

How does research impact humanitarian action?

One year after MSF Scientific Days 2025



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Background

Research is essential to improving humanitarian care, informing operations, and addressing knowledge gaps in crisis settings. This survey explored how research presented at MSF Scientific Days 2025 continues to impact humanitarian action one year after presentation, including its influence on operational guidance, programme implementation, clinical practice, and future research.

Reported Impact

- 62%** MSF field teams benefited from research uptake
- 54%** Research informed humanitarian decision-making
- 31%** Research contributed to programme change or influenced clinical practice
- 69%** Influenced ongoing or future projects

Study Overview

Methods

- An online follow-up survey was distributed to presenters from MSF Scientific Days 2025 approximately one year after presentation.
- The survey explored research dissemination, operational uptake, influence on practice and future research, and barriers to wider impact.

Results

- In total, 13 of 14 presenters responded to the follow-up survey shared in April 2026. Most respondents reported continued operational, clinical, or strategic relevance one year after presentation.
- Research informed humanitarian decision-making, programme implementation, clinical practice, and future research projects. Research uptake was reported across MSF operations, policymaking, and humanitarian partnerships.
- Common barriers to wider uptake included operational constraints, limited dissemination, and political or security contexts.

Limitations

- Findings are based on a small sample of self-reported survey responses.
- Several studies were still in early phases of implementation or uptake at the time of data collection.
- Reported impacts were not independently verified.
- The survey may not capture the full long-term impact of research presented at MSF Scientific Days 2025.

Acknowledgements

Thank you to all survey respondents and to everyone involved in the organisation and delivery of MSF Scientific Days



Photo credit: Metasebia Teshome, MSF. MSF primary health care centre in Kule refugee camp, Gambella, Ethiopia, where integrated malaria prevention interventions are being implemented.

Impact Case Studies

Noma Research | Nigeria

Future research / Funding

A pilot microbiology study on noma helped catalyse the PathNoma project - a new 5-year, €2 million international initiative investigating the causes of this neglected disease.

Malaria Prevention | Ethiopia

Operational guidance / Scale-up

Findings from research on seasonal R21 malaria vaccination and chemoprevention were integrated into MSF OCA operational guidance for malaria prevention in refugee settings. They also informed planning for the scale-up of integrated malaria prevention strategies with Ethiopia’s Ministry of Health and UNHCR in Gambella refugee camps.

Hepatitis C Intervention | Pakistan

Clinical practice / policy influence

A simplified Hepatitis C treatment algorithm developed through a mass screen-and-treat intervention in Pakistan is now being adapted in other settings, including Bangladesh, with efforts underway to inform national and WHO guidance.

Paediatric Tuberculosis | Multiple contexts

Operational implementation

Paediatric TB treatment-decision algorithms were used to support implementation of diagnostic approaches across MSF projects in multiple country contexts.

“Presenting at MSF Scientific Days created a unique space for honest, operationally-focused feedback from colleagues who understand the realities of humanitarian implementation.”

