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# The MSF Science Portal:

## Project Background and Overview

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# What is the Science Portal?



## THE IDEA

To replace the MSF Field Research website with an engaging 'one-stop-shop' for *all* MSF's public med/research outputs



## THE GOAL

To make MSF research knowledge more visible & easily consumed → → to help expand MSF's medical voice & impact

# Why a new platform? Findings from user survey (mid- 2018)



MSF's public medical information is difficult to find, or unavailable

**62%** biggest challenge: uncertainty about **where to look**

**56%** MSF tools-platforms are **hard to navigate**

**52%** search functions **too limited**

MSF field staff and non-MSF respondents rated these issues as challenging more often than HQ staff



The Field Research Database is seen as problematic & not fit-for-purpose

**75%** of respondents rate its **usefulness poorly** (1-3 out of 5)

Most respondents would greatly value a central portal for accessing a broad range of public MSF med/research content

# What could the Portal help users do? (from user survey)



**A comprehensive  
MSF research  
hub would  
help me...**



## **GATHER**

medical background &  
describe MSF activities  
for advocacy work



## **SEARCH**

for solutions  
relevant to context I  
work in, support or  
follow



## **PLAN**

my program or  
research—understand  
context & similar MSF  
activities



## **LEARN**

about other medical  
projects, research,  
actors in my country/  
region



## **GATHER**

background material  
for events, promotions,  
social media



## **SHARE**

information with relevant  
external/internal networks  
inc. association members



## **LEARN**

about new MSF topics;  
stay up to date

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# Core requirements



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**Optimize searchability of content stored in Portal & on related MSF websites**

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**Design for good user experience in low-bandwidth settings (incl. tablet, mobile)**

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**Design home page that can be easily, frequently updated and is engaging to browse.**

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**Develop solutions via intersectional collaboration and under DirMed/Steering Committee\* stewardship.**

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\* Project Steering Committee: Bern-Thomas Nyang'wa (succeeding Melissa McRae), Chair (OCA DirMed); Sebastian Spencer (OCB DirMed); Greg Elder (Access Campaign Med Coordinator); Marc Gastellu-Etchegorry (Epicentre Deputy Director); Chibuzo Okonta (WaCA President); Avril Benoit (Executive Director, MSF-USA)

# Project milestones: Achievements & next steps

