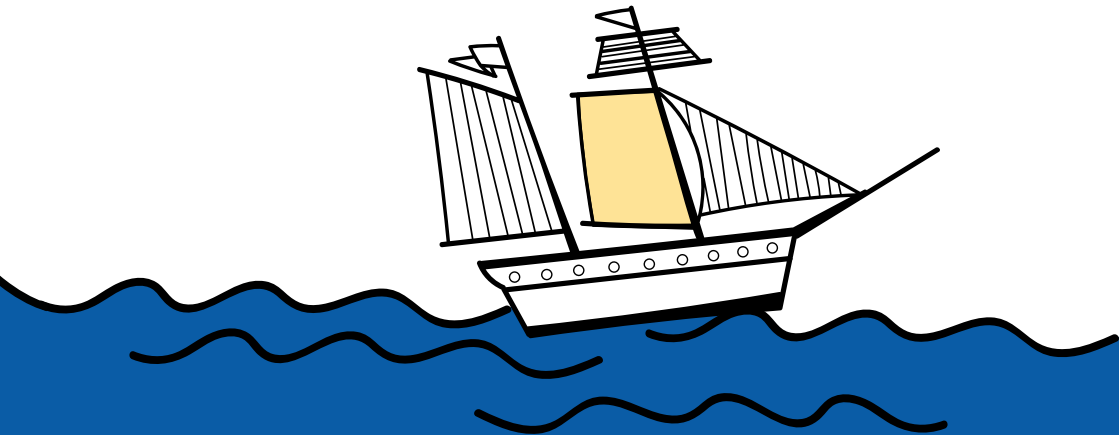




# COMMUNITY TRAVEL LOGBOOK

~ 2020 ~

Immersion in the heart of the association







“Welcome aboard! By committing to take to the seas with Médecins du Monde France you are joining a family of campaigners and activists who were amongst the first to fight against injustice and oppression in Afghanistan in 1980 as well as to provide care for forgotten people and for the civilian victims of wars and natural disasters all across the globe. Our members were amongst those to come to the aid of Vietnamese migrants back in 1979 onboard the Ile de Lumière ship. These men and women then went on to carry out our first missions in France in 1985 by opening the first healthcare and advice centre in Paris. They led the fight against the AIDS epidemic by helping drug users, without any moral judgement, to get access to care and to avoid contracting the disease. The Observatory on Access to Healthcare was created in 1995 but it is still relevant today given the current situation of worsening social and geographical inequalities with regards to access to healthcare for vulnerable people.

You will be on the frontline helping us to denounce such social injustice.

In order to make your life easier on board Médecins du Monde France we have created this travel logbook including all the essential information about life at Médecins du Monde: providing care and bearing witness AND leading advocacy campaigns to further our struggles, committing as well as accepting support from others. Read about our history and become part of it! Volunteers, employees, members and the populations concerned - this logbook is for you and this is your association. We have a heartfelt desire to provide care, bear witness, campaign and improve social empowerment in order to help those who our societies push towards exclusion and marginalisation. People will always be at the heart of our struggles. Welcome home!”



**Philippe De Botton**  
Doctor  
President of Médecins du Monde (Mdm)

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# I'M COMMITTING TO THIS IN ORDER TO...



## ▮ Stop social overdosing ▮

Our association was one of the first to commit to harm reduction and the teams started by focusing on the socio-medical sector: defending access to healthcare and encouraging prevention, mobilising in support of 'new' population groups - squatters, sex workers, drug users, etc. - and welcoming the paramedical professions as well.

**Patrick David**  
Doctor  
Co-RM Pakistan  
Former member of the MdM-Fr Board  
Vice-President of Doctors of the World Japan



## ▮ Rise above 'every man for himself' ▮

I work with the regional office to draft and implement the association's political advocacy work. What we do is we put pressure on the local and regional authorities in order to convince them to change their practices. Together we have succeeded in increasing the number of emergency housing places available for asylum seekers. In order to fight against poverty and vulnerability we have sent messages to the prefecture opposing evictions from squats and slums without any prior social impact assessment being carried out and before having alternative housing solutions and support in place. What is our goal? Mobilisation to improve social integration.

**Aude Saldana-Cazenave**  
Regional Coordinator for Aquitaine (based in Bordeaux)

# MAKING THE WORLD A BETTER PLACE BOTH HERE AND ELSEWHERE



## ▮▮ Taking action to help those who have been forgotten ▮▮

Going where others don't is also about fighting for decent housing and work conditions to provide dignity to men and women. Médecins du Monde made this into one of the priorities of our strategic plan. In 1993, the Sarnisme mission in France allowed us to denounce the catastrophic impact of unsanitary housing on health, outlining how environmental factors are a key aspect of health. We take action on environmental health by denouncing toxic environments, refusing stigmatisation, reducing risks, encouraging the mobilisation of communities and by lobbying the authorities. Promoting health, boosting community health and building capacity in communities is how we take action to lobby societies and governments.

Our goal is to open up new opportunities and provide hope to those that the world has forgotten, helping them protect their futures by reconciling health and environment. Bearing witness to unacceptable situations and defending patients' rights also means making the French State face up to its contradictions, taking them to court over the exorbitant and opaque pricing of medication. It is intolerable when the poorest cannot have access to treatment for financial reasons. Ensuring that the voice of forgotten people is heard also means providing care for all people no matter their administrative status or nationality. This is what Médecins du Monde has been doing by fighting to ensure French State medical aid (AME) is retained as it is key to providing healthcare to exiled people.

**Philippe De Botton**

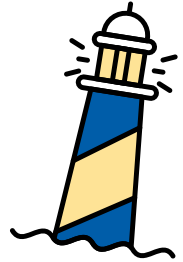


## “ The Calais “Jungle”: Opening our eyes to the situation ”

As regional coordinator of our French operations, based in Lille, I worked with the teams on a major project supporting migrants in Dunkirk and Calais from 2013 to 2016. For the first time in France we had to contact the Emergency Department at HQ and we also sent out an appeal to volunteers. Many volunteers were involved in this project during which we opened a health centre in the slum to guarantee access to healthcare for all.

Our struggle, led alongside other associations, forced the regional healthcare agency to take action and set up a medical centre on site. Médecins du Monde focused on providing mental health treatment in a safe space: listening to people who were suffering, offering activities such as art workshops or simply having a discussion over a cup of tea to try to reduce the pressure these people were under. Mental health is something Médecins du Monde is beginning to focus on more and more. However, both in France and abroad, we lack resources for mental health, particularly human resources - psychiatrists and psychologists.

**Isabelle Bruand**  
Former France Regional Coordinator  
Former head of international geographical  
area operations



## “ Setting up an ethnic minorities group to bear witness ”

I was involved in the creation of the ethnic minorities group: Médecins du Monde gave me the resources to make my idea a reality. In Siberia, for example, we provided support to reindeer farmers. After the fall of the USSR no-one offered healthcare in the Arctic North anymore. In 2006 we were able to set up a group of ethnologists and doctors, we drew up a budget and put together a model to help these nomadic groups.

What am I interested in? Injustice anywhere in the world, like the last colonisation of the 20th century in Papua New Guinea. We must adapt the medical and treatment offer to the situation. If we don't, it just becomes unsettling.

**Patrick David**

# EN ROUTE FOR OUR PROGRAMMES MDM

## Help us to write the story of Mdm

Médecins du Monde France leads approximately sixty programmes in around thirty countries and millions of people across the globe benefit from them. This is how we put together a humanitarian programme:



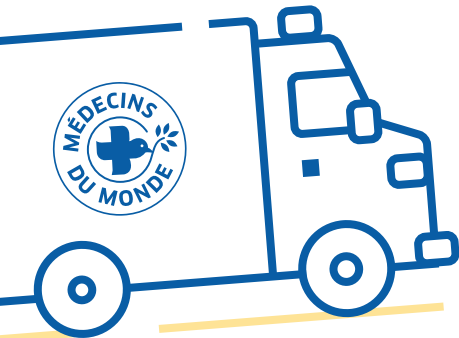
### Identifying the needs

The first phase is about analysing the socio-medical context, the legal framework and the characteristics of the local people's needs and strengths. Our objective in doing this is to identify priorities for the programme.



### May the force be with us

Missions will not be effective without a clear vision of the means of intervention and without the right partners on board. The teams build up relationships with other associations and stakeholders from the healthcare sector. We carry out regular assessments with the populations concerned to see if we need to adjust our initiatives.



### Working as a team

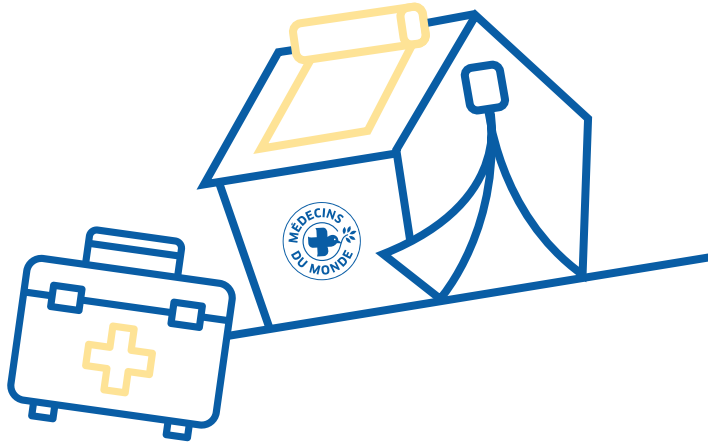
By encouraging people to get involved in the planning phase and by using monitoring mechanisms we can then define the roles and responsibilities of all involved and guarantee that all our initiatives are based around a shared vision.



4

## Making sure the voice of the populations concerned is heard

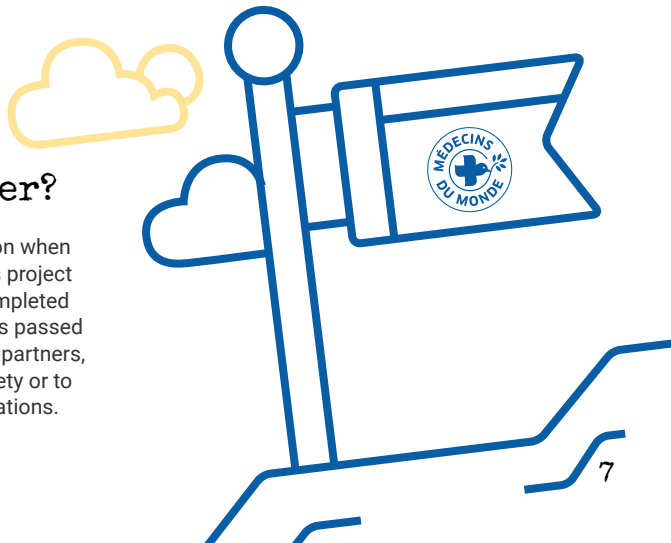
3-5 years is the average duration of an MdM programme. Offering care, leading advocacy work and ensuring access to rights... Our association promotes the dignity and empowerment of vulnerable people.



5

## But what happens after?

At the end of the mission when MdM has completed its project and the teams have completed their tasks, the project is passed over to our institutional partners, partners from civil society or to community-led organisations.



# UPDATES FROM THE FIELD...



## ❧ From Pakistan with love ❧

An earthquake devastated the north of Pakistan back in 2005 causing 80,000 deaths. I joined the field teams as a doctor. It was an emergency mission in a mountainous area so it was complicated but we were able to forge strong friendships. Given that I speak Urdu (the national language of Pakistan) and that I was living in the country at the time the association then asked me to be involved in the evaluations being carried out in the region.

In 2009 following a mass displacement of 3 million people Médecins du Monde called me back into the field. These 3 million people were homeless. Our goal? To guarantee access to healthcare for these people. Since then, and despite cultural issues, we have been able to launch a project focusing on reproductive health and providing care for expecting mothers and their children near the border with Afghanistan. I can hardly believe we've been able to do it!".

**Marc Tyrant**  
Former emergency doctor  
Active Asia group member  
Volunteer board delegate for Pakistan



## ❧ Resisting the pressure ❧

Within some countries, some geographical areas, it is becoming increasingly difficult and dangerous to carry out independent relief actions. We want to resist the shrinking of the humanitarian presence in such places and maintain our healthcare offer despite the complexity and the security situation. In order to do so we need to have an up-to-date understanding of the political situation.

In Pakistan we have a team of mainly Pakistani nationals and our general coordinator is Pakistani too. The general coordinator has been with us since 2009 and has climbed up the ranks, he, alongside the Desk officer in Paris, now handles a budget of €1.2 million per year and manages 120 staff. This mission that we've built up as a team is something we're very proud of".

**Patrick David**



# I WANT TO BE A MEMBER OF MÉDECINS DU MONDE...

## To have an impact on the global situation

I believe in the cause and I've been wholeheartedly involved in the association's activities for at least nine consecutive months before asking to become a member.

### What are my responsibilities?

To keep up to date with what MdM is doing and to abide by its values. The next step is to choose two active members to co-opt me and fill out the form.

### Why?

Because at Médecins du Monde, the Board validates requests for membership status on a monthly basis.



## To take my commitment to the next level

### As a member I have rights:

I can vote on all matters of importance to the association, I can vote to elect the board members at the general assembly (and at regional assemblies if I live in France and I'm part of a Regional Office). I can also put my name forward for a voluntary role within the association: volunteer board delegate, board member, etc.

## Because I believe in their struggles!

After being a member for three years I can co-opt new members (up to 10 per year) and thus help improve the standing of our community amongst decision-makers and civil society.



## We're in it together

Investing in the democratic spirit of  
Médecins du Monde? I say yes!

I pay an annual subscription fee in order to be able to vote and be eligible for various roles within the organisation. This €35 fee qualifies for a 66% tax reduction in some circumstances. If ever I need to I can write to the board to ask for an exemption.



# READY? SMILE, IT'S TIME TO SIGN UP!

# HOW MÉDECINS DU MONDE IS STRUCTURED

Ensuring we're all reading from  
the same page: the triptych



The Desk Officer, as well as passing on the message of our political decisions, handles the admin and HR side of things. In the field, the coordinator has to adapt the political project to the conditions in the country. The coordinator is in charge of putting together a professional team, of implementing high-quality programmes, of managing the relationship with the local authorities, of the budget/financing and of guaranteeing security. The heads of mission ensure the continuity and the consistency of the projects: why we're here, why are we helping these people, where are we going, what can we accept, what do we have to refuse, etc.

**Patrick David**



I was hired as a Desk Officer at HQ in France two months after I got back from working in the field abroad. I'd supervised the international missions in Morocco, Algeria and Mali over a period of five and a half years. I was the contact person: the general coordinators in the field and the volunteer heads of mission. My role was to coordinate and monitor the teams, our security and our finances as well as to help direct our strategic thinking.

**Isabelle Bruand**

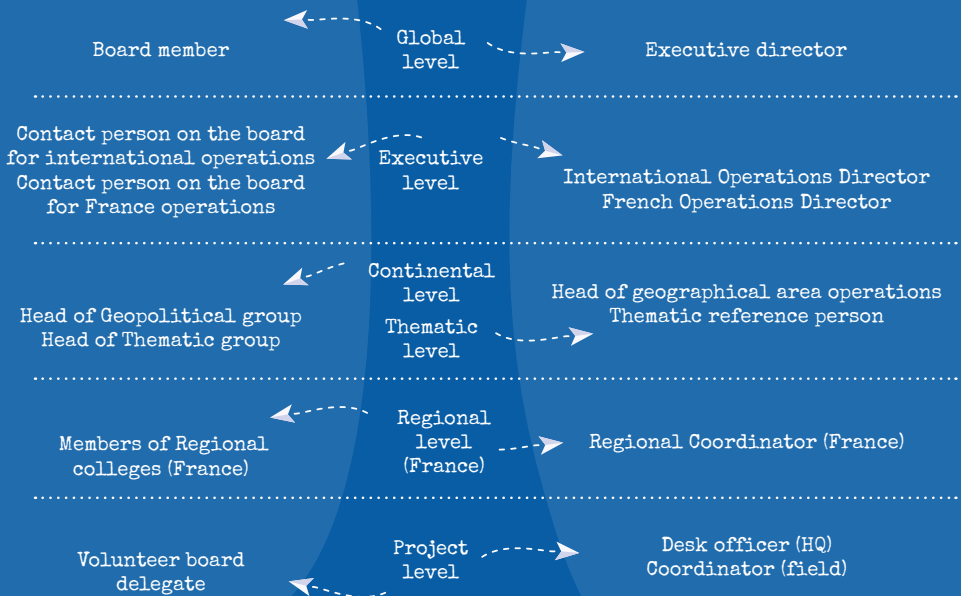
# GOVERNANCE OF OPERATIONAL PROJECTS



## EXECUTIVE VOLUNTEER



## EXECUTIVE SALARIED STAFF



**A joint management model is used for our operational projects in France and abroad.**

There are three stakeholders: the head of mission/volunteer board delegate (in charge of implementing the organisation's political vision), the general coordinator (in charge of the operational side of things, dealing with the grassroots level) and the desk officer (in charge of the overall cohesion of our operational strategies). The three members of this triptych must work together to define the modus operandi and the division of tasks for the mission.

# A SHIP SAILED BY A COMPLEMENTARY CREW



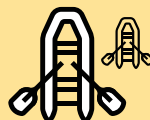
The  
populations  
concerned



The programmes  
in france and  
abroad



The  
field



Our network  
of partner  
associations



Our geopolitical  
groups



Our thematic  
groups



Our volunteer  
board delegates



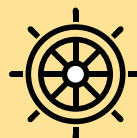
Our  
employees



Our  
members



The general  
assembly



The  
board

Our consultative structure is made up of groups focused either on a on a given topic (thematic group) or a geographical region (geopolitical group). They ensure the coherence of Médecins du Monde's mission in the regions for which they are responsible and ensure compliance with the mission statement. They provide a permanent link between the organisation's "grassroots" (civil society, activists, members, the field, etc.) and

the organisation's decision-making bodies (the Board and Executive Committee).

The groups propose strategies and intervention priorities. Their role is crucial in the analysis of contexts and the choice of intervention modalities, as well in the preparation of our advocacy activities and our action priorities which would then have to be approved by the Board.

# WORKING TOGETHER TO BUILD UP OUR COMMUNITY SPIRIT

Médecins du Monde is based around our volunteer board delegates, volunteers for our international operations and our permanent staff teams. The energy and commitment of all involved helps create a bubbling community spirit which, in turn, helps nourish the association's strategic thinking.

Médecins du Monde relies upon a range of stakeholders: the populations concerned, our partners, our volunteer members and local volunteers. The equality between volunteers and employees in all parts of the planning and decision-making processes is a building block for our association and is something that we will never change.

Community spirit is about working together to come up with a shared vision. What is important here is democracy within our association, ensuring that all stakeholders are listened to and shown respect. Our community spirit gives that little extra punch to our action and can be part of the reason why we are called in to help.

The spaces where we build community spirit are the decision-making bodies such as the annual General Assembly and the monthly Board meetings as well as our annual/biannual gatherings where volunteers, employees, activists and the populations concerned work together to further our strategic thinking.

Our annual MdM Community Days and the Mission Days in May bring together over 300 stakeholders from France and abroad. These events help us to exchange best practices and to come up with new operational strategies.

The Autumn Universities and the National Advisory Council meetings bring together executive staff (both volunteers and employees) for debates and to help decide the strategic direction for the association.

But our community spirit is also something we build and nurture on a daily basis: in the regional offices (France), within the geographical and thematic groups and whenever we think of others in our daily work.



## “ Generating dynamics within Generating dynamics within the organisation ”

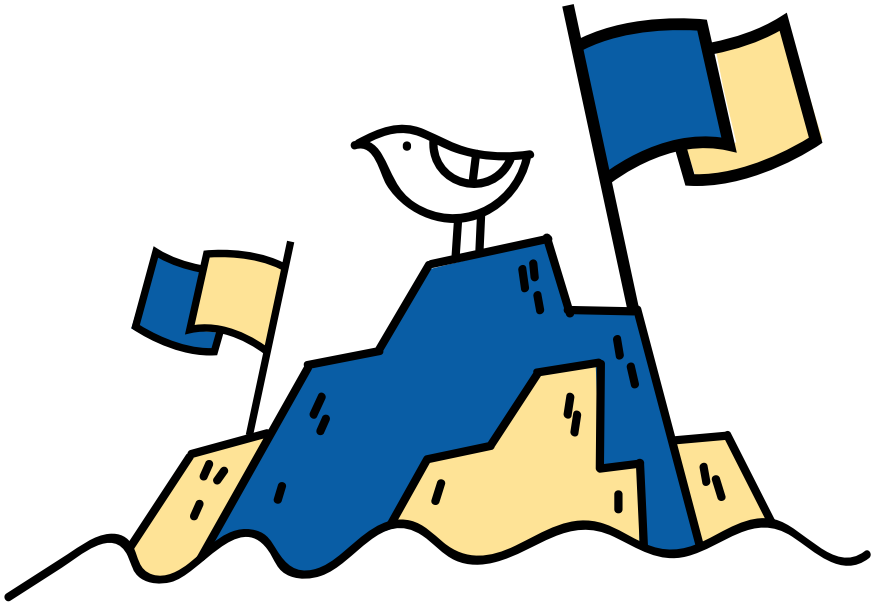
Our role is to support the stakeholders, especially the volunteers, to train staff and to provide a meaning to our grassroots initiatives. I co-facilitate the regional office alongside the staff team and the elected team of seven volunteer board delegates (an accountant, an ex-journalist, a HR expert, GPs and a psychiatrist).

The elected team is selected by the members of the region. Our goals are to maintain equality and to work together to build and strengthen the Médecins du Monde project.”

**Aude Saldana-Cazenave**



# AN INTERNATIONAL NETWORK



Médecins du Monde's international network consists of 16 chapters which, based on a shared charter, pursue the objectives of providing care and bearing witness. Each association has its own board.

In addition to this the 11 European Médecins du Monde chapters engage in joint advocacy targeting the EU and the Council of Europe.

Within this context we have our own specific model: Médecins du Monde is based around an egalitarian system where both volunteers and staff can be involved in the creation of projects.

# THEY KNOW HOW TO SAY IT BETTER THAN WE DO...

Citizen and activist



My opinion is heard, we're all in it together, we're writing a story together. When I attend meetings of the different bodies - the groups, the Board, the general assemblies - I meet very different people and even if we don't always agree, we all share our experience and we're shown respect for what we contribute. It's this atmosphere that makes me what to keep being involved.



Marc Tyrant



Now you're on board and you've  
joined the crew it's up to you to  
write the next chapter...





# WHAT YOU'RE GOING TO FIND IN THIS TRAVEL LOGBOOK



If you're contemplating the meaning of commitment,

If you want to understand the history of our beautiful  
organisation,

If you need to be supported by our initiatives,

If you're a member, employee or a volunteer,

This travel logbook is for you.

It will take you across oceans, seas and deserts

Into the heart of the MdM world...

Come on in and discover our struggles and our testimonies.

Open it up, follow the compass.

Let's see where the wind takes you.

**Travel contact:**

[vie.associative@medecinsdumonde.net](mailto:vie.associative@medecinsdumonde.net)

