

# Medical research Legal advisor

## Job description

**Title:** Medical Research legal advisor

**Location:** any MSF offices\*

**Duration:** 7 months

**Reporting to:** Legal manager

**Starting day:** September 1st 2022

**Deadline for applications:** 30 June 2022

*\*By default, the successful candidate will be offered a contract in the MSF office of their country of residence at the time of application.*

## 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, 25 associations and other offices together. MSF International provides political oversight, coordination, information and support to the MSF Movement, as well as implementing international projects and initiatives as requested.

Within MSF International, the International Office (IO) is the Secretariat of MSF International Board and is under the direct management of the Secretary General.

The International Legal Department (ILD) is currently the only intersectional department of MSF; its field of expertise is varied, including international humanitarian law (IHL), registration, taxes, medico-legal issues, medical research, labour law, commercial law, trademarks and international governance.

## II. POSITION BACKGROUND

The position of Medical Research legal advisor is based in Unit 6 entitled "Medical research, Innovation and Data" of the ILD.

This Unit of the ILD is managed by one Unit manager and is dedicated to providing legal support to the MSF movement on medical research and innovation of 4 main areas of expertise:

- Medical research, medical innovation, R&D contracts
- Digital health and digital innovation
- Health Data sharing and Health Data use
- Emergency use, compassionate use, MEURI, temporarily licensed medical products

### III. OBJECTIVES OF THE POSITION

The Medical research legal advisor will respond to legal queries in its area of expertise. His/her role, in close connection with the Unit managers, will be to:

- provide legal and strategical advice to MSF field, operational and medical teams on medical research and medical innovation projects and issues;
- draft and negotiate all necessary legal agreements with MSF counterparts and other stakeholders involved in medical research projects (countries, NGOs, WHO, laboratories, research institutes) to frame and locally implements MSF medical research projects.

### IV. MAIN RESPONSIBILITIES

- Provide legal and strategical advice to MSF field, operational and medical teams on medical research and medical innovation issues which can include applicable legal frame of MSF research activities, biobanking legal issues, intellectual property issues in relation to medical research, access to essential medicines issues etc.
- Provide legal support to MSF research projects including negotiation and drafting of related agreements with multiple high level actors and organizations having different and sometimes competing agendas (countries, NGOs, WHO, laboratories, research institutes), notably: drafting and negotiating research collaboration agreements including consortium agreement, clinical trial agreement, material transfer agreement, data sharing agreement, intellectual property agreements.
- Analyze, draft and review legal frame of implementation by MSF of its research activities in their countries of performance of researches, this can include negotiation and drafting of agreement with the relevant ministries of health or public bodies in MSF countries of activities.
- Carry out legal risks analysis on MSF anticipated medical research projects and different legislation in countries of implementation,
- Provide briefs, design tools, and provide trainings regarding the legal frame of medical research and related agreements.
- Work as a team with others legal advisors on common topics involving medical researches.

## Job requirements

### Technical competencies:

- Minimum of 5 years of overall professional experience, including 3 years as a lawyer or in-house legal advisor in medical research-ethics, intellectual property.
- English speaking.
- Excellent drafting skills including agreements and contract skills is mandatory
- Experience in medical research-ethics, intellectual property is a plus

- Prior MSF experience, with genuine interest in and commitment to the humanitarian principles and challenges of MSF is a plus
- Rigor, clarity and ability to adapt to different legal systems, sense of priorities and of organization.
- Ability to translate an operational negotiation in legal language.

**Core competencies:**

- Cross-cultural awareness.
- Analytical thinking, with robust legal drafting skills in English.
- Teamwork and cooperation.
- Flexible thinking and ability to adapt to different legal systems.
- Diplomatic sensitivity.

**Only short-listed candidates will be contacted**

**At MSF, we are committed to an inclusive culture that encourages and supports the diverse voices of our employees. We welcome applications from individuals of all genders, ages, sexual orientations, nationalities, races, religions, beliefs, ability status, and all other diversity characteristics.**

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