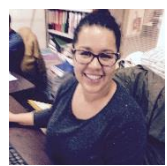




Farida Belhadj-Larbi is our new Financial Officer: after working in CAR, Yemen and Nepal, she replaces Caroline Ducos, who has joined our Africa operations. Welcome!



- SYRIA CRISIS
- YEMEN CRISIS
- IRAQ
- NEPAL
- CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC
- UKRAINE
- VANUATU
- CALAIS



Marie Burton, medical coordinator

A call from HQ: “We have a post for you. Does Iraq mean anything to you?”
“Iraaaaq?” I’m speechless.
“You’ll see. It’s a top mission and it’s challenging!”

On reflection, is “challenging” really the word I’d use to describe this mission?

I made the announcement to my nearest and dearest when media coverage of the refugee crisis was at its height. They too didn’t quite know how to react at first! Mention “Iraq” and everyone automatically thinks of Saddam Hussein and images of war.
All the same, off I go on a 6-month mission to the headwaters of the refugee exodus, in a country with an inhospitable landscape but a rich ethnic diversity.

My first field visit was to Dohuk, where Doctors of the World helps run two healthcare centres in the middle of the refugee camps. There are 4000 people in the Dawodia camp and 25,000 in Chamishku.

While Europe debates on the number of refugees to accept, I find myself right in the middle of a camp with 4000 tents, 17 schools and 1 healthcare centre... ours.

All the people in this camp are there with one objective in mind: survival! They left their homes to escape the bombs, the landmines, the invasion of IS, the massacres, the kidnappings, etc.

Walking round the camp, I feel tiny: my eyes can’t take in all these people. I’m captivated by all those penetrating expressions, all those people in traditional dress. Once again, I’m struck by how quickly life resumes its normal routines. Makeshift shops have appeared along the principal streets of the camp; old people talk in groups and children run around everywhere, playing.

I get exactly the same impression in the healthcare centre. Life goes on, returns to its usual patterns.

Most of our medical team live on the camp. Many are Yazidis and speak Kurdish. Our team meeting is held in the local language, in fact. The only hitch is that Kurdish wasn’t on the school curriculum back in Belgium. At the first meeting, the team doctor came and sat down beside me and said “I want to be your translator, you have come to help my people and I want to thank you.” It was a gesture that really touched me.



Chamishku camp: the SRH consulting room with the adorable Bassima

So, not “challenging” but “intense” is the word I’d use to describe this mission.



Desk manager **Céline Besnard** and medical adviser **Rafik Bedoui** are in charge of the Emergency Response desk for Iraq.





After the period of acute crisis in 2013-14, the accent is now on supporting the public healthcare system in Bangui and Ombella M'Poko prefectures. This support covers all the components of the continuum of care, and includes training and preparedness activities for the outbreak of epidemics.

These activities are implemented in 3 urban health centres (Begoua, Malimaka and Gobongo), 3 rural health centres (Bouboui, Liton and Gbango), 2 maternity hospitals (Begoua and Gobongo) and 1 emergency centre (Begoua).

MdM is also developing a holistic approach to dealing with GBV.



A visit to the Gobongo maternity hospital - opening is scheduled for 07/12

Photos taken at the farewell ceremony organized by national personnel to mark the end of the missions of Simon Bolombo Bakwa (administrative and financial coordinator) Aurélie Philipps (medical coordinator) and Murielle Coiret (GBV adviser).



Quentin Pfeiffer, desk manager, Rozenn Le Meliner, medical adviser, and Aurélie Leroyer, desk officer in charge of the operations of the GBV care in crisis situations program, are in charge of Emergency Response for CAR.



WHERE IS EVERYONE?

Chloé Roger, medical coordinator, is in Calais - Myriam Pomarel, medical coordinator, Jacky Perrudin, logistics coordinator, and Mélanie Rondeau, administrative coordinator, are in Yemen - Pascal Simon, logistics coordinator, has recently returned from a support to the long term program in Angola - Etienne Fosse, administrative coordinator, is in Turkey - Marius Musca, general coordinator, is in Iraq - Marie Burton, medical coordinator, is in Iraq - Marina Benedik, general coordinator, has recently returned from CAR - Mimi Richard, nurse, is in CAR - Christelle Almanric, medical coordinator, is in Nepal - Alessio Zampetti, logistics coordinator, has recently returned from CAR

SEE, READ, USE

[Emergency preparedness]

Not sure what emergency preparedness is? [Look here!](#)

Desk manager Léa Gibert is in charge of this initiative, assisted by medical flying coordinator Chloé Roger.

[Gender-based violence in crisis situations]

The Emergency Response office and S2AP have created a GBV recruitment and briefing checklist whose purpose is to guide desk staff and medical advisers in the recruitment and briefing of expatriate personnel working in crisis situations. Feel free to use it whenever necessary: [GBV - recruitment and briefing checklist \(FR, EN, ES\)](#)

Aurélie Leroyer is the desk officer in charge of the operations of the GBV care in crisis situations program, working with medical adviser Rozenn Le Meliner and Sandrine Simon, SRH adviser with S2AP.

BOOK OF THE MONTH

by Elvina Amoros, support officer



Discovering or rediscovering the history of humanitarian aid, "the realm of the imperfect [...] where we try to do what we can". Understanding and reflecting on the various changes in humanitarian aid in recent years, with particular emphasis on funding. Seasoned humanitarian aid worker (and long-term Doctors of the World collaborator) Boris Martin shares his vision of a certain "liberalization" of humanitarian aid in this short but comprehensive book that's well stocked with concrete examples and nuanced analysis. Boris Martin loves his job and, like many of us, is convinced that a critical perspective on humanitarian aid in today's world will profoundly enrich it, not destroy it.

L'adieu à l'humanitaire ? Les ONG au défi de l'offensive néolibérale, Boris Martin

Les États Généraux de l'action humanitaire internationale

By Rafik Bedoui, medical adviser

Last 2, 3 and 4 November I had the privilege of representing Doctors of the World at the Humacoop summit on humanitarian aid in Grenoble, France. This was the second edition of a conference that brings together some twenty NGOs, foundations and other global social representatives. For MdM, it was an opportunity to present our programmes for the Syrian crisis and to measure them up against other similar programmes. There were many lessons to be learned from the commitment of civil society organizations. We need more opportunities like this for the exchange of news and views, and MdM certainly intends to be a part of them.