

MSF in the process of redefining which challenges it should tackle in relation to access to health products (AHP), including drugs, diagnostics, vaccines and medical equipment, to ensure it can continue to fulfil its core purpose and social mission. In November 2020, MSF launched a multi-step consultation and analysis process to help redefine its approach to improving access to medicines, defined as access to health products used for medical care.

This document provides an overview of the survey and presents a quantitative overview of its results. The survey data contributed to the development of the AHP questionnaire. It also fed into discussions at the Access to Medicines workshop and was integrated in the AHP problem statements.

**Objective:** The goal of this survey was to gather feedback from MSF staff and Association members, the communities and patients MSF assists, civil society organisations, patient associations, governments and academia on issues related to access to health products used for medical care.

**Key features:** The questions in the survey covered a broad range of areas and issues in which problems related to AHP might arise during MSF operations and/or which have an impact on the communities MSF assists. The areas in this survey are based on issues identified in the strategic plans of the five MSF Operational Centres and MSF West and Central Africa and in the international typology classification. The survey was available in Arabic, English, French, Portuguese and Spanish.

**Summary of results:** The survey had 1,128 respondents; 87.3% were from MSF<sup>1</sup> and 66% were medical professionals. The survey had a 100% completion rate.

Respondents mainly had experience working in East and West Africa, the Middle East and South Asia. 31.4% of respondents were from Europe, 9.1% were from East Africa and 7.2% were from East Asia and the Pacific region. 64% of respondents had experiences working in stable contexts and 59.8% in violent or conflicted contexts.

The analysis of survey results (including both MSF and non-MSF respondents) identified the following key areas of need related to AHP (issues with the most responses in alphabetical order):

- COVID-19 (treatment, care, testing)
- COVID-19 vaccine
- Drug availability
- Healthcare access
- HIV and HIV-related drugs
- Medical equipment
- Mental health
- Non-communicable diseases (NCDs)\* (in general, not specified)
- Vaccinations (not COVID-19 specific)

*\*Within the theme of NCDs, the most frequently cited diseases were cancer, diabetes, chronic diseases (not specified), epilepsy and hypertension.*

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<sup>1</sup> In the survey people were classified as "from MSF" if they identified as being or having been an MSF staff member, a member of an Association or an MSF volunteer.

When the results were broken down into MSF and non-MSF respondents, both groups identified broadly similar areas of priority for future MSF AHP focus.

### **MSF respondents**

For MSF staff, access to mental health care was the most frequently cited area of need, followed by availability of medical equipment and access to healthcare.

Care for (non-specified) NCDs and the availability of (non-COVID-19) vaccines were also among the issues most frequently identified by MSF staff. Many respondents also highlighted access to COVID-19 vaccines for both health workers and patients globally as a key issue.

The importance of the availability of drugs, reliable/continuous access to good quality medicines and reliable supply chains were identified as issues by a lot of participants to the survey. Among specified NCDs, cancer was identified most frequently as an area of need, with additional responses mentioning the need to increase the roll out of cancer screening. In relation to access to health products for treating poisoning, snake bite treatment was mentioned as the area in which respondents had the most experience.

Issues that were only raised by MSF staff included a wide range of condition-specific treatments and care, such as the need for enhanced ophthalmic care, renal care, burns care, palliative care and pain management, and enhanced sexual and reproductive healthcare. MSF staff were also the only group to mention advocacy in their survey responses.

### **Non-MSF respondents**

Among non-MSF respondents, HIV and HIV treatment emerged as the most frequently cited areas of need. NCDs, mental health, vaccinations, antibiotic resistance and drug availability were also highlighted as priority areas for MSF to focus on. Dental care, infectious diseases and malnutrition also featured strongly in non-MSF respondent's answers.

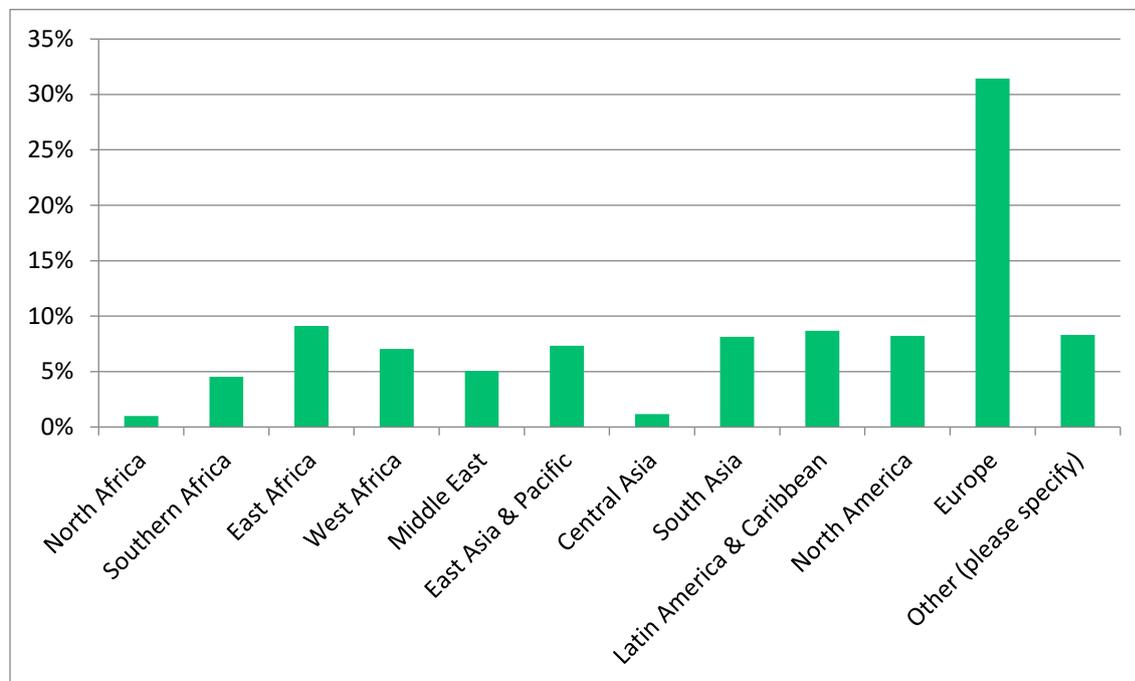
## **Survey results in detail**

**Table 1. Regions where respondents had worked, MSF access to health products survey, 2021. (Note: many respondents selected more than one region.)**

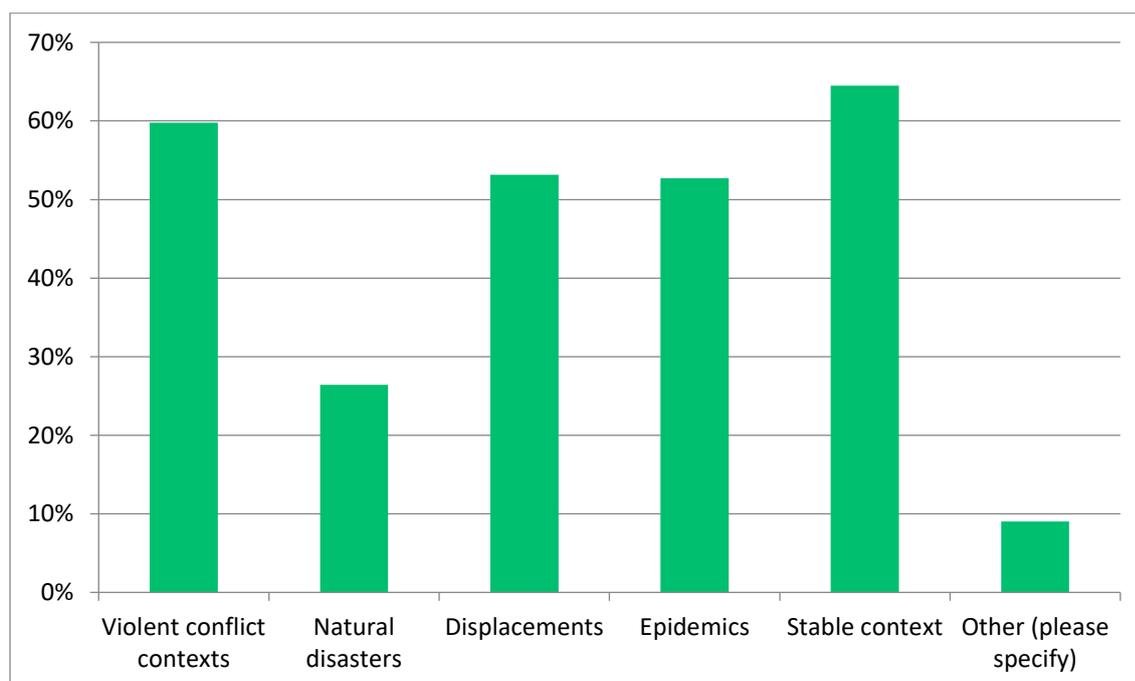
<b>Answer Choices</b>	<b>Responses</b>	<b># Respondents Answered</b>
North Africa	13.5%	149
Southern Africa	23.5%	260
East Africa	48.9%	542
West Africa	45.8%	507
Middle East	35.8%	397
East Asia and Pacific	17.3%	192
Central Asia	14.2%	157
South Asia	25.2%	279
Latin America and Caribbean	22.3%	247
North America	5.8%	64
Europe	21.7%	240
Other (please specify)	8.3%	92

Central Africa was the most common with 30 respondents who had experience working in this region. This included 10 respondents who identified as being from the Central African region.

**Table 2. Regions the respondents are originally from, MSF access to health products survey, 2021.**

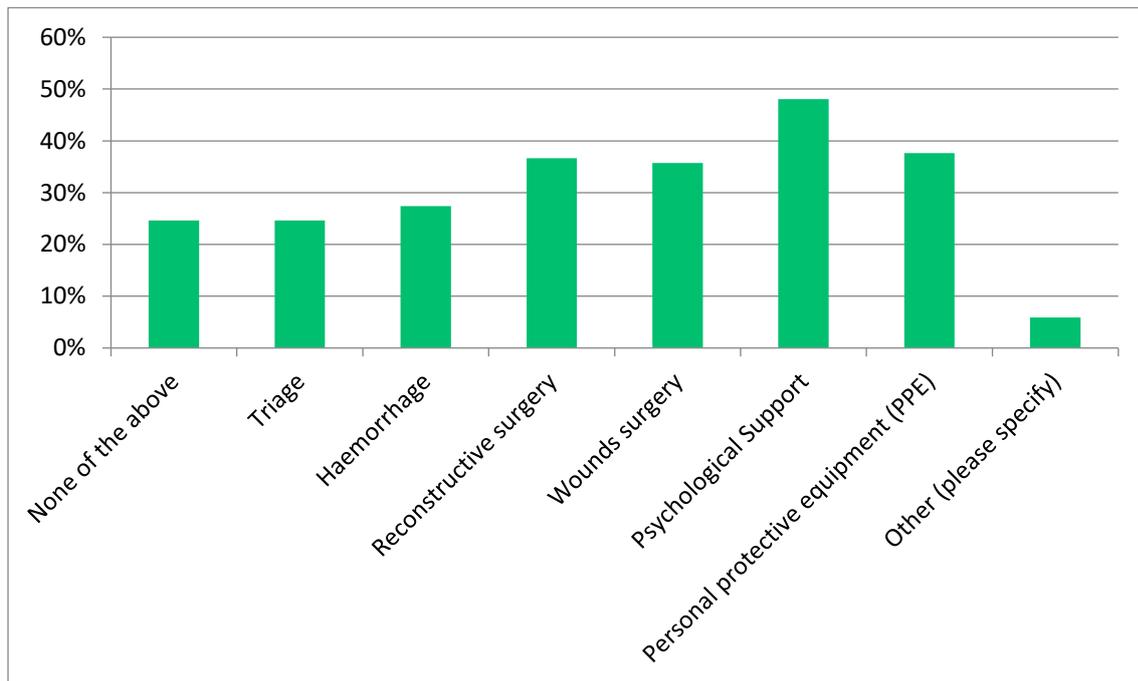


**Table 3. Contexts where the respondents are originally from, MSF Access to health products survey, 2021.**



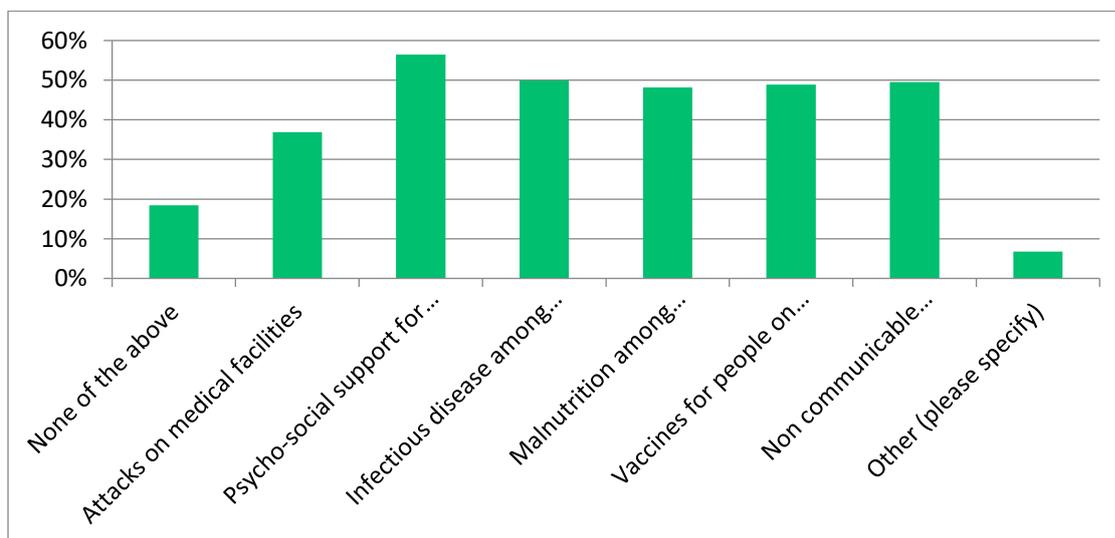
**Question 1. Are you aware of, or have you experienced, problems in relation to access to health products for medical care in violent conflict contexts in any of the following areas?**

The most frequently identified problems in relation to access to health products for medical care in violent conflict contexts were psychological support and personal protective equipment.



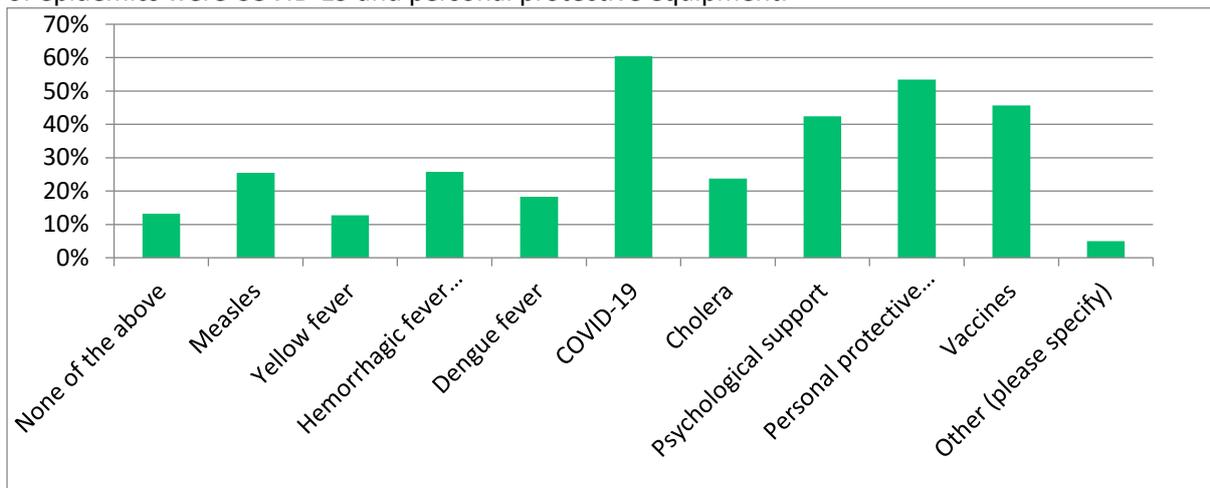
**Question 2. Are you aware of, or have you experienced, problems in relation to access to health products for medical care for people on the move (such as refugees, internally displaced persons, migrants etc.) in any of the following areas?**

The most frequently identified problems in relation to access to health products for the medical care of people on the move were psychosocial support and infectious diseases.



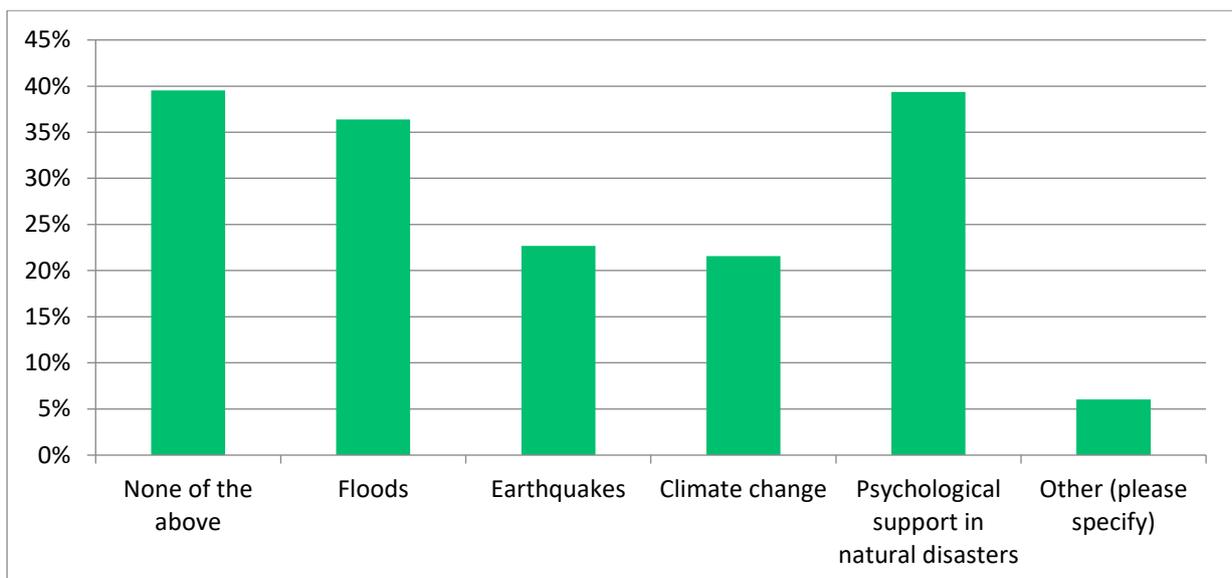
**Question 3. Are you aware of, or have you experienced, problems in relation to access to health products for the medical care of epidemics in any of the following areas?**

The most frequently identified problems in relation to access to health products for the medical care of epidemics were COVID-19 and personal protective equipment.



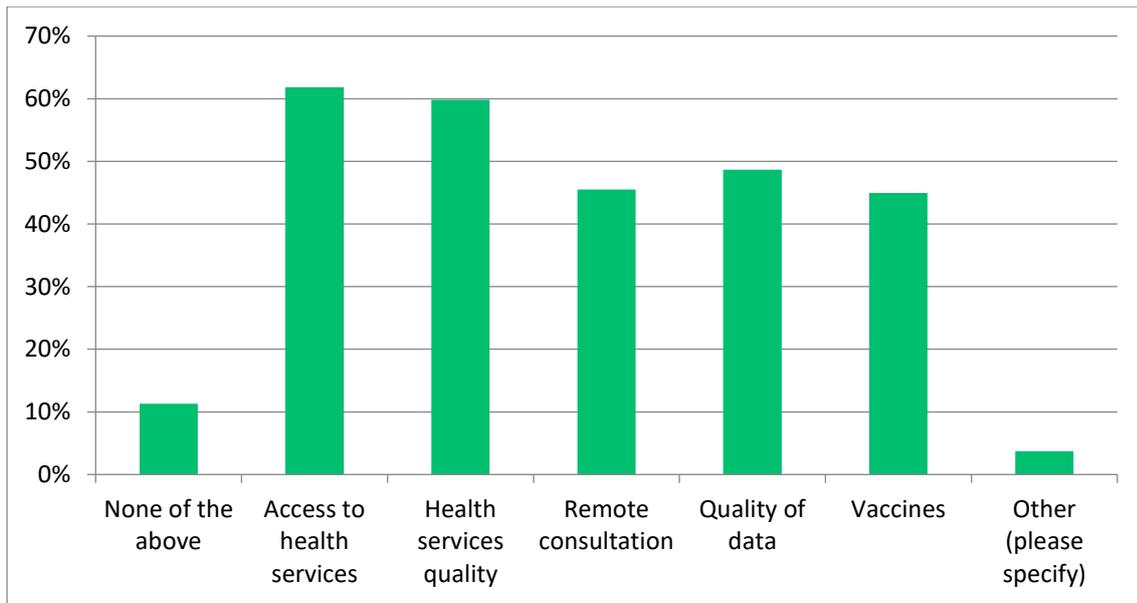
**Question 4. Are you aware of, or have you experienced, problems in relation to access to health products for medical care in natural disasters in any of the following areas?**

The most frequently identified problems in relation to access to health products for medical care in epidemics were COVID-19 and personal protective equipment.



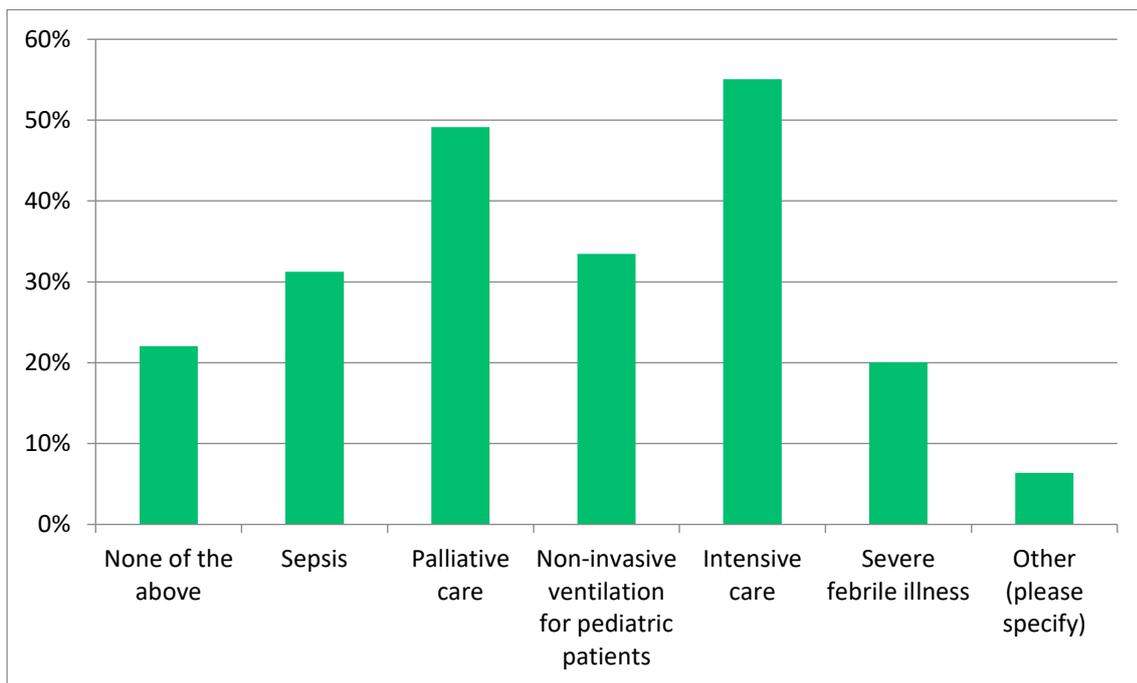
**Question 5. Are you aware of, or have you experienced, problems in relation to access to health products for the medical care of outpatients in any of the following areas?**

The most frequently identified problems in relation to access to health products for medical care in outpatients' services were access to health services and the quality of care given.



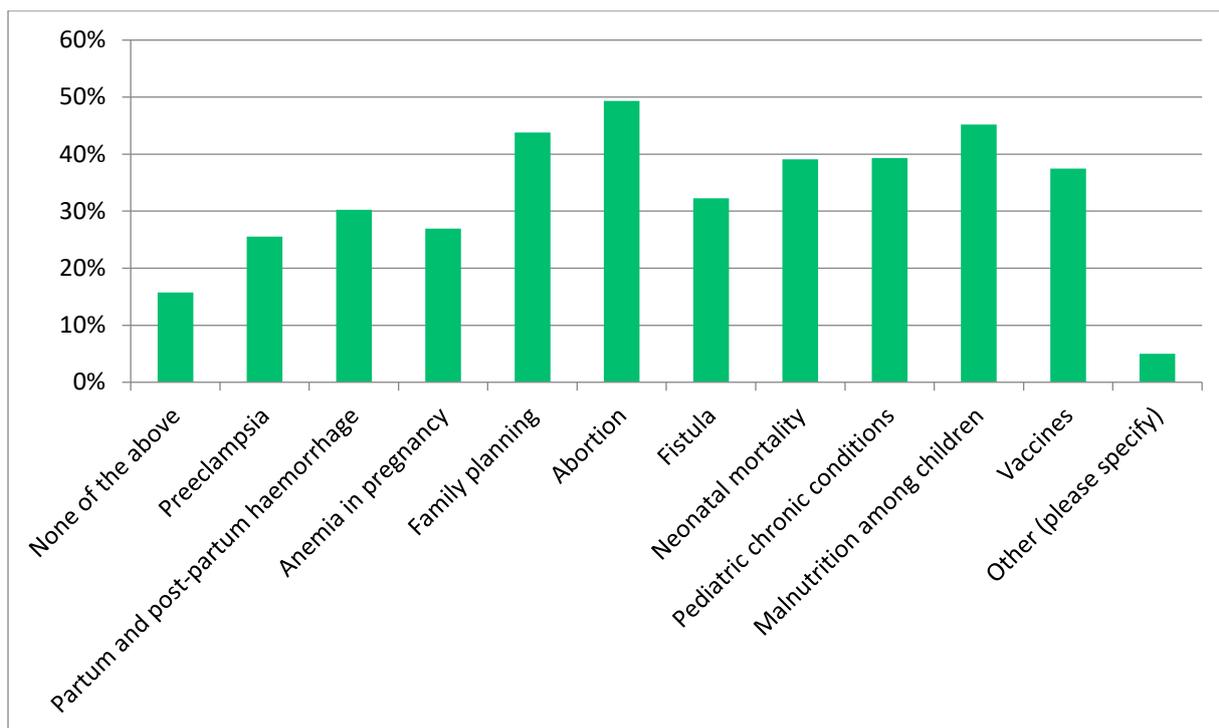
**Question 6. Are you aware of, or have you experienced, problems in relation to access to health products for the medical care of inpatients in any of the following areas?**

The most frequently identified problems in relation to access to health products for medical care in inpatients services were intensive care and palliative care.



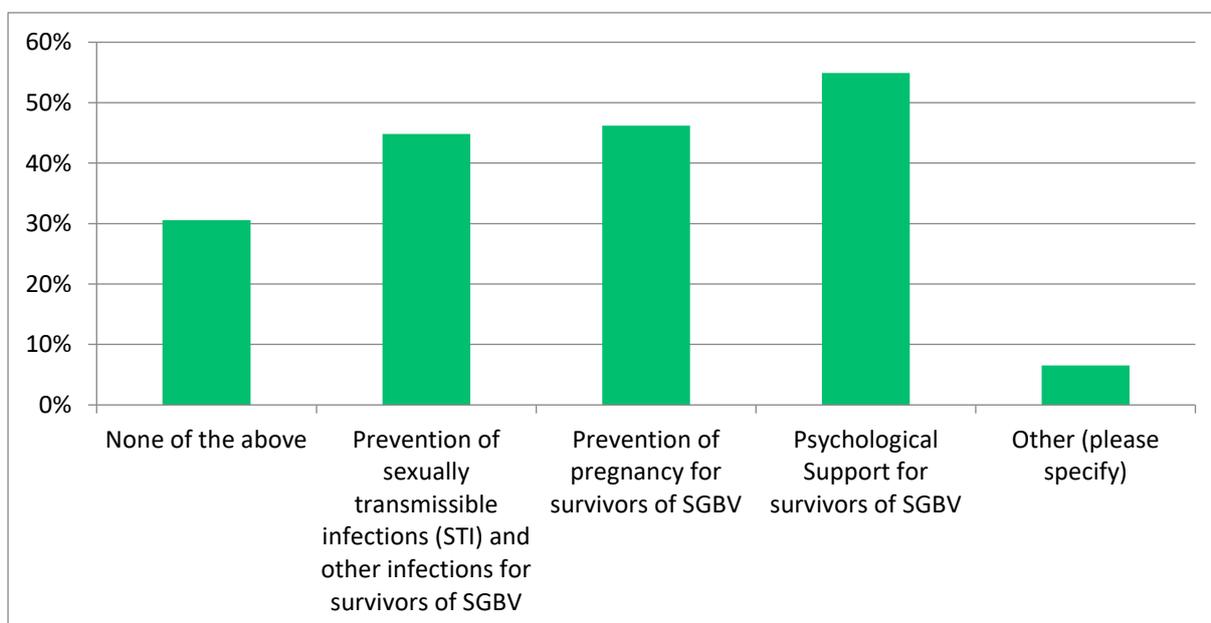
**Question 7. Are you aware of, or have you experienced, problems in relation to access to health products for mother and child care in any of the following areas?**

The most frequently identified problems in relation to access to health products for mother and child care were abortion, family planning and child malnutrition.



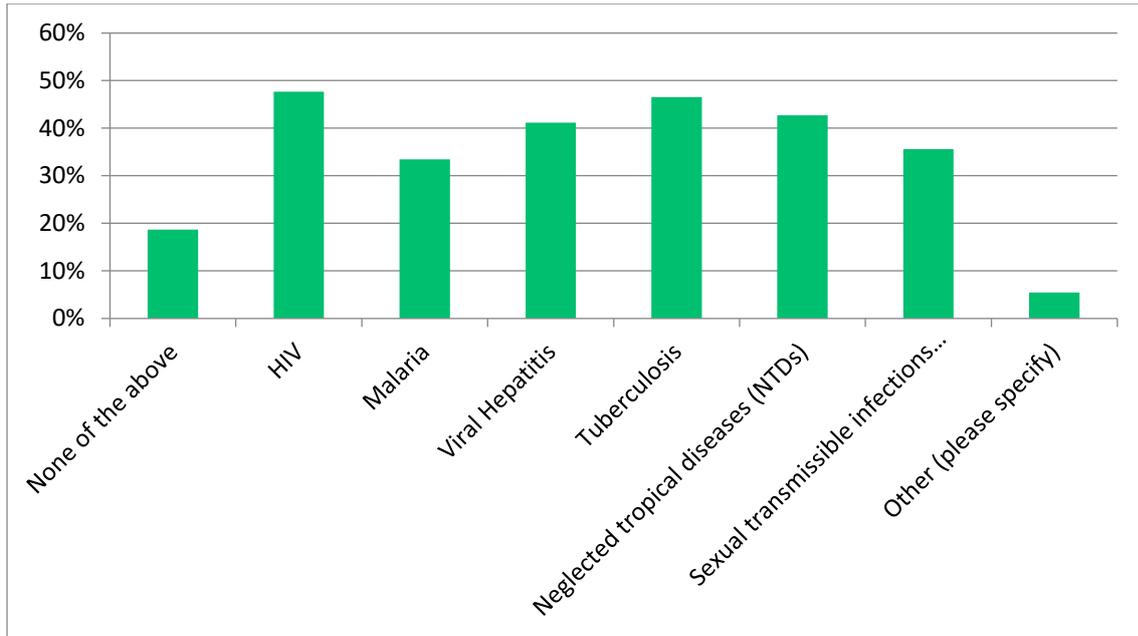
**Question 8. Are you aware of, or have you experienced, problems in relation to access to health products for medical care as a result of sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) in any of the following areas?**

The most frequently identified problems in relation to access to health products for medical care as a result of SGBV were psychological support and prevention of STIs.



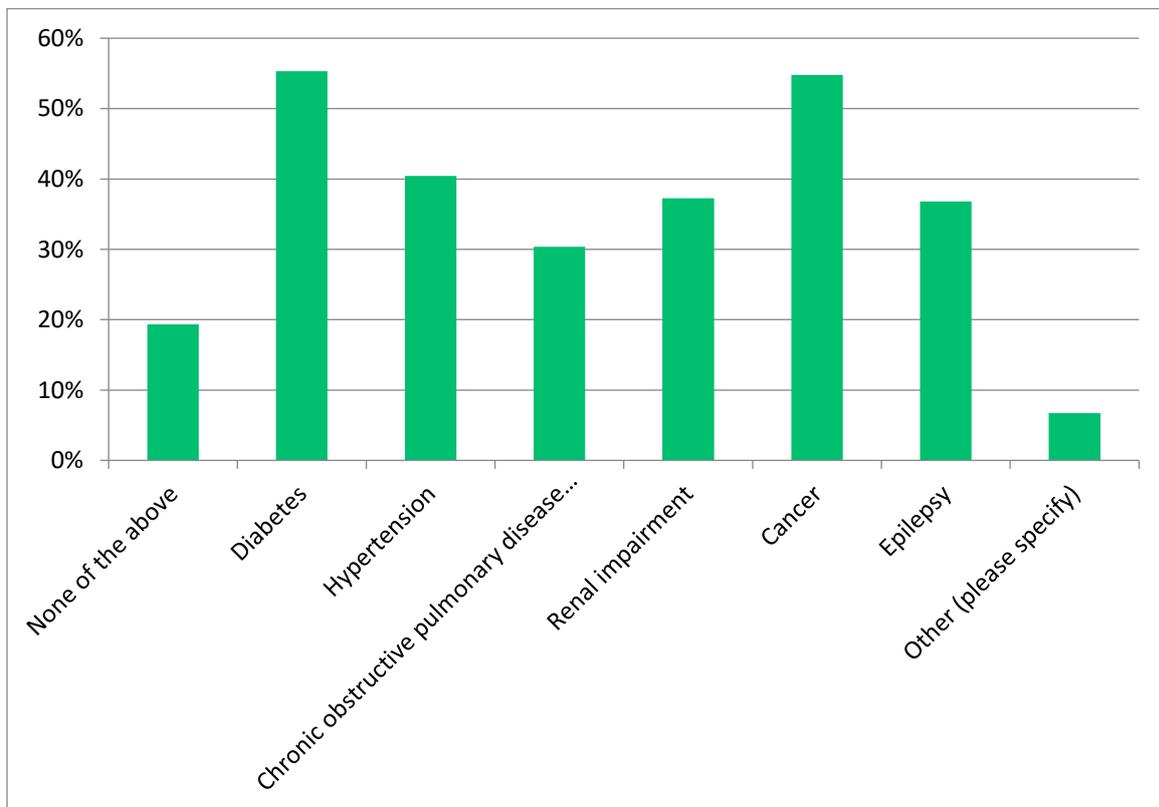
**Question 9. Are you aware of, or have you experienced, problems in relation to access to health products for the medical care of infectious diseases in any of the following areas?**

The most frequently identified problems in relation to access to health products for medical care of infectious diseases were HIV, TB and NTDs.



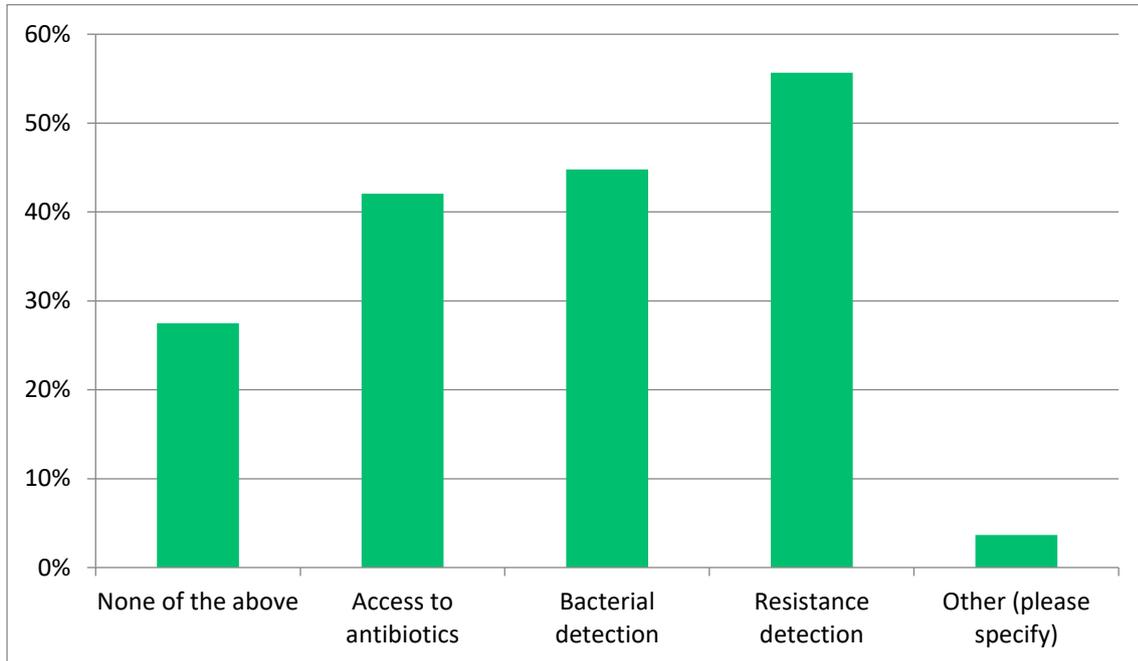
**Question 10. Are you aware of, or have you experienced, problems in relation to access to health products for the medical care of NCDs in any of the following areas?**

The most frequently identified problems in relation to access to health products for medical care for NCDs were diabetes, cancer and hypertension.



**Question 11. Are you aware of, or have you experienced, problems in relation to access to health products for medical care in the context of antimicrobial resistance in any of the following areas?**

The most frequently identified problems in relation to access to health products for medical care in the context of antimicrobial resistance were resistance and bacterial detection and access to antibiotics.



**Question 12. Are you aware of, or have you experienced, problems in relation to access to health products for medical care in poisoning in any of the following areas?**

The most frequently identified problems in relation to access to health products for medical care for poisoning were snake bites.

(Note: snake bite is included in the list of WHO NTDs.)

