



IRAQ ACTIVITY REPORT

2022

Cover Photo BAGHDAD MEDICAL REHABILITATION
CENTRE ,Baghdad, 2022
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THE MSF CHARTER

MSF assists populations in distress, victims of natural or manmade disasters and victims of armed conflict. We 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 its functions.


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

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1 page 1

MSF charter

2 page 5




MSF at glance

3 page 6

MSF principles

4 page 8



An overview of MSF activities in the country

5 page 11



MSF in Iraq 2022 in numbers

6 page 12



MSF projects in Iraq in 2022

page 13	Ninewa Governorate
14	Nabulus Field Hospital, West Mosul
15	Al-Amal Maternity Clinic, West Mosul
16	Al-Wahda orthopaedic Surgical Hospital, East Mosul
17	Mental health support to primary health care centre in Mosul
18	Sinuni General Hospital, Sinjar District
19	Tal-Afar General Hospital, Tal-Afar District
page 20	Kirkuk Governorate
20	Al-Hawija town and Al-Abbasi district
page 21	Baghdad Governorate
21	Baghdad Medical Rehabilitation Center (BMRC)
22	TB in places of detention
23	Drug-resistant tuberculosis care
24	COVID-19 ward and Intensive Care Unit at Baghdad Medical City
page 25	Medical support and services in Dhi-Qar
page 25	Flooding in Erbil

MSF AT A GLANCE

Médecins Sans Frontières/Doctors Without Borders (MSF) is an independent medical humanitarian organisation that aims to deliver emergency medical care where it is needed most. In 2022, MSF worked in more than 70 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 programmes in Iraq, relying solely on private donations from the general public worldwide to carry out its work.



Al-Wahda Hospital, East Mosul
©Hassan Kamal Al-Deen/MSF

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 include tens of thousands of health professionals and logistics and administrative staff, bound together by our charter. Our actions are guided by medical ethics, impartiality, independence and neutrality. We are a non-profit, self-governed, member-based organisation.

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 always to act in the best interests of our patients, to respect their confidentiality and 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 and other services.

IMPARTIALITY

We help people based on need. It does not matter which country they are from, which religion they belong to or what their political affiliations are. We give priority to those with the most severe and immediate medical needs.

INDEPENDENCE

We decide to help 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 evaluate needs freely, access populations without restriction and deliver our aid directly to the people we serve.

NEUTRALITY

We do not take sides in armed conflicts nor support the agendas of warring parties. Sometimes we are not present on all sides of a conflict; this may be because access is denied to us, or due to insecurity, or because the primary 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 about their plight, ultimately to 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 for accounting for our actions to our patients and donors and being transparent about our choices. Evaluations, critical reviews and debates on our field practices, our public positioning and broader humanitarian issues are necessary to improve what we do.

MSF nurses wearing personal protective equipment and touring on patients at the MSF run inpatient ward of the Al-Shifaa 13 COVID-19 ward in Al-Kindi Hospital, Baghdad.

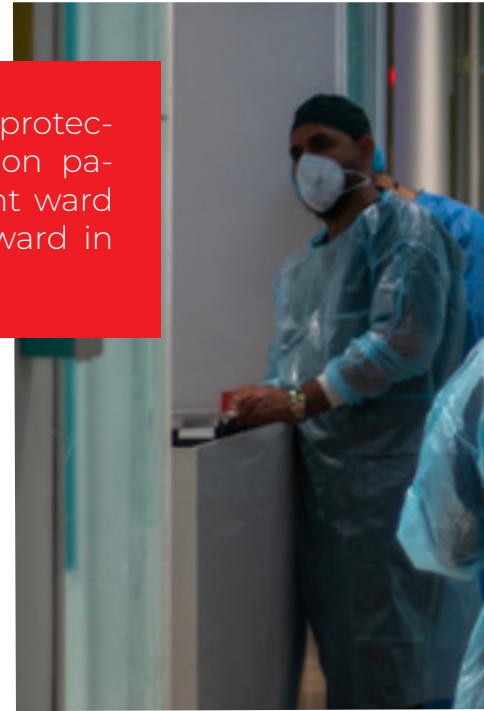
AN OVERVIEW OF MSF ACTIVITIES IN IRAQ IN 2022

After years of conflict, instability and the COVID-19 pandemic, Iraq has started to see some signs of recovery, but the country and the healthcare sector is still far from being able to care for all the healthcare needs of the population, especially in areas directly affected by the most recent war with the Islamic State (IS) group. Despite a significant decrease in the number of war-wounded and COVID-19 patients and despite the resumption of regular healthcare services in some health facilities, Iraq still needs continuous support to reach full recovery.

In 2022, MSF worked in 10 projects across Iraq and continued providing a wide range of essential medical services and support to populations living in areas affected by the war against the IS group, to people returning from long periods of displacement in camps or other regions of Iraq, and to people living in areas with difficult access to healthcare services. Our teams also continued to bridge the most pressing gaps in the response to COVID-19 across Iraq in collaboration with Iraqi health authorities.

Compounded by a shortage of specialist healthcare staff and drugs and the impact of COVID-19, local healthcare systems required support to cover people's health needs. MSF maintained its lifesaving medical operations while enhancing infection prevention and control measures and putting in place triage and referral procedures to protect patients from catching or spreading COVID-19 infection in our facilities.

Throughout the year, MSF provided a package of primary and secondary health services in the fields of maternity and neonatal care, emergency medical care, specialist orthopaedic and maternity surgeries, comprehensive post-operative rehabilitation and care, non-communicable diseases and mental healthcare for displaced people, returnees and vulnerable communities. We also donated medical supplies to various health facilities across Iraq.





Treating COVID-19 in Baghdad
©Hassan Kamal Al-Deen/MSF

In addition, we continued supporting the National Tuberculosis Institute by introducing a new, more effective oral treatment for drug-resistant tuberculosis and extended our support to local health authorities to prepare and respond to emergencies. In Amman, Jordan, MSF has been running a project since 2006 to support Iraqi patients who need reconstructive orthopaedic, plastic and maxillofacial surgery. Since then, this project has offered comprehensive surgical care for patients referred from Iraqi healthcare facilities for more advanced care. Our services in Amman also include physiotherapy, post-operative care and psychosocial support. Today, this reconstructive surgical programme is a national and international patient referral centre and a technical reference, training and research hub that contributes to the development of knowledge and innovation in reconstructive surgery.



Shahir was just 11 years old when he was herding sheep and a remnant of the Islamic State group war exploded on him. He was rushed to the Sinjar hospital where he received basic treatment before being referred to Jamhuri hospital in Mosul for surgery.

Both of his legs were broken and he also developed a bone infection. His condition was severe and required specialized care, so he was eventually referred to MSF Al-Wahda hospital in Mosul. There, he underwent 16 surgeries and received daily medications for his infection. Despite the challenging situation, Shahir remained optimistic and strong.

"I'm staying here for three months so far. Everything here was very good. By the end of this month, they will put a bone elongation device on my leg". Shahir said They replaced internal fixations on one of his legs and changed the fixation on the other leg from internal to external.

Thanks to the care he received, Shahir made remarkable progress. He was able to stand and even walk with a walker, something that was not possible in the beginning. Shahir's spirit and resilience are an inspiration to all of us.

2022

MSF IRAQ IN NUMBERS:

3,637 Surgical procedures carried out

3,847 Patients admitted to inpatient wards

Of them:

2,589 - Neonatal and paediatric patients treated

1,258 - Surgical and post-surgical patients treated

112,867 Outpatient consultations

Of them:

16,294 - Individual mental health consultations

25,778 - Non-communicable diseases consultations

177 - Patients admitted on oral tuberculosis treatment

13,215 - Group mental health sessions

17,273 Births assisted

Of them:

2,096 - Caesareans

34,567 Emergency room consultations

14,471 Physiotherapy sessions

70,196 Health promotion sessions

1,371 Iraqi staff

Of them:

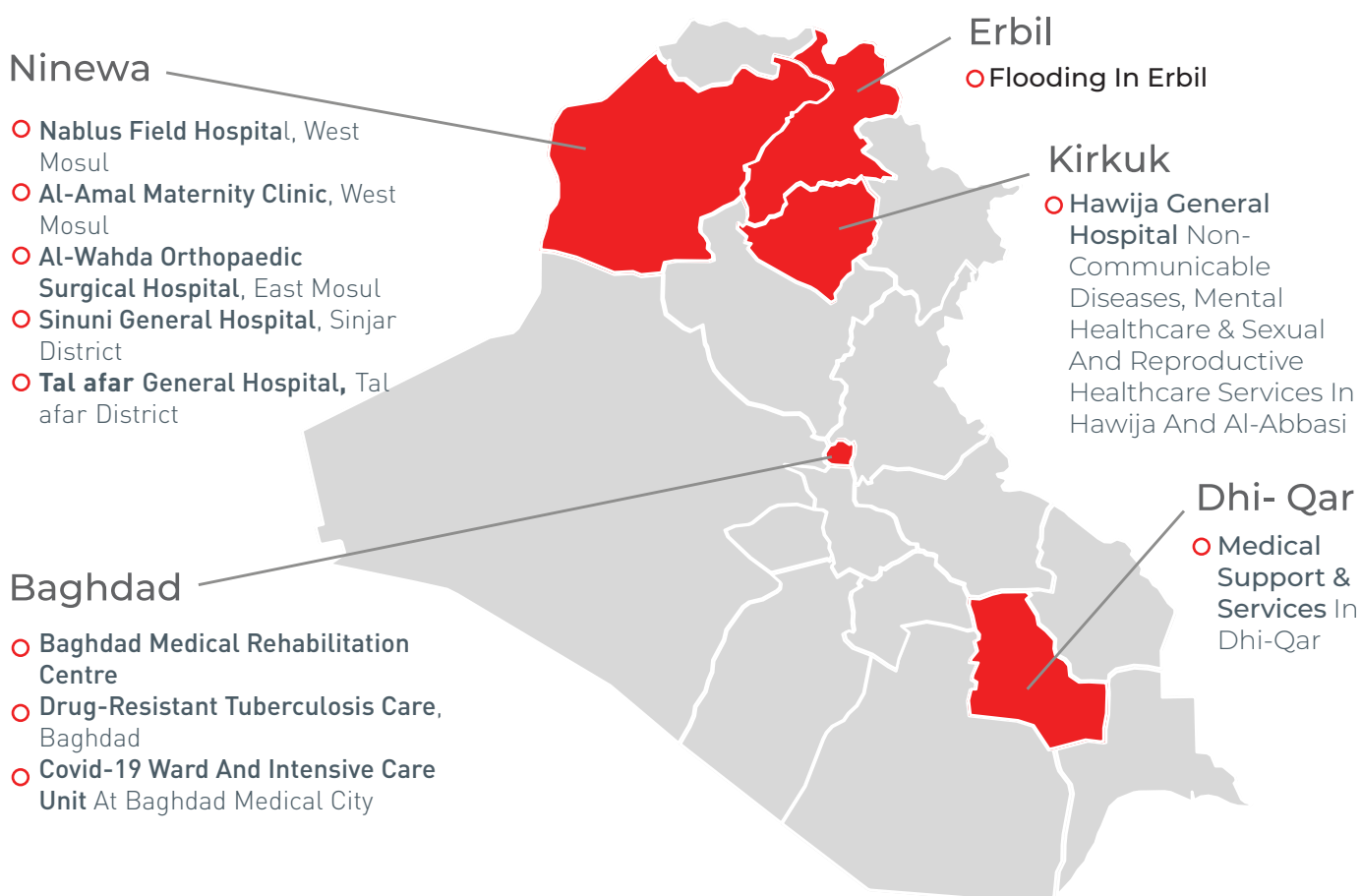
822 - Full time MSF staff

549 - Directorate of health staff supporting MSF activities

115 - International staff

34,209,376\$ Budget allocated for MSF's humanitarian work
USD in Iraq

MSF PROJECTS IN IRAQ IN 2022



■ Regions where MSF had projects in 2022

Ninewa



NINAWA GOVERNORATE

More than five years have passed since the end of the war against the IS group, but its devastating impact is still felt in Ninawa. Before 2022, there were around 250,000 displaced people in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq, living both in relief camps and independently. Throughout 2022, some of the displaced people returned home, although they faced many challenges in resettling. The population's psychological trauma remains largely unaddressed, and despite ongoing reconstruction efforts, many of the health facilities destroyed during the conflict are still being renovated or have yet to be rebuilt and to resume their activities.

In 2022, as the COVID-19 pandemic waned and health facilities returned to their routine operations, MSF focused on preventing and controlling various sources of infections, conducted health education campaigns, monitored people's health needs and adapted the level of care we provided in our projects to people's changing needs and to the pace of recovery of the healthcare system.

In 2022, MSF teams in Ninawa ran a health promotion campaign on digital platforms to raise awareness about COVID-19 vaccines among adults.

Ayham Badr, 6 years old, hospitalised in the MSF-run Al-Wahda Hospital to be treated from a bone infection that he got following a fracture in his arm one year ago.

Al-Wahda Hospital, East Mosul
©Florence Dozol



Hussein, born a few hours ago, via caesarean section. His mother is still resting. They come from Tal Afar (77 kilometres away from Mosul), and are for the first time in the MSF-run Nablus hospital. A doctor in Tal Afar referred her, but the family had heard already about Nablus hospital previously. The baby was born in good health one week earlier.

NABLUS FIELD HOSPITAL, WEST MOSUL

MSF runs a comprehensive maternity unit in Nablus field hospital with the capacity to carry out caesareans and emergency obstetric surgeries in two fully equipped operating theatres. In 2022, our team continued providing emergency obstetric and neonatal care, emergency paediatric care services, inpatient paediatric and neonatal services, mental healthcare and health education services.

Our teams continued to enhance infection prevention and control measures and conducted triage, stabilisation and referral procedures for patients with respiratory symptoms to ensure the safety of our staff and patients during the COVID-19 pandemic.

MSF has installed a laboratory in Nablus hospital, which is a simplified and portable bacteriology laboratory. It can be set up in remote areas within two days in a space of just 20 square metres, allowing patients to be tested right away for antibiotic resistance. Previously, such tests were only possible in regular laboratories, which are often not easily accessible for remote populations.

The 'minilab' is used to identify and determine patients' sensitivity towards the bacteria which cause sepsis or urinary tract infections, thereby improving the quality of patient care and antibiotic prescribing practices. It also helps with understanding the scope of antibiotic resistance as well as detecting the emergence of antibiotic-resistant bacteria in areas where insufficient testing facilities are available.

MSF teams in Nablus field hospital also provide mental health services, including counselling and awareness sessions, for patients and their caretakers. Like all MSF facilities, services in this hospital are free of charge.

2,096
deliveries by
caesarean

8,283
normal deliveries

18,355
emergency room
consultations

2,589
inpatient admissions

1,699
primary and follow-
up mental health
consultations

33,011
face-to-face health
promotion sessions



Nablu hospital, West Mosul
©Florence Dozol

AL-AMAL MATERNITY CLINIC, WEST MOSUL

2,496
normal deliveries

4,473
antenatal
consultations

915
postnatal
consultations

11,806
family planning
consultations

15,869
health awareness
sessions for 21,618
people

In Al-Rafidain primary healthcare centre in West Mosul, MSF runs Al-Amal maternity clinic. Our teams there provide sexual and reproductive healthcare services, including non-surgical obstetric and maternity care, antenatal and postnatal consultations, and family planning services.

The staff at Al-Amal hold regular health awareness sessions for patients. Topics discussed include an introduction to MSF and its services, inpatient care rules, hygiene promotion, antibiotic resistance, scabies, COVID-19 and vaccinations, antenatal and postnatal care, family planning, urinary tract infections, breastfeeding, emergency contraception, skin-to-skin care for newborns, inverted nipple, hypertension, anaemia, jaundice, eclampsia and handwashing.



Al-Wahda Hospital, East Mosul
Inside the operating room of the MSF-run Al-Wahda Hospital, East Mosul. MSF surgical team conducts an external fixation placement surgery for a patient to stabilize a fracture in his leg.

AL-WAHDA ORTHOPAEDIC SURGICAL HOSPITAL, EAST MOSUL

Al-Wahda Hospital, East Mosul
©Florence Dozol

Since 2018, MSF has run a comprehensive facility for patients with violent or accidental trauma injuries in East Mosul to address the shortage of skilled surgery and post-surgical care. Starting with one mobile operating theatre and a 33-bed inpatient ward, in 2021 the hospital expanded to include two permanent and fully equipped operating theatres and 40 individual isolation rooms, recovery rooms and rehabilitation units.

Following the hospital's expansion, we also expanded the admission criteria to include patients needing treatment for complex fractures, corrective surgeries and bone infection surgeries, reconstructive surgery with a combination of orthopedic and plastic surgery as well as internal and external fixation of complex fractures with a full package of post operative care.

The staff at Al-Wahda hold regular health awareness sessions with patients. Topics discussed include an introduction to MSF and its services, inpatient care rules, hygiene promotion, antibiotic resistance, scabies, COVID-19 and vaccinations, pre and post-operative wound care, osteomyelitis, smoking, nutrition, extensively drug-resistant tuberculosis, MRSA, hypertension, diabetes, fractures and physiotherapy.

1,541
surgical procedures

11,971
outpatient
consultations

940
inpatient
consultations

11,572
health awareness
sessions



Caroline Cruys, MSF nurse activity manager and Rosemond Joyce Ruiz, MSF mental health activity manager, during the routine morning patient tour at the MSF-run Al-Wahda Hospital, East Mosul.

Nablus hospital, West Mosul
©Florence Dozol

145
group counselling
sessions with 582
patients

MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT TO PRIMARY HEALTHCARE CENTRE IN MOSUL

1,203
psychosocial support
and mental health
awareness sessions
with
7,563 people

Throughout Iraq, the need for mental health support services remains very high. In addition to the integrated mental health component in most of our medical facilities, MSF continued to run dedicated mental health support activities in Al-Wahda orthopaedic surgical hospital and Al-Rafidin primary healthcare centre in Mosul. In 2022, MSF teams provided 381 individual mental health consultations in this centre.

515
people received
psychological first aid

Mental health support provided at Al-Wahda orthopaedic surgical hospital and Al-Amal maternity centre at Al Rafidin primary healthcare centre

4,426
individual
consultations

3,030
patients received
transportation
support

SINUNI GENERAL HOSPITAL, SINJAR DISTRICT

Our team rehabilitated and reopened Sinuni general hospital in August 2018. Currently MSF runs the emergency room and ambulance services, and provides comprehensive mental healthcare services (psychiatric care, mental health counselling and mental health awareness-raising activities) and health education to the population of Sinuni and the surrounding area. In 2022 we also ran a seven-bed isolation unit for COVID-19 patients, which was later reduced to four beds as patient numbers fell. Most patients with mild and moderate COVID-19 were admitted to the isolation unit, while severe cases were referred to Tal Afar general hospital after stabilisation by our teams.

16,212
emergency room
consultations

2,944
individual mental
healthcare
consultations
(counselling,
psychology,
psychiatry)

4,405
individual and
group health
promotion and
education sessions

ER in Sinuni Hospital
©MSF\Ahmed Kaka



TAL AFAR GENERAL HOSPITAL, TAL AFAR DISTRICT

Tal Afar general hospital is the primary referral hospital for more than one million people living in northwest Ninawa governorate. The hospital receives patients from Sinjar and Baaj districts as well as from Tal Afar itself.

The hospital provides much-needed healthcare services for people who have cardiovascular, neurological and kidney diseases and to people with trauma injuries, respiratory failure and digestive disorders as well as those who need post-operative care.

In 2022, our emergency room team provided essential training to health workers in other healthcare facilities in the area surrounding Tal Afar with the aim of ensuring an accelerated process of patient diagnosis and referral in case of need for advanced care to avoid time-related deteriorations in patients' health.

Throughout 2022, MSF donated essential medical items to the hospital. MSF staff also provided COVID-19 clinical case management training and rehabilitated and expanded the COVID-19 isolation ward from six to 24 beds. MSF also supported the emergency room and critical care unit through several capacity-building trainings. MSF also set up a mobile mental health unit to provide people with mental health support within their communities and to refer people in need of lifesaving care to hospital.

Tal Afar Hospital
©Hassan Kamal Al-Deen



KIRKUK GOVERNORATE

NON-COMMUNICABLE DISEASES, MENTAL HEALTHCARE AND SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTHCARE SERVICES IN HAWIJA AND AL-ABBASI

MSF started supporting the population of Hawija and Al-Abbasi in 2018, initially running mobile clinics for displaced people in Maktab Khalid and Dibis, and going on to support the emergency room at Hawija hospital. Since then, MSF has continued to provide other services including: care for people with non-communicable diseases such as hypertension and diabetes; sexual and reproductive healthcare (including antenatal and postnatal care, gynaecological care, family planning services and maternity care); infection prevention and control; mental healthcare; and health education services.

HAWIJA GENERAL HOSPITAL

MSF is currently supporting Hawija general hospital by providing basic maternity services, health promotion and mental health awareness activities, waste management, and infection, prevention and control. The hospital is the primary referral hospital for all surrounding communities, especially for maternity services, as re-building efforts in the region are ongoing.

Infection prevention and control measures have been successfully implemented in the maternity unit, with plans to expand to other departments in the coming months, starting with the operating theatre.

In 2022, MSF teams assisted 4,398 normal deliveries in Hawija general hospital.

OUTBREAK RESPONSE

MSF supported Kirkuk’s Directorate of Health by printing hundreds of information posters and flipcharts about cholera and Crimean-Congo haemorrhagic fever. The health promotion team also carried out health education sessions in the communities of Al-Abbasi and Hawija to raise awareness about these diseases.

Kirkuk



Hawija town and Al-Abbasi district

25,778
non-communicable
diseases
consultations

8,009
sexual and
reproductive
healthcare
consultations

4,398
individual mental
healthcare
consultations

13,070
group mental
health sessions

895 patients treated

318 inpatient admissions

577 outpatient admissions

34,136 outpatient consultations

(medical, nursing, physiotherapy)

2,078 nursing consultations

14,471 physiotherapy consultations

5,067 inpatient consultations

9,724 outpatient consultations

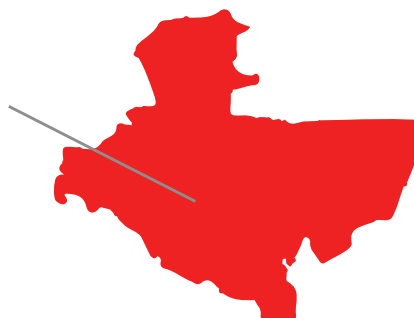
2,796 medical consultations

2,312 mental health consultations

Counselling sessions: **2,160**
(471 inpatient; 1,689 outpatient)

Psychiatric consultations: **252**
(41 inpatient; 221 outpatient)

Baghdad



BAGHDAD GOVERNORATE

MSF continued to provide post-operative rehabilitation care and support to the National Tuberculosis Institute (NTI) in Baghdad to offer a new regimen for treating patients with drug-resistant tuberculosis, with the aim of helping the Iraqi Ministry of Health provide new models of care that can be replicated in other governorates. With the Iraqi capital particularly hard hit by COVID-19, MSF also helped health authorities strengthen their response to the pandemic.

BAGHDAD MEDICAL REHABILITATION CENTRE

MSF opened its Baghdad Medical Rehabilitation Centre (BMRC) project in August 2017 to provide care for victims of violence in need of physical and mental rehabilitation. As the number of patients affected by violence have gradually reduced with the decrease of violent events in Iraq, the BMRC has expanded its admission criteria to include people affected by accidental trauma.

Our teams in BMRC are in frequent contact with surgeons and surgical facilities to offer our post-operative care services to surgical patients early after their surgeries. Our team provide early comprehensive post-operative care services to people injured in their upper and lower extremities, including medical care, nursing care, physiotherapy and mental healthcare, as well as treatment for people affected by antibiotic-resistant infections, as part of our core antibiotic stewardship programme in the facility.



TB in places of detention

In mid-2022, five places of detention were selected to screen inmates for drug-sensitive tuberculosis (DS-TB), DR-TB and HIV infection, in collaboration with the Iraqi Ministry of Health and Ministry of Justice. The places selected were the central prisons of Nasiriyah in Dhi-Qar and Babil in Babylon governorate, and the central prisons of Rusafa, Karkh and Taji in Baghdad.

In September 2022, MSF launched the first screening campaign in Taji prison, covering blocks 1-3 of the prison's five blocks. Over 13 weeks, 2,583 detainees were screened. The detection rate for pulmonary and extrapulmonary TB was 7%; one case of HIV was detected among the screened cohort.

Tackling multidrug-resistant tuberculosis, one patient at a time
©Chloe Sharrock



Ihsan, 44 multi-drug-resistant (MDR-TB) patient, and his family. Since February 2021, Ihsan was declared not contagious, and since then, he doesn't



Hawija District Activities
©Bawar Mohammed

Baghdad, drug-resistant tuberculosis

177
patients enrolled
with DR-TB

139
of them were
enrolled on all-oral
regimen

have to isolate
himself any-
more from his
family.
Sadr City, Bagh-
dad, Iraq.

DRUG-RESISTANT TUBERCULOSIS PROJECT, BAGHDAD

Since 2018, MSF has supported the National Tuberculosis Institute (NTI) in improving the detection and treatment of patients with drug-resistant tuberculosis (DR-TB) countrywide. Our teams have worked closely with the NTI to introduce a new oral treatment option for patients with DR-TB, which has fewer side effects and higher success rates compared to the previously available injectable treatment plan.

In 2022, our teams continued providing direct medical and mental healthcare to patients suffering from DR-TB and multidrug-resistant tuberculosis (MDR-TB). We did an assessment to decentralise the delivery of the new treatment method to other governorates to facilitate patients' access to care close to their homes and provided necessary staff training in this regard. Our support for the NTI also included creating a new treatment guideline for TB and DR-TB patients and organising training sessions for all TB doctors working with the NTI across the country.

Throughout 2022, MSF continued supplying the NTI with the orally administered medications to ensure an uninterrupted supply of medications to patients. The medications include bedaquiline, linezolid, clofazimine and delamanid. Our teams also provided food baskets and transport costs to patients attending the NTI to collect their TB/DR-TB medications, to facilitate patients' adherence to their follow-up appointments and reduce the economic costs of their treatment journey.

WARD AND INTENSIVE 19-COVID CARE UNIT AT BAGHDAD MEDICAL CITY

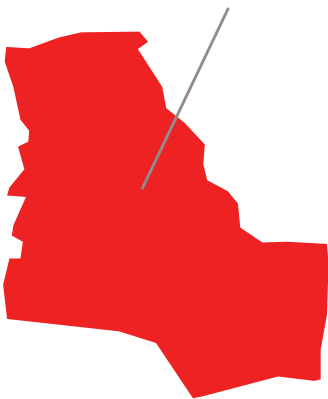
MSF teams continued to support the health system in Baghdad in its response to the COVID-19 pandemic. At Al-Shiffa hospital in Baghdad Medical City, MSF ran a 35-bed respiratory intensive care unit in collaboration with the Ministry of Health. MSF provided a comprehensive intensive care package, including ventilation therapy, medical care, nursing care, physiotherapy and mental healthcare.

MSF also supported health authorities by running health promotion activities in the Sadr City district of Baghdad to help counter misinformation about COVID-19 and COVID-19 vaccinations, and to guide people towards evidence-based information. This project was closed in June as the number of patients decreased, but MSF teams continued to provide health-related information and promotion sessions until September 2022.

In total, MSF teams ran 3,136 individual sessions and 1,000 group sessions as well as two social media campaigns.

MSF also supported the health authorities' response to the Crimean-Congo haemorrhagic fever outbreak in Baghdad by organising and facilitating the training of doctors and nurses on case management and infection preventive measures the disease. A total of 85 medical staff, including doctors, nurses, laboratory technicians and pharmacists, took part in the training sessions.

Dhi- Qar



Medical support and services in Dhi-Qar

MSF played a vital role during the outbreaks of Crimean-Congo haemorrhagic fever and cholera in 2022, training Directorate of Health medical staff in case management, donating drugs and ensuring proper follow-up of patients in the isolation ward.

In 2022, MSF ran two digital health promotion campaigns aimed at residents of Dhi-Qar governorate to raise awareness about hemorrhagic fever and cholera, providing people with information about to protect themselves and how to access healthcare services if they have symptoms.

Erbil



Flooding in Erbil

In response to flash flooding that affected Erbil governorate, MSF supported the local authorities by repairing the damage to Qushtapa public healthcare centre, donating medicines and medical equipment to replenish stocks, donating furniture, and improved and rehabilitating the centre's waste, water and sanitation.

Kurdistan region - Qushtapa flood rehabilitation 2022
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