

**SOIGNE AUSSI
L'INJUSTICE**



CHARTER ON FUNDING

MÉDECINS DU MONDE SWITZERLAND

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1. PREAMBLE

As members of Médecins du Monde, we want a world where the obstacles to health have been overcome and where the right to health is real.

Médecins du Monde is an association independent of any power and political, religious, or financial interest. We choose our programs and working methods independently. We believe in social justice as a vector for equality in health, respect of fundamental rights, and collective solidarity. Médecins du Monde Switzerland is a non-profit organization in accordance with article 60 et seq. of the Swiss Civil Code.

1. OUR ETHICS

Through each of its actions, Médecins du Monde makes sure it respects its fundamental principles of social justice, people's empowerment, commitment, independence, and balance.

The financial partnerships we form must be fully in line with these fundamental principles. Funding must be consistent with the association's social purpose. No funding should influence the association's policies, advocacy, or operational choices, nor should it affect the safety of teams and beneficiaries in the field.

2. OUR ASSOCIATION'S COMMITMENTS TO TRANSPARENCY AND ACCOUNTABILITY

Accountability: we are responsible for the consequences of our actions, to beneficiaries, donors, individuals working for Médecins du Monde, and other stakeholders. We are accountable for our organization, governance, and operations. This information shall be available and accessible.

Financial transparency: We inform the public, donors, and other stakeholders regarding the origin and use of the resources entrusted to us. The accounts of the association are audited.

The association is ZEWO-certified: MdM Switzerland is a recipient of the Zewo quality seal by complying with 21 binding standards. Organizations with the Zewo quality seal use donations efficiently, in accordance with their purpose and financial resources. They also provide transparent information. The 21 Zewo standards define in detail the requirements to which they must comply, particularly in terms of ethical principles.

The association is involved in discussions on the Grand Bargain, which promotes greater transparency in humanitarian aid and more support and funding tools dedicated to national and local aid actors.



2. THE MAIN PRINCIPLES THAT GUIDE OUR FUNDING CHOICES

1. ENSURING FINANCIAL INDEPENDENCE, FOR POLITICAL INDEPENDENCE

The association strives constantly to increase its proportion of non-allocated funds in order to strengthen its financial independence.

Financial independence means that no one individual or organization can dictate our operational choices and advocacy. Financial independence is measured by:

- our capacity to refuse funding or interference from a donor;
- our way of designing our programs without systematically following the specifications of a donor;
- our capacity to maintain – in the case of service contracts and/or mandates – our freedom of expression for advocacy and communication activities by specifying the terms of political independence; and
- our ability to diversify resources.

2. STRENGTHENING PEOPLE'S CAPACITY TO TAKE ACTION

To support the emergence and development of its local partners' power to take action, the association has taken on the goal of supporting local organizations in their search for funding.

3. PROMOTING COALITIONS SUPPORTING COMMON CAUSES

- Networking with health actors enables us to increase our impact on behalf of beneficiaries in the field. Collaboration also facilitates access to funding.
- Our association develops consortiums with other international organizations and local partners.
- In Switzerland, the GEH Alliance rounds out institutional fund-raising efforts and joint development of advocacy campaigns.
- Our association participates actively in the Swiss cantonal federations of which it is a member.

4. PARTICIPATING IN THE GROWTH OF THE MDM NETWORK

The Médecins du Monde network approved an agreement for the sharing of resources in October 2018 (Agreement for the Sharing of Resources, Principles, International Médecins du Monde Network, October 2018). Its purpose is to guarantee the growth and stability of the Médecins du Monde network. The agreement sets out principles on the following:

- Strategic approach
- Transparency
- Mutual accountability
- Solidarity
- Financial independence, diversity, and risk limitation
- Territoriality: this means that each member association of the MdM network is responsible to the donors whose headquarters are in its country.



3. POSITIONING AND FUNDING ACCEPTABILITY CRITERIA

The issue of relationships with donors and supporters goes beyond funding. Indeed, the association makes partnerships and alliances for common causes its preferred method of action, just as one of its principles of action is not to substitute for public health actors. Thus, links and collaboration with governments and their departments, their health ministries, and regional health agencies are not limited to the issue of funding. The same is true with certain foundations and companies, individuals, and multilateral funds. We can unite on specific subjects and at specific times to jointly defend causes, practices, and ways of doing things. In these networks, which accompany an operational strategy, we can build relationships to achieve what may be common goals.

We must develop this strategic dialog with these actors, to both defend common objectives when needed and to secure funding to achieve these objectives. This strategic dialog should enable us to inform others about our advocacy, promote our practices, and change funding policies.

However, the ethical requirements and principles outlined above must prevail in any collaboration and in all funding operations. Each source of funding is different in nature: it imposes constraints and has its own rules that should be understood and analyzed in order to determine the association's response.

1. RESOURCES STEMMING FROM PUBLIC GIVING

Public giving is an expression of people's solidarity and the manifestation of their support for the causes upheld by the association. It is the driving force behind the association's funding and guarantees its independence as well as its ability to respond to emergencies, crises, and causes forgotten by donors. In collecting resources from public giving, the association adheres to several principles to ensure rigorous and transparent management:

- The pooling of donations makes it possible to allocate funds where they are needed. These non-allocated resources fund much of the costs related to the association's headquarters, thereby guaranteeing the quality of our actions through daily support to the field teams, reflection on changes in needs and contexts, and analysis of our practices in order to improve them. They also enable us to inform the public of the situations of injustice we speak out against, to promote innovations, and to ensure the best use of funds. In addition, they have a critical leverage effect in raising additional funds, enabling us to implement larger-scale actions. Indeed, donors generally grant funding for a program only if the association can already finance part of it. It should be noted, however, that the resources from fund-raising, bequests, donations, and financial investments can be allocated to a particular project, country, or cause at the request of the donor.
- Each call for donations is for operational or advocacy activities actually carried out by the network. As for testimonials or photos used, the dignity of individuals is respected. When calling for donations, illustrations of what donor amounts can be used are determined with the operational teams.
- Fund-raising requires investments. The choice of these investments is guided by the need for a sufficient return within a controlled timeframe. Not all investments have an immediate return. Médecins du Monde works with external service providers. These latter are paid for their services and not from the amounts collected for the association.

- Accountability is ensured through the Zewo certification. Zewo is an organization that certifies associations and guarantees that donations to them are used efficiently and in accordance with their goals and financial resources. The association's accounts are audited by an external auditor and presented in its annual report and at its general meeting. In addition, special attention is paid to answering donors' questions through a dedicated team located at headquarters. The association also proposes personalized assistance to individuals wishing to become involved in a sponsorship, donation, or bequest project.
- Personal data is protected. The association complies with the new European General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR), which provides for new rights to donors (including the right to access and correct information about them and the right to erasure of this information, i.e., the right to be forgotten). The association also implements data management to comply with the retention periods prescribed by the GDPR for charities.

2. PUBLIC AND PRIVATE FUNDING

All public and private funding is analyzed according to the issues and risks it represents for the association.

- Risk to our image, reputation, or legitimacy: analysis is carried out on the risk to our reputation if we associate with a public or private donor.
- The way in which this donor is perceived must be assessed, internally as well as externally: by the general public, in the specialized press, in the country concerned by the funding, and by the stakeholders involved in the theme to be funded.
- Risk to the cohesion of the MdM international network: The visibility of the association's image is on the rise in the 17 countries where the MdM network members are located, as well as in the countries where the various members work. It is therefore crucial to ensure that we are coherent in our positions and that these latter are known, approved, and implemented.
- Transfer of risk from donors to the associations they fund: for several years, donors have been asking NGOs to take on an increasing share of what they consider to be the risk associated with their funding. New demands have emerged and must be analyzed on a case-by-case basis.

Each funding opportunity is subject to an approval process with ad hoc bodies, on the basis of a call-for-decision form that allows for the analysis of :

- whether or not the opportunity is aligned with the association's strategy;
- our capacity to develop the proposal and then implement the contract;
- the contractual clauses and funding conditions; and
- whether or not the donor is eligible with regard to our ethical charter.

Additional aspects concerning the acceptability of public funding

We are vigilant about the possible instrumentalization and risks of politicization of official development assistance (ODA). We pay special attention to several issues:

- Trust Funds are European Union funds available to NGOs to carry out projects in the countries of origin of migrants coming to Europe. As such, they are one of the

instruments of European migration policy. Analysis is carried out on a case-by-case basis, for each Trust Fund (in Africa and the Middle East).

- Pooled Funds are funds set up by the United Nations to respond to certain humanitarian crises at the country level. They are funded mainly by public funding from the States wishing to respond to the crisis through this fund.
- Mdm does not finance its programs with governmental funds from States whose armed forces are deployed and party to the conflict (under their own flag or under a NATO mandate). Any other public funding of a project in the context of the deployment of an international force (including forces under a UN mandate and hybrid forces) in a conflict zone must also receive explicit approval from the Mdm Switzerland Committee.
- Among these public resources, we see an increase in the share of public commissions and a decrease in the share of subsidies (at the initiative of associations). Médecins du Monde seeks to guarantee the independence of its actions and of its public stand. In this respect it is particularly vigilant about the risks that public funding could pose to its independence. In Switzerland, the association actively participates in advocacy on Switzerland's political orientation in the field of development cooperation within the framework of various platforms.

Additional information on private funding

With regard to private funding (from corporations and foundations), the Médecins du Monde network seeks to develop a common framework. Corporations and their foundations are various in nature. Some have committed to more sustainable development and are increasing their social and environmental responsibility. Corporate employees are increasingly demanding commitment from their companies, and the issues of social impact are increasingly discussed within foundations and companies. The association wishes to engage proactively with private sector players (companies and foundations) concerned about their impact on the world.

The major players in philanthropy, who most often act through foundations, endowments, or trusts, are also diverse. Before accepting any funding or collaboration with a company or foundation, analysis is carried out based on the several criteria:

- Funding is not accepted from companies or foundations considered as unethical because they:
 - exercise or support any type of infringement on human dignity or of any violation of human and labor rights;
 - contribute directly or indirectly to a conflict;
 - degrade the environment;
 - undermine, in any way, human health and the public health system to serve their own interests and benefits: e.g., arms industry, tobacco industry, alcohol industry, pharmaceutical industry and extractive industries (oil, nuclear energy, minerals, and precious and rare metals).
- Detailed analysis is carried out before accepting funding from so-called sensitive sectors such as the food industry (the association does not wish to associate itself with companies that create eating habits that are harmful to health) or the betting industry.
- Any funding or collaboration with a new company or foundation must first be the subject of due diligence. Finally, for any allocated funding above a certain threshold with a company or foundation, a contract must be signed. This contract makes it possible to specify i) the framework of the funding or collaboration and in particular any consideration expected by the company or foundation and ii) the internal rules and requirements of Mdm vis-à-vis the company or foundation.

4. DEVELOPING OTHER SOURCES AND THE NEED FOR FORWARD-LOOKING ANALYSIS

The association remains on the lookout for other funding opportunities. These other sources of funding must comply with the same ethical criteria as those listed in this charter.

- Investment funds
- Merchandising

