MÉDECINS DU MONDE 世界医生组织 DOCTORS OF THE WORLD منظمة أطباء العالم LÄKARE I VÄRLDEN MEDICI DEL MONDO ΓΙΑΤΡΟΙ ΤΟΥ ΚΌΣΜΟΥ DOKTERS VAN DE WERELD MÉDICOS DO MUNDO MÉDICOS DEL MUNDO 世界の医療団 ÄRZTE DER WELT दुनिया के डॉक्टर MÉDECINS DU MONDE 世界医生组织 DOCTORS OF THE WORLD منظمة أطباء العالم LÄKARE I VÄRLDEN MEDICI DEL MONDO ΓΙΑΤΡΟΙ ΤΟΥ ΚΌΣΜΟΥ DOKTERS VAN DE WERELD MÉDICOS DO MUNDO MÉDICOS DEL MUNDO 世界の医療団 ÄRZTE DER WELT दुनिया के डॉक्टर MÉDECINS DU MONDE 世界医生组织 DOCTORS OF THE WORLD منظمة أطباء العالم LÄKARE I VÄRLDEN MEDICI DEL MONDO ΓΙΑΤΡΟΙ ΤΟΥ ΚΌΣΜΟΥ DOKTERS VAN DE WERELD MÉDICOS DO MUNDO MÉ DICOS DEL MUNDO 世界の医療団 ÄRZTE DER WELT दुनिया के डॉक्टर MÉDECINS DU MONDE 世界医生组织 DOCTORS OF THE WO

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DOCTORS OF THE WORLD UK
UK PROGRAMME 2016 DATA

As the government continues its policy of using healthcare to create a 'hostile environment' for undocumented migrants by making further plans for ID checks and stricter charging at hospitals, our UK clinics are a lifeline for pregnant women, the vulnerable and the sick. At our clinics in Bethnal Green, Hackney and Brighton we saw first-hand how this climate affects destitute people afraid to attend healthcare services.

In 2016, 170 volunteers at these clinics provided help to 1,924 people – a 20 per cent increase from 2015. Our volunteer doctors and nurses provide consultations on the day for our service-users, while our caseworkers help them register to see a GP so that they have future access to a doctor. Everyone in the UK has the right to see a GP for free, regardless of immigration status.

OUR PATIENTS

1,924 people received services form DoTW UK in 2016. The majority of patients we saw were undocumented migrants and asylum seekers whose claims have been refused (56%). 15% were asylum seekers, and the remaining 29% were refugees, EU nationals and British nationals or undefined. 23% of patients had made an application for asylum at some point.

The top countries of origin of our service users were: the Philippines (15%), China (11%), India (11%), Bangladesh (8%), Nigeria (6%) and Uganda (5%). The remaining 49% came from 83 countries around the world. 29% of patients required an interpreter for their appointment.

On average, service users had been living in the UK for 6 years before accessing our clinic. 11% travelled from outside London to visit our clinic.

The majority of patients were 30-49 years old (55%), 8% of patients were 19 or younger, and 15% were 50 or older.

Many of our services users experience socio-economic exclusion. 87% were living in poverty (below the poverty line) and 35% were rough sleeping or living in unstable accommodation. 34% reported that they have lacked the help, support, and comfort of a friend. 28% reported having experienced violence. Of those that had children (655), 73% (403) did not live with their children.

HEALTH NEEDS AND DIAGNOSIS

28% of people attending DoTW clinics reported their health as bad or very bad. 27% of people reported their psychological health as bad or very bad. Of the patients who saw a clinician, 93% had at least one health problem that hadn't received any treatment. 51% had a chronic condition which had never been reviewed by a doctor. We sent 42 patients straight to A&E because they were acutely unwell.

Of the service users that saw a clinician, 22% presented with musculoskeletal conditions, 19% with digestive conditions, 17% with a psychological condition, depression, or PTSD, 16% with hypertension or cardiovascular conditions, 12% with pregnancy or family planning needs, 9% with headache and neurological conditions, 8% with respiratory conditions and 7% with female genital conditions.

BARRIERS TO HEALTHCARE ACCESS

94% of service users had experienced difficulties accessing healthcare, and 89% were not registered with a GP when they came to our clinic despite being fully entitled to free primary care.

We ask all service users why they had not been able to access the NHS. 53% responded that they did not try to access the NHS because of perceived barriers. Of those that tried, most cited psychosocial barriers, such as admin difficulties (22%), lack of understanding of how to access the NHS (16%), language barriers (14%) and refusal by healthcare admin staff (14%). 2% cited economic barriers (asked to pay in advance and couldn't afford treatment).

11% of patients told us they did not access NHS services because they feared arrest if they did. This figure is consistent with previous years (12% in 2015, 11% in 2014). 23% said that they limited their movements for fear of being arrested.

OUTCOMES

In 2016 we were able to resolve 91% of service users cases. We supported 1,225 people to register with a GP, helped 923 people on a low income to access free medicines and assisted 104 people to see a dentist.