Teach a man to fish: 
Implementation of a Paediatric Emergency Training course in MSF projects

Thomson Johanna¹, Pinosa Claudie¹, Schaefer Myrto²
¹Médecins sans Frontières, Training Unit, Operational Centre Paris, France. ²Médecins sans Frontières, Medical Unit, Australia.

Background

MSF treats 60 000 hospitalised children in 15 countries annually. Paediatric projects are becoming more established and care increasingly sophisticated. The aim of this training program is to improve triage and emergency paediatric care in MSF programs using a systematic approach.

Methods

5-day training course for MSF field programs composed of four modules:
1) Triage
2) Stabilisation and the “ABCDE” approach
3) Hospital Admission and Surveillance
4) Final Simulation

Pedagogical methods: simulations, group exercises, case studies and interactive discussions. Content is consistent with recommendations in the MSF Paediatric Guidelines (OCP-OCG) released in 2016.

Target audience: field-based medical and paramedical staff who work with children. Maximum 16 participants per session to optimise participation and acquisition of technical skills.

Training team: composed of a paediatrician and a paediatric nurse. Each training is followed by a period of follow-up in the field to consolidate knowledge and skills developed during the training.

Results

• First headquarter training piloted in Paris, May 2016 with 18 participants (OCP and OCG).
• Field-based trainings in Mali and the Democratic Republic of Congo have trained a further 64 staff.
• Regional intersectional training (OCP-OCG) scheduled for October 2016 in Kampala in English.

Conclusion

Training of medical and nursing staff in the recognition and management of paediatric emergencies is crucial for consistency of care and the evolution of MSF paediatric programs.

“Give a man a fish and you feed him for a day. Teach a man to fish and you feed him for a lifetime”

Anne Thackeray Ritchie

Ethical clearance not required