



New Beginnings in Chad

The border region between Chad and Sudan remains one of the world's most dire humanitarian crises. Facing its own internal conflict as well as neighboring disputes, Chad has become home to Sudanese refugees fleeing the violence in Darfur. The 250,000 refugees and 170,000 Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) living in camps dotting the harsh desert of eastern Chad are completely reliant on humanitarian aid. As the conflict spills over the border, deaths and injuries, sexual violence, displacement and disease have become constant not only for the refugees but for the local Chadian host communities.

Already deeply involved in the crisis on the Sudanese side of the border, our team led an exploratory mission to eastern Chad in March and April 2009. The outcome: A new essential health care program in Chad's Wadi Fira region. Teaming up with Médecins Sans Frontières – Luxembourg (MSF-L), which is leaving the region, our team is taking over the provision of care in two refugee camps on July 1, 2009. By ensuring a smooth transition from MSF-L to us, we minimize any possible gaps in health care services for these already vulnerable communities. In the Iridimi and Touloum refugee camps, we will soon provide primary health care and community health education services to the camps' 41,500 Sudanese refugee residents and the Chadian communities that support them. As always, we plan to pay particular attention to maternal and child health and to foster sustainable health by training and supporting the Ministry of Health and local communities.

[Learn more about our work around the world](#)



Safe Drinking Water in Angola

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Who We Are

The Medical Aid Committee (MAC) is a non-profit humanitarian organization which provides medical support to communities affected by conflict, natural disasters and epidemics. Working hand in hand with our partner organization, the Comité d'Aide Médicale (CAM), we provide sustainable integrated health care to transitional communities. All of our programs are developed in partnership with local communities and prioritize the strengthening of local health capacities and resources. By providing primary health care services through fixed and mobile health clinics, ensuring access to safe, clean water, leading preventative health education activities and supporting traumatized individuals and communities, we strive to improve the health and wellbeing of communities emerging from crises.

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Staff Profile Kuilini

Every day, Kuilini works closely with the men, women and children streaming into the Thirukkovil Community Support Center for classes, counseling, health workshops or relaxation and social events. Working with our team since 2006, Kuilini has been an enthusiastic and dedicated member of our community health and psychosocial staff.



As a psychosocial worker, Kuilini works with all members of the community but is particularly drawn to the children. Whether leading health education workshops, playing sports, dancing, making paper flowers and masks or tutoring, Kuilini is at ease with the children who frequent the Center to escape the post-traumatic stress affecting many after years of internal conflict and the 2004 tsunami. The community struggles with high rates of alcoholism, school dropout, and domestic violence, and turns to the Community Center, which counseled over 1,000 families in 2008. Always extending support to those in need, her close connection to the community has made Kuilini a trusted and valued resource in Thirrukovil, a village of 30,000 inhabitants.



Supporting At Risk Children in the Central African Republic

The isolated, northern Vakaga Prefecture of the Central African Republic has survived years of tumultuous internal conflicts, making psychosocial health work vital to the communities' post-crisis recovery. Parallel to our medical program in the regional capital of Birao, a psychosocial health program in the far west of Vakaga Prefecture has been growing since March 2009. Despite a temporary suspension of activities due to the deteriorating security situation, which prevents us from accessing the area, our team of counselors and community educators is ready to begin working. We provide protection and support for all victims of conflict and social isolation, with special attention given to orphans and other vulnerable children. A central part of the program is developing the community's capacity to protect its own children through awareness workshops on various topics such as health, HIV/AIDS, and human rights, as well as education, literacy, tutoring, and social and cultural activities. We hope that, with these opportunities, communities in the western Vakaga will be able to better help their most vulnerable children learn and take control of their future.

[Learn more about our work in the Central African Republic](#)

For Kuilini, working with the community has also contributed to her own personal and professional development. Curious and open to discovering new cultures, Kuilini has eagerly learned new methods and attended staff trainings that bring her one step closer to achieving her professional goals as an expert in counseling and psychosocial support.

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