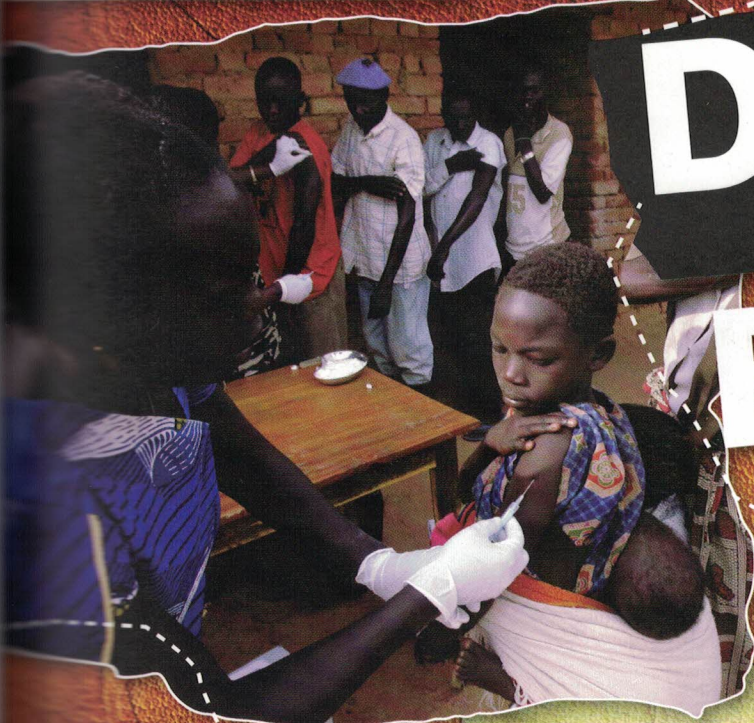


UNDERSTANDING
TEXT
PATTERNS

► Sequence

Talk About It

What do you think the organization



Doctors Without Borders

Diary by staff from
Doctors Without Borders

Since its beginning in 1971, Doctors Without Borders has helped countless people. Do you wonder how the organization knows where to send volunteers and how many to send? The following diary entries show how the organization went into action when large numbers of Sudanese refugees began pouring into eastern Chad in September 2003.

Sequence Text Pattern

In sequence text pattern, there is an order to how things are listed and the order is important. How does the structure of this selection clearly indicate the order of events? How does this selection indicate that the order is important?

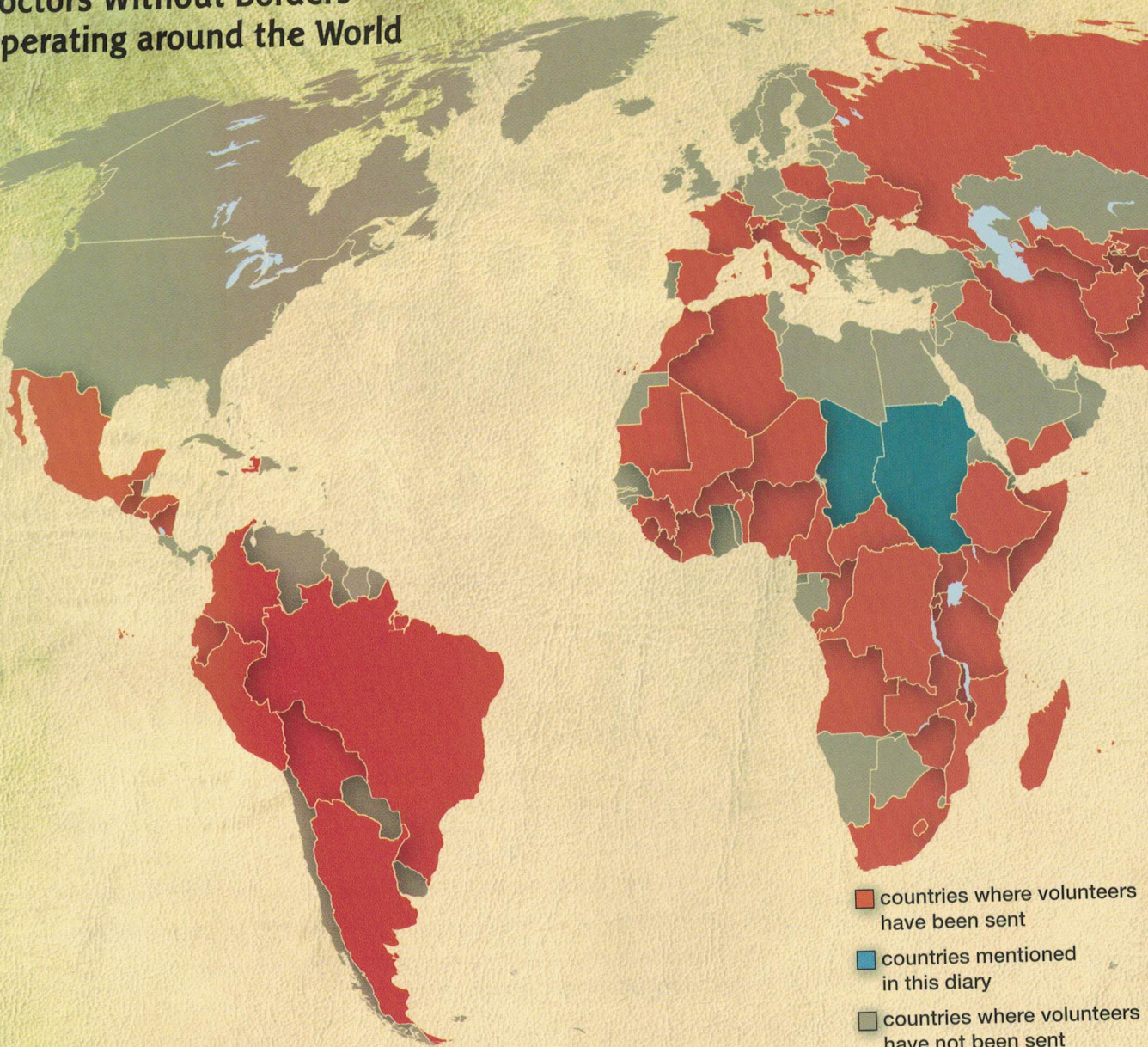


Day 1: Assessing the Needs

Doctors Without Borders sent an exploratory team to determine the condition of Sudanese refugees flooding into eastern Chad. The people were fleeing conflict and targeted attacks against them in the Darfur region of Sudan.

The team found about 11 000 refugees, 75 percent of whom were women and children, living in harsh conditions with little or no access to food, *potable* (drinkable) water, or shelter. They found no local supplies of medicine, and surveys indicated that there was a significant risk of an outbreak of measles or meningitis because very few of the refugees had been vaccinated. Many of the children suffered from malaria and malnutrition.

Doctors Without Borders Operating around the World



- countries where volunteers have been sent
- countries mentioned in this diary
- countries where volunteers have not been sent

Sequence Text Pattern



A sequence text pattern can be signalled using lists and/or keywords. What do these highlighted keywords tell you about the sequence of events?

Day 5: Planning the Response

The assessment team started treating patients **immediately**, and reported back to the Doctors Without Borders team in the capital city of N'Djamena. The health priorities of the refugees had to be addressed **quickly** in order to save lives. An emergency intervention, including vaccinating all children for measles, providing essential health care, increasing the supply of potable water, and planning for the treatment of malnutrition, was implemented. An 11-person team, including doctors, nurses, and **logisticians**, was sent **within days** to carry out the aid operations.



Doctors Without Borders through Time



Sequence Text Pattern

Your purpose for writing can influence the pattern you choose. Certain formats and features are associated with sequence text pattern. Notice that this selection uses both diary entries and a timeline; both are good choices when you want to list a series of events in order.

- 1971** A group of French doctors and journalists creates Doctors Without Borders in response to famine in Nigeria
- 1972** Responds to its first natural disaster, an earthquake in Nicaragua
- 1975** Provides medical care in its first large-scale intervention to help Cambodian refugees
- 1976** First major intervention in a war zone: Lebanon
- 1980** Programs offer medical care to civilians during Soviet Union's invasion of Afghanistan
- 1984** Starts programs to fight malnutrition in response to famine in Ethiopia
- 1986** Organizes mobile clinics and hospitals to aid victims of civil war in Sri Lanka; opens offices in Spain and Luxembourg
- 1990** Opens office in United States
- 1991** Runs largest emergency operation to date, providing care for Kurdish refugees in Turkey, Iran, and Jordan
- 1992** Informs international community of famine in Somalia; opens nutritional programs there
- 1993** Provides aid to victims of civil war in Burundi
- 1994** Issues unprecedented call for military intervention amidst **genocide** in Rwanda
- 1995** Brings medical aid to civilians in Chechnya and nearby refugee camps
- 1996** Launches massive vaccination and treatment program to combat meningitis epidemic in Nigeria
- 1997** Expands programs to help children in Madagascar, Brazil, and the Philippines
- 1998** Fights to help women in Afghanistan get health care
- 1998** Responds to famine in southern Sudan and civil war in Republic of Congo; assists victims of Hurricane Mitch in Honduras, Nicaragua, Guatemala, and El Salvador
- 1999** Launches Campaign for Access to Essential Medicines; provides care in Kosovo, Albania, Macedonia, Montenegro, and Serbia
- 1999** Awarded Nobel Peace Prize
- 2000** Treats victims of civil war in Sierra Leone; expands programs for **asylum seekers** and **undocumented immigrants** in France, Italy, Spain, and Belgium
- 2001** Starts providing medicine to people with AIDS in 7 countries; expands mental health programs

Vocabulary

asylum seeker: a person who flees his or her home to gain shelter or protection in another country

genocide: the deliberate, systematic killing of a whole cultural or racial group

logistician: an expert in the coordination of a complex operation including many people and things

undocumented immigrant: a person who illegally enters a country other than the country of his or her birth



Day 12: Dispatch of Team and Supplies

A chartered cargo plane left from the Doctors Without Borders warehouse carrying 33 t of humanitarian aid and the 11 international volunteers. The cargo contained material to build two health centres, medicine and supplies to treat 10 000 people, feeding kits, and specialized food for malnourished children for a period of three months. The plane also carried three four-wheel drive vehicles and equipment to provide clean water, including pumps, pipes, tanks, and water-purification chemicals.

The plane arrived the same day in N'Djamena. The cargo was unloaded and put on another plane to the closest town, and then it was driven seven hours over very rough terrain to the refugee camp.

Day 20+: Building Health Centres

Doctors Without Borders opened its first health centres in Tine and, four days later, a therapeutic feeding centre for severely malnourished children was built. Four tents were set up to provide medical care for thousands of refugees living in camps outside the town. The tents housed a consultation room, pediatric unit, pharmacy, and in-patient areas.

Reflecting

Analyzing Text Patterns: If you wanted to arrange the timeline not chronologically but by most important events, which three events would you place first? Which three events would you place last?

Metacognition: How does knowing about sequence text pattern help you understand the selection's purpose?

Critical Literacy: What words in this selection clearly reveal the author's perspective on Doctors Without Borders?

2002 Runs largest operation to date to aid famine victims in Angola

2002 Arjan Erkel, member of Doctors Without Borders, is abducted in North Caucasus

2003 Provides care during U.S. invasion of Iraq and to victims of fighting in Liberia and Democratic Republic of Congo

2003 Becomes a partner in new organization to develop medicines for neglected diseases; raises over \$50 million

2004 Runs feeding centres, clinics, and vaccination campaigns in Sudan

2005 Treats 63 000 malnourished children in Niger with a new ready-to-use-therapeutic food (RUTF); provides care to people caught in the violence in Haiti's capital

2006 Sets up surgical program in Jordan to care for war-wounded patients sent from Iraq; returns to Sri Lanka to provide care for people fleeing war in the north

2007 Campaigns against companies blocking access to essential medicines; aid worker, Elsa Serfass, is killed in Central African Republic; calls for international humanitarian response in Chad as violence displaces 150 000 people