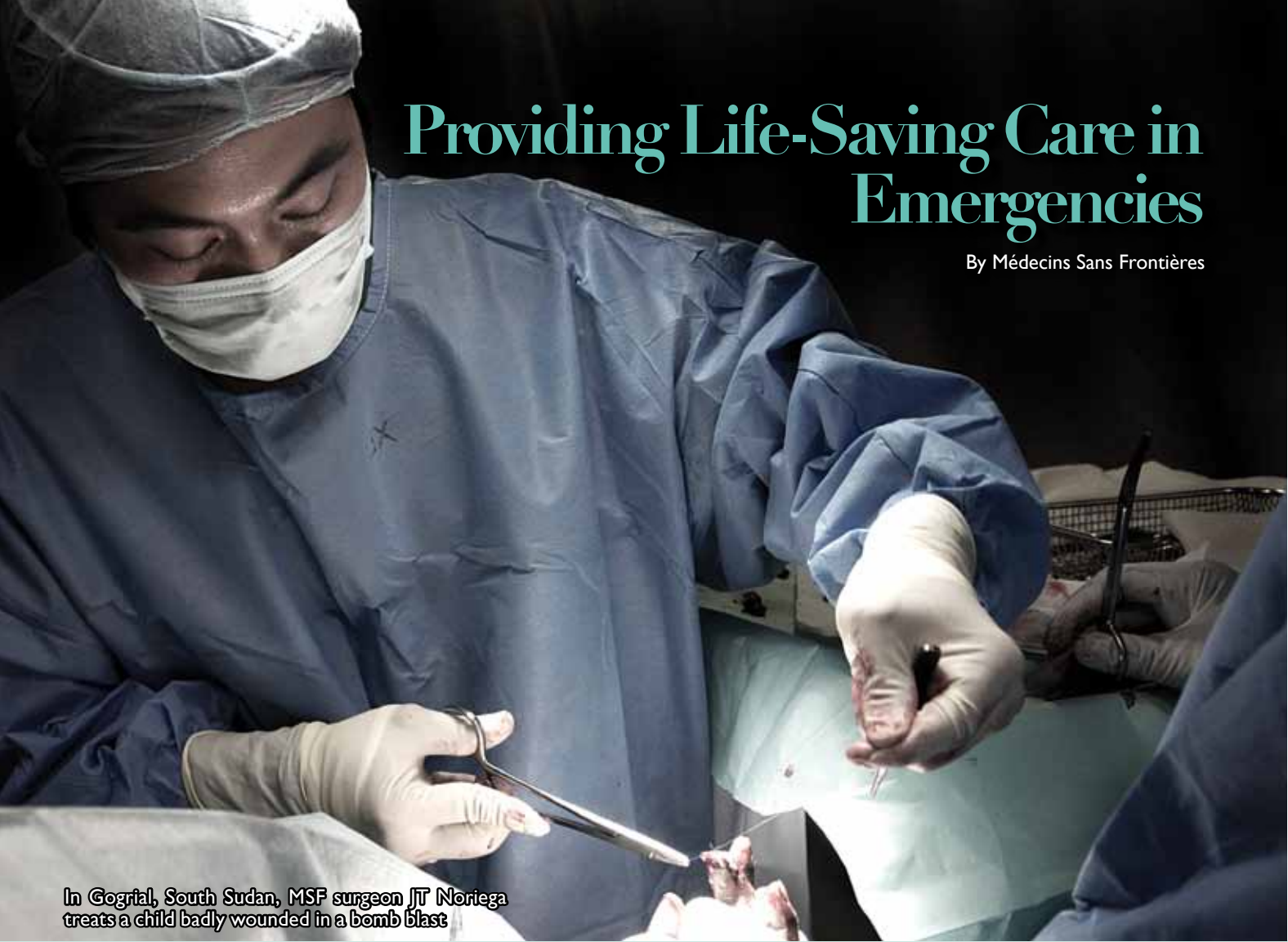


Providing Life-Saving Care in Emergencies

By Médecins Sans Frontières



In Gogrial, South Sudan, MSF surgeon JT Noriega treats a child badly wounded in a bomb blast

Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF), also known as Doctors Without Borders, is an international, independent, medical humanitarian organisation founded in 1971 by a group of doctors and journalists. Currently, MSF has 19 partner sections worldwide, including the MSF Hong Kong office.

Every year, over 2,000 doctors, nurses, other medical professionals, logistical experts, water and sanitation engineers, and administrators work together with local staff in more than 60 countries.

MSF delivers emergency aid and medical care to people affected by armed conflict, epidemics, exclusion from healthcare, and natural disasters. The medical assistance MSF offers is based on need and irrespective of race, religion, gender or political affiliation. When MSF witnesses serious acts of violence, neglected crises, or obstructions to its activities, the organisation may speak out about this.

MSF recruits medical and non-medical staff to work in its projects. However, due to the ever increasing man-made and natural disasters the world is experiencing, MSF has strategically decided to intensify surgical activities in the field, especially in conflict settings. MSF is also launching more programmes focusing on mother-child and reproductive healthcare.

As such, the need for medical doctors, general

surgeons, orthopaedic surgeons, anaesthesiologists, nurse anaesthetists and operating theatre nurses, obstetricians/gynaecologists and midwives has increased tremendously recently.

The general criteria for working in the field are:

- Valid degree and current licence to practice
- Availability: one to six months (depending on the field position and/or profession)
- Ability to live and work as a team
- Ability to manage stress
- Flexibility and cultural sensitivity
- Experience in developing countries is desired
- Willingness to work in conflict areas or unstable environments
- Fluency in English or French

Beyond these minimum essential requirements, MSF seeks personnel who embody the principles of independent humanitarian aid, as espoused in our charter.

To learn more of the specific requirements in each specialisation and recruitment process, visit <http://www.msf-seAsia.org/fieldwork>. If you are interested and embody the criteria we are looking for, email us at rhitam_chakraborty@msf.org.hk.

Photos: JT Noriega, Yann Libessart, Lim Suet Fong and PK Lee (all from MSF)



MSF set up a malnutrition treatment centre for children under five years old in a refugee camp in Adamazin, Ethiopia; bombings in Sudan's Blue Nile state in 2012 had forced Sudanese to seek refuge in bordering Ethiopia



Lim Suet Fong, an MSF field worker from Singapore, with Momo (centre), a 13-year-old South Sudanese boy who spent six months in MSF's inpatient ward (one of Suet Fong's favourite pastimes was visiting him), and another young patient

Testimony

"A frequent question other surgeons ask me is why do you leave your country to help others, instead of just staying in your own country and helping your own countrymen? It is very difficult to explain the fulfilment of providing surgical care to others who otherwise would have no access to any quality surgical care. There is no financial gain, living conditions are difficult, and we deal with unfamiliar food and culture. Medical care provided in the countries we work in is less than optimum. But it is exactly for these reasons that there is a need to go to these countries which lack surgical care. Having less than optimal medical conditions does not mean that quality of care is less. Facing these conditions brings out the best in me as a surgeon and as a human being."

— Lynette Dominguez, surgeon

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FROM THE HEART

A 4.4-kilogramme boy is delivered through caesarean section at MSF's Women's Hospital, which provides free healthcare services, in Peshawar, Pakistan



MSF anaesthetist Karina Aguilar monitors a patient, who sustained deep wounds on her head and neck in an attack, while she undergoes surgery at MSF's Women's Hospital in Peshawar, Pakistan