

Médecins Sans Frontières Media Fellowship 2016



MSF invites applications for MSF Media Fellowship 2016. The Fellowship will fully fund reporting assignments for two journalists who can demonstrate the potential for incisive and original reporting.

BACKGROUND

Doctors Without Borders / Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) is an international, independent, medical humanitarian organisation that delivers emergency aid to people affected by armed conflict, epidemics, natural and man-made disasters and exclusion from healthcare in more than 65 countries. MSF offers assistance to people based on need and irrespective of race, religion, gender or political affiliation.

MSF has worked in India since 1999, providing free-of-charge essential healthcare to people in remote areas, and specialist care for people affected by HIV/AIDS, hepatitis C, acute febrile illnesses, tuberculosis, kala azar and sexual and gender-based violence. We also respond to natural disasters and other emergencies, provide mental healthcare and advocate for the development of more effective and affordable medicines to improve access to treatment for people everywhere.

We currently run projects in the states of Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Delhi, Jammu and Kashmir, Maharashtra, Manipur, Telangana and West Bengal.

MSF was awarded the Indira Gandhi Prize for Peace, Disarmament and Development in 1996 and the Nobel Peace Prize in 1999.

MSF believes in creating access to healthcare and ensuring everyone is provided with medical humanitarian assistance irrespective of who they are.

TOPIC

BRINGING CARE CLOSER TO PATIENTS:

MSF has through its experience of treating patients in different countries from Asia to Africa shown that community based approach of treating patients has been effective in improving cure rate and adherence to treatment. Patient-centred care is an approach that puts patients first. It means that patients' realities and constraints are taken into account, and healthcare is adapted to those realities.

For example: MSF model of care in KwaZulu Natal province of South Africa involves organising door-to-door HIV testing. Similarly, in Darbhanga, Bihar, India MSF had treated severe acute malnutrition using a community based model of care which meant going closer to where the patients were.

The Fellows are expected to explore the topic in India in a broad and critical manner and bring out stories of models of care which have made healthcare accessible for patients. Fellows will have access to MSF's medical project in Mumbai, Maharashtra where MSF adopts a patient-centric approach to treat patients suffering from drug-resistant tuberculosis and HIV co-infection.

We are looking for comprehensive, well-reported, detailed stories highlighting this topic. We are particularly interested in stories which highlight local issues. We are also interested in those which highlight solutions to public health challenges and not just the challenges.

This year, the MSF Fellowship will be open to two print journalists—one each from English and national language media.

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DURATION AND FUNDING

The Fellowship will last for a period of one month and each selected fellow will receive a funding of INR 50,000 and a travel support of INR 25,000 (subject to tax deductions at source) which will support research, travel, writing and production and other costs. The cost of travel will be paid in advance, while the Fellowship fund will be disbursed in two installments.

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

Applicants should include a cover letter, their CV (strictly within three A4 pages) along with the following documents and materials:

- Why do you want to do the MSF Fellowship and how do you see it benefiting your career path?
- During your Fellowship period, we would like you to focus on the assigned topic. What would you like to research and investigate and why?
- A rough break-down of travel/subsistence requirements.
- Letter of recommendation from professional referee (other than editor) detailing the applicant's journalistic abilities and aptitude for the Fellowship.
- Two samples of previously published work. If the work is in regional language, please provide English translation.
- Applicants must provide a 'letter of support' from the editor of their current employer/editor assuring Fellows time/leave for 4 weeks and agreeing to publish the articles written by the Fellows in their publication. Freelancers must

also provide a supporting letter from the editor of a publication agreeing to use the articles.

- All copyright will remain with the publications, however MSF reserves the right to share and publish all articles on relevant websites and blogs.
- The Fellows may be required to attend an orientation programme in Delhi.
- All applications will be evaluated by MSF as well as an external jury.
- MSF reserves the right to not award any fellowships if applications do not meet a basic minimum standard.
- All decisions taken by MSF will be final.
- The Fellowship period will be between November-December 2016.

EXPECTED DELIVERABLES:

- Publish a minimum of 3 articles (500 words each) on the topic in the publication they are working within a month of completion of Fellowship.
- One 800-1000 word opinion piece
- Present their findings on the topic to the management team of MSF post the completion of the Fellowship.

ELIGIBILITY

Professional journalists, including freelancers, working in print or online media in India. Applicants must demonstrate four years of professional experience in writing on health and/or related issues. Print journalists working for English and/or national language publication in India are eligible to apply to the MSF Media Fellowship.

APPLICATION SUBMISSION AND DEADLINE

Please email the required documents to DVL Padma Priya, Media Manager, MSF India at padma.priya@new-delhi.msf.org by October 15, 2016. Shortlisted candidates would be notified by October 18, 2016 and would be requested to be available for an in-person or telephonic interview on October 20 and 21st. In case of any further queries, please get in touch on the above email.