



# MSF: Treating patients with Chagas disease and our Campaign

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# Medecins Sans Frontieres

- Humanitarian medical NGO, founded in 1971 by a group of French doctors
- Total independence
- Medical assistance to populations in need
- Won the Nobel Peace Prize 10 years ago
- Founded, and funder of Drugs for Neglected Disease initiative (DNDi)

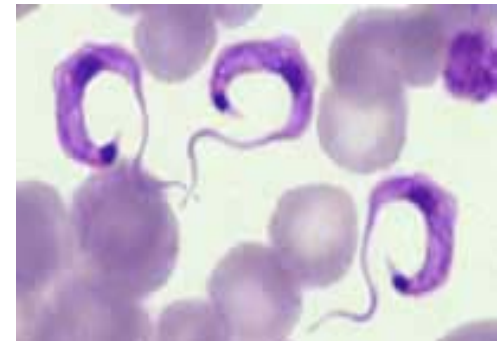
# MSF and Chagas Disease

- 10 years of diagnosing and treating patients with Chagas in Nicaragua, Honduras, Guatemala and Bolivia
- Field research
- Advocacy actions –
- Why?



# Chagas Disease

- 100 million people are at risk of infection in Latin America.
- *T. Cruzi* infects an estimated 10-15 million people.
- 15.000 deaths each year.

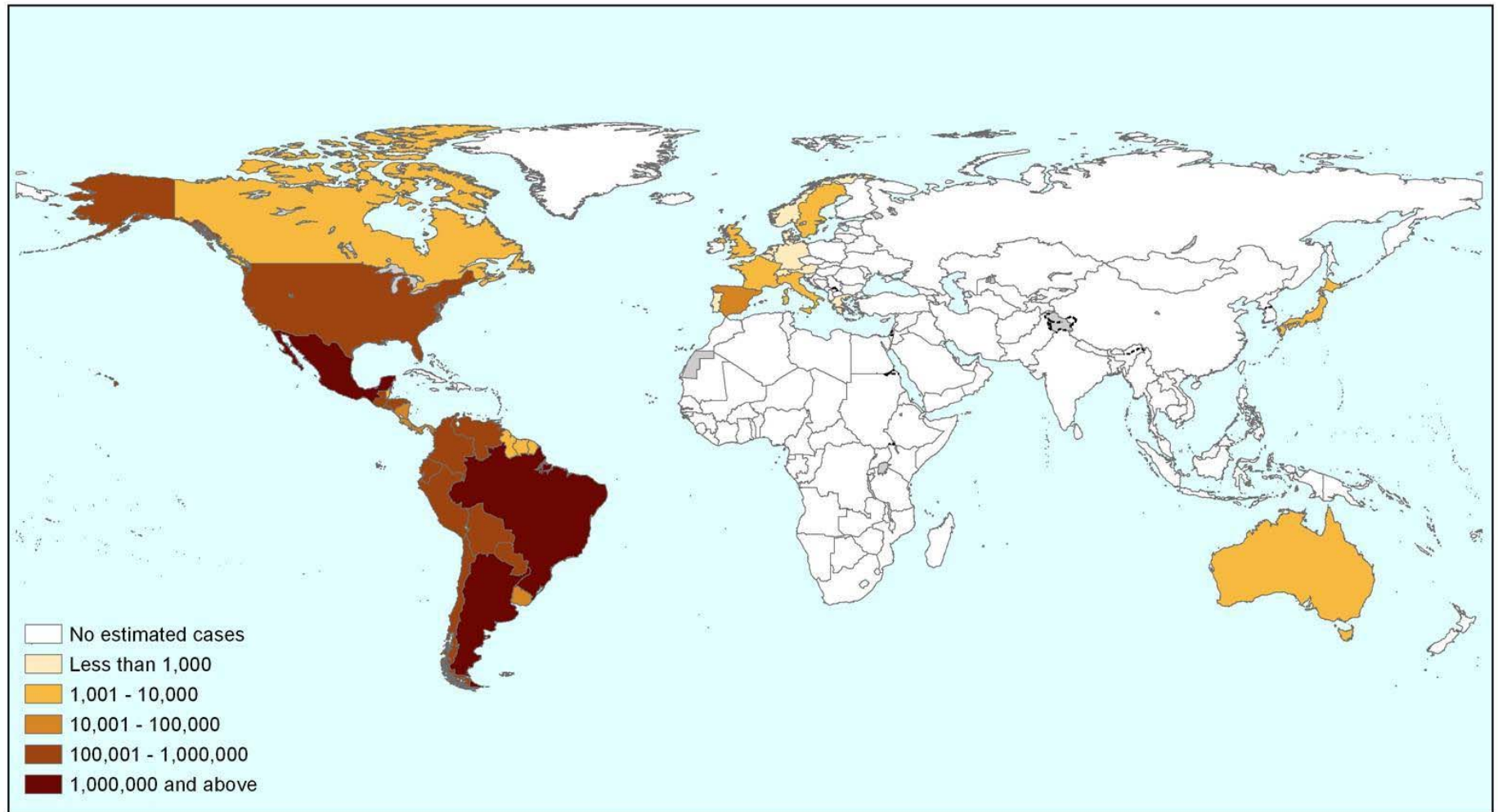


In 100 years time,  
will people still  
remember Chagas  
disease??





# Estimated global population infected by *Trypanosoma cruzi*, 2009



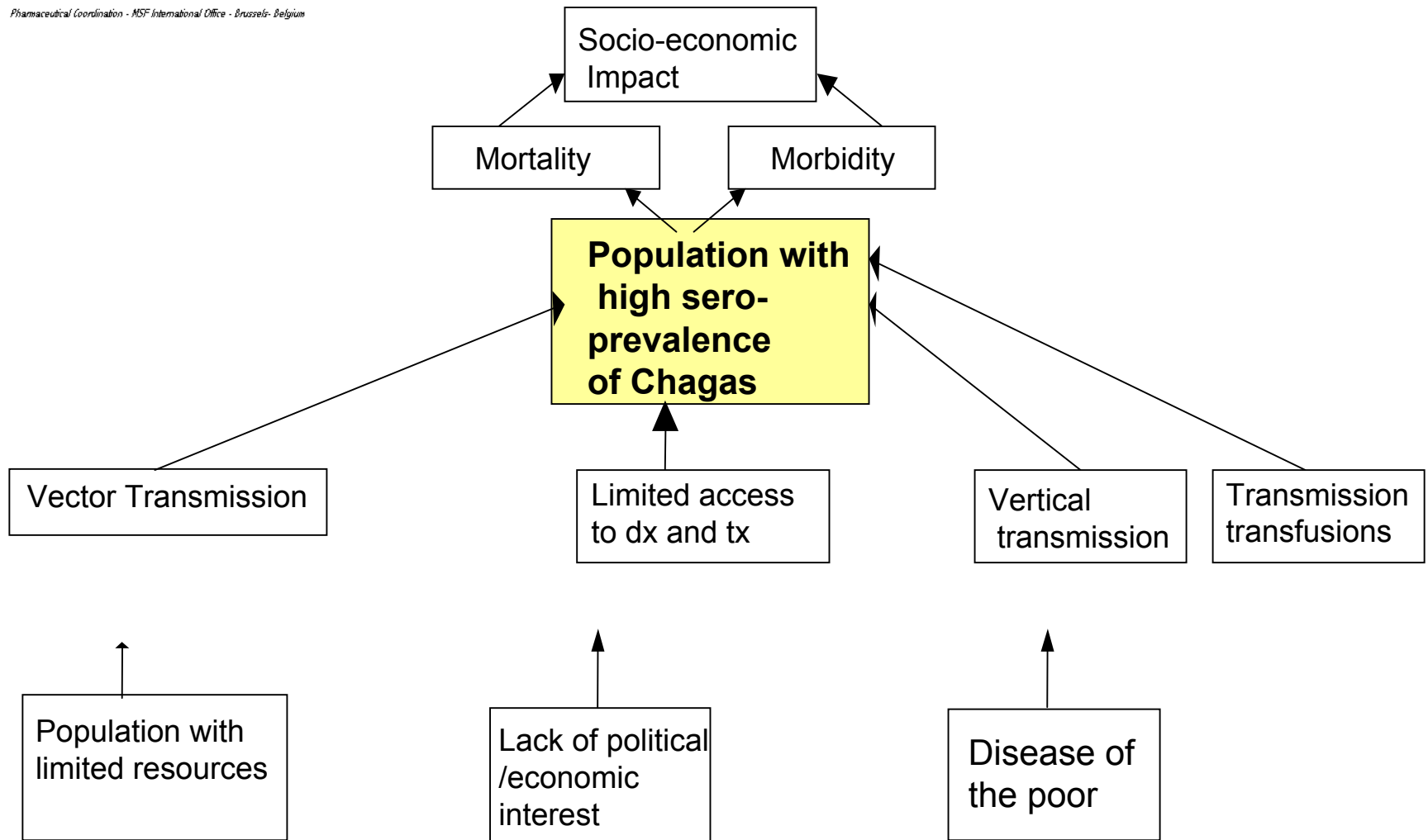
## Sources:

1. OPS/HDM/CD/425-06 Estimación cuantitativa de la enfermedad de Chagas en las Américas.
2. Guerri-Guttenberg RA, Grana D.R., Giuseppe Ambrosio, Milei J. Chagasic cardiomyopathy: Europe is not spared! *European Heart Journal* (2008); 29: 2587-2591.
3. Schmunis, G. A. Epidemiology of Chagas Disease in non-endemic countries: the role of international migration. *Mem Inst Oswaldo Cruz, Rio de Janeiro*, Vol. 102(Suppl. I): 75-85, 2007.
4. De Ayala A.P, Pérez-Molina J.A, Norman F, and López-Vélez R. Chagasic cardiomyopathy in immigrants from Latin America to Spain. *Emerging Infectious Disease* Volume 15, Number 4—April 2009.
5. According to the numbers of immigrants registered for 2007 in the website of the Japanese Ministry of Justice and estimated seroprevalence for non endemic countries according to Paricio-Talayero J.M. Vigilancia epidemiológica de la transmisión vertical de la enfermedad de Chagas en tres maternidades de la Comunidad Valenciana. *Enferm Infecc Microbiol Clin* 2008;26(10):609-13.



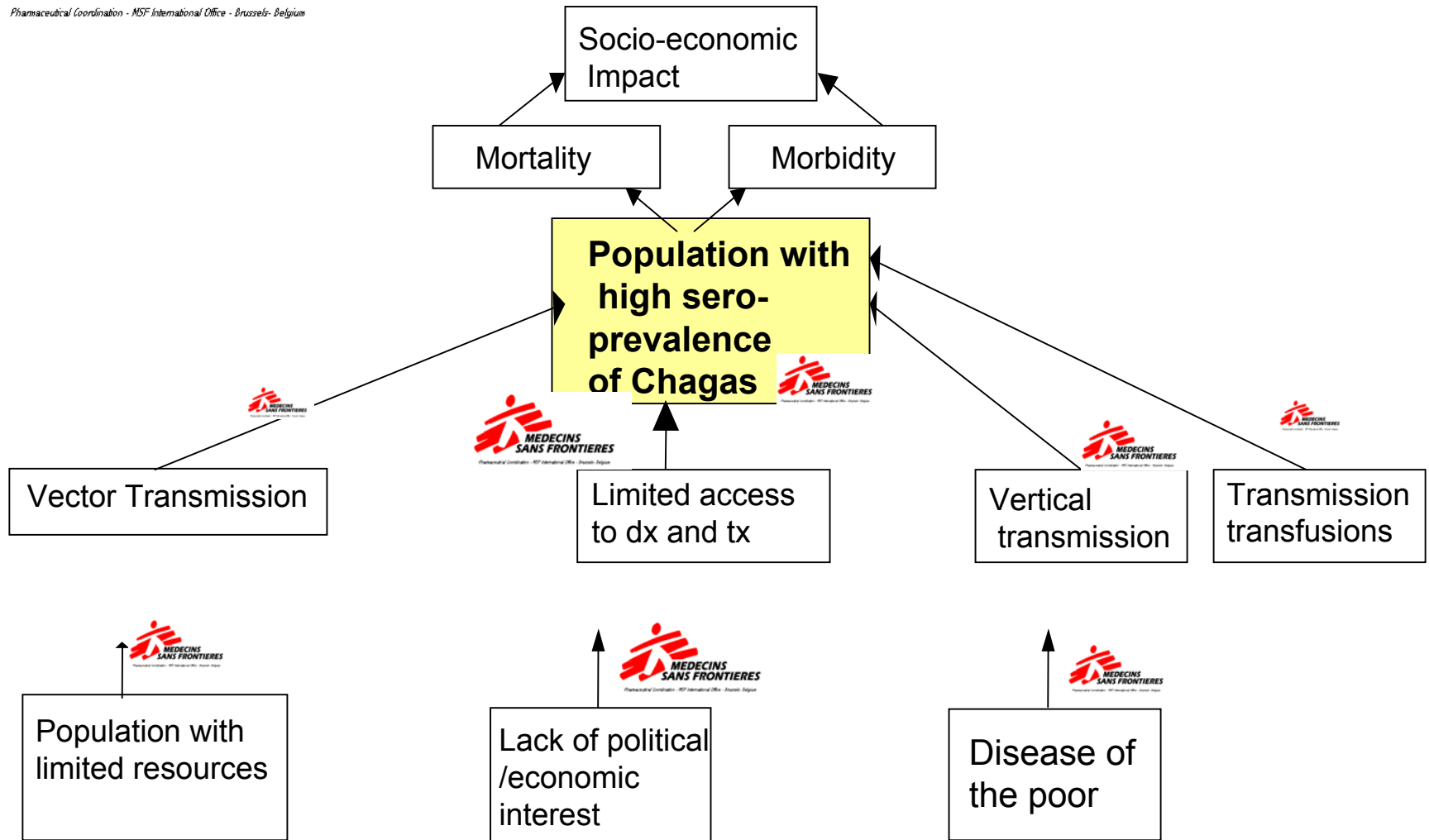
	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	
Honduras	Under 5's Rural 232 treated (0.9%)										
Entre Rios - Bolivia				Under 15's Rural 1450 treated (19.4%)							
Nicaragua				Under 15's Rural							
Guatemala					Under 14's Rural 124 treated (1.4%)						
Sucre - Bolivia							Under 18's Peri-urban 1100 treated (5.9%) Rapid test				
Cochabamba - Bolivia									Under 50's Urban and Peri-urban 600 treated to date		

# MSF Analysis: Problem tree





# MSF activities

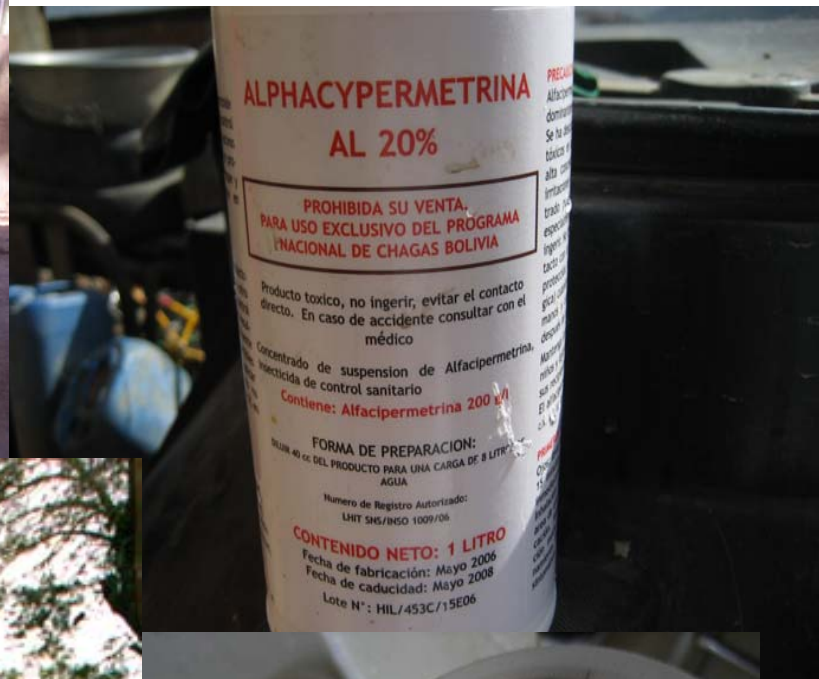


# Chagas in Bolivia



- 60% of the country is endemic
- Population at risk: 4,000,000
- Population infected: >1 million
- Causes 15% of adult deaths

In Cochabamba, 16% prevalence









# Side Effects





# Impact of the projects?

- Prevention and Treatment
- Protocols
- Retained trained staff
- Publications
- In 5 health centres
  - 50% non-MSF staff are 'involved'
  - 90% of treatment contacts by non-MSF doctors
  - 50% of screening done by non-MSF nurses
  - 30% of diagnosis done by non-MSF lab staff
- In Entre Rios:
  - Less than 100 children diagnosed and treated in 3 years since project closure
- In Sucre:
  - 1040 of 1080 children diagnosed before MSF departure remain untreated.
- In Bolivia:
  - >99% of adult need unmet
  - 95% of children need unmet

‘...every study, every experience, points a finger towards a ...population which lives in extreme poverty, and produces irritation in their governments, being testament to their incapacity to resolve huge economic and social problems.’

Carlos Chagas

# The time has come to act!

- In its ten years of experience in the field, **MSF** has proved that the diagnosis and treatment of Chagas disease, even in remote rural environments, is viable, necessary and ethically beyond question.

# **Fight on all fronts against Chagas disease:**

- **Diagnosis of the sick at the primary care level.**
- **Treatment for children and, wherever possible, for adults, in the primary care system.**
- **Determining the prevalence of Chagas.**
- **Reinforcing the supply chains.**
- **Vector control activities.**

# R&D Needs

- Better diagnostic tests
- More effective and less toxic treatments
- Test of cure
- Better prevention strategies
- Alternative sources of R&D funding for Chagas disease

# What MSF identifies as the immediate needs

- **Affordable and Accessible** diagnostic tools and drugs
- **Secured production** of current treatments and distribution of quality essential medicines and diagnosis tools
- **Policy change** (PAHO 2009, WHA 2010)
- **Integration** of diagnosis and treatment into primary health care and national health services
- **R&D** diagnostic tools and new drugs



# Join the campaign!

[www.chagas-rompe-el-silencio.com](http://www.chagas-rompe-el-silencio.com)

[www.chagas-break-the-silence.com](http://www.chagas-break-the-silence.com)



# Thank You

