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# merlin

Medical Emergency Relief International

**Annual Review 1999**



# People are at the

People are at the heart of our work. It is women, men and children who suffer as a result of crises, it is the public who donate their money to mount a humanitarian response, and it is people who use their professional skills to alleviate that suffering.

The Balkans and East Timor will be lasting images of the closure of the millennium. People: old and young fleeing to safety over the Kosovan border; truckloads of refugees escaping violence in East Timor. But these were just crises that captured the headlines. Sierra Leone endured some of the worst human atrocities, whilst the war in Democratic Republic of Congo continued to divide the country.

It is all too easy to view those people affected by crises purely as victims, but their commitment to strive ahead is an inspiration to us all. In times of immense personal tragedy, they are often the very people who enable Merlin to deliver its medical care. When Sierra Leone was attacked at the beginning of 1999, Sheik Conteh, our national medical co-ordinator, led Merlin's emergency response. Dr Qamile Ramadani, a Kosovan doctor became an Albanian refugee as she fled the conflict. She provided medical care in Merlin's refugee camp and subsequently headed up the Public Health Institute in Metrovica, Kosovo.

Merlin looks deeper than just the immediate emergency and we continue to strengthen the capacity of local communities to deliver effective healthcare. Malaria for example remains the second biggest killer in Africa, yet health services often lack the knowledge or tools to address this. In Kenya we have now trained 50 community groups to act as a local resource on malaria. They train their fellow villagers and distribute mosquito nets. It is these community efforts which enable Merlin to leave a lasting legacy.

We were delighted that our expertise tackling malaria was recognised by the World Health Organisation in 1999 when it launched its "Roll Back Malaria" campaign, which aims to halve the incidence of malaria by 2010. We were selected as one of its lead implementing agencies and this enables us to input our findings into the wider medical community and replicate our work elsewhere.

1999 also saw the beginnings of the first chair in humanitarian aid at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, co-founded by Merlin and the school. This aims to provide an evidence based approach to medical relief, rigorously evaluating programmes and helping to determine agreed models of good healthcare delivery for the sector as a whole.

As I look back at my first year at Merlin, I can truly say that it has been one full of challenge and accomplishment. In total, Merlin mobilised more than 600 international and national staff to help 10 million people around the world access effective and lasting healthcare. This is an impact I am extremely proud to be part of. I joined in 1999 with a real sense of Merlin's commitment to its mission and as these figures prove, I can truly say that we kept to our task. This is a tribute to those groups of people both at home and abroad who have showed resilience in the face of hardship and suffering. Whether time or money, people have given again and again, thank you all very much.



Warren Lancaster  
Chief Executive

A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Warren Lancaster".



**heart of our work...**





# Action where it's needed...



Faisali Saidov, I.D.H Tajikistan

## Medical Emergency Relief

- Serving as a channel for immediate and cost-effective aid.
- Providing experienced field staff.
- Specialising in disease intervention and control.
- Assisting in disaster response.
- Satisfying acute health needs.

## Health Education

- Humanitarian aid and health training for UK and non-UK staff.
- Training national health workers.
- Public health education.
- Training the trainer.
- Creative community education.



Merlin Doctor, Joe Bourne

**A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO:** Ann Gloag... Ashden Charitable Trust... Australian Agency for International Development (AusAid)... AXA Provincial Insurance plc... Beatrice Laing Trust... Bernard Sunley Charitable Foundation... Burdens Charitable Foundation... Cameron Ross... Capital Group... Capital International Ltd... Cotton Trust... Department for International Development (DFID)... DHL International (UK) Limited... Disaster Emergency Committee...





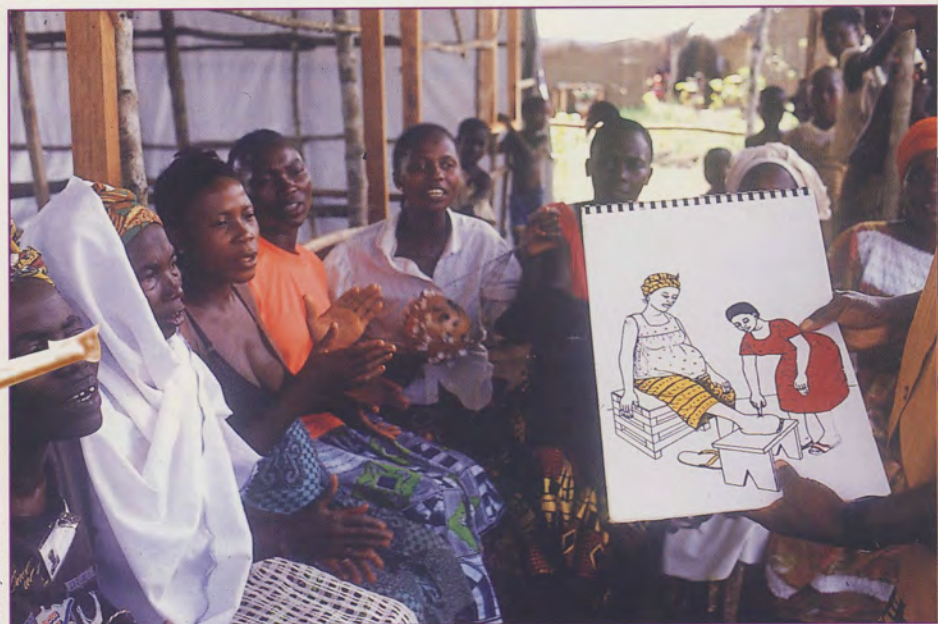
Children in Sierra Leone

## Health Infrastructure

- Providing access to health care.
- Rebuilding and rehabilitating medical facilities.
- Initiating cost-recovery projects.
- Enhancing hygiene and nutrition.
- Building local capacity.

## Strategic Development

- Enhancing understanding of emergencies.
- Promoting global interdependence.
- Promoting gender-sensitive approaches.
- Practising health related advocacy.
- Practising inter-agency co-operation.



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Antenatal class, Kenema

Dorothea Gartland... Douglas Turner Trust... E D & F Man plc...  
 E M MacAndrew Trust... European Community Humanitarian Office (ECHO)...  
 European Union Development Fund (DG1 & DG8)... Evergreen Trust...  
 Flying Colours Airline (now JMC Airlines)... Foreign Affairs Department of the Dutch  
 Government (BUZA)...



# High impact on a global scale...

*Figures quoted for activities initiated within the last 2 years*

## DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO

Target population - 606,500.

- 3 hospitals and 49 health centre supported.
- vaccination campaigns for 22,000 people
- 148 health staff trained.

## KENYA

Target population - 1 million.

- 1 hospital supported.
- 4 dispensaries supplied.
- 4 mobile clinics run.
- 30,000 houses treated against malaria.
- 20,000 bednets distributed.
- 31 community groups given health education.
- 1250 health workers trained.

## EAST TIMOR

Target population - 850,000.

- 13 laboratories equipped.
- 93 health centres supported.
- 12 health workers trained.
- 4 medical surveys conducted.
- 10,000 patients treated.
- 10 local aid agencies assisted.

## SIERRA LEONE

Target population - 700,000.

- 24 health centres and 4 mobile clinics supported.
- 750 antenatal mothers and 3000 kids reviewed monthly.
- 2000 patients per month in feeding programmes.
- 4500 bednets supplied.
- 270 community health workers and 500 health professionals trained.
- 22,861 children vaccinated against measles.
- 5 isolation and 4 feeding units supported.
- 5,350 consultations per month.
- 250 deliveries per month.

## MOZAMBIQUE

Target population - 390,000.

- 4 health centres supported.
- 3 malaria surveillance sites established.



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Check-up at mother and baby clinic, Sierra Leone

**A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO:** Glaxo Wellcome... Heinz & Anna Kroch Foundation... HSA (Hospital Saving Association)... ICR (International Care & Relief)... James N McNab Trust... JJ Charitable Trust... KeyMed Ltd... Lonely Planet... Mark Leonard Trust... Maurice Laing Foundation... Mellon Foundation ... Mercury Asset Management... Merrill Lynch ... Morel Trust...





© Jon Lorie

Merlin in Afghanistan

## LIBERIA

Target population - 500,000 people.

- 2 hospitals and 21 primary care facilities supported.
- 2 laboratories equipped.
- 3,500 women received antenatal care.
- 12 health surveys conducted.
- 99,000 people immunised.
- 125,000 outpatients treated.
- 2,200 severely ill patients hospitalised.
- 500 health workers trained.
- 3 isolation units and 5 emergency hospitalisation units established.

## RUSSIA

Target population - 4 million.

- 8 training programmes delivered.
- 427 health staff trained in train the trainer courses.
- 24 health conferences organised and sponsored.

## KOSOVO

Target population - 105,000.

- 2 hospitals equipped.
- 6 public health institutes supported.

## ALBANIA

Target population - 1.5 million.

- 1 health centre constructed.
- 15 dispensaries equipped.
- 31 laboratories equipped and 8 rehabilitated.
- 66 medical staff trained.

## TAJIKISTAN

Target population - 1.9 million.

- 70 hospitals equipped.
- 17 clinics and laboratories rehabilitated.
- 475 health professional trained.



© Jon Spaul

Merlin in Tajikistan

National Lottery Charities Board (NLCB)... News International... Owen Rennie... Paget Trust...  
 Scott Bader... The American Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance (OFDA)... The Sun Newspaper... Tim Bull...  
 United Nations Humanitarian Council for Refugees (UNHCR)... United States Agency for International  
 Development (USAID)... Willis Corroon Group plc... World Health Organisation (WHO)



# Focused and committed to excellence...

## Combating malaria globally

Malaria is a tropical disease that kills over a million people each year. Merlin is involved in a global effort to control the disease. We are part of the World Health Organisation's "Roll Back Malaria" campaign which aims to halve all deaths from malaria by 2010. We work with health authorities to co-ordinate anti-malaria programmes at a local level in East Timor, Kenya, Liberia, Sierra Leone and Tajikistan.

To combat malaria we train health professionals in the best ways to diagnose, treat and prevent the disease. We also

provide health facilities with effective drugs. An important part of our work involves educating people at risk on how to prevent malaria, such as by sleeping under mosquito bed nets or using insecticide sprays.

In Kenya we have treated 35,000 people at risk from malaria in the Kisii region. We also provided mosquito bed nets to protect 80,000 people. Merlin runs the Kisii programme in consultation with the London School of Tropical Medicine and Kenya's Malaria Research Institute. We continue to explore other initiatives with them.



© Chris White

Laboratory technicians screening blood for malaria

**"By combining malaria control expertise with the skills of NGOs like Merlin, we can significantly reduce avoidable deaths and suffering".**

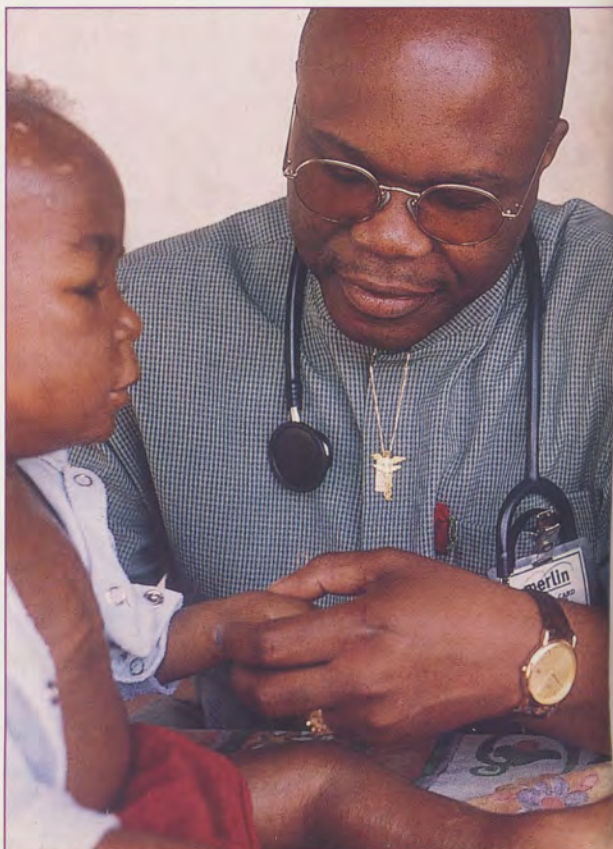
*Richard Allan,  
Roll Back Malaria Campaign,  
World Health Organisation.*



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Weighing in at a mother and baby clinic

© Jenny Matthews



Merlin Paediatrician  
Dr Nzenge Mutota



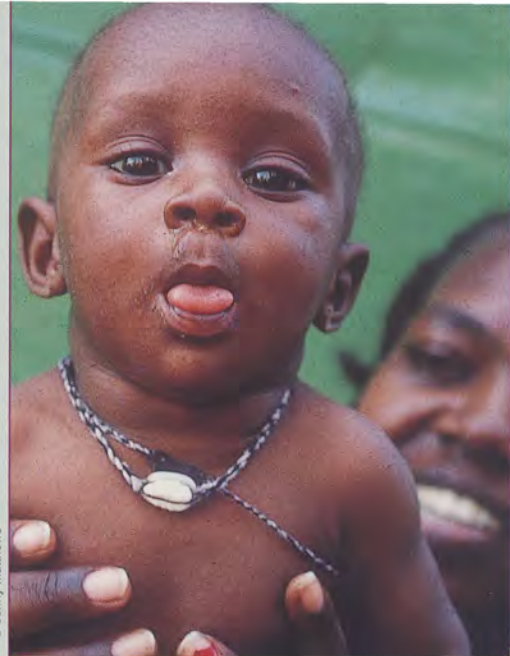
## Improving access to Primary Health Care

Poverty or lack of basic amenities can lead to poor health, and this situation is exacerbated when there is a crisis. We take our services into areas where healthcare provision may have broken down. In Liberia we have vaccinated 80,000 people against yellow fever. In the Democratic Republic of Congo we are supporting 52 health facilities.

Primary health care programmes provide the equivalent of the services available at a GP's surgery in the UK. Merlin supports PHC programmes abroad providing vaccination campaigns, mother and baby clinics, community health education and disease prevention. We work with health authorities to improve access to affordable health care.

**“Armed men attacked my town, and I was shot in the back as I tried to escape. Friends carried me for days until we reached Merlin. My wound was treated, and I’m now walking quite well”.**

*Esther, a refugee teacher in Liberia.*



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Waiting to see the nurse, Sierra Leone

## Promoting cost-effective tuberculosis (TB) treatment

Once considered a disease of the past, TB is currently re-emerging. It is estimated that 1 billion people risk being infected by 2020, if the spread is not controlled.

Merlin works with Russian health authorities to reform policy on TB treatment. We promote use of the DOTS method as recommended by the World Health Organisation. Treatment is 75 per cent cheaper, and takes place over a shorter period than traditional methods.

In Tomsk, where our project is based, already 50 per cent of patients are treated using DOTS. It is now an accepted method here, and is being replicated in other parts of Russia.

Merlin is also one of the leading medical agencies working to control and prevent new drug-resistant forms of TB from appearing. Our emphasis is on providing training in these new methods.

**“Merlin works in partnership with Tomsk TB services. This means we gain accumulated experience from around the world”.**

*Dr Tanya Lyagoshina, Tomsk, Siberia.*

Midwife training expectant mothers, Sierra Leone

## Training for health

Training is central to our work and we focus on upgrading skills. We train at all levels, from community groups to health or management professionals.

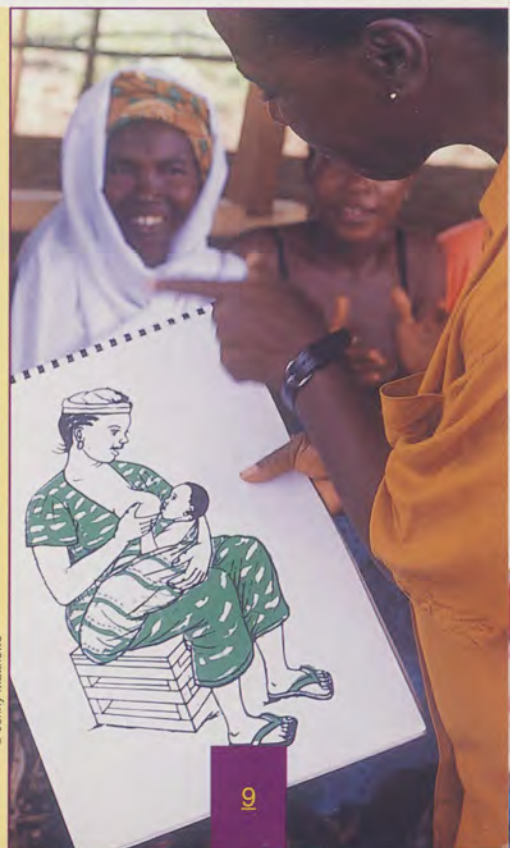
We are proud of our high standards, and our partnerships with centres of excellence like the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, the Public Health Research Institute and the World Health Organisation.

In the UK, Merlin trains people working abroad in public health and project management. In 1999 we trained 150 people including professionals from various sectors in the UK. We also launched a new course on Nutrition in Emergencies. Our approach is very practical because our courses are led by staff currently working abroad, who can provide the latest thinking on their subject.

Merlin's training programme is funded by a £433,000 grant from the National Lottery Charities Board.

**“I was very impressed; the course was well run and a definite success”.**

*Sheik Conteh, Merlin Programme Supervisor, Kenema, Sierra Leone.*



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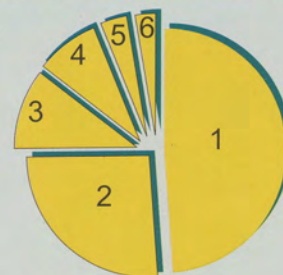


### Programmes Expenditure by Location

(£'000s)

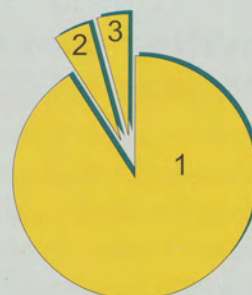
	Overseas	UK	Total
Afghanistan	149	18	167
Albania	681	82	762
Honduras	138	16	154
Indonesia	75	9	84
Kenya	384	46	430
Liberia	1,001	120	1,121
Siberia	194	23	217
Sierra Leone	1,611	193	1,804
Tajikistan	528	63	591
Democratic Republic of Congo	1,185	142	1,327
<b>Total</b>	<b>5,945</b>	<b>712</b>	<b>6,657</b>

### Source of funds expended in 1999



1. European Union	49%
2. US Government	26%
3. British Government	11%
4. Other	8%
5. Dutch Government	4%
6. United Nations	3%

### Expenditure in 1999



1. Direct Charitable Expenditure	91%
2. Management & Administration	5%
3. Fundraising & Publicity	4%

### Total Income

£'000s	1999	1998
Donations and Gifts	585	770
Field Operations	6,714	6,236
Fundraising Events	51	59
Interest Receivable	10	17
Other	20	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>7,380</b>	<b>7,082</b>

### Total Expenditure

£'000s	1999	1998	%age 1999
1. Direct Charitable Expenditure	6,657	6,331	91%
2. Management & Administration	356	459	5%
3. Fundraising & Publicity	310	278	4%
<b>Total</b>	<b>7,323</b>	<b>7,068</b>	

The above information is extracted from the financial statements for 1999, copies of which are available from the Company Secretary, Merlin, 5-13 Trinity Street, London SE1 1DB.

The financial statements were audited by Littlejohn Frazer, Chartered Accountants and Registered Auditors, whose report was unqualified.

Merlin (Medical Emergency Relief International) is a registered charity no. 1016607.

Merlin Board Limited is a company limited by guarantee, Company no. 2823935.

Registered company address: 95 Aldwych, London WC2B 4JF.

Financial statements for 2000 will be available in mid-2001.

A. M. Harper

Adrian Harper. Head of Finance



# It's more than just money...

It's about maintaining the capability to respond to people's health needs when and where-ever they arise. It's about having an impact and making a difference. Your help over 1999 has enabled Merlin to deliver healthcare to 10million people. We'd like to make it more.

**"It's about undertaking an immense personal challenge to help people who face much greater challenges on a daily basis. Running the marathon for Merlin meant I could help people benefit from basic healthcare."**

Gordon Quilty, marathon runner. In 1999, 20 people ran the marathon to support Merlin, raising a record-breaking £20,000.

**"It's about awareness. We'd been inspired by the beauty of the Silk Road region but also the hardship faced by many people who live along the route. We wanted our trip to help raise awareness of Merlin as well as money."**

Sophia Cunningham, one of four Silk Road travellers. They traversed the 4,500 journey along the ancient silk road on horse and camel-back. Their journey in aid of Merlin took 10 months and gained widespread PR coverage for Merlin extending from Hello Magazine to Daily Telegraph.

**"It's about education. I wanted to help the children understand how people in other parts of the world live and the health problems they face. Merlin's work in Sierra Leone provided a focus around which I could do this."**

Barbara Handley, Head teacher, West Hill High School, Derbyshire. The school nominated Merlin as their chosen charity and as well as organising fundraising events, incorporated Merlin's activities into the school's curriculum.

**"It's about helping to remove the enormous human cost of disease. Merlin has taken a key role within the aid sector in tackling a range of diseases in emergency situations often working closely with the World Health Organisation (WHO)".**

Dr David L Heymann, Executive Director, Communicable Diseases, WHO. In 1999, WHO launched the Roll Back Malaria (RBM) initiative aimed at halving the malaria burden by 2010. Since then Merlin has become a leading RBM partner and has managed WHO-funded work tackling malaria in East Timor.

**"It's about enabling Merlin to deliver medical equipment where-ever it is needed, when-ever it is needed. Offering access to our global express service enables Merlin to achieve this."**

Sharon Dance, Corporate Affairs Manager, DHL International (UK) Ltd. In 1999, DHL provided £20,000 of delivery services for emergency supplies to Merlin programmes.

**"It's about building networks to expand corporate awareness of Merlin. The City of London prides itself on being international and forward-thinking and we wanted to associate ourselves with a like-minded charity. Merlin allows us to give back to communities around the world."**

Patricia Tehan, Chair of Merlin's Advisory Group. Merlin's city advisory group was launched in October 1999 comprising senior individuals from the corporate sector.

**You could support us too. Call us now.  
Tel: 020 7378 4888**

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email: [hq@merlin.org.uk](mailto:hq@merlin.org.uk) [www.merlin.org.uk](http://www.merlin.org.uk)

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**Trustees:** Peter Elwes (Chair), Dr Christopher Besse, Baroness Cox of Queensbury, Dr Penelope Key, George Littlejohn, Nicholas Mellor,  
Dr John Porter, Mark Sater, Charles Stewart-Smith