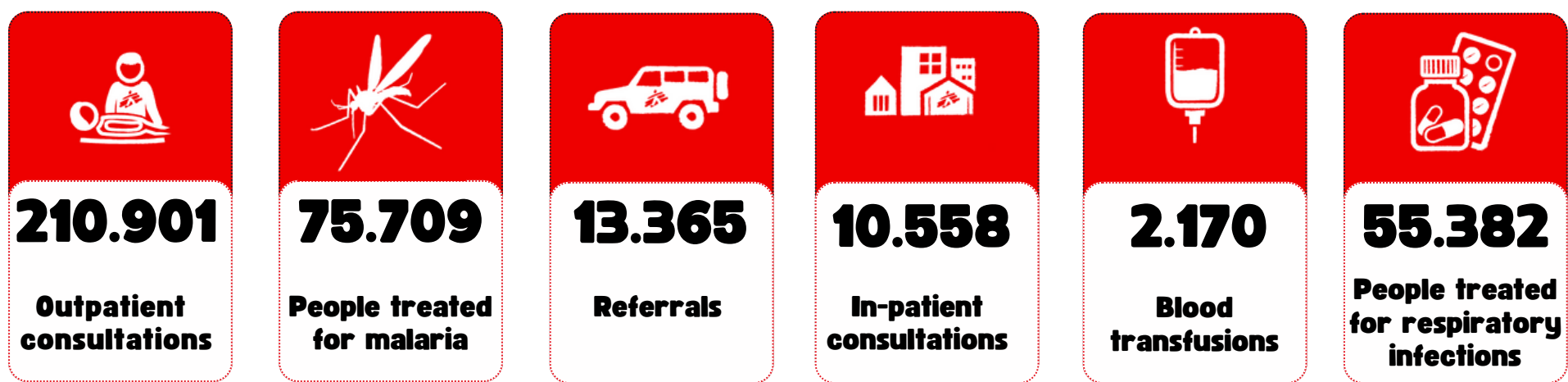
In 2023 MSF provided care to those affected by the conflict in Cabo Delgado, people living with advanced HIV, key populations (sex workers, men who have sex with men and youth at risk) and patients affected by neglected tropical diseases in Nampula.

By December 2023, close to 710,000 people were internally displaced in Mozambique as a result of conflict, climate events such as tropical cyclones and flooding.



MAP: MSF Presence in Mozambique - 2023

2023 Activities highlights



Assisting people affected by the conflict



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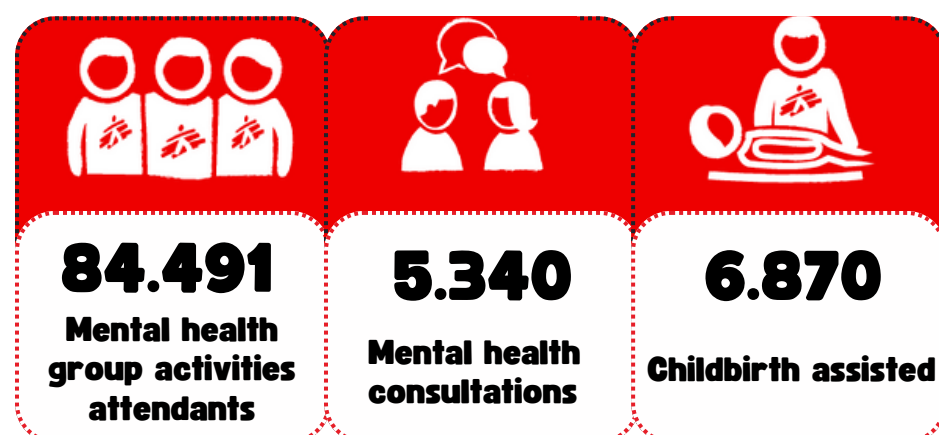
In 2023, we rehabilitated health centres that were destroyed by the conflict, supporting the Ministry of Health to re-open some primary health centres that were totally or semi-destroyed.

In Mocimboa da Praia we opened a transitory provincial hospital in an educational structure as the hospital was totally destroyed, giving to this district the capacity to have a local hospital with an emergency room, maternity, paediatrics and adults 24/7 care with hospitalization as well as surgical capacities.

MSF has been working in Cabo Delgado since 2019, delivering healthcare to people displaced by the conflict or returning to their homes through community-based services, fixed and mobile clinics and support to health centres and local hospitals in Macomia, Mocimboa da Praia, Mueda, Muidumbe, Palma and Nangade districts. We offer a wide range of medical services, including general and specialized healthcare, mental health support, sexual and reproductive healthcare, health promotion and patient referrals.

We also ensure access to safe water, effective sanitation, waste management and distribute essential relief items, such as soap, jerry cans and cooking kits. We are also collaborating with the Ministry of Health to increase access to diagnosis and treatments for HIV/ AIDS and Tuberculosis services which were disrupted by years of conflict and to improve the delivery of health services by increasing biomedical, laboratory and pharmacy management capacity. In Macomia, Mueda and Mocimboa da Praia our teams support general and 24-hour emergency services, including maternity care and ambulance referrals to Pemba provincial hospital.

2023 Activities highlights



Responding to cholera outbreaks and natural disasters

From January to February, we worked with local authorities, other organisations and communities to ensure early access to effective treatment and curb the spread of the cholera epidemic in the provinces of Niassa, Nampula, Zambézia, Maputo and Cabo Delgado especially in remote areas where access to healthcare was limited.

In Niassa and Nampula provinces, our activities included setting up and strengthening Cholera Treatment Centres (CTCs) in eight locations in Niassa, treating patients, training health workers and running health promotion initiatives to raise community awareness about the effects of the disease and preventive measures. We also donated medicines and medical equipment, including cholera beds, hygiene kits for patients' families, water purifiers, antibiotics and oral rehydration salts. Following the launch of a vaccination campaign by the Ministry of Health and a decrease in the number of cases in Niassa, we handed over these activities to health provincial authorities.

In April, we responded to an outbreak in Nacala Porto, Nampula province, by implementing measures to improve infection prevention and control, constructing a temporary morgue and emergency waste zone and installing water and sanitation facilities. We also conducted staff training.

Cholera outbreak after Cyclone Freddy

In February and March, Cyclone Freddy struck Mozambique twice, affecting over one million people. The cyclone claimed 183 lives, destroyed 123 health facilities, damaged six water supply systems and 250 water points, and affected over 960 kilometers of road. It also destroyed 3,754 classrooms, impacting nearly 395,000 students and 6,972 teachers. Within two weeks of the second landfall, over 8,000 cholera cases were reported in Zambézia province.

In response, our team set up one CTC and two CTUs, with total of 230 bed capacity, in the city of Quelimane. As well as provided support with case management and training for medical and non-medical staff, we donated medical equipment and medicines. We set up 30 chlorination points for water within the hot spots communities in addition to health promotion awareness campaigns. In April, we handed over these activities to health authorities following the launch of cholera vaccination campaign which reduced the cases in the province.

In Cabo Delgado province we responded to cholera outbreaks in many districts, including Mocimboa, Mueda, Muidumbe, Meluco, Montepuez and Pemba, where we set up CTCs, trained medical and hygiene staff and donated medical and logistic material.

Providing assistance after heavy rains in Maputo province

Following heavy rains in Maputo province, the Umbeluzi River burst its banks, causing intense flooding. We immediately deployed teams to distribute hygiene kits and tents to displaced people and support medical, water and sanitation activities.



Treating advanced HIV, tropical neglected diseases and other conditions

Sexual reproductive health, HIV and opportunistic infections

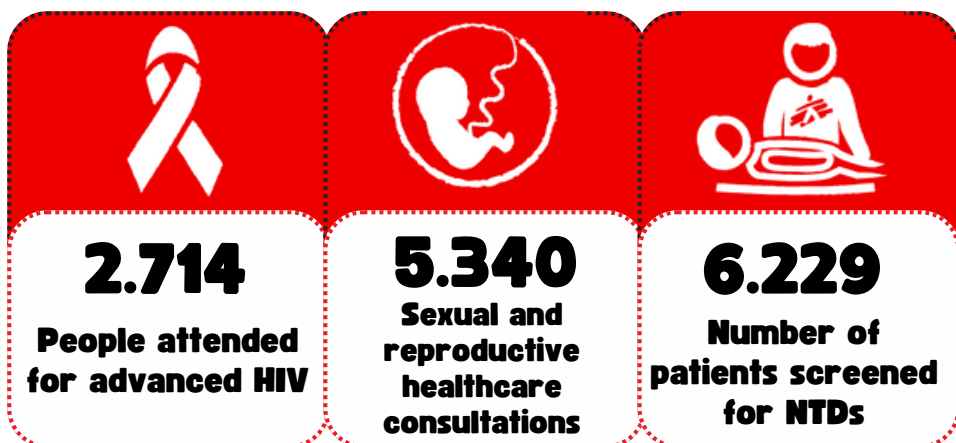
In Beira, Sofala province, we offer sexual and reproductive healthcare, including safe abortion care, HIV testing and treatment, to vulnerable and stigmatized groups, such as adolescents, sex workers, transgender women, and men who have sex with men. We also provide care for patients with advanced HIV disease at healthcare facilities in the city.

Our team in Beira Central Hospital has been working to ensure early diagnosis and treatment to improve the management of opportunistic infections in patients with advanced HIV. Since 2021, we have extended this project to 10 health centres in Beira, where we provide support for sexual and reproductive healthcare, and diagnosis and treatment of advanced HIV disease, and mentor Ministry of Health staff.



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2023 Activities highlights



Vector-borne, waterborne and Neglected Tropical Diseases

In Mogovolas district, Nampula province, we have been collaborating with the Ministry of Health since 2022 to enhance access to healthcare for vector-borne, water-borne, and Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTDs). Our focus includes severe malaria and other febrile illnesses, schistosomiasis, lymphatic filariasis (LF), and scabies. We deploy mobile teams to general healthcare facilities and communities, supported by a laboratory.

In 2023, we provided vital medical assistance to communities in need, conducting 16,169 patient consultations, including 5,143 for children under five. Additionally, 37,993 individuals benefited from health education through 6,747 individual talks and 1,019 group sessions. MSF also trained 162 Community Health Workers (APEs) in Integrated Education for Community Health Promotion (IECHP) for NTDs. Notably, MSF diagnosed and treated 9,235 patients with NTDs, with scabies accounting for 71% of cases.

In general healthcare facilities, we provided training and mentoring for Ministry of Health staff. In communities, we organized health promotion sessions, facilitated case finding, and supported peer groups through self-care initiatives. We also offered physiotherapy to patients with chronic lymphoedema of the limbs, a consequence of LF.

Our laboratory team in Nametil supported blood bank management and diagnostics, successfully meeting 752 out of 845 blood donation requests, ensuring an adequate blood supply for patient care.



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Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Activities (WASH)

MSF made significant strides in improving water, sanitation, and hygiene infrastructure in communities. This included rehabilitating canalization and drainage networks, constructing new waste zones with glass crushers and sharp box reducers, and drilling new boreholes. Additionally, WASH committees were established and trained on Participatory Hygiene and Sanitation Transformation (PHAST) and Community-Led Total Sanitation (CLTS), enhancing community engagement in WASH initiatives. MSF also increased water storage capacity and built eight protected wells with traditional pump systems in the community. Furthermore, Primary Healthcare Centers (PHCs) were equipped with solar panel systems to ensure sustainable access to electricity.

2023 Activities highlights



39

**Fixed wells
installed**



9

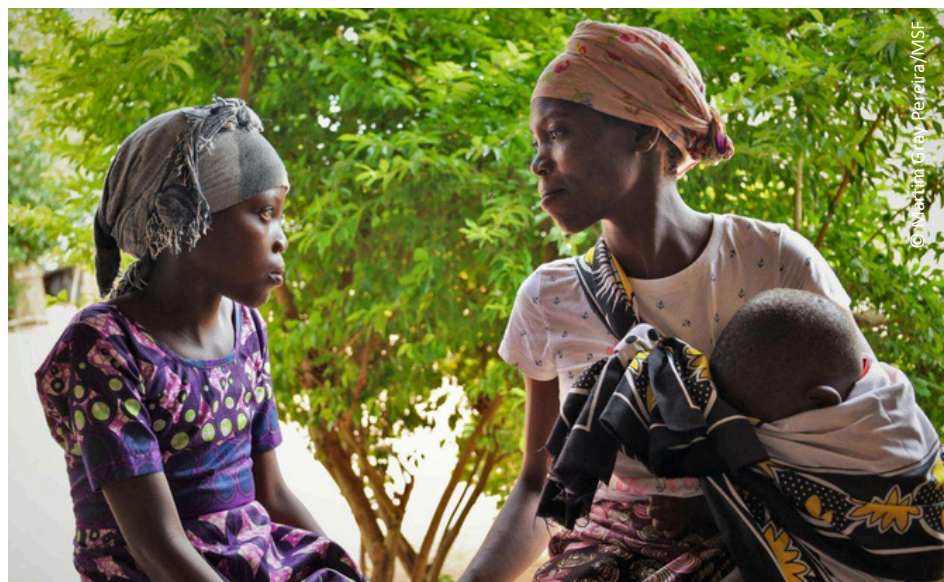
**Boreholes
dug**



Patient testimonials

“I was pregnant when our village was attacked in Meluco district in 2022. I saw my house being burnt down, we lost everything we had on that day. My family and I fled to the bush and walked for two days. Since then, I have never been the same and I am still struggling with panic attacks, insomnia, and I want to be alone most of the time. I find my strength to continue living from my children and trying to find food for us.”

Atija, a 28-year-old mother, accompanying her two children to MSF clinic in Nanga, Macomia.



“Struggling with a hydrocele, my condition had made everyday tasks unbearable. With the help of our community leader, I was enlisted for surgery with MSF’s assistance. I went to the health center multiple times for medical tests to assess my condition. Finally, I received the good news that I was fit for surgery.

MSF kept us informed throughout the process. I remember a phone call from MSF staff, informing me that a car would pick us up from home and take us to the Nametil Health Center. We spent a day there finalizing the details, and the next day we were taken to Marrere General Hospital for the surgery.

Thanks to MSF, my life has transformed, and I can now produce and provide for my family and participate fully in my community.”

Alfredo Augusto, 52, farmer and resident of Mogovolas district, Nampula province.



“In June 2022, Sofia, my wife of three years, passed away. We lived in the village of Nkóe. She had HIV, but I only found out two months before her passing. In April of that year, Sofia was very sick. I walked for six hours to collect malaria medication for her, but when I got home, my brother-in-law told me that my wife did not have malaria. She had HIV and used to take antiviral drugs before we got married. She had stopped taking the medication, fearing I would divorce her if I found out she had HIV. We rushed to the MSF clinic in Macomia Sede. The MSF team confirmed Sofia had HIV, and they explained she was very sick because she had stopped taking her medication for a long period.”

Constâncio, a 43 year old, carpenter displaced from Nkóe, Macomia.



“When my son started showing symptoms, we rushed to ensure he received support. He could not walk, so we took a motorbike. I was very worried but now I feel relief to see he is improving.”

Mohamed Amis, a 78-year-old, accompanied his son, Mohamed, to the cholera treatment centre in Meluluca, province of Niassa.



Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) is an international, independent, medical humanitarian organisation that delivers emergency aid to people affected by armed conflict, epidemics, exclusion from healthcare, and natural disasters. MSF offers assistance to people based on need and irrespective of race, religion, gender or political affiliation. In 1999, the medical humanitarian organization Médecins Sans Frontières was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize "in recognition of the pioneering humanitarian work carried out by the organization on several continents". Dr. James Orbinski, president of MSF's International Council at the time, received the award on behalf of the organization in Oslo, Norway, on December 10, 1999.

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