

About Médecins du Monde

International *Médecins du Monde* is an international medical humanitarian non governmental organisation (NGO) that provides healthcare for the most vulnerable people around the world, including victims of poverty, famine, disease, disasters and wars. As well as providing healthcare, *Médecins du Monde* 'bears witness' to human rights abuses and highlights any obstacles to healthcare. In this way, we give a voice to people whose stories might not otherwise be heard.

Europe *Médecins du Monde's* projects help vulnerable people access healthcare in eight countries: Belgium, France, Greece, Italy, Netherlands, Portugal, Spain, Sweden. *Médecins du Monde's* work in developed countries began in France in 1986 and by 2005, *Médecins du Monde* France was running more than 100 projects. These projects supplement the existing health system; their role is not to replace it. Through the data collected by these projects *Médecins du Monde* promotes access to healthcare at a European level.

UK *Médecins du Monde* UK was established to contribute to this world-wide work in 1998. In 2003, *Médecins du Monde* UK decided to assess the need for a programme to improve access to healthcare for vulnerable groups in the UK.



Data collection & advocacy

Project: London will access a particular 'hard to reach' population who may not otherwise come into contact with mainstream services. We will collect data to better understand the health needs of the target population. This will support and motivate the exploration of workable solutions to improve the health situation for vulnerable groups.

From the project records, *Médecins du Monde* UK plans to publish an annual report which will provide statistical analysis of the information collected along with case studies. These systematic and detailed records will support a better understanding of the health needs and barriers to healthcare for vulnerable groups.

Partner organisations

The **Project: London** team will work with, and in the premises of, partners who are already close to the target population and who provide complementary services for non-medical needs.

For more information about Project: London contact Isabelle Raymond, Project Manager, or Claire Loussouarn, Assistant Project Manager. Telephone 020 7516 9103, Fax 020 7516 9104 Email projectlondon@medecinsdumonde.org.uk

www.medecinsdumonde.org.uk

Registered Charity 1067406. Registered with the Healthcare Commission as an independent healthcare provider.

PROJECT: LONDON

Do you need help to access healthcare?

Project: London is a completely free and confidential service run by the non-governmental organisation *Médecins du Monde* UK. We provide information and support to help people reach mainstream health services. We also provide some basic healthcare and advocate on behalf of people who have problems accessing healthcare.

Project: London is a drop in, 'first-come-first-served' service. Please come early to avoid disappointment.

At Praxis, Pott Street, London E2 0EF
Every Monday and Wednesday 1–5 pm
Telephone 020 8123 6614 or 07974 616852

What can you expect from Project: London?

The main aim of Project: London is to help you to access health services.

Until this is possible, however, we can provide you with some short-term health care. Project: London is not an alternative service to your local family doctor. If you come to Project: London, you can expect to benefit from the following services:

- We can help you to register with a GP in your local area
- We can help you to access some specialist services (e.g. dental care, counselling, chiropodist, maternity services, sexual health clinics etc)
- We can inform you if you are eligible for exemption from NHS charges.
- We can advocate on your behalf if you are struggling to access healthcare services

Medical consultation

- You can discuss your health with a medically trained volunteer, who will be either a fully-qualified doctor or nurse
- We can offer treatment for most infections and acute conditions. We do not offer treatment or prescriptions for long-term conditions which need regular monitoring.

- When we are not able to offer treatment, we will help you to access appropriate health services that will provide you with the treatment you need

Prescriptions

- You will be able to access the medication prescribed by the doctor free of charge as long as you pick it up in our partner pharmacy in Stepney.
- We do not issue repeat prescriptions and there are medications that we will not prescribe (e.g. opiates, benzodiazepines or any controlled drugs)

Low threshold service

- Anyone not registered with a GP is welcome, whatever your status and wherever you live
- You do not need to make a prior appointment
- No judgemental behaviour
- Health promotion and harm reduction as key elements of healthcare
- A service close to the patient
- Consultation and treatment free of charge

Confidentiality

- Details about your situation will never be shared without your consent.
- You can access, verify and amend your personal data whenever you want

Project: London is trying to reach

- Vulnerable migrants (2 afternoon sessions at Praxis per week from January 2006)
- Homeless people (1 morning session per week later in 2006)
- Vulnerable women (1 evening session per week later in 2006)

The team

Project: London works with a team of medical and non-medical volunteers. At each session there will be:

- One doctor
- One nurse
- Two or three support workers

Project: London objectives

- To improve access to affordable healthcare for vulnerable people not registered with a GP
- To document the situation, health and needs of those who are without access to healthcare.
- To use this information to lobby and advocate for better health provision for them from the relevant bodies or agencies
- To help people access NHS and other relevant services whenever possible.
- To offer some free acute medical care to those who present to the project.