

To:

25 June 2024

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Christopher Lockyear, MSF Secretary General  
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Sana Beg, General Director, MSF Canada  
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Natalie Roberts, General Director, MSF UK  
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Katrin Kiswani, MSF International Board Member  
Yvan Legris, MSF International Board Member  
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Reveka Papadopoulou, MSF International Board Member  
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Edith Chinonye Ukumen, MSF International Board Member

**Re: MSF's restructuring of access work puts at risk the gains made by the Access Campaign and the access to medicines movement at large**

Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) has been at the forefront of access to medicines work for decades: its initiatives, including the Access Campaign and the Drugs for Neglected Diseases initiative (DNDi), have been critical in galvanizing public support and political will to expand innovation of and access to medical technologies. From its first campaign fighting to ensure access to antiretroviral therapy for patients at an MSF project in Thailand, to 2024's remarkable victory securing affordable access to bedaquiline for multi-drug resistant tuberculosis, the Access Campaign has driven countless successful campaigns in its 25 years. From work against harmful Free Trade Agreements (FTAs) that block generic competition, to highlighting the failings of the research and development models that maximize profits at the expense of public health, the Access Campaign has been a voice, a beacon, and a reference for many within and beyond the access to medicines movement.

The Access Campaign strengthens and joins MSF programmes, civil society groups, and patient networks to push for equitable access to affordable life-saving treatments and essential health technologies. The Access Campaign is a unique model that combines MSF's medical voice and local activism with evidence-based campaigning for policy change. While we commend MSF for what it has achieved, and the services it delivers at this very moment, we write today to express our serious concerns regarding the recent announcement on the fate of the Access Campaign.

The planned dismantling of the Access Campaign's core structure, capacities, expertise, and networks will reverberate across the access to medicines movement and beyond. It will be yet another setback to the already-shrinking patient activist and civil society space critical to holding pharmaceutical companies and governments accountable so that medicines are never a luxury.

This experiment will create a dramatically restructured and downsized team that will lack institutional continuity and fails to include the activism that goes hand-in-hand with technical work on access to medical products. The impact will be felt not only by MSF projects that rely on the Access Campaign for ensuring affordable access, but across resource-poor settings and by the populations it seeks to serve.

The closing down of the Access Campaign will have an extremely negative effect on the very populations with whom MSF stands in solidarity – the millions saved yesterday could see their lives cut short if we are not able to secure access to tomorrow's treatments.

MSF's foundational principle is that humanitarian actors should engage in *témoignage* - bearing witness and speaking out. No less important than speaking out is MSF's obligation to also listen when the communities it serves speak back. We encourage MSF management to listen and consider the wider access to medicines movement, particularly voices of the communities in the global south.

We write with one voice as patients, clinicians, MSF alumni, academics, non-profit R&D organizations, civil society groups, survivors, HIV networks and global health experts to say that while the MSF International Office has characterized the restructuring as merely shutting down a project, we believe it will cause catastrophic and irreparable damage to access to health technologies for communities served by MSF projects and beyond.

We urge you to reverse the decision to close down the Access Campaign and engage with our communities to ensure continued collaboration.

Sincerely,

*[signatories as of 17:00 CEST, 28 July 2024, 163 organizations, 424 individuals]*

### **Organizations**

Access to Medicines Ireland  
Access to treatment Association, Russia  
Action against AIDS Germany

African Alliance, Africa  
African Cervical Health Alliance (ACHA)  
Aidsfonds, The Netherlands  
All India Drug Action Network (AIDAN)  
All-Ukrainian Network of People Living with HIV/AIDS (CO "100 Percent Life")  
Amenya Achims  
Americas TB Coalition  
Anankemag.com  
Ärzte der Welt e.V./Médecins du Monde Germany  
Asia Pacific Network of People Living with HIV (APN+)  
Asociación Civil para la promoción de los Derechos Humanos, XUMEK  
Association Européenne pour le Développement et la Santé  
Association For Promotion Sustainable Development from India  
Australian Fair Trade and Investment Network  
AVAC  
Belgian Lung and Tuberculosis Association  
Brazilian Interdisciplinary AIDS Association (ABIA), Brazil  
Brazilian Network for the Integration Of People's (REBRIP)  
BUKO Pharma-Kampagne, Germany  
Cancer Alliance, South Africa  
Central Única dos Trabalhadores (CUT), Brazil  
Centro de Pensamiento Medicamentos, Información y Poder, Universidad Nacional de Colombia, Colombia  
Charitable Foundation "Second Life", Zaporozhye Ukraine  
Coalition of women living with HIV and AIDS (COWLHA) Malawi  
Colectivo Cero Desabasto (Zero Shortage Collective)  
Committed Communities Development Trust. Mumbai, India  
Consilium Scientific  
Corporate Europe Observatory (CEO), Europe  
Drug Action Forum - Karnataka  
DUMAIC Global Health  
E-Drug Foundation  
Eastern Europe and Central Asian Community Advisory Board (EECA CAB)  
Equit Institute, Brazil  
Eurasian Coalition on Health, Rights, Gender and Sexual Diversity (ECOM)  
Eurasian Community for Access to Treatment (ECAT)  
Eurasian Movement for the Right to Health in Prisons  
FTA Watch, Thailand  
Fundación Grupo Efecto Positivo, Argentina  
Fundación IFARMA, Colombia  
Generation Patient  
Global Antibiotic Research and Development Partnership (GARDP)  
Global Coalition of TB Advocates  
Global Fund Advocates Network

Global Health Advocates (GHA)  
Global Humanitarian Progress Corporation GHP Corp. Colombia  
Global Justice Now  
Global TB Community Advisory Board (TB CAB)  
Good Health Community Programmes Kenya  
GRAIN  
Grupo de Investigación Plebio - Facultad de Derecho - Universidad Nacional de Colombia.  
Plebio Researc Group - Law Faculty - National University of Colombia  
Grupo de Resistência Asa Branca-GRA B, Brazil  
Harm Reduction International  
Health Action International (HAI), Netherlands/Global  
Health Diplomacy Alliance  
Health Global Access Project (HealthGAP)  
Health Justice Initiative, South Africa  
HIV Legal Network  
HIV i-Base  
IBD Patient Support Foundation (India)  
Ibn Sina Academy of Medieval Medicine & Sciences  
Indonesia AIDS Coalition  
Indonesia for Global Justice  
Industrial Workers of the World  
Initiative for Health & Equity in Society (IHES)  
Initiative for Health & Equity in Society, India  
Initiative for Medicines, Access & Knowledge (I-MAK), USA  
Innovarte ONG  
Interactive R&D Bangladesh (IRD Bangladesh), Managing Director, IRD Bangladesh  
Interfaith Center on Corporate Responsibility (ICCR)  
International Alliance for Diabetes Action  
International Rescue Committee  
International Treatment Preparedness Coalition (ITPC) in EECA  
International Treatment Preparedness Coalition (ITPC) in MENA  
International Treatment Preparedness Coalition (ITPC), Global  
IRD Global  
Jan Swasthya Abhiyan, Mumbai  
Just Treatment, UK  
KILELE Health Association, Kenya  
Knowledge Ecology International (KEI)  
Maryknoll Sisters  
Matahari Global Solutions  
MATRAM-Mozambique Treatme@nt Access Movement  
Medicines Law & Policy  
Medecins du Monde Germany  
Nelson Mandela TB HIV information CBO  
Network of African People living with HIV West Africa, NAP+WA, RAP+AO

Network in Thane by people living with HIV/AIDS (NTP+)  
Neuropatías Autoinmunes GBS-CIDP España  
Observatorio de Justicia Sanitaria y Climática  
Oxfam  
Pan-African Treatment Access Movement  
Partners in Health (PIH)  
People PLUS,national network PLWH, Belarus  
People's Health Movement Germany  
People's Health Movement Global  
Peoples Health Movement Scotland (PHMS)  
People's Health Movement South Africa  
People's Medicines Alliance  
Peoples Vaccine Alliance Africa  
Pharm. Alliance Hoyep Tchanchou, Brussels, Belgium  
Pharmaceutical Accountability Foundation  
Policies for Equitable Access to Health - PEAH  
Positive Malaysian Treatment Access & Advocacy Group (MTAAG+)  
Positive People Armenian Network, Social NGO, Armenia  
PrEP4All  
Prescrire, France  
Princess of Africa Foundation  
Public Citizen, US/Global  
Public Eye, Switzerland  
Public Foundation "Answer", Kazakhstan  
Public Services International - Interamericas  
PULS Comunitar, The Republic of Moldova  
QUAMED (Global)  
Reaccion Climatica - Bolivia  
Red Argentina de Personas Positivas (Redar Positiva)  
Red de Medicamentos de Guatemala  
Red Latinoamericana por el Acceso a Medicamentos (RedLAM)  
Resilient40 (R40)  
Rethink Aadhaar Campaign  
Rural Health Advocacy Project South Africa  
Salud por Derecho, Spain  
Salud y Fármacos, EE UU  
Sama Women's Health, India  
Saqqq NGO BCD (patients with viral hepatitis),Ukraine  
Santé Diabète  
SECTION27, South Africa  
Sidaction, France  
South African NCDs+ Alliance (SANCD+), South Africa  
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Stowarzyszenie Higieny Lecznictwa

## STOPAIDS

Stop Stockouts Project, Treatment Action Campaign (TAC)  
Stop TB Partnership, Community Delegation  
Stop TB Partnership, Kenya  
T1International  
Taaluf humanitaire International organization  
TB Accountability Consortium South Africa  
TB Europe Coalition (TBEC)  
TB People (Global)  
TB Proof  
Thai Network of People Living with HIV/AIDS (TNP+), Thailand  
The Delhi Network of Positive People (DNP+), India  
The Insulin Initiative  
Third World Network (TWN), Malaysia  
Trade Justice Education Fund  
Treatment Action Group (TAG)  
Treatment Advocacy and Literacy Campaign TALC Zambia  
Unitaid - Communities Delegation  
Unitaid - NGO Delegation  
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Universities Allied for Essential Medicine (UAEM), Brazil  
Universities Allied for Essential Medicines (UAEM), Global  
Wemos, The Netherlands  
Working Group on Access to Medicines and Treatments, India  
Working Group on Intellectual Property (GTPI), Brazil  
Yale Global Health Justice Partnership  
Yayasan Gerkan Mandiri Pita Red, Indonesia  
YOUPEN4SLAH (young people network for sustainable lifestyle and health)  
Zimbabwe HIV AIDS Activists Union Community Trust (ZHAAUCT)  
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Kannikar Kijtiwatchakul, Vice Chairperson, FTA Watch, Thailand  
Karel Gyselinck, Coordinator Health Unit Enabel Brussels  
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Kidinda David, Medical Coordinator  
Kirsten Myhr, MScPharm, MPH, access to medicines adviser  
Koichi Kameda, Research fellow, University of Bordeaux  
Kris Torgeson, Global CEO, Lifebox; former International Secretary General, MSF  
Prof Krisantha Weerasuriya (Sri Lanka), Secretary, WHO Expert Committee on Essential Medicines (2013)  
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Mark Harrington, HIV+ activist, Treatment Action Group (TAG), USA  
Marta Caminiti, Medical Resident in Public Health, University of Perugia, Italy  
Marta Carmona Osorio, Médica especialista en psiquiatría. Diputada.

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Martine Guillerm, Former AC member  
Marwin Meier, Advocacy Officer Health, World Vision Germany  
Mary Gallagher, Special Adviser, Gavi Civil Society Constituency  
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Meg Davis, Professor, Centre for Interdisciplinary Methodologies, University of Warwick, United  
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Meg Jones-Monteiro, Senior Director of Health Equity and Evaluation, ICCR  
Megan Murray, Professor of Global Health, Harvard Medical School  
Melissa Barber, postdoctoral associate, Yale University, USA  
Meri Koivusalo, Professor, Global Health, Tampere University  
Merith Basey, Patients For Affordable Drugs, USA  
Michelle French, Former MSF and Access Campaign Staff  
Dr Mike Kalmus Eliaz, Honorary Clinical Fellow, University of Liverpool UK, former MSF field  
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Mila Maistat, MPP, Switzerland  
Miloon Kothari, Independent UN Expert on Human Rights and Social Policy  
Dr. Mira Shiva M.D Public Health Physician, India and Advisory Council member, PHM Global  
Miriam Alfa Prieto, MSF Associative member, MSF vaccination and Outbreak response Advisor  
Mitchell Warren, Executive Director, AVAC  
Mohammed Mustafa Mohammed, Doctor, MSF  
Dr. Mohga Kamal-Yanni, Policy Co-Lead of People Medicine Alliance  
Monty Dunn, Co-National Coordinator, UAEM UK  
Muhammad Mubarak, Medical Data supervisor  
Mukuhwa Tanaka, Doctor / Zvandiri  
Narendra Gupta Prayas Rajasthan India  
Nathalie Cartier, Former MSF OCB  
Dr. Nathan Trayner, Prior Consultant, MSF Access Campaign  
Nazan Bedirhanoglu, Assistant Professor, Xavier University, USA  
Nick Dearden, Director, Global Justice Now  
Nicola Magrini, Director, NHS Program on Innovation, HTA and sustainability, Romagna Health  
Authority and Bologna University Hospital Co-director, WHO Collaborating Centre for  
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Expert Committee on the Selection and Use of Essential Medicines (2014–2020)  
Nicolas de Torrenté, former Executive Director of MSF-USA and former Chair of the Access  
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Nicoletta Denticò, Global Health Justice Programme, Society for International Development (SID)

Dra Nigora Bakhtiyarova Rizaeva, Concejal del ayuntamiento de El Escorial, Madrid, Spain

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Pascale Boulet, DNDi

Paul Cawthorne, Ex MSF HoM Thailand, ex Access Campaign, ex board member MSF HK

Paul Davis, Campaigner who co-led efforts for generic AIDS drugs, Doha Dec, GFATM, and PEPFAR

Paul Malherbe, Independent Cancer Advocate, Cancer Alliance South Africa

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Paul Schnase, former Board Chair of HAI Europe Association

Pauline Briand

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Peter Graaff, Former Director Global Initiatives, WHO Health Emergency Programme

Peter van Heusden, health activist, South Africa

Peter Wiessner, community advocate, Germany

Phumeza Tisile, TB Proof

Pierre Chirac, revue Prescrire (co-founder of MSF's Access Campaign)

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Pooja Tadav, TB Survivor, Mumbai

Prabhat Kumar Saha, Associate Professor, Faculty of Law, Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi, India

Dr Prinitha Pillay, Ex-President MSF South Africa

Priti Krishtel, 2022 MacArthur Fellow, Co-Founder of the Initiative for Medicines, Access, & Knowledge (I-MAK)

Priti Patnaik, Founder, Geneva Health Files

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Rachel Kiddell-Monroe, Former Canadian Director Access Campaign, former President Universities Allied for Essential Medicines, former MSF International board member; currently Professor, McGill University and Executive Director SeeChange Initiative.

Rachel M. Cohen, former US Director, MSF Access Campaign (1999-2006); former Head of Mission, MSF South Africa & Lesotho (2006-2010); former MSF OCB Board member (2010-2015); former Regional Executive Director, DNDi North America (2011-2022); Senior Advisor, DNDi (2023-present)

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Richard Laing, Retired Professor

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Robert Sachs, Cancer survivor

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Samantha Bolton, WHO, ex MSF Global Comms Dir., when set up Access Campaign & decided to dedicate 1999 Nobel Peace Prize

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