

MSF's blow-up, plug-and-play hospital

MSF developed the mobile field hospital to operate as a fully functioning medical facility during conflict or in the aftermath of a natural disaster. The basic structure can be up and running in 48 hours, and is made up of a series of inflatable tents, complete with a surgical theatre and intensive care unit. When a disaster strikes or a conflict breaks out, the inflatable hospital is designed to function indefinitely in place of damaged or inoperative health facilities.



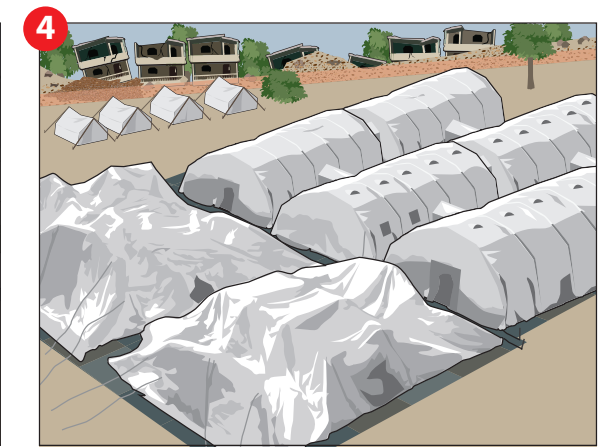
1 The basic 100-bed facility needs approximately 9,700 square feet of space and consists of operating rooms, an emergency room, rehabilitation and recovery areas, an intensive care unit and inpatient wards. It weighs 41 tons.



2 The tents are inflated by mechanical air pumps, with each tent equipped with pressure gauges to adapt to changing temperatures. Teams working 24 hours a day can have the full nine-tent structure erected in three days.



3 The electrical team set up specially adapted cooling and heating systems, while water and sanitation experts install basins and establish a water supply. Finally, medical equipment, including defibrillators, ECG machines and lab equipment, are installed.



4 Once the facility is operational, 80 to 100 medical personnel will treat hundreds of patients during each 24-hour period. Additional tents can be inflated to provide extra bed space.

