



**OPERATIONAL
RESEARCH
SNAPSHOT**

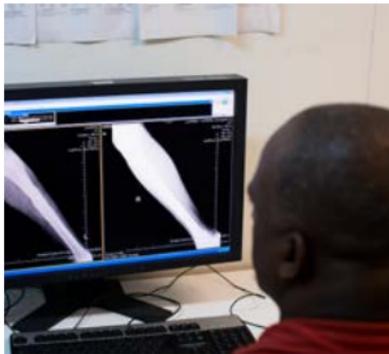
Quality Emergency Care for Trauma Patients in Afghanistan and Haiti

Traumatic injuries caused by violent conflict or accidents are a globally leading cause of death, particularly in developing countries where access to good quality emergency care is limited.

In Afghanistan and Haiti, Médecins Sans Frontières has been running trauma emergency departments (ED) using a standard package of care. The package introduces a triage system for patients and provides adequate staffing, regular training, and sufficient medical equipment to save lives and minimize health risks and disabilities.

This operational research study assessed whether the standardized package for trauma emergency care proved effective in two very different contexts: the Kunduz Trauma Center in Afghanistan within an active conflict setting; and the Tabarre Trauma Center in Haiti, in urban surroundings challenged by high rates of traffic accidents and crime.





There were proportionally more violent trauma cases in Haiti, despite the active conflict setting of Afghanistan: 16.4% of all patients in Haiti suffered injuries from gunshots, knives or car accidents, while in Kunduz only 11.6% reported violent causes for trauma.



Both trauma centers showed strong performance for emergency department indicators like correct case assessment, efficient triage, or timely treatment in both contexts. Less than 0.1% of patients died in the ED during 2014 in both trauma centers.



The number of medical personnel available during main peak hours was often insufficient in both emergency departments, especially in Kunduz in the mornings between 8:00 and 11:00. The high attendance during morning hours likely relates to the lack of public transportation options at night.



IMPLEMENTATION

Quality training for medical professionals, available specialist support at the hospital, an established triage system (SATS), and sufficient medical equipment proved effective in the two different contexts of Afghanistan and Haiti. The standard emergency department package is now considered a successful formula for trauma care.

In Tabarre, the emergency department standard package is continued in daily operations. Following its positive evaluation, the package was also implemented in an MSF supported clinic in Burundi's capital Bujumbura. The Kunduz Trauma Centre was destroyed by an US Airforce attack in October 2015, killing 42 patients and staff, and has since been closed.

Original Study: Valles, P; Van den Bergh, R; van den Boogaard, W; Tayler-Smith, K; Gayraud, O; Mammozai, BA; Nasim, M; Cheréstal, S; Majuste, A; Charles, JP; Trelles, M (2016) Emergency department care for trauma patients in settings of active conflict versus urban violence: all of the same calibre?. *International Health*.

Pictures: Christophe Hebting/MSF, Diana Zeyneb Alhindawi/MSF, Andrew Quilty/Oculi, Shiho Fukada/Panos



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