

# What happened next?

## The ongoing impact of studies presented at MSF Scientific Days 2022



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### Background

MSF Scientific Days 2022 was an online, international conference sharing global health and humanitarian research and innovation from the MSF movement and beyond.

The aim of this study is to evaluate the dissemination and impact of the research presented at MSF Scientific Days 2022.

### Methods

In March 2023, presenters or submitters of studies with oral presentations from MSF Scientific Days 2022 were contacted via email to fill in a short online survey on the impact of their studies since MSF Scientific Days 2022. Follow-up emails were sent to those who did not respond.

Broadly, this survey aimed to answer the questions:

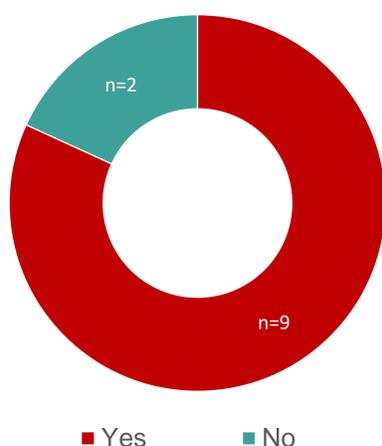
- Have these studies been disseminated, and if so, where?
- What impact has the research had?
- What obstacles were there to achieving desired impact?

### Limitations

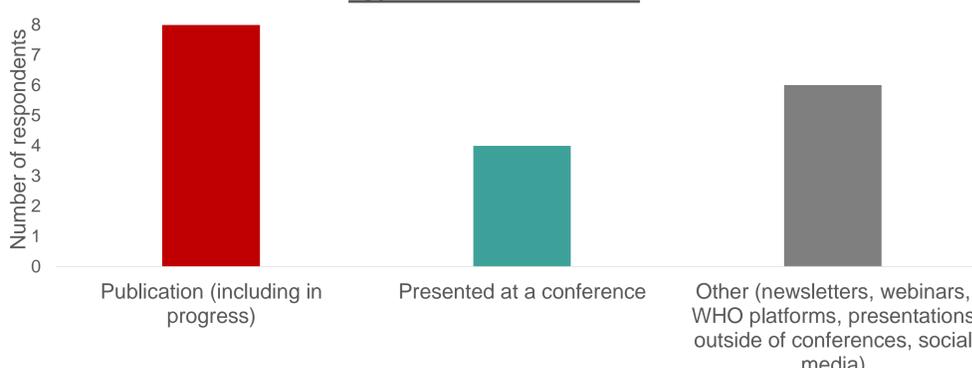
- Only 11/20 (55%) of those contacted responded to the questionnaire. Furthermore, of those respondents, not all answered every question.
- Research impact is ongoing and this study only records outcomes over the previous year.

### Was your study disseminated?

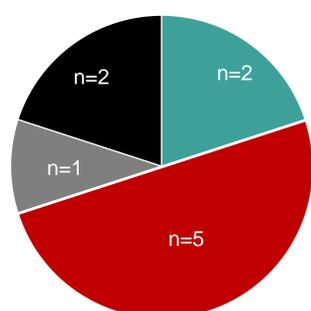
82% (n=9) of studies had been disseminated since MSF Scientific Days 2022. Both studies that hadn't been disseminated were ongoing. 73% (n=8) had published or were in the process of publishing in peer-reviewed journals.



### Types of dissemination



### Where has your study made an impact?



- Policy (MSF or other local, regional, national, or international)
- MSF or other programmes
- Patient outcomes
- Other

50% (n=5) of respondents cited impact on MSF or other programmes. In their longer answers, three respondents mentioned impact (or expected impact) on WHO guidelines/policy.

Specific examples of where the studies have made an impact:

- WHO guideline change for the preferred treatment regimen for multidrug-resistant/rifampicin-resistant tuberculosis
- WHO information note on the use of rectal artesunate as a pre-referral treatment for severe *P. falciparum* malaria
- Informing a community event-based surveillance briefing paper shared between MSF OCA epidemiologists

### How can we aid study impact?

Two themes emerged from this question:



Support



Time

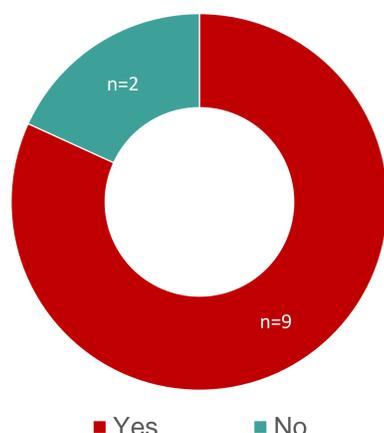
On support, respondents mentioned that help from local health authorities and from a dissemination network would be appreciated.

On time, respondents mentioned that earlier conversations with internal stakeholders and policymakers, as well as dedicated time for dissemination would be useful. The impact of delays due to peer-review processes was also noted.



91% of respondents reported that their research or project benefitted from being presented at MSF Scientific Days 2022. It was noted that the feedback received from peers (n=9) and the presentation experience (n=5) was useful.

### Has your study achieved its desired impact?



82% (n=9) of studies were reported to have achieved their desired impact.

In their longer answers, four responses noted the impact of their studies on MSF strategy and operations (or discussion around these). Another two responses noted the impact of their studies on national ministries of health.

Respondents who had not achieved their desired impact cited difficulties in measuring impact and changes in operational strategies bringing their activities to a stop.

### Conclusions

The majority of studies (82% [n=9]) presented at Scientific Days 2022 achieved their desired impact, with a significant proportion being disseminated as publications (73% [n=8]) and impacting MSF or other programmes (50% [n=5]).

Increased project support as well as earlier discussions around dissemination plans were noted as strategies to assist research impact.

Respondents reported benefits of presenting their research at MSF Scientific Days 2022, most notably from peer feedback.

### Acknowledgements

Thank you to everyone involved in MSF Scientific Days, and particularly those who responded to this survey.

For questions or comments contact: [scientificday@london.msf.org](mailto:scientificday@london.msf.org)

