



**PREMIERE
URGENCE
INTERNATIONALE**

**CHRONICLES
FROM THE FIELD**

Special issue #8



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© Première Urgence Internationale
| Conference on the occasion of World Menstrual
Hygiene Day, May 28, 2024, Taunggyi,
Myanmar.



MYANMAR

AN EVENT DEDICATED TO MENSTRUAL HEALTH

Première Urgence Internationale organized an innovative event in Taunggyi, in Myanmar's southern Shan region, on May 28, to mark World Menstrual Hygiene Day. The event, designed to raise awareness on menstrual health among marginalized communities, was notable for its inclusive nature. Designed to meet the needs of marginalized populations, it offered specific adaptations for people living with disabilities, such as transportation for people with reduced mobility, accessible materials for the visually impaired and live translation of speeches into sign language. It also made information accessible to often-neglected populations, such as sex workers, LGBTQIA+ people and HIV-positive people.

During the day, our teams tackled the subjects of menstrual hygiene and the specific challenges faced by people with disabilities. The various workshops and conferences strengthened the links between Première Urgence Internationale, local communities and specialized organizations. An interactive workshop for children and people living with intellectual challenges rounded off the program with a playful presentation of menstrual hygiene products. These interventions also provided an opportunity to present the services offered by Première Urgence Internationale in the health centers it supports.

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| Awareness-raising session to combat severe
acute malnutrition in Nigeria.



NIGERIA

ONE YEAR ON : HOPE AND HEALING IN KATSINA

In Katsina State, northwest Nigeria, the Mashi area is plagued by a silent but deadly crisis: severe acute malnutrition. As a result of this pathology, many children under the age of five are in urgent need of medical and nutritional support.

Against this backdrop, Première Urgence Internationale has been providing immediate and long-term aid to the most vulnerable since May 2023. Focusing on the treatment of severe acute malnutrition, teams combine medical treatment, nutritional rehabilitation and community awareness-raising.

The cornerstone of this initiative is the establishment of an outpatient therapeutic program and a thirty-bed stabilization center at the Mashi Global Health Center. This center treats malnourished children and offers hope to their families.

Exceeding expectations, the teams have reached over 240,000 people in less than a year. The formation of care groups for mothers has had a particular impact, giving them the knowledge and resources to care for their children and ensure that their nutritional needs are met.



ETHIOPIA

DEADLY LANDSLIDES IN THE SOUTHWEST

At the beginning of July, the Gofa area was hit by a series of landslides caused by torrential rains. Exacerbated by climate change, these rains saturated soils weakened by deforestation, intensive farming and erosion. These phenomena have led to the deaths of almost 300 people, destroyed entire villages, and forced more than 15,000 people to leave their homes, leaving them in great distress.

Première Urgence Internationale has been working in Ethiopia since 2023, relocating some of its teams to respond rapidly to this disaster. Thanks to their expertise in emergency health care, they were able to set up mobile clinics in the affected areas. These clinics provide essential primary healthcare to Gofa's displaced and vulnerable populations, offering medical consultations, distribution of essential medicines, and immediate care for the injured and those affected by the landslides.

Première Urgence Internationale's rapid intervention helped provide victims of the disaster with vital medical assistance. Nevertheless, the situation of those affected by the landslides remains extremely precarious, not least because of the risk of disease outbreaks caused by deteriorating living conditions. Our teams are warning of a potential future proliferation of cholera and malaria cases, and are appealing for your support to help us stem these epidemics in the making.

© Première Urgence Internationale
| Première Urgence Internationale teams welcome
the first arrivals at the Machuca checkpoint in the
Ocotepeque region.



HONDURAS

OPENING OF A NEW MISSION

In 2024, Première Urgence Internationale opened a new mission in Honduras to respond to a growing crisis. Located at the heart of Central America's migration routes, the country faces an increasingly complex situation, exacerbated by its vulnerability to climate change. Since 2020, needs have tripled, now affecting 2.8 million people.

The department of Ocotepeque, on the border with El Salvador and Guatemala, is a crucial crossing point for thousands of migrants every day, including a growing number of women and children fleeing violence. Faced with this situation, Première Urgence Internationale conducted two exploratory missions in 2023 and began activities in 2024 to improve access to healthcare for vulnerable populations, both migrants and local communities.

Première Urgence Internationale's priority in Honduras is to provide essential primary care, psychosocial support for women and children, and referrals to specialized medical services when needed. With this new mission, our teams are committed to responding to the challenges posed by the migration crisis in Honduras, while strengthening the resilience of the various communities affected.



AFGHANISTAN

HEALTHCARE FOR THE MOST ISOLATED

Despite a decrease in fighting in recent years, Afghanistan is struggling to recover from more than four decades of conflict, the consequences of which are still visible. The effects of climate change, leading to drought and natural disasters, as well as the deterioration of the economic system, exacerbate underlying fragilities and generate new needs in terms of livelihoods, health and nutrition. Over 60% of the population does not benefit from adequate medical services.

Première Urgence Internationale aims to facilitate the population's access to healthcare by deploying mobile clinics and supporting health centers in areas with low coverage, in coordination with the public health system. Primary healthcare services include curative consultations, vaccination and sexual and reproductive health services, as well as nutritional services for children under five suffering from severe or moderate acute malnutrition, and for pregnant and breast-feeding women.

By targeting under-served areas, the teams offer a holistic approach to health, covering mental health, psychosocial support, nutrition, protection and water and sanitation. More than 900,000 people a year in seven provinces benefit, 60% of them women, despite the difficulties they face in accessing healthcare.



SYRIA

THE IMPACT OF THE DRYING-UP OF THE EUPHRATES ON COMMUNITIES

In Syria, more than ten years of conflict have severely reduced drinking water production (by 30 to 40%). Treatment and distribution networks are deteriorating, and Syrians now depend on untreated and often dangerous water sources.

In Deir-Ez-Zor, on the banks of the Euphrates, the destruction of infrastructure due to the conflict, and the drop in water levels linked to climate change, have considerably hampered access to water. With the involvement of local farmers, cleaning up the river banks helps to preserve pumping stations, by unclogging irrigation canals. The rehabilitation of water and sewage systems will improve irrigation of arable land, benefiting some 10,000 farmers.

From August 25 to 29, 2024, a wide variety of major players on access to water gathered in Stockholm for World Water Week. Première Urgence Internationale was present at this major event, and was therefore able to showcase activities in the fields of water, sanitation and hygiene to guarantee populations' sustainable, quality access to this resource, in areas of conflict and climate crisis.

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