

MSF'S RISK KIT

When an emergency strikes, the first 72 hours are critical.

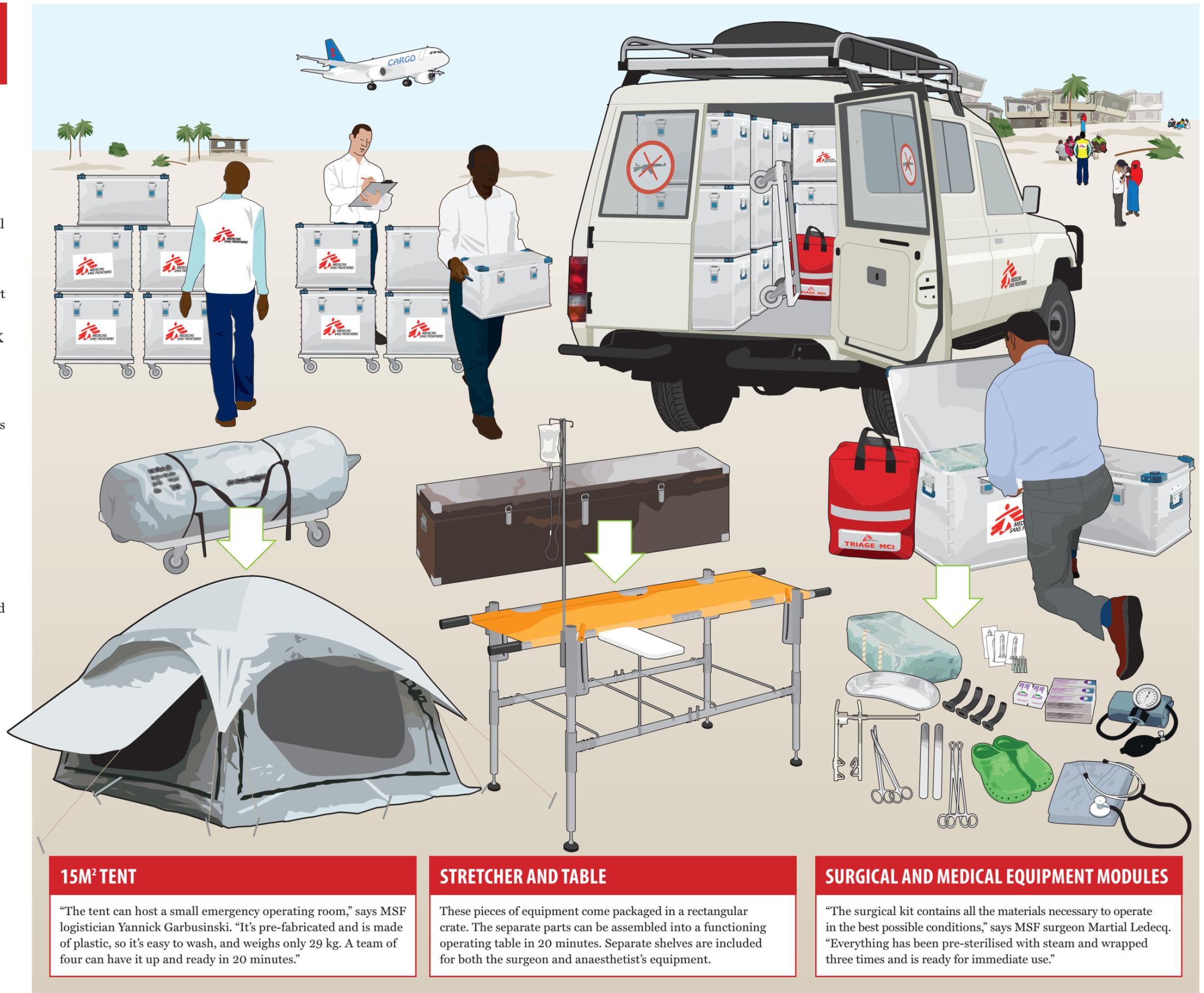
This is the lifesaving phase, when medical care is most crucial. During this small window of opportunity, it's vital that MSF gets on the ground quickly with the equipment and supplies necessary to start saving lives.

To this end, MSF has developed the RISK kit (or rapid intervention surgical kit): a 20-case kit which contains enough medical supplies, surgical equipment, medicines, logistical equipment and water and sanitation gear to treat patients for the first 72 hours. Each case weighs no more than 32 kilograms for easy handling, and all 20 cases can fit into the back of an MSF Land Cruiser.

"The RISK kit is basically a mini-operating room," says MSF nurse Anne Khoudiacoff. "It's transportable by hand, and we can set it up anywhere: in the aftermath of natural disasters; in conflict zones; wherever we need to move fast and be mobile in hard-to-access areas."

MSF developed the kit after the Haiti earthquake, when the difficulty of flying in sufficient supplies and equipment in the immediate aftermath of the disaster hindered the MSF team's early response.

The kit includes medicines, dressings, anaesthetic equipment, surgical instruments and a triage kit, as well as logistical equipment such as plastic sheeting, notebooks, cables and chlorine to treat water. The entire kit can be unpacked and ready-to-use in less than two hours. With the kit, an MSF team of six people can carry out five major surgical interventions a day.



15M² TENT

"The tent can host a small emergency operating room," says MSF logistician Yannick Garbusinski. "It's pre-fabricated and is made of plastic, so it's easy to wash, and weighs only 29 kg. A team of four can have it up and ready in 20 minutes."

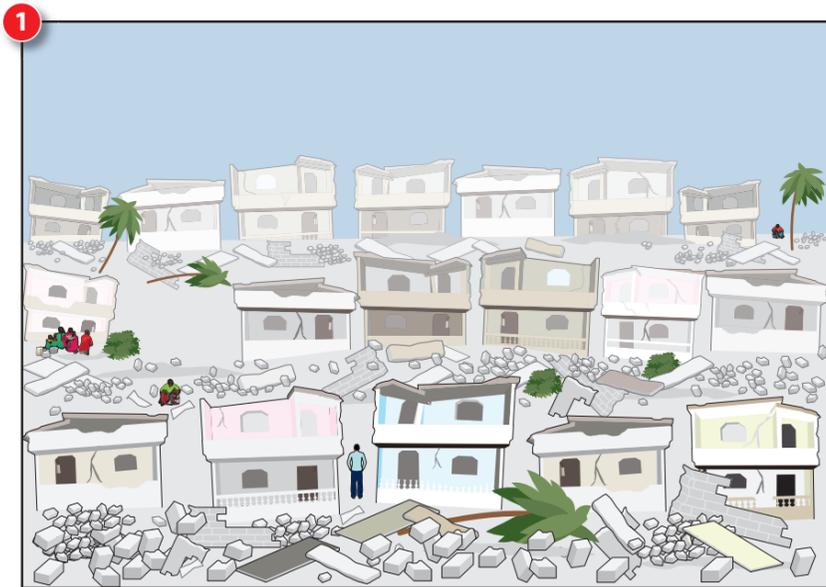
STRETCHER AND TABLE

These pieces of equipment come packaged in a rectangular crate. The separate parts can be assembled into a functioning operating table in 20 minutes. Separate shelves are included for both the surgeon and anaesthetist's equipment.

SURGICAL AND MEDICAL EQUIPMENT MODULES

"The surgical kit contains all the materials necessary to operate in the best possible conditions," says MSF surgeon Martial Ledecq. "Everything has been pre-sterilised with steam and wrapped three times and is ready for immediate use."

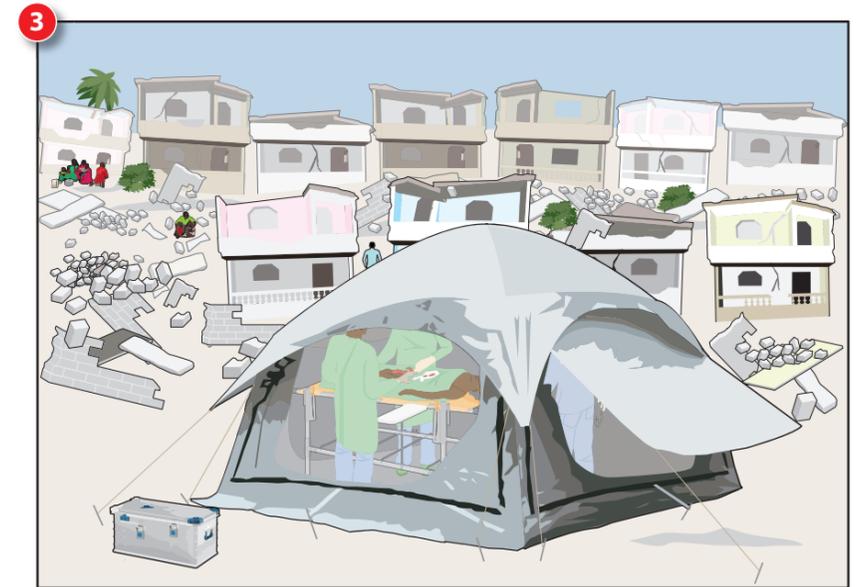
The first 72 hours are crucial...



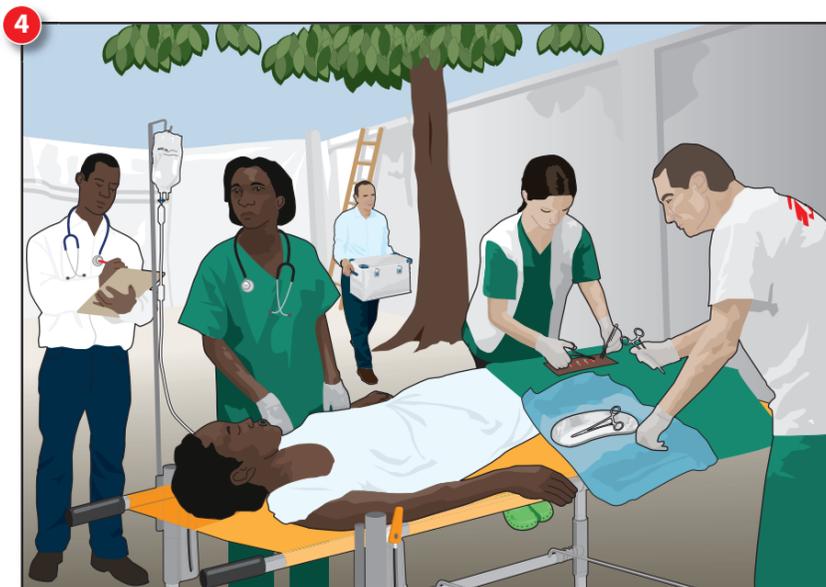
A disaster strikes. Health centres and hospitals may no longer be functioning; large numbers of people – including health workers – may be dead or injured; basic infrastructure such as water and sanitation may have collapsed. The clock is now ticking. MSF teams need to get on the ground quickly to start saving lives. “The first hours following a catastrophe are critical for the patients’ future,” says MSF surgeon Martial Ledecq. “Experience shows that by providing assistance at this moment, we can have the greatest impact on affecting mortality and morbidity and preventing long-term consequences.”



The RISK kit (or rapid intervention surgical kit) is mobilised. The kit is pre-packed and pre-cleared through customs, and is ready for transportation within two hours from MSF supply bases in Europe and around the world.



The RISK kit is divided into ‘compulsory’ cases, made up of essential supplies, and ‘supplementary’ cases that are only deployed in certain emergency situations. When a disaster occurs in a predominantly rural area or when health facilities have been destroyed, the supplementary cases – which include operating tents, sterilisation materials and food – are included.



An emergency team of six is mobilised. This includes a surgeon, an anaesthetist, an emergency doctor, a nurse, an operating theatre nurse and a logistician. One of the team members will also function as the field coordinator, who will be in charge of the emergency response once the team lands.



The kit arrives in-country. It has been designed so that all the cases can fit in to the back of a Land Cruiser, and is light and mobile enough to be deployed quickly by the team. “Alongside the medical and surgical equipment, the kit contains useful logistical, water and sanitation and energy elements, including small solar panels to allow us to charge items and provide a bit of light,” says MSF logistician Jean-Michel Van Laere.



The team swings into action and begins treating patients. In the past year, MSF teams have conducted more than 77,350 major surgeries around the world. Our ability to respond rapidly and provide emergency care to vulnerable people saves lives every day.