



Els Torreele directs the Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) Access Campaign, advocating to ensure that appropriate medicines, vaccines and diagnostics are developed, available, affordable and adapted to people's needs in MSF projects and beyond. Torreele graduated as a bioengineer and obtained a PhD in biomedical sciences from the Free University Brussels. As R&D coordinator at the Flanders Interuniversity Institute for Biotechnology, she worked on innovation policy issues related to R&D agenda-setting, patenting of research, and the commercialization of biotechnology research. In 2000, Torreele joined the MSF Access to Essential Medicines Campaign in its pioneering years as chair of the Drugs for Neglected Diseases Working Group, a think tank to come up with new ideas to foster needs-driven R&D of treatments for diseases that primarily affect developing countries. A key outcome of this group was the creation in 2003 of the Drugs for Neglected Diseases *initiative* (DNDi), a nonprofit drug development organization which she joined as a founding team member. At DNDi, Torreele was responsible for several R&D projects from discovery through clinical trials. In 2009, she joined the Open Society Foundations in New York to lead their Access to Medicines and Innovation work, advancing health and human rights in the area of medicines with a focus on transparency and accountability and supporting civil society voices in national, regional and global policy making that shapes access to medicines and innovation. She returned to MSF in March 2017 as their Access Campaign Executive Director.