

## Financial accountability – Ebola Response in 2014

The Ebola epidemic in West Africa deeply impacted public opinion at an international level. MSF received massive financial support from thousands of donors all over the world. In 2014 alone, 70 million euros were received through private donations, and 15 million through public funds. These contributions allowed MSF to implement one of the biggest emergency responses ever carried out by the organisation, and to adapt its response to the needs of a continuously changing context.

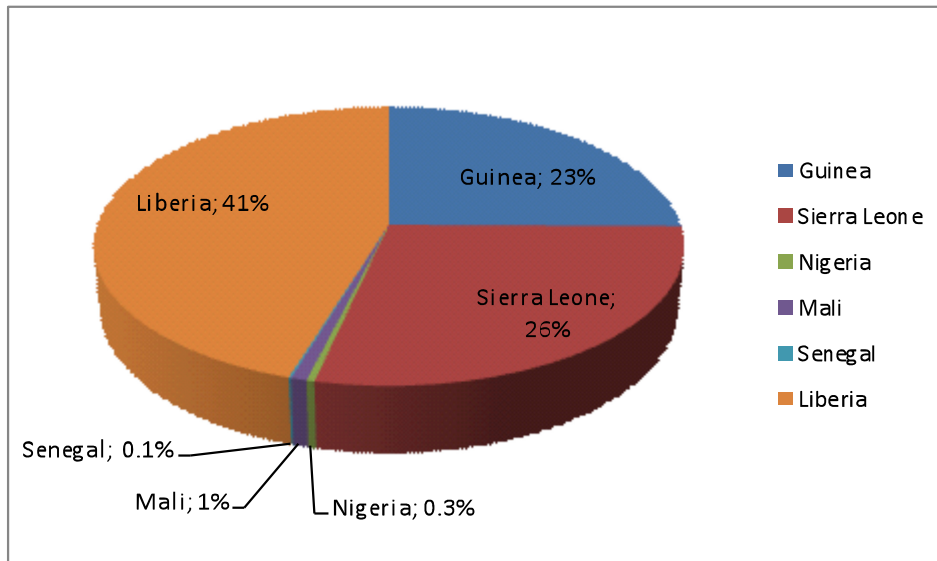
By the end of 2014, MSF had spent 60 million euros on the Ebola response, almost all of it dedicated to operations in the three worst affected countries, Liberia, Sierra Leone and Guinea. A small portion of the donations received were also used to contain the virus in Mali, Nigeria and Senegal.

MSF estimates that another 48 million euros will be spent in 2015. These funds will be used to support the continuing fight against Ebola and address the need to reconstruct the health systems of the three worst affected countries. In view of the magnitude of the emergency, in September 2014 the MSF movement set up a coordination mechanism to match funds collected worldwide with operational needs.

***Total sum of private donations received in 2014: 70,350,577***

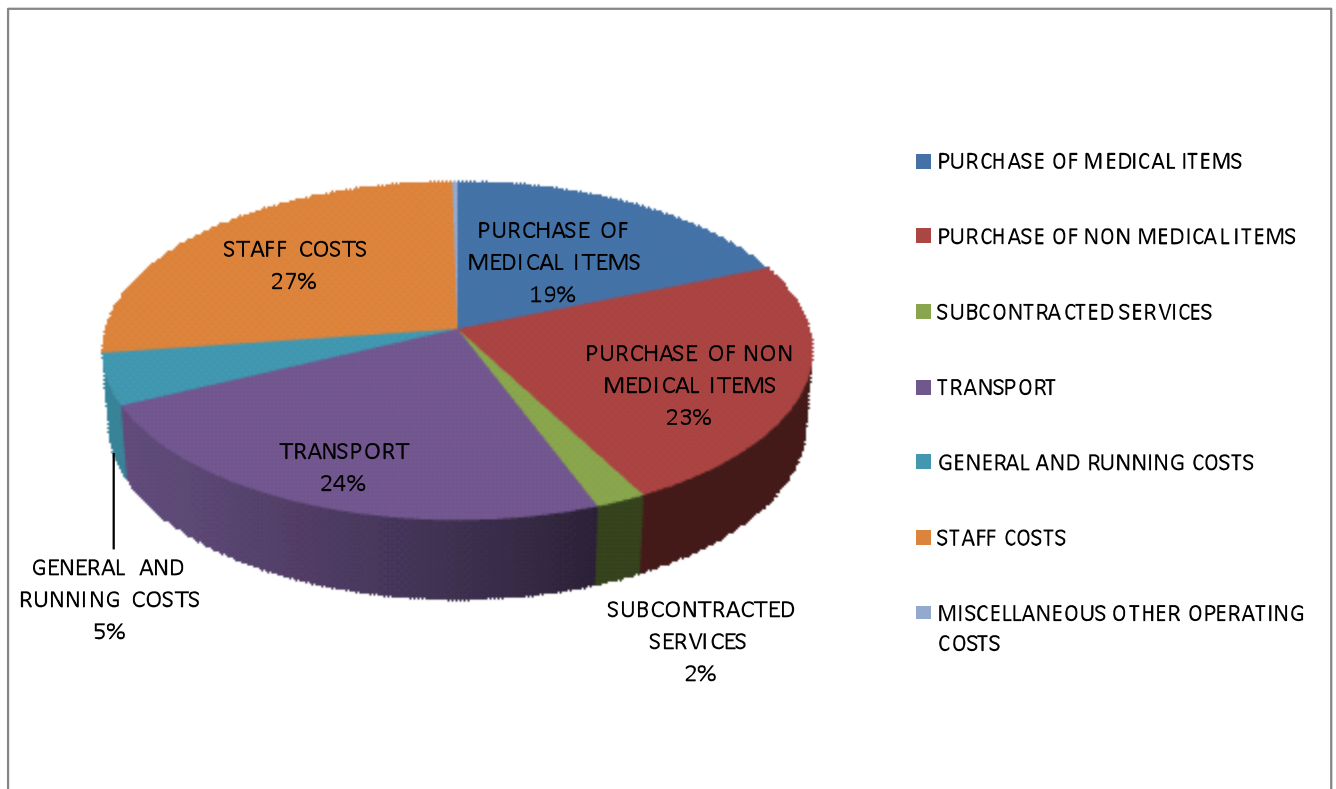
***Total expenditure for 2014: EUR 59'054'680***

<b><i>Summary by country of intervention</i></b>	<b><i>TOTAL – EUR</i></b>
Liberia	<b>26,687,151</b>
Sierra Leone	<b>17,422,229</b>
Guinea	<b>14,155,632</b>
Mali	<b>526,924</b>
Nigeria	<b>202,665</b>
Senegal	<b>60, 079</b>



## Use of expenses through December 2014

<i>Category</i>	<i>Euros</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
<i>Medical items</i>	<b>11,065,828</b>	<b>19%</b>
<i>Non-medical items</i>	<b>13,920,184</b>	<b>23%</b>
<i>International and national staff</i>	<b>15,956,399</b>	<b>27%</b>
<i>Transport</i>	<b>13,925,023</b>	<b>24%</b>
<i>General operational costs</i>	<b>2,897,330</b>	<b>5%</b>
<i>Subcontracted services</i>	<b>1,212,201</b>	<b>2%</b>
<i>Other operational costs</i>	<b>8,963</b>	<b>0,3%</b>



In contrast to previous Ebola epidemics, the outbreak in West Africa started in an area bordering three countries – Guinea, Sierra Leone and Liberia – in a region characterised by a highly mobile population. This posed a significant challenge for MSF teams and required a complex logistical deployment.

In 2014, 14 Ebola management centres were built in the three worst affected countries. Among them, Elwa 3 in Monrovia, the biggest Ebola centre ever built with at the outbreak’s peak a 250-bed capacity. Outreach activities such as contact tracing, health promotion and disinfection of contaminated houses also represented a fundamental part of MSF’s activities, with teams working to detect and prevent the virus within the communities. MSF had to quickly adapt its strategies in the continuous fight against the virus and its rapid spread.

Correspondingly, 23 per cent of total expenses in 2014 were dedicated to the purchase of non-medical items, such as construction materials for the centres, water and sanitation materials, and other logistical means.

Nineteen per cent of expenses were used for the purchase of medical items. Although the drugs and laboratory materials required in Ebola epidemics are not very costly, a huge investment is required in terms of medical consumable materials such as personal protective equipment (suits, goggles, gloves, rubber boots, masks, etc). Due to the need of medical staff to frequently change outfits to avoid contamination, more than 300 protective suits were required each day for a facility that cared for 100 patients.

Transportation of medical and non-medical material as well as international flights for MSF staff accounted for 24 per cent of 2014 expenses.

Ebola responses are typically very intense in terms of human resources. The duration of frontline field assignments during this Ebola outbreak was much shorter than usual – at the height of the outbreak, assignments for international staff would last a maximum of six weeks. This was to ensure that staff remained alert and did not become too exhausted. Since March 2014, more than 5000 staff worked as part of the Ebola response. One year on from the beginning of the outbreak, many of the international staff have returned to the field, whilst the national staff are still there and have been there all along. All are fighting against Ebola and its consequences.