

## MSF Flying/MENA Intersectional Pharmacist based in Lebanon

Title: Flying Intersectional Pharmacist in the MENA region

Location: **Beirut, Lebanon with frequent travels to countries where MSF works**

Contract: Fixed-term 12 months with possibility of extension

Reporting to: International Pharmacist Coordinator (IPC)

Starting date: July 2019

Deadline for applications: 19<sup>th</sup> June 2019

Salary and working conditions: expatriate status; salary level 13 as per MSF international salary grid

Duration: 12 months, with possible extension after evaluation and decision by the medical directors

### I. MSF INTERNATIONAL

Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) is an international, independent, medical humanitarian organisation that delivers emergency aid to people affected by armed conflict, epidemics, healthcare exclusion and natural disasters. MSF offers assistance to people based only on need and irrespective of race, religion, gender or political affiliation.

MSF International is the legal entity that binds MSF's 21 sections, 24 associations and other offices together. Based in Geneva, the MSF International Office provides coordination, information and support to the MSF Movement, as well as implements international projects and initiatives as requested. The International Office also provides administrative support to the MSF Access Campaign.

### II. POSITION BACKGROUND

The general objective of the position is to support MSF programs and sections in medicines and medical devices supply, by guaranteeing that MSF quality standards are applied according to the evolving situation and available information in the MENA region.

The focus of this position will be on Lebanon and Turkey but may include, as needed, other countries in the MENA region like Syria, Palestine and others.

### III. PLACE IN THE ORGANISATION

- This position is hierarchically and technically linked to the International Pharmacist Coordinator.
- For administrative and security management, this position is under one of the MSF OCs (Operational Center) with mission in Lebanon.
- This flying intersectional regional pharmacist position is functionally linked to the international pharmaceutical coordination: it will be the responsibility of the IPC to ensure that the regional pharmacist is given appropriate technical back-up, by:
  - Considering him/her as a member of the international pool (including two participations per year in international pharmacists' meetings)

- Identifying a regular technical back-up among the section pharmacists
  - Sharing with him/her relevant updated information on sources and quality
  - Providing him/her with any needed information on demand
  - Ensuring the links with the pharmacists in the Access Campaign team and in European Supply Centers (ESC).
- The priorities will be set by the IPC in agreement with the section pharmacists (SPs) based on the needs.
  - The pharmacist is in close contact and collaboration with the pharmacist network and more especially with the Jordan based intersectional pharmacist, the section pharmacists, and with the International QA Medical Device Coordinator (IMDC).

#### **IV. OBJECTIVES OF THE POSITION**

The flying intersectional pharmacist supports the sections by solving specific supply issues with all concerned departments in challenging countries where access to quality medicines for MSF's projects is compromised. This includes provision of advice, support and liaising between the pharma side to the missions in country and back with the Section Pharmacists. In addition, it supports the various sections present in the MENA countries where MSF works by solving specific supply issues with all concerned departments (medical, logistic, finance).

- Gain a better knowledge on the pharmaceutical and medical device legal framework and market within the specific context (analysis of registered drugs, main pharmaceutical and medical device companies, etc.) as well as the regulatory frameworks and potential constraints.
- Advice on and re-evaluate the relevance of the procurement strategies, taking into account MSF program developments in the countries, quality, legal and administrative issues.
- Lead negotiations with the governmental organisations to favour importation and access to quality medicines by MSF projects.
- For countries where local procurement is a necessity: perform local market assessment as per SPs requests, LMA will be validated by the SPs (manufacturers and distributors to be assessed).
- Ensure that the procurement strategies approved by the Medical Department in HQ (of each project's section), are followed and implemented by the teams in each country.
- Coordinate among sections to (loans, combine medical needs, coordination importation consignments, etc.)

The flying intersectional pharmacist is not supposed to replace or be the back-up of national pharmacist during holiday; each section must manage this situation by itself.

#### **V. MAIN RESPONSIBILITIES**

- a) Identify challenges faced (banned items, reinforcement of restrictive importation requirements, etc.) in specific challenging countries.
- Ensure all the changes in importation procedures are communicated to the MSF ESCs, Section pharmacists, IPC, IMDC when relevant and MSF regulatory affairs pharmacist in a timely manner, with the involvement of the Supply team.
  - Liaise among the different sections in the country to ensure medical supply of quality medicines.
  - Work with all the sections to undergo pooled procurement (if agreed upon).
  - Liaise with ESC Pharmacists as required to request specific technical support for importation.

- Communicate to the MSF ESCs and Operations the changes in the national guidelines, particularly information and regulations pertaining to pharmaceutical products importation.
  - Update the SPs and the ESCs including the RA pharmacist regarding the lobbying efforts and document the problems encountered with importation, for all the sections.
- b) Act as focal person representing MSF towards the authorities on pharmaceutical issues, and ensure a coherent and consistent communication system with authorities (the “one MSF” approach):
- Participate to meetings related to pharmacy regulations.
  - If needed, provide technical support for the creation of document (s) to address the importation issues with local authorities.
  - To develop contacts and liaise with other NGOs, UN agencies (UNICEF, etc.) and local organisations concerned with quality/availability of essential medicines (including WHO Country office) regarding pharmaceutical issues in a proactive manner, ensuring confidentiality of data generated by MSF regarding the quality of local suppliers.
- c) Local procurement (LP) information (if LP is the only option for some products):
- Compile and update documentation for each product (selected supplier and manufacturer) and, if needed, keep updated a database (approved by the SPs
  - Conduct local market assessment visits in accordance with MSF LMA guidelines and with validation given by the SP.
  - Follow up pharmacy license for storage and purchase, including inspection of premises/ cargoes by the authorities in Lebanon.
- d) Technical pharmacy support for medical managers:
- Support supply officers, mission pharmacists/pharmacy managers and medical coordinators in providing training, and advice in various topics related to drugs and medical devices’ importation.
- e) Regularly update information on pharmaceutical and medical device legislation<sup>1</sup>, in particular importation and pharmacy warehouse registration and inform section pharmacists, medical coordinators and mission pharmacists/copharmacists accordingly
- Coordinate regular meetings with the mission pharmacists/medical coordinators/supply officers where pharmaceuticals information is exchanged and problems shared in order to find common solutions.
  - Follow up the National Essential Medicines List updates and if required advocate for change or discuss therapeutic specificities, in collaboration with the medical coordinators.
  - Follow up local distributor and registered medicines lists, with focus on manufacturers of interest to MSF.
- f) Ensure all the changes in importation procedures are communicated to the MSF ESCs, Section pharmacists, IPC, IMDC when relevant and MSF regulatory affairs pharmacist in a timely manner, with the involvement of the Supply team:
- Liaise with ESC Pharmacists as required to request specific technical support for importation.

---

<sup>1</sup> Including national guidelines on Pharmacovigilance and Pharmaceutical Waste Disposal

- Continuously communicate to the MSF ESCs and Operations the new updates and changes in the national guidelines, particularly information and regulations pertaining to pharmaceutical products importation.
- Update the ESC regarding the lobbying efforts and document the problems encountered with importation, for all the sections.

g) Act as the focal point for quality and pharmacovigilance issues:

- Provide support for Quality Alert/Batch recalls relating to Pharmaceuticals and Medical devices (in liaison with International Pharmacist Coordinator and SPs).
- Coordinate information relating to complaints received regarding Pharmaceuticals and Medical devices.

## VI. REPORTING

- Submit monthly activity reports to be shared with all section medical and logistic coordinators, section pharmacists and IPC.
- Attend MSF medical coordinator meetings held between all sections, when requested.
- Coordinate the monthly Pharmacy meetings.
- Participation in Grand-messe.
- Participation in Section Pharmacist visits and assist in preparing this visit.
- Provide a final hand-over report for all the sections with recommendations.

## VII. PROFILE REQUIREMENTS

Pharmacist with degree/diploma in pharmacy

Genuine interest in and commitment to the humanitarian principles and challenges of MSF

Experience:

- Minimum 3 years professional experiences, including 6-12 months experience in developing countries with MSF or another organisation.
- Experience with quality assurance, Good Distribution and Storage Practices and manufacturing aspects of pharmaceutical products desirable.

Particularities:

- Fluency in English mandatory (French and Arabic would be an added advantage).
- Mature with strong interpersonal and organisational skills.
- Ability to work and report independently.
- Able to represent MSF with the capacity to negotiate positively and diplomatically with MoH officials and MSF national and expatriate staff.
- Excellent communication and diplomatic skills.
- Ability to work in a multicultural environment.
- Good organisation and management skills.
- Professionalism, transparency and flexibility a must.
- Ability to work in a team.
- Good analytical and problem-solving skills with attention to detail.
- Skilled in coaching, training and supporting pharmacist/medical supply personnel.

[Apply here](#)

*Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted*

*MSF is committed to achieving workforce diversity in terms of gender, nationality and culture. Individuals with disabilities are equally encouraged to apply*