

YOUR LEGACY
WITHOUT BORDERS



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THE MEDECINS SANS FRONTIERES STORY. INDEPENDENT. INTERNATIONAL. IMPARTIAL.



“We have the honour and privilege of going into a country that has been torn apart by war, or has suffered from a devastating earthquake, or has been ravaged by famine and drought for a decade, and we make a small but significant difference.”

– DAMIEN MOLONEY, LOGISTICIAN

Médecins Sans Frontières was founded in 1971 in France by a group of doctors and journalists in the wake of war and famine in Biafra, Nigeria. Their aim was to establish an independent organisation that focuses on delivering emergency medical aid quickly, effectively and impartially. This approach has informed the organisation’s work ever since.

Our teams in the field witness the result of conflict, neglect and disaster which very often escapes broader international attention. We are committed to speaking out about these international crises and alerting the public to the plight of the people we help.

Every day, more than 33,000 Médecins Sans Frontières field staff provide assistance to people caught in crises around the world. We have offices in 28 countries, including our office in Sydney, to support these teams.

Our work covers a wide range of medical issues including women’s health, paediatrics, neglected diseases, HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis (TB), emergency surgery, response to outbreaks of infectious diseases and immunisation campaigns to prevent their spread.

Our projects are diverse and far-ranging. What is constant is the fact that it is your support which allows us to set up and run programs in some of the world’s most conflict-ridden, inhospitable and inaccessible places.

The crucial factor in all of this is our ability to remain independent. In Australia, our funding comes exclusively from private donations. Globally, that figure is over 85%. This means we can provide medical assistance to people in need, whoever they are, and ensure our programs truly know no borders.

Your bequest will help us maintain this independence.

OUR CHARTER

Médecins Sans Frontières:

- offers assistance to populations in distress, victims of natural or man-made disasters and armed conflict, without discrimination and irrespective of race, religion, creed or political affiliation
- observes neutrality and impartiality in the name of universal medical ethics and the right to humanitarian assistance; and
- demands full and unhindered freedom in the exercise of its functions.

HOW YOUR BEQUEST WILL BE USED



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Thank you for your interest in leaving a bequest to Médecins Sans Frontières.

By remembering Médecins Sans Frontières with a bequest in your Will, you are making a unique commitment. Your legacy to Médecins Sans Frontières will help us continue to provide medical aid where and where it is needed.

We rely on our supporter's generosity to enable us to respond immediately and effectively to populations in need of urgent medical assistance. Without you our work would simply not be possible. Whatever the amount, your contribution is invaluable.

A bequest is one of the most effective and long-lasting ways you can help Médecins Sans Frontières. Your promise of future support is deeply appreciated.

If you have included a bequest to Médecins Sans Frontières in your Will, please let us know. We would welcome the opportunity to thank you personally for this legacy of support.

At all times your privacy will be fully respected and the information you provide will remain strictly confidential.



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HOW TO MAKE A BEQUEST



If you already have a Will but would like to leave gift to Médecins Sans Frontières, you can do so by making a simple addition to your existing Will. This is called a codicil.

If you do not have a Will at the moment, you can simply include a bequest when you write a new Will.

Whatever your circumstances, we would advise you see a solicitor to ensure your wishes will be followed.

When unexpected medical emergencies occur and our immediate action is required, it is essential that all our programs can continue without interruption. Financial flexibility is crucial to our ability to respond to priority needs, so we ask that you do not designate your gift to a particular project, country or region.

Types of bequests

1. A **residuary bequest** is the most effective way to leave a bequest to Médecins Sans Frontières. It is a gift of what remains after you have made provisions for your loved ones. A residuary gift will keep up with inflation. It will mean your bequest will achieve as much in our projects in the future as you would like it to now.
2. Leaving a **percentage of your estate** allows you to decide what proportion of your total estate you would like to give to Médecins Sans Frontières. A percentage gift will also keep up with inflation.
3. A **pecuniary bequest** is a fixed sum of money to be left to Médecins Sans Frontières.

Recommended bequest wording

Please take this information with you when you visit your solicitor to draft or update your Will. We suggest the following wording:

“I give and bequeath to Médecins Sans Frontières Australia Ltd, a company limited by guarantee, of PO Box 847, Broadway, NSW 2007 Australia:

- **the residue, or**
- **[.....] percent of my whole estate, or**
- **[.....] percent of the residue, or**
- **the specific sum of \$[.....]**

to be used for its general purposes.”

Your solicitor may also require the following details:

ABN: 74 068 758 654

Registered Charity Number: CFN 11960

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS



What is a bequest?

A bequest is a gift left in your Will. It's also known as a legacy. You can leave a bequest by writing a new Will, or by adding a codicil (an addition) to your existing Will. We recommend you consult a solicitor who can help you write your Will.

What is the best way to leave a gift in my Will to Médecins Sans Frontières?

The best way to leave a gift is to leave a monetary gift (i.e. not property, shares, etc.) and to leave a residuary bequest. This is a gift of what remains after all your other provisions have been made, enabling you to put your loved ones first. As residuary bequests also keep up with inflation, they are the most effective way to provide a gift to Médecins Sans Frontières.

You can also leave a percentage of your estate or pecuniary bequest, which is a fixed sum of money to be left to Médecins Sans Frontières.

I want to leave a bequest to a specific country/project. Can I do this?

Having flexible funds is essential to our ability to respond rapidly and where the need is greatest. Leaving a bequest for the organisation's general use is the most effective as it means that your gift will definitely be used where it's needed most. Leaving a bequest to a specific type of work or location might mean that it cannot be used. This can occur if we are no longer working there or doing the kind of work specified in the future. As such, we ask that you do not designate your gift to a particular project, country or region.

Can Médecins Sans Frontières help me write my Will?

No, we don't have that kind of legal expertise. We recommend you consult a solicitor who can help you write your Will. There is also a Public Trustee in every state of Australia that offers Will writing services.

Can I make Médecins Sans Frontières the Executor of my Will?

No, we appreciate your trust in the organisation but we do not have the necessary resources. We try to keep administration costs low so that the maximum amount can go towards our projects in the field. As such, we choose not to take the role of Executor of a Will as this can often be a lengthy and involved legal process.

Can I leave you my house, other property or shares?

Monetary gifts are preferred as Médecins Sans Frontières would need to convert any property or shares into cash to be able to use them to help our patients. This means additional time and resources spent trying to get the best price and sell these items before we can put your bequest to use.

My relative has passed away and left a gift in their Will for Médecins Sans Frontières. What do I need to do?

We very much appreciate bequests left to us from generous supporters. Please ask the Executor to notify us in writing of the bequest by sending a letter to the Gifts in Wills Coordinator, PO Box 847, Broadway NSW 2007, and we can start the process of transferring the bequest to Médecins Sans Frontières.

Why is having a Will so important?

If you do not have a Will when you die, state laws will determine how your assets will be distributed. Leaving clear instructions and sharing your decisions with your family and friends can give you the peace of mind that your final wishes will be understood and respected after you are gone. We recognise that writing a Will is one of the most significant decisions you'll ever make. That's why we know it's important to take your time and have all of the information you need to help you make up your mind.



CONTACT DETAILS

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msf.org.au/bequest