

the number of civilian women in peace operations will help towards increasing the number of female staff serving with the United Nations at large.

Why is it important to have female peacekeepers?

Female peacekeepers act as role models in the local environment, inspiring women and girls in often male-dominated societies to push for their own rights and for participation in peace processes.

The presence of women peacekeepers can also:

- help to reduce conflict and confrontation;
- improve support for local women;
- provide role models for women in the community;
- provide a greater sense of security to local populations, including women and children;

broaden the skill set available within a peacekeeping mission.

The increased recruitment of women is critical for:

- empowering women in the host community;
- interviewing survivors of gender-based violence;
- mentoring female cadets at police and military academies;
- interacting with women in societies where women are prohibited from speaking to men.

The Department of Peacekeeping Operations continues to respond to the call in all Women, Peace and Security mandates to increase the numbers of women in peacekeeping by advocating for the deployment of more women. However the ultimate responsibility for getting more women into the military peacekeeping lies with the individual countries that contributing troops and police.

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DOCTORS WITHOUT BORDERS

Doctors Without Borders also known as Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) is an international humanitarian non-governmental organization created in Paris on December 22, 1971 by a group of young doctors, who sought to expand accessibility to medical care across national boundaries.

The organization provides emergency medical aid to millions of people caught in crises and ensures assistance in catastrophic events, such as armed conflicts, epidemics, malnutrition or natural disasters in more than 60 countries around the world. MSF also assists people who face discrimination and neglect from local health systems.

The first mission of Doctors Without Borders was in 1972 to the capital of Nicaragua, Managua, where the volunteers of this organization helped prevent the destruction caused by an earthquake. In 1974 after Hurricane Fifi in Honduras made major flooding and killed thousands of people Doctors Without Borders sent a relief mission there.

Due to the leadership of Claude Malhuret and Rony Brauman MSF was transformed into the professional organization it is today. Since 1980 MSF has opened offices in 28 countries with more than 30,000 doctors, nurses, logisticians, water-and-sanitation experts, administrators, and other qualified professionals who help provide medical care around the world. The international office of MSF located in Geneva, Switzerland, is the place where important joint decisions are made. Today the president of this organization is Dr. Joannr Liu.

Support from individuals is essential for financial independence of Doctors Without Borders. MSF strives to operate efficiently and to minimize fundraising and administrative costs.

It should be noted that in 2016, MSF medical teams carried out more than eight million outpatient consultations; delivered 194,400 babies; treated more than 2.1 million people for malaria; provided over 200,000 mental health consultations; registered 229,900 HIV patients under care; conducted more than 81,700 surgeries; treated 46,900 people for cholera; and vaccinated almost 1.5 million against measles and more than 75,100 against meningitis. The organization was active in conflict zones including Syria, South Sudan, Central African Republic, Democratic Republic of Congo, Pakistan, Yemen, Iraq, and Afghanistan.

There are five operational centers in Brussels, Paris, Amsterdam, Barcelona and Geneva that decide when, where and what medical care is needed. MSF national offices across the globe work with these operational centers to recruit staff and raise the money needed to provide aid. In addition, three specialized public-health centers called Epicentre, Aedes, and Health Net cooperate with MSF to help expand expertise in specialist medical issues.

Everyone has the right to have access to life saving medical treatment. MSF delivers the highest quality medical care to those most in need. Over the years, this organization has received many prestigious awards in recognition of its medical humanitarian work.

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