

Preparing a Plan of Action within MSF

Brief Intro:

In this document, you will find some tips on what to consider, while taking the next steps in “Organizing your Urban Space” and entering into partnerships to take action.

These tips are followed by some reminders, that are observations made and lessons learnt from the mapping and the focus group work.

You may probably know them or already implementing them, yet it is important to make sure, you take them into consideration when developing the partnerships

USEFUL NOTE: This document is built around the issue of migration and world displacement. Yet you can build it around your own context and decide your specific issue to focus on.

What to Consider: Key Strategic Issues

It is important to be clear on the MSF priority in your context. In this way, activities to be developed will be linked to your strategic plan. Below you will find some useful questions, in case you have not considered them:

1. Does your MSF entity have any strategic priorities, linked to the topic of world displacement and migration?
2. How is your strategic priority into developing your membership, connected to the Urban MSF Spaces project?
3. If there is not a strategic priority with regards to your membership, are there any specific areas and initiatives you would like to connect this project? i.e any capacity building activities, event organization etc.

Urban MSF Spaces Reminder 1: Speak to all	Make sure you speak with all MSF entities representatives in your Urban Space and you consult related documents <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ i.e Board /Associative plan of action ○ General Director/Integrated plan of action for the MSF Section/Branch Office/other ○ Operations/Mission representative in your Urban space (HoM, Advocacy Manager on migration issues, other) ○ MSF Int’l i.e Framing MSF response to contemporary displacement and migration, Core EXCOM, May 2017/ Associative Roadmap
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4. Who do you consider the most relevant partners to relate to? Is it clear how they will add value?

Urban MSF Spaces Reminder 2: Guiding principles	Partnerships will need a common goal and some ‘guiding principles’ to hold them together. These principles will be worked out as part of the partnerships-building process and agreed by all partners. The following have recurred time and again in partnerships in different parts of the world: Shared Values, Mutual Benefit, Transparency, Equity At the end of this documents, you will find a first more elaborated description on key partnering principles, based on our common work in the previous months. ¹
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Urban MSF Spaces Reminder 3: Partners Composition	Some suggestions on the different partners relevant Urban MSF Project initiative would include the following clusters: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Refugee and migrants’ communities ○ Grassroots initiatives ○ Associations, NGOs Members of international networks ○ Municipality initiatives
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Guiding principles for partnerships

A partnership framework is principle based and pragmatic in nature, it does not use a one-size-fits-all approach. By developing good practices through partnerships, we empower people to claim their rights and holding to account the institutions meant to deliver on these rights. **A strategic relationship is one where a shared vision and values underpin its aim and outcome.** Strategic means a long-term commitment towards agreed common goals and a relevant degree of joint work. A partnership is a strategic relationship between primary partners for the purpose of sustainable and positive change for the people we work for.

Partnerships are based on **principles**, as below:

Shared Values

Partnerships between MSF and other organizations should be developed on the basis of a shared values and commitment to save lives and alleviate suffering. All partners must also have a commitment to women's rights and respect for diverse identities based on gender, sexual orientation, race, ethnicity, faith, political affiliation, disability, HIV and AIDS status.

Mutual Benefit

The partnership should add value to MSF's work and to the partner's work, and most importantly be beneficial for the people we work for. The diversity of MSF's partnerships is an asset if we complement each other's capacities, working together in joint strategies towards common goals. This recognition is fundamental for the success of the partnership. Mutual benefits should strengthen the impact of our work in an effective and sustainable way.

Transparency

All partners must share a commitment to accountability and transparency, using resources and make decisions in an accountable and transparent way. When the partnership involves funding, MSF and its partners should respect the money received in trust and for which they hold joint responsibility. Dialogue and open sharing of relevant information increase the level of trust between partners.

Equity

Equity is about fairness in the partnership, it demands partners to respect each other's institutional mandates and independence. Mutual respect and equity is important as MSF acknowledges that power imbalances may affect the partnership. MSF acknowledges that all contributions are equally vital to achieving the shared purpose