

The abstract submission deadline for MSF Scientific Days is **06 December 2026 @ 23:59 GMT**.

MSF Scientific Days will take place in London at the Royal Society of Medicine on **29 April 2027**.

Abstract word count: 400 words

GUIDELINES FOR SUBMITTING AN INNOVATION PROJECT

There are two ways to submit an innovation project to MSF Scientific Days: as an **abstract** or a **demo**. Please see “**What is an innovation project?**” for guidance on which format is appropriate for your project.

Content

Your abstract should give enough information about your innovation project clearly and concisely.

Introduction

Your introduction should describe the background to your project:

- What challenge or opportunity did your project address and why does it matter to MSF?
- What change did you expect it make?

Methods

Your methods section should describe how you collected and analysed your results:

- How did you plan to compare the resulting change against what exists already?
- What indicators of success did you measure and how did you analyse them?

Results

Describe the data used to evaluate your project and what the results showed:

- What change have you seen from the work you’ve done?
- Did it offer a better, cheaper, faster, or easier solution than what exists? Were results as expected?
- Describe other factors you considered that might have had an impact on your results
- If the project changed, what evidence informed the change and what was the result?
- Give actual numbers as well as percentages, with clear denominators; report standard deviations (SDs) with means, interquartile ranges (IQRs) with medians, and 95% CIs and p-values where appropriate.

Conclusion

Describe what you learned, the implications of your work, and what should happen next:

- Did the project achieve its objectives? If ongoing, what are the next steps; if stopped early, why?
- Whether failure or success, what did you learn from this and what are the implications (potential impact) of your work, for practice, policy, programmes or advocacy for MSF or others?
- What should happen next in this area of innovation / within your project?

Ethics

All abstracts must include an ethics statement:

- For innovation projects not involving human subjects or their data, please consult [the Innovation Ethics Framework](#) and indicate in the submission system if it has been followed.
- Projects involving human subjects or their data must have appropriate ethics oversight from an ethics review board or the relevant MSF Operational Centre Medical Director. See the [MSF Ethics Review Board \(ERB\) guidance](#).

Application Process

Support

Assistance is available to review/assist in abstract writing. If you require this, please contact scientificday@london.msf.org as early as possible.

Abstract review

Selected abstracts are usually offered an oral or poster presentation. However, where the Editorial Committee considers that an abstract is particularly suited to an alternative format, authors may be offered this option. **Authors will be responsible for developing and producing the content and materials, with guidance from the Scientific Days team.**

Poster authors may also be offered an opportunity to produce a video or give a one-minute presentation to support their poster.

Abstract editing

Abstracts accepted for oral presentations will be edited. The aim is to ensure that presenters are fully prepared to meet questions that may be raised during the conference and to ensure that MSF research is presented clearly and appropriately.

Authors must be available to revise abstracts according to the conference timeframes. **Please note that the offer of an oral presentation or poster involves commitment by authors to meet deadlines and to respond to points raised by the Editorial Committee.**

Abstracts will be edited for language readability, scientific clarity, consistency, and adherence to abstract guidelines (see Content section above).

Edited abstracts will include questions/points raised by the Editorial Committee – these must be addressed in the abstract revision.

Presentation editing

Presentation slides will be reviewed to ensure that guidelines are met – in particular around ethics statements, image use (author and copyright information included, including for maps; consent and ethics of using images of people or patients, particularly children), and clarity/accuracy of language.

Oral presentation practice

To ensure all oral presenters are fully prepared to present to both an in-person audience and an online audience of thousands, public-speaking training is available ahead of MSF Scientific Days and is highly recommended for anyone who would find it useful.

All presenters are required to take part in at least one practice session with the MSF Scientific Days team and/or Editorial Committee representatives, regardless of their level of presentation experience. These sessions help us ensure that presentations are clear, engaging, appropriate for the audience, and meet the standards expected of the event. MSF Scientific Days has a strong reputation for high-quality presentations, and the team reserves the right to require additional practice where needed.

Content sharing

All abstracts, posters, slides, and videos of oral presentations will be shared on the [MSF Science Portal](#). Posters will be shared in advance of the conference and tweeted via @msfsci. Highlights of the day will be written up for blogs and potentially further publication.

Conflicts of interest

You will be asked to declare any conflicts of interest. Failure to disclose these might lead to withdrawal of abstracts or presentations from MSF Scientific Days. All conflicts of interest will be published in the conference booklet.

All authors must disclose any financial and personal relationships with other people or organisations that could inappropriately influence (bias) their work. All submissions must include disclosure of all relationships that could be viewed as presenting a potential or actual conflict of interest.

If there are no conflicts of interest, authors should tick the box to state that there are none.

Authorship

Please ensure that the names of all those who qualify for authorship are included in the submission. Note, we would expect to see authors from the countries where the research is conducted.

If your abstract is selected for presentation, we strongly encourage teams to consider nominating someone directly involved in the operational response or programme to present the work. MSF Scientific Days aims to bring operational perspectives to the forefront, and we particularly welcome presentations from colleagues who can speak to the context, relevance, and application of the innovation in practice.

Deadlines

MSF Scientific Days

Abstract submission deadline: **06 December 2026 at 23:59 GMT**

Applicants whose abstracts are not selected for MSF Scientific Days will be notified by **19 February 2027**.

Other MSF Scientific Days family regional events

All abstracts submitted to MSF Scientific Days will also be considered for the wider MSF Scientific Days family regional events. These occur throughout the year in Asia, Latin America, and Africa. There also is a second submission window specifically for these regional events – the deadline for this is TBC.

Get in touch

We recognise that those of you not involved in research may be unfamiliar with the concept of submitting work in the form of an abstract. If this is the case and you would like support with the process (or if you would like to discuss whether your work is relevant to submit), please get in touch via

scientificday@london.msf.org

What is an innovation project?

In MSF, an innovation can be the creation and implementation of new or novel products, services, or strategic approaches. Or an innovation can mark an advance on an existing product, service, or strategy.

Any MSF innovation project is designed to benefit or improve an aspect of healthcare delivery either for patients, communities, or MSF staff. This doesn't mean the project has to be medical in nature, but it must improve the way MSF provides medical care (for example, [developing new systems for regenerating boreholes](#)).

What kind of innovation projects can be submitted as an abstract?

We welcome abstracts from the initiation, development, or implementation stages (see diagram below). However, we don't accept projects which are at the idea or design stage. The MSF Scientific Days are special because they focus on improving our work in the field through evidence and rigorous evaluation / analysis.

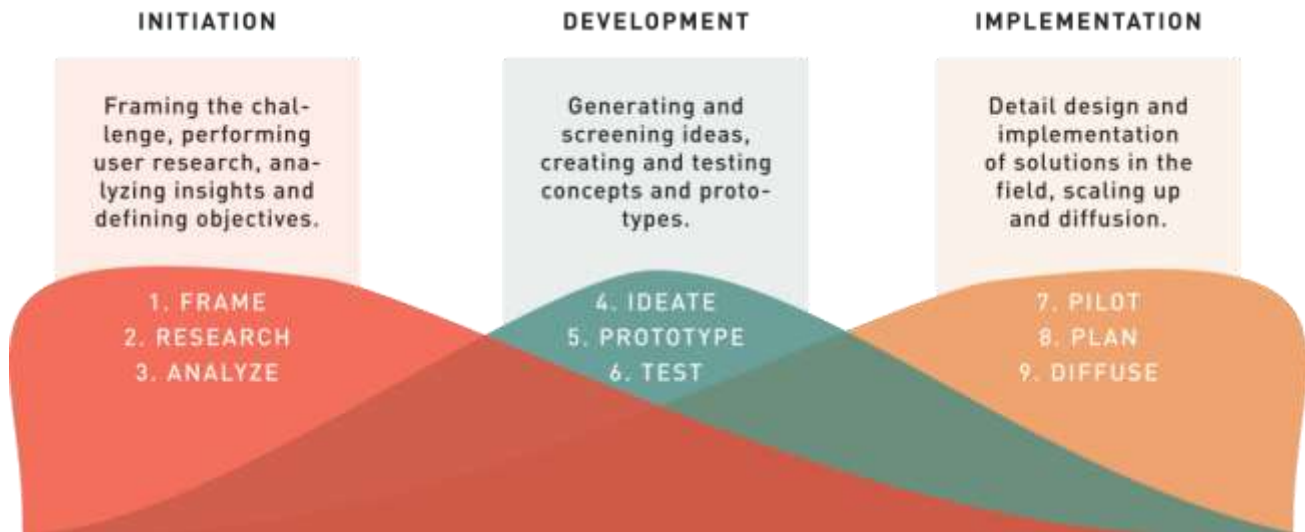
What does this mean? It means that, ideally, you have developed and tested your innovation (i.e. gathered data to analyse whether it worked and the impact it had or could have), and can submit an abstract based on the outcomes, how you achieved them and what they might mean for MSF's work. A good example can be found [here](#).

We are equally interested in 'failed' projects and successful ones. We know that not all innovations achieve the hoped-for outcome or impact - we need to '*fail forward*' and learn.

You can submit an abstract for a project at the Initiation or Development stage as long as you can draw conclusions from analysis of data. These learnings could be in the form of a new process for MSF or a new perspective on a field challenge. Here are two examples:

Luc has an idea of how to solve a field challenge, but through his analysis of that challenge, he finds that it is actually a symptom of a wider problem. He then explores this wider problem and generates a new idea of how to solve it. Because Luc's project already has relevance for MSF's work and is based on evidence and analysis, he can submit it as an abstract as long as he can describe how he obtained the evidence and what analysis he did.

Pascale is creating a new tool for nurses in the field. She tests a new approach to developing this tool and subsequently discovers a much more effective way to gather and communicate MSF nurses' requirements to the design team, meaning time and money are saved. If she can demonstrate through data how that process has improved upon what already exists, she can submit it as an abstract. See an example of this [here](#).



What kind of innovation projects can be submitted as a demo?

The demo session is for innovative projects that are 'work in progress', where you might not yet have results from testing or implementation. It's a great opportunity to present your project more informally and get feedback from the MSF Scientific Days audience.