

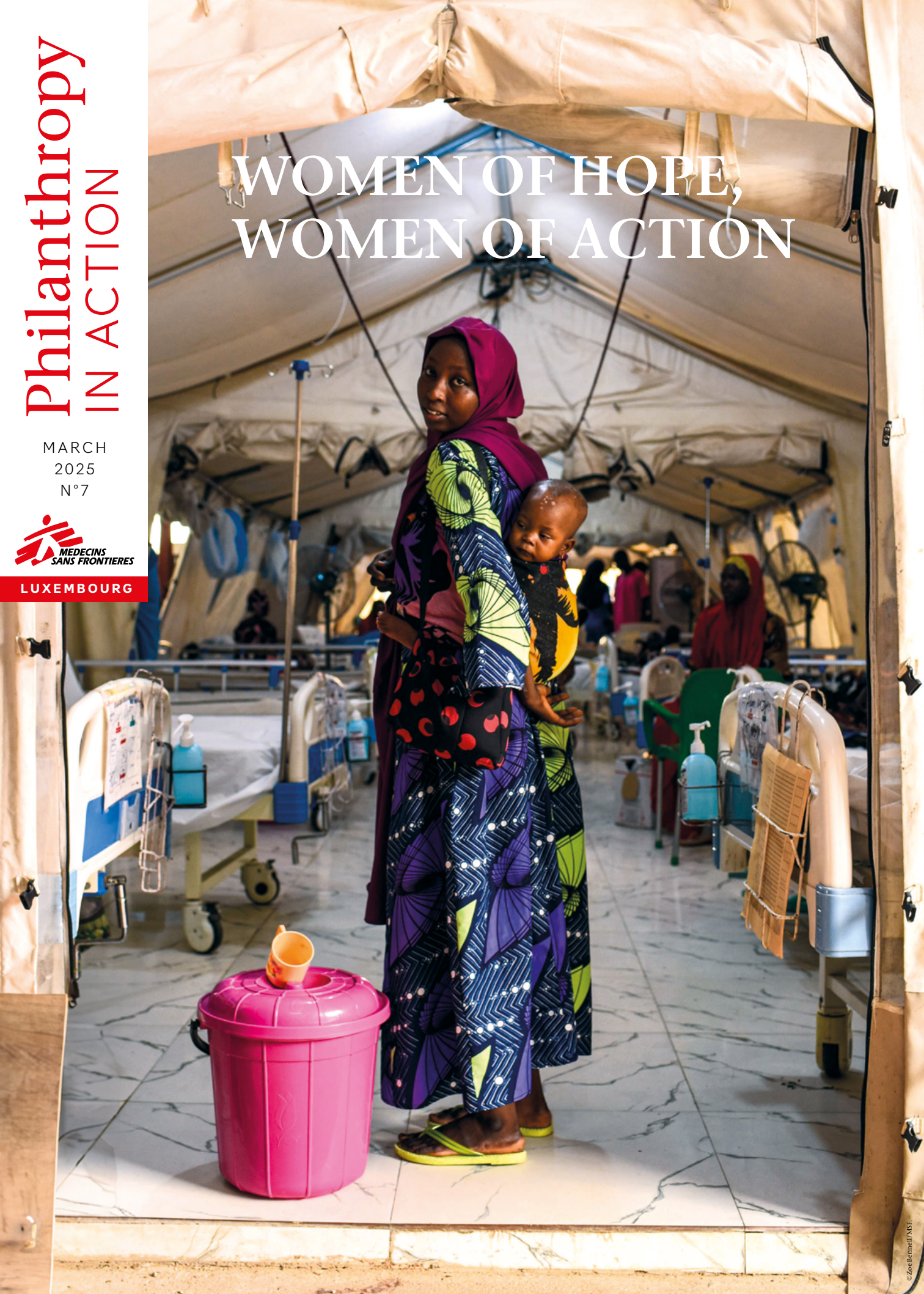
Philanthropy IN ACTION

MARCH
2025
N°7



LUXEMBOURG

WOMEN OF HOPE, WOMEN OF ACTION





Chad - 7 August, 2024. Women and children at the MSF Hospital in Metche, in eastern Chad. Metche camp hosts about 40,000 Sudanese refugees who have fled violence in Darfur.



Safe Birth in Aweil. South Sudan - 21 August, 2023. Nurse Regina Abuk Thor examines two days old Amel Akoi Garang. The mother Catherina Peter Eduat holds the baby in her arms. MSF runs the maternity unit in Aweil State Hospital in Northern Bahr el Ghazal, South Sudan.

Maternal Health: a right for all women, even in times of crisis

Maternal health is a fundamental right, yet in crisis zones, access to quality care remains a major challenge. Every year, many women die during childbirth or from pregnancy-related complications—deaths that could be prevented with proper care. In low-income countries, where healthcare infrastructures are fragile, these tragedies continue largely unnoticed.

Challenges in crisis zones

In conflicts, disasters, or epidemics, maternal care is severely limited. 99% of maternal deaths occur in developing countries, mainly due to hemorrhage, sepsis, unsafe abortions, hypertension, and obstructed labor. In regions like Afghanistan and the Central African Republic, violence, displacement, and damaged healthcare systems make it even harder for women to access necessary care, leading to devastating consequences.

337,000 births assisted, including cesarian sections



The impact of MSF's work

MSF addresses these challenges by providing specialized care in high-risk areas. In 2023, MSF assisted in over 337,000 births worldwide. In crisis zones, MSF opens maternity wards, trains health workers to detect complications early, and provides emergency care, including cesarean sections. These efforts directly reduce maternal mortality and ensure women receive the care they need, even in emergencies.

Protecting maternal health in crisis

Maternal health should never take a back seat, even in times of crisis. Every woman deserves access to safe childbirth and prenatal care. By continuing to prioritize maternal health, we ensure the survival and well-being of mothers, families, and communities.

Women's resilience in times of crisis: a call for solidarity

When I first set foot in Guiuan, Philippines, after Typhoon Haiyan struck in 2013, the devastation was overwhelming. But amid the wreckage, I met Maria, a young mother who had given birth just days earlier. Her makeshift shelter was barely standing, yet she cared for her newborn with remarkable strength. She smiled at her baby, determined to offer a future despite the hardship. She told me how she had delivered her child alone, without medical assistance, as the winds tore everything apart. That moment left a deep impression on me—her story is a testament to the resilience of women in crisis.

Women's health is a critical issue in emergencies. Access to maternal care and reproductive health services is often disrupted after disasters. Yet, these same women hold their communities together—caring for children, supporting the most vulnerable. Ensuring proper care for women means protecting the future.

This is why the support of our donors and partners is essential. Thanks to them, we fund life-saving projects: mobile maternity units, access to contraception, training for healthcare workers, and the provision of essential medicines and supplies. Every donation helps save lives and ensures women receive basic healthcare, even in the worst crises.

Today, we need you. Every action counts. By supporting Médecins Sans Frontières, you directly contribute to the protection and well-being of women in crisis. Stand with us to make a difference—so that mothers like Maria can give birth safely, even in the face of disaster.



Engy ALI

Front cover: Nigeria - 22 August, 2024. Fatima Umar and her daughter Halima gather their things and prepare to leave the inpatient nutrition facility as Halima is discharged to continue treatment as an outpatient in Maiduguri.

Philantropy in action N° 7
Content and edition : MSF Luxembourg
Art direction : Juliette Hoëfler
Frequency : biannual
Circulation : 800 copies

MSF's maternal health care facilities across 21 countries

MSF is present in hospitals and maternity wards in 21 countries, providing essential care to ensure that women can give birth safely and with dignity, even in the most challenging contexts.



Health at risk: the humanitarian crisis in Mokha (Yemen)



Mokha (Yemen) (Red Sea coast). Yemen - 14 November, 2024. Doctor Reem checking on patients in the intensive care unit.

Start of MSF project: 2017

Access to healthcare in conflict zones, like Mokha, is severely limited. A lack of functioning health facilities, long distances, and high transportation costs make care inaccessible for many.

The ongoing armed conflict and insecurity only make the situation worse. In this region, only 45% of births are attended by qualified health personnel, putting mothers and their children at great risk.

Additionally, routine vaccination coverage is low, and acute malnutrition rates are high, with too few therapeutic feeding centers. Particularly alarming: in Mokha, one in two women who give birth suffers from malnutrition, which significantly increases the risks associated with pregnancy and childbirth

MSF response:

In February 2017, MSF began providing medicines and medical supplies to the advanced medical post in Mokha and the public hospital of the Ministry of Health in Mokha.

In 2019, MSF took over the Mokha hospital project.

In 2021, the project shifted from an emergency response to a mid-term strategy, strengthening the Ministry of Health's facilities and human resource capacities

In June 2018, MSF set up and started managing a surgical hospital, consisting of tents installed on an empty plot of land.

In 2022, MSF began offering neonatal care at the Mokha clinic and supporting the Mafraq primary health center.

In 2023 was a transition year for the project, as our activities were gradually transferred from our standalone hospital to the Ministry of Health hospital in Mokha (maternity, neonatal care, pediatrics) and our surgical activities at the MSF hospital in Mokha were terminated by the end of 2023.

In 2024, the Mokha project entered a new phase, focusing more on sexual and reproductive health activities and pediatrics at the public hospital in Mokha.

In July 2024, MSF officially transferred its maternity ward to the Ministry of Health's Mokha hospital, while continuing to operate its activities.

2025 Objectives:

Ensure access to comprehensive, safe, and quality health-care services for the population of Mokha, particularly for emergency surgery, maternity, pediatrics, and free primary healthcare:

- Manage the MSF hospital in Mokha.
- Support the maternity ward of Mokha's public hospital and the primary healthcare center in Mafraq.
- Collaborate with other healthcare providers.
- Expand MSF's medical activities, including:
 - Pediatric emergencies.
 - Outpatient services related to sexual and reproductive health.



Afghanistan - 18 October, 2021. An MSF midwife accompanies a pregnant woman in the labor room at the MSF Khost maternity hospital.

Start of MFS maternity in Khost: 2012

Dr. Fatima* urges the international community not to look away. “ We must continue to talk about this crisis, raise awareness, and take action. Every voice matters.

Afghanistan: women under pressure, a fight for existence

A HEALTHCARE SYSTEM IN CRISIS

The ban on women’s education prevents the training of future female healthcare workers, drastically reducing access to medical care for women. “ Fewer female healthcare workers mean fewer medical services for women, in a country where they can only be treated by female staff. This is a ticking time bomb for public health,” explains Dr. Fatima*, an MSF doctor.

THOSE WHO CONTINUE TO WORK IN THE MEDICAL FIELD FACE GROWING PRESSURE AND INTIMIDATION.

“ Despite fear and restrictions, they keep working. But for how long? ”

ACCESS TO HEALTHCARE is becoming an impossible challenge: the requirement for women to travel with a mahram (male guardian) increases costs and severely limits medical treatment options, including travel abroad. “ For a woman with cancer, there is no treatment available in Afghanistan. Getting care in Pakistan has become a rare privilege. The exorbitant cost of medical care forces some families to make extreme decisions, such as selling or forcing their daughters into marriage. ”

TODAY, MANY WOMEN ARE SIMPLY GIVING UP ON MEDICAL TREATMENT. The number of home births has doubled since 2021, leading to more complications and preventable deaths. Access to essential medicines is also in crisis: “ Rho-GAM, a crucial medication for some pregnant women, is now unaffordable, costing over 5,000 Afghanis (about 65 euros). ”

IN THE CITY OF KHOST, IN RESPONSE TO THIS CRISIS, MSF CONTINUES TO PROVIDE:

- 24/7 maternity care at MSF’s Khost Maternity Hospital, one of the busiest MSF maternity units in the world
- Support for eight comprehensive health centers (CHCs)
- Assistance to Khost Public Hospital
- Health promotion activities
- Family planning services
- Mental health support for Afghan women

MSF remains committed to strengthening local healthcare facilities, protecting female Afghan medical professionals, and ensuring essential care for women in Afghanistan



Afghanistan - 17 April, 2024 An MSF nurse, Farida, checks the vital signs of 10-month-old Ali Ramin in the measles isolation ward at Mazar-i-Sharif Regional Hospital in Balkh Province.

*Name has been changed for security reasons



MSF seeing high cases of malaria in its facility in Maiduguri. Nigeria - 26 August, 2024. MSF staff triaging patients at the MSF supported Gwange Primary Health Care in Maiduguri, northeast Nigeria. During the malaria peak, lots of patients suffering from malaria fever come to receive medical care at the facility.

Fighting antimicrobial resistance in Nigeria: a critical study



Pilar GARCIA-VELLO

Since 2009, MSF Luxembourg has been putting its expertise at the service of our operations in the field thanks to the skills of the operational research unit in Luxembourg, known as LuxOR (Luxembourg Operational Research).

" This study aims to provide essential data to improve treatment strategies in pediatric settings " says Pilar GARCIA-VELLO, leading a groundbreaking research initiative in Maiduguri, Nigeria. " Understanding antimicrobial resistance (AMR) is key to saving lives. "

Unveiling the Threat of Antimicrobial Resistance

“ AMR MAKES INFECTIONS HARDER TO TREAT, AND WE NEED PRECISE DATA TO TACKLE IT EFFECTIVELY. ”

Antimicrobial resistance occurs when microorganisms develop resistance to drugs meant to eliminate them, making infections more difficult to treat. In Maiduguri, a region severely impacted by armed conflict and malnutrition, AMR poses an even greater risk to vulnerable children. This study focuses on identifying the pathogens responsible for bacteremia (bacterial infections in the blood) and their resistance profiles using blood cultures from pediatric patients at MSF hospitals.

A rigorous approach to research

“ OUR METHODOLOGY ENSURES RELIABLE DATA, GUIDING BETTER TREATMENT PROTOCOLS. ”

The study follows a prospective cohort design, including children from one month to 15 years with suspected sepsis. Blood samples will be analyzed in the Mini-Lab, and demographic and clinical data will be collected. Importantly, both malnourished and non-malnourished children will be included to assess any link between malnutrition and AMR. The research adheres to strict ethical and quality standards, with informed consent obtained from parents in addition to assent from children above 12, as per Nigerian regulations.

Impact beyond the study

“ THIS RESEARCH WILL SHAPE POLICIES AND IMPROVE CARE FOR CHILDREN IN VULNERABLE SETTINGS. ”

Beyond providing critical data for targeted antimicrobial stewardship, this study will help update national guidelines on medication use and AMR prevention in Nigeria. It will also contribute to infection prevention and control measures, ensuring that hospitals are better equipped to handle resistant bacteria. Ultimately, the findings will guide more effective treatment protocols and can assist in advocating for stronger interventions against AMR, particularly in resource-limited settings.



Missing Maps: mapping the invisible for humanitarian aid



Mapathon in Luxembourg.

An essential project for MSF

In many regions where Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) operates, maps are either nonexistent or incomplete. To address this issue, Missing Maps was launched in 2014 as a collaborative initiative supported by the Red Cross and MSF. In this interview, Jorieke Vyncke, GIS Advisor & Missing Maps Project Coordinator at MSF, explains the significance and impact of this project.

What is Missing Maps, and why is it important?

The goal of Missing Maps is to make visible the populations living in unmapped or poorly mapped areas. With MSF, efforts focus on critical regions such as refugee camps in Bangladesh, remote areas in Chad, and cities affected by epidemics in Guatemala. By mapping these territories, NGOs gain better information to organize humanitarian aid and reach people in need more efficiently.

How can mapping save lives?

A striking example of Missing Maps' impact is in Jiwaka Province, Papua New Guinea, where MSF recently launched a medical project. Before MSF teams arrived in 2023, maps of the region were almost nonexistent, making it difficult to assess needs and establish healthcare services. Thanks to the mobilization of more than 300 volunteers, roads, villages, and rivers were added to the maps.

According to MSF's logistics coordinator:

"for the first time, we can visualize populations, identify their density, and understand their access to healthcare." This mapping effort not only facilitated the project's implementation but also ensures long-term improvements in local healthcare services.

How can everyone contribute to humanitarian mapping?

To enhance these maps, Missing Maps organizes mapathons—collaborative events where volunteers learn how to map a specific region by tracing buildings and roads from satellite imagery. These sessions, open to all, take place both in person and online and are guided by experienced mappers. Whether made by a beginner or by an experienced mapper, every contribution matters. Through these collective efforts, millions of people become visible, enabling a better humanitarian response.



Jorieke Vyncke

Want to contribute? Join a mapathon and help make the world more accessible!



Chad - 7 August, 2024. Women and children at the MSF Hospital in Metche, in eastern Chad. Metche camp hosts about 40,000 Sudanese refugees who have fled violence in Darfur.

Jérôme Tubiana: a commitment to the heart of migration crises in Africa

Jérôme Tubiana, journalist and researcher, has spent over 20 years studying conflicts and migration in Africa. A collaborator with MSF and author of *Guantanamo Kid*, he shares his insights on today's humanitarian challenges.

What are the main migration routes today, and what dangers do migrants face in Sudan and Chad?

Migration routes constantly shift to bypass European restrictions. In 2023, as Libya Mediterranean crossing became more difficult, migrants turned to Tunisia via Libya or Algeria. The EU quickly negotiated with Tunisia to halt departures, despite violent pushbacks where migrants were left in desert areas, leading to deaths from dehydration. Other routes have also re-emerged, such as crossings from Morocco to Spain and the Canary Islands. These blockades push migrants onto more dangerous paths, particularly through the Sahara, where they face accidents, bandits, and systematic kidnappings for ransom in Libya.

How does MSF assist migrant populations, and what challenges does it face?

MSF provides medical and mental health care to migrants in Libya, both inside and outside detention centers. Many have endured torture and remain at risk. MSF also refers the most vulnerable to rare legal evacuation programs via UNHCR, but these opportunities are extremely limited. Most remain trapped in Libya for years, often forced to attempt a dangerous Mediterranean crossing.

Can you share a story that illustrates the reality of this crisis?

Yonas, an Eritrean refugee, was detained in Libya in 2019 before escaping and attempting the Mediterranean crossing. He was intercepted near Malta and sent back to Tunisia. Undeterred, he tried again, finally reaching Europe. After years of hardship, he is now a refugee in Luxembourg with his family, hoping to rebuild his life.

Want to meet Jérôme? Join us at the Festival des Migrations on Sunday 16 March at 3:30 pm, at LuxExpo The Box.



Jérôme Tubiana



Simple & impactful initiatives to support MSF



Presentation of a cheque to Thomas Kauffmann, Director General of MSF Luxembourg, with Victoria El-Khoury and independent volunteers in December 2024.

A solidarity dinner for Lebanon: Victoria's initiative to support MSF

WHAT INSPIRED YOU TO LAUNCH THIS PROJECT?

The recent humanitarian crisis in Lebanon, triggered by the war, led me to organize this charity dinner. As a Lebanese national, I was following the situation closely, feeling helpless while my loved ones were in danger. I wanted to contribute, even from Luxembourg. However, in a country filled with chaos, I needed a trusted organization to handle the donations. MSF's work in Lebanon, particularly supporting displaced people, made it the obvious choice for me.

HOW DID YOU ORGANIZE THE EVENT?

I was fortunate to have a strong support network, including my friend Paul Estgen, who quickly agreed to help me with the event. Together, we outlined the main aspects: the food, the volunteers, the venue, and logistics. We chose Strassen, my hometown, and reached out to the local council, who kindly offered the venue and support. Volunteers took care of everything, from creating a flyer to preparing the food. "Cedars United", a local Lebanese group, provided decorations. The team's dedication and trust in each other ensured the event's success.

WHAT THE IMPACT DID THE EVENT HAVE?

We raised 4586.60€ for MSF, thanks to the generosity of the participants and additional donations. Many of the event's costs were covered by the volunteers. The atmosphere of solidarity in the room was palpable, and several guests expressed interest in future dinners. More than the funds raised, the event helped raise awareness of Lebanon's crisis in the Luxembourg community. It brought people together and reminded them of the importance of supporting Lebanon during such a difficult time.

Victoria El-Khoury, Lebanese-Luxemburgish, and a group of independent volunteers, organized a charity dinner to help victims of the war in Lebanon. Here, she shares her motivations behind the event and why she chose MSF to receive the donations.

"I couldn't be there in person, but I knew I had to find a way to make a difference, even from afar."

WHAT ADVICE WOULD YOU GIVE TO OTHERS WHO WANT TO ORGANIZE A SOLIDARITY EVENT?

- Surround yourself with trusted, reliable people. A strong team is essential.
- Clearly define each person's role to avoid confusion.
- Choose a venue where you have strong connections, as this can increase attendance.
- Seek support from local authorities for logistical help.
- Publicly thank and appreciate volunteers for their efforts.
- Delegate tasks to empower your team and save time.
- Believe in your cause and stay motivated.
- Enjoy the process and have fun with it!



Handing over cheques to various organisations with the Letzebuenger Bicherfrenn Management Board at the General Assembly in March 2024.

For nearly 30 years, the association Les Amis du Livre – Lëtzebuenger Bicherfrënn has been giving books a second life while supporting humanitarian and cultural causes. Christiane Krier, the association's secretary, explains how, through book donations, volunteers collect, sort, and make these books available to the public. All proceeds are donated to organizations like Médecins Sans Frontières.

Books serving solidarity: Lëtzebuenger Bicherfrënn*

A SIMPLE AND ACCESSIBLE COMMITMENT "EVERY BOOK PASSED ON BECOMES AN ACT OF SOLIDARITY"

Supporting a cause doesn't require significant resources. By donating or purchasing a book, everyone can help fund essential actions. The association relies on around twenty dedicated volunteers who manage the collection points and book distribution. Books are available at their locations in Bourglinster and Wiltz, as well as at literary events such as Walfer Bicherdeeg and the BD Festival Contern.

WHY MSF?

"A NATURAL CHOICE FOR A TANGIBLE IMPACT"

Each year, the association selects its donation recipients based on humanitarian impact, volunteer engagement, and local presence. MSF was an obvious choice due to its emergency medical work and transparency.

WHAT MESSAGE FOR THOSE WANTING TO GET INVOLVED? "COMBINING PASSION AND SOLIDARITY IS WITHIN EVERYONE'S REACH"

The association demonstrates that it's possible to merge personal interests with meaningful action. "Most of our volunteers are retirees involved in various aspects of the activity, but anyone, regardless of age, can find a way to help," says Christiane Krier.

KEY FIGURES

- **€900,000** donated over 28 years
- **20 active volunteers** each week
- **Thousands of books** available in four languages
- **2 sales locations + participation** in major literary events

A simple yet effective model where every effort counts in making a difference.

*Les Amis du Livre asbl

Do you want to know more about our missions? Support a particular project? Let's talk about it!



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