

## Press release

### For immediate release

#### **MSF Day Finale: Cross regional volunteers filled gaps on map to support frontline aid team**

**13 July 2022, Hong Kong** This year's MSF Day came to a close last week. During this annual signature event and the following ceremony, over 70 volunteers from Hong Kong and nearby countries such as Singapore participated in the "Mapathon" to map the missing parts of Mozambique, which is constantly affected by conflict, natural disasters and other humanitarian crises, providing frontline aid teams with a holistic geographical overview. Volunteers working together to support field workers at the frontline put the theme of this year's MSF Day, Save lives together under the same sky, into action.

Access to comprehensive maps might seem natural for Hong Kong residents. However, many parts of the world that are most vulnerable to natural disasters and crises are still not mapped, which pose a major challenge that Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) and other aid groups have been facing. When conducting field work, frontline teams can only rely on hand-drawn maps which may not be accurate and contain limited information and this certainly hinders the effort in saving more lives by reaching out to the patients in need or getting medical supplies to conduct lifesaving activities. In this year's MSF Day theme activity "Mapathon", we focused to map Nampula province in northern Mozambique extending our support to this affected area.

Mozambique, located in eastern Africa with a population of over 30 million, has long been plagued by conflict, natural disasters, and communicable diseases for many years. A tropical cyclone made a landfall in Nampula province late in January this year; these storms frequently cause flooding, which significantly increases the risk of outbreaks of life-threatening communicable diseases such as cholera and malaria. Its neighbouring province, Cabo Delgado, one of Mozambique's most volatile regions, has been the scene of an intense conflict since October 2017 with around 800,000 displaced population. What's more, some 30,000 have fled their homes in Cabo Delgado since June.

MSF has been working in Mozambique since 1984. In 2021, MSF conducted 350,900 outpatient consultations and 4,310 individual mental health consultations in the community. The team continues to respond to the substantial humanitarian needs, including distributing relief items, operating mobile clinics and supporting local hospitals.

#### **Collective effort from online and offline to draw more than 5,700 buildings**

During the MSF Day Finale in Admiralty last Saturday (July 9), MSF HK together with field worker Pong Chiu led corporate sponsors and individual supporters in a "Mapathon" exercise. Near 2,000 buildings were mapped within one hour. A total of 5,769 buildings across Nampula Province were mapped by 74 volunteers, including online participants from Hong Kong, Singapore, South Korea, and India, for

this year's MSF Day. Results of the mapping will be further validated and advanced by other mappers and teams on ground before being widely used.

As for the acknowledgement ceremony held at the same venue, MSF presented certificates to representatives of major corporate sponsors, including "Medical Action Partner": BAS (HK) LTD , BB Group Company Limited, Nittan Capital Asia Limited, Wilson Group; "Field Supporter": Ampco Industries Limited, Octal Capital Limited, Samly Group Company Limited, Winga Apparel Group Ltd; and "Supporting Company": ACW Distribution (HK) Limited, Centro Design & Furniture Ltd, Evercom International Ltd, and Principle One Limited.

Additionally, field worker Mr Pong Chiu, who had participated in various MSF missions, was invited to share with the guests and volunteers his frontline experience, including an emergency response to the Ebola outbreak in Liberia.

### **About "Mapathon" and the "Missing Maps" project**

"Mapathon" is one of the core activities under the "Missing Maps" project, a collaborative initiative founded by MSF, together with the British Red Cross, the American Red Cross and the Humanitarian OpenStreetMap Team. The project aims to create digital maps of some of the most remote and forgotten places of the world through crowdsourcing. MSF occasionally organises "Mapathon" exercise and provide training to enthusiasts. Visit <https://msfday.msf.hk/en/about-mapathon> for more information.

### **About MSF Day**

Each year, over 4,000 field workers work with MSF in more than 70 countries, providing emergency medical aid to people most in need. In 2021, a total of 101 field workers were sent to the field by Hong Kong office, including 10 first missionaries. While it may not be possible for everyone to join the frontline team, we encourage people to support us on MSF Day (July 7) each year by making a donation or spending time to become our volunteers or field workers. Donors will be given wristbands to wear on July 7 as a sign of support for MSF's humanitarian work.

Read more about MSF Day: <https://msfday.msf.hk/en>

### **Photo download**

<https://msfintl.sharepoint.com/:f:/s/hk/departments/Communications/EqJx5NIDstdGsGQbHUAnoYcBOXzChdRTZlqepy2k6amXDg?e=22APAG>



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