



REDUCING DEATHS AND SUFFERING
FROM TROPICAL DISEASES

CAPACITY STATEMENT

APRIL 2025

ABOUT

The MENTOR Initiative ('MENTOR') specialises in integrated disease control and supporting primary and secondary healthcare services in health and humanitarian emergencies.

HOW WE WORK

MENTOR is dedicated to the control of infectious diseases and health provision in communities affected by conflict and natural disasters.

Our programmes are tailored to meet the needs of each setting and provide effective, evidence-based solutions to reduce suffering and save lives. We currently work in 10 countries across Africa, the Middle East and South America.

MENTOR works with communities that are underserved by health services and more at risk of diseases, because of factors such as conflict, displacement, extreme weather or are living in remote, hard-to-reach areas.

Together with local governments, UN agencies and other partners we develop interventions that maximise the impact of our work and integrate technical approaches to ensure we are effective and cost-efficient.

MENTOR's priority is responding to the most urgent health needs through programmes that reach people at high risk of diseases and death. Our technical and operational capacity spans across four key areas:

- **Integrated Vector Management**

This holistic approach reduces and prevents vector-borne diseases by targeting multiple vectors and integrating various control strategies, increasing the effectiveness of interventions in the countries and contexts where we work.

- **Healthcare Provision**

Supporting the provision of healthcare in

communities and health facilities to reduce diseases and improve health in humanitarian and post-crisis contexts. This work also integrates nutrition management in vulnerable populations, and ensures the reliable distribution of critical medical supplies, equipment and medicines.

- **Neglected Tropical Diseases**

We address some of the most harmful neglected tropical diseases primarily through mass drug administration campaigns and large-scale hygiene promotion activities. NTDs such as schistosomiasis and lymphatic filariasis are mostly associated with inadequate water supplies, poor sanitation and hygiene, and are often found in the poorest areas of the world.

- **Water, Sanitation and Hygiene**

Improvements to water, sanitation and hygiene is a priority to reduce the risk of diseases such as cholera, dengue and malaria. By addressing the faecal-oral route of transmission, reducing breeding sites for multiple disease vectors, and reducing pathogens in water we create healthier environments to help prevent the spread of diseases.

MENTOR provides this specialist support to meet the needs of people with a higher risk of diseases and limited access to healthcare. We remain for as long as needed to support the development of integrated, effective healthcare systems and resilient, long-term disease control.

OUR APPROACH

Underpinning our disease control and healthcare activities are four components that ensure our programmes significantly reduce mortality and morbidity caused by infectious diseases and a lack of healthcare.

Our programmes deliver cost effective interventions that make a long-term, positive difference to the countries where we work.

These cross-cutting approaches guide, influence, and improve our activities so we can efficiently reach as many people as possible with evidence-based interventions and co-create solutions with the communities we serve. They are:

Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning



Monitoring and evaluation activities enables us to assess the impact, effectiveness and efficiency of interventions. We apply the learning from programmatic implementation to make informed decisions and improve outcomes. Operational research activities identify strategies, evaluates new vector-control tools, and contributes to wider public health knowledge.

Social and Behaviour Change Communication



Social and Behaviour Change Communication increases positive behaviour changes in communities helping to reduce the transmission of diseases. Through partnerships with local health authorities, communication strategies are developed that empower people to adopt preventive measures and protect themselves and their families.

Emergency Response



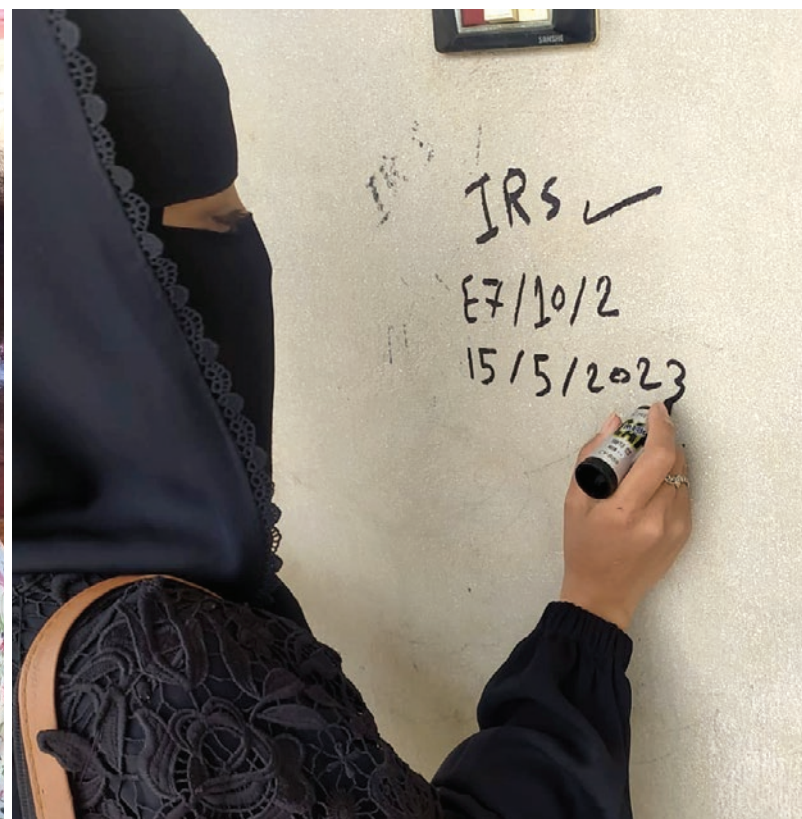
MENTOR has the capabilities and experience to immediately meet the health needs of people affected by rapid onset emergencies, such as natural or man-made disasters. We prioritise the needs of displaced people who face challenges accessing healthcare. Our fast and targeted interventions aim to control diseases and mitigate the impact of emergencies on public health.

Training



MENTOR delivers training on integrated vector-borne disease control to UN agencies, government agencies and partner organisations, sharing experience and knowledge gained from over 20 years working in challenging, complex settings.

Our flagship training is a comprehensive five-day workshop that combines theoretical sessions, practical demonstrations and interactive learning experiences.



1 Integrated Vector Management

The main benefit of using different tools and strategies is the ability to target multiple vectors at the same time. Many vector-borne diseases, such as malaria, dengue fever and Zika virus, are transmitted by different vectors. Each tool addresses different stages of the vector life cycle and target various points of disease transmission. The integrated vector management 'toolkit' includes:

- **Indoor Residual Spraying (IRS):** the application of insecticides to indoor surfaces where disease-transmitting vectors rest.
- **Larval Source Management (LSM):** strategies that modify, manipulate, remove, or treat mosquito breeding sites.
- **Entomological Surveillance:** monitoring vector populations, their behaviour and insecticide resistance patterns to help inform decision-making and improve interventions.
- **Spatial Repellents:** a lightweight tool that emit active ingredients which impact vector behaviour and reduce human-vector contact.
- **Long-Lasting Insecticide-treated Nets (LLINs):** physical protection against bites and which kill mosquitoes resting on the nets surface.



2 Healthcare provision

Access to quality healthcare services is critical to reduce illness and deaths from infectious diseases and improve health in humanitarian and post-crisis contexts. MENTOR supports healthcare services in vulnerable settings by focussing on four key areas:

- **Community Health:** supporting community health workers to provide life-saving services within their own communities.
- **Health Facilities Support:** training and supervising health workers in health facilities and within hospitals to help provide quality healthcare at different levels of the system.
- **Nutrition Management:** integrating nutrition activities into healthcare interventions to address malnutrition among children under five and other vulnerable populations.
- **Supply Chain Support:** the timely and effective distribution of medical supplies, equipment and medicines.



3 Neglected Tropical Diseases

MENTOR has been working to reduce the harm and suffering caused by debilitating Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTDs) since 2012. To effectively address the effects of neglected tropical diseases in vulnerable settings we support three areas of work:

- **Mass Drug Administration (MDA):** a campaign that supports local governments to distribute preventive medicines to communities at most risk of neglected tropical diseases.
- **Hygiene Promotion:** activities to raise awareness about the importance of personal and environmental hygiene practices and help prevent neglected tropical diseases.
- **Intensified Disease Management:** integrating the management of debilitating and disfiguring diseases with training and healthcare.

4 Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)

To improve access to safe water, better sanitation and good hygiene our programme focusses on:

- **Infrastructure Development:** working with local authorities and other agencies to improve water supply systems, build or repair sanitation facilities, and establish safe and sustainable hygiene infrastructure.
- **Safe Water:** simple, cost-effective water purification for safe drinking water to protect communities from water-borne diarrhoeal diseases. MENTOR supports emergency supply of safe drinking water as well as sustained systems for water purification.
- **Community-Led Total Sanitation:** empowering and engaging communities to take ownership of their sanitation and hygiene solutions. Through a sense of ownership and shared responsibility, community-led total sanitation create lasting changes in sanitation behaviours, reduces open defecation, and contributes to overall improvements in health.
- **Waste Management:** Waste management strategies are implemented that promote safe disposal practices and removal of waste in partnership with local stakeholders. Activities focus on raising awareness, training local health workers, and establishing waste collection and disposal systems.

The History of MENTOR

The MENTOR Initiative was founded in 2002 to reduce death and suffering from tropical diseases in humanitarian crises. MENTOR has since grown to be an innovative and specialist organisation that provides technical and operational support to countries in need, focused on controlling and preventing malaria, dengue fever, leishmaniasis and other diseases.

With experience in a variety of countries and contexts across Africa, Asia, the Americas, and the Middle East, MENTOR has developed a strong presence at the country level, offering critical support and expertise in emergency settings.

MENTOR collaborates with partner agencies to scale up life-saving interventions and advise on programme planning and implementation. Our work supports local ownership and facilitates equal decision-making.

Since its beginning, MENTOR has expanded to work in 20 countries from Angola to Yemen, helping to save millions of lives.

Recent examples of our emergency health response include:

- Conflict in Palestine (2024)
- Flooding in Maiduguri, Nigeria, (2024)
- Cyclone Chido in northern Mozambique (2024)
- Sudan refugee crisis in South Sudan (2023)
- Earthquake in Türkiye and Syria (2023)
- Conflict in Ukraine (2022)

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