

Doctors Without Borders Canada/Medecins Sans Frontieres Canada

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Organization's mandate/goals:

Founded in 1991, MSF Canada's mandate is to recruit medical and logistical personnel; to raise public awareness of the plight of the populations they treat and care for; and to finance their international projects by raising funds from the general public and from government institutions, such as the Canadian International Development Agency.

Areas of expertise relevant to 2001 UN Conference on Small Arms:

Health -- *Medical assistance and training*

Médecins Sans Frontières offers assistance to populations in distress, to victims of natural or man-made disasters and to victims of armed conflict, without discrimination and irrespective of race, religion, creed or political affiliation.

Working with Vulnerable Groups -- *Advocacy*

In carrying out humanitarian assistance, MSF seeks also to raise awareness of crisis situations; MSF acts as a witness and will speak out, either in private or in public about the plight of populations in danger for whom MSF works. In doing so, MSF sets out to alleviate human suffering, to protect life and health and to restore and ensure respect for human beings and their fundamental human rights.

Human and Social Development -- *Promoting Respect for Human Rights*

It is part of MSF's work to address any violations of basic human rights encountered by field teams, violations perpetrated or sustained by political actors. It does so by confronting the responsible actors themselves, by putting pressure on them through mobilization of the international community and by issuing information publicly. In order to prevent compromise or manipulation of MSF's relief activities, MSF maintains neutrality and independence from individual governments.