

## LOCATION

Academic Medical Centre, Conference Hall 1  
Meibergdreef 9 1105 AZ Amsterdam

## ORGANISERS

Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) and Netherlands Society for  
Tropical Medicine and International Health (NVTG)

## LANGUAGE

English

## ORGANISING COMMITTEE

Sanne van den Berg (MSF) - Ilse Broek (MSF/NVTG) - Reinou Groen  
(NVTG/TROIE) - Klaas Koop (NVTG/TROIE) - Marit van Lenthe (MSF)  
- Esther Jurgens (NVTG) - Koert Ritmeijer (MSF) - Corien Swaan  
(MSF) - Hanneke de Vries (NVTG) - Hans Wendte (NVTG)

8.45 - 9.30

REGISTRATION AND COFFEE

9.30 - 9.45

OPENING BY ALBERT MANTINGH (CHAIR NVTG) AND ILSE BROEK (MSF)

9.45 - 10.00	WHEN CONFLICT IS OVER	EGBERT SONDRP (LSHTM)
10.00 - 10.20	TREATMENT OF PATIENTS WITH HIV/AIDS IN CONFLICT AREAS: CAN WE GUARANTEE QUALITY AND CONTINUITY?	DANIEL O'BRIEN (MSF)
10.20 - 10.50	TREATING TUBERCULOSIS UNDER CONDITIONS OF INSECURITY AND INSTABILITY	MARTIEN BORGDRORFF (KNCV) KARIN FISCHER LIDDLE (MSF)
10.50 - 11.10	MENTAL HEALTH IN CONFLICT AREAS	WILLEM VAN DE PUT (HEALTHNET/TPO)
11.10 - 11.40	COFFEE	
11.40 - 12.00	TREATING VAGINAL FISTULA IN A CONFLICT SETTING: POSSIBLE AFTER ALL?	SARAH QUINNELL (MSF)
12.00 - 12.20	NEEDS AND FEATURES OF SURGERY IN CONFLICT SETTINGS	SANDRO CONTINI (ICRC)
12.20 - 12.50	RESEARCH ON NEGLECTED DISEASES IN CONFLICT SETTINGS: MAKING PROGRESS WITH A DOUBLE HANDICAP	KOERT RITMEIJER (MSF)
12.50 - 13.50	LUNCH AND DOCUMENTARY 'THE INVISIBLES'	
13.50 - 15.15	WHAT TO DO WITH HEALTH SYSTEMS IN CONFLICT SETTINGS? IGNORE THEM OR BUILD THEM?	CHAIR - EGBERT SONDRP (LSHTM) GODELIEVE VAN HETEREN (CORDAID) HANS VAN DE WEERD (MSF)
15.15 - 15.30	COFFEE	
15.30 - 16.45	THE MANY LAYERS OF HEALTH INTERVENTIONS IN CONFLICT SITUATIONS: ETHICAL DILEMMAS IN THE FIELD	CHAIR - DICK WILLEMS (AMC/UVA) ROB VAN DER MEULEN (MINISTRY OF DEFENCE) KATE MACKINTOSH (MSF) REPRESENTATIVE FROM ICRC
16.45	CLOSURE AND DRINKS	

*Symposium*  
*October 22<sup>nd</sup> 2008*

# Health Care in Conflict : The Boundaries of Health Interventions

*Netherlands Society for Tropical Medicine  
and International Health / Médecins Sans Frontières*



## INTRODUCTION

Health care provision in conflict areas is challenging. Problems with security, nonexistent or non-functioning health systems and challenges of medical technical nature are some of the implications humanitarian organisations face during their operations in areas of conflict.

For years it has been acceptable to state that medical technical and ethical boundaries make it impossible to treat tuberculosis (TB) in instable areas or within refugee populations. Treatment of people with HIV/AIDS requires (highly) trained health workers, preferably within the context of good functioning health and support systems. Minimal requirements for diagnosis, treatment and follow-up for these and other diseases are often absent in conflict and resource-poor settings. But does that mean we cannot treat patients with HIV-AIDS or TB?

Many development interventions in the health sector aim to strengthen weakened national health systems. In conflict settings this is quite challenging, considering the in essence temporary nature of humanitarian assistance. In what way does humanitarian aid differ from assistance in other resource-poor settings? Can humanitarian aid contribute to the strengthening of health systems, or does it actually disrupt existing structures?

Security issues in conflict settings are a constant factor for patients and health personnel alike. Atrocities of war present foreign health workers with dilemmas: speaking out on abuse may lead to forced withdrawal from a country or region. This in turn may jeopardise health care provision. Moreover, working in situations of conflict may cause ethical dilemmas: at personal level, when treating perpetrators of sexual violence, or at institutional level when national policies or local governments' actions hinder humanitarian actions. How does one deal with these and other ethical dilemmas in conflict settings?

The symposium 'Health Care in Conflict' is jointly organised by the NVTG and MSF with the intention of providing a platform for learning and debate on current themes in international health.

The programme of the symposium includes presentations and debates on the boundaries and limitations of delivering health interventions in conflict settings. Experts will address the theme from three angles:

- Disease control and research
- Health system strengthening
- Ethical dilemmas

## SPEAKERS

Egbert Sondorp (Senior lecturer LSHTM) - Godelieve van Heteren (Director Cordaid) - Martien Borgdorff (Director KNCV Tuberculosis Foundation) - Hans van de Weerd (General Director MSF) - Willem van de Put (Director HealthNet TPO) - Koert Ritmeijer (Health Advisor MSF), and others.

## PARTICIPANTS

Members of NVTG - Members and employees of MSF - Professionals in the field of tropical medicine and international health - Professionals from the Dutch health care system and in Migrant Health - Professionals from the Ministries of Foreign Affairs, Health, Welfare and Sport, and Defence - Tropical MDs in training, students of Medicine, Public Health, International Health

## ABOUT MSF

Médecins Sans Frontières (Artsen Zonder Grenzen) is an independent, medical, emergency relief organisation that provides assistance to people worldwide, regardless of their background, religion or political convictions. Above all, we aim to save lives and to offer medical care to victims of disasters, wars and epidemics. Sending our teams (doctors, nurses and other specialists) and working together with local staff enables us to work as effectively as possible, and to give direct support to the population. In 1999 Médecins Sans Frontières was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for its medical work as well as for its advocacy efforts on behalf of people and populations in danger. Visit our websites: [www.msf.org](http://www.msf.org) and [www.artsenzongrenzen.nl](http://www.artsenzongrenzen.nl)

## ABOUT NVTG

The Netherlands Society for Tropical Medicine and International Health is a Netherlands based umbrella organisation that brings together professionals active in tropical medicine and international health. The mission of the NVTG is 'to actively contribute to the enhancement of health and health care in low- and middle-income countries, through education, research, and advocacy'. Members of the Society include medical professionals as well as professionals from other relevant disciplines and others interested in international health. The backbone of the Society is formed by its 14 scientific working groups. For more information on the symposium, or the work of the NVTG, visit the website at: [www.nvtg.org](http://www.nvtg.org) or call: + 31 (0) 570 - 670010

## REGISTRATION

Early registration: before September 1<sup>st</sup>.

**Until October 15<sup>th</sup>:** registration by paying the correct amount to nvtg, account number 125774, Deventer, mentioning your name and 'symposium NVTG/MSF'.

**After October 15<sup>th</sup>:** registration at the symposium information desk on October 22<sup>nd</sup>.

	EARLY REGISTRATION / BEFORE SEPTEMBER 1 <sup>ST</sup>	LATE REGISTRATION / ON-SITE REGISTRATION
MEMBERS NVTG, MSF**	€60	€75
OTHERS**	€75	€90
STUDENTS*	€35	€45

\* Student participation is limited to 75 places, and students must register before September 1<sup>st</sup>. Tropical MDs in training fall into this category as well.

\*\* A request for accreditation has been submitted to the Accreditation Bureau Social Medicine (AbSg) for practitioners of social medicine.