

Annual report 2015



Foreword

2015: a year of recovery

We can look back on a special and exciting year in which our organisation took important steps. 2015 was exceptional in many respects. The battle against Ebola continued and in November, Sierra Leone was declared Ebola-free for the first time. Unfortunately, the virus proved to have left the country on paper only. The consequences of Ebola are still being painfully felt in the health care sector, which is extremely fragile throughout the country. Despite all the setbacks and the fears of Ebola, we in the Lion Heart Medical Centre (LMHC) gradually saw a sharp increase in the number of patients. Confidence in our hospital remains high in Sierra Leone.

In the past year, the organisation also took steps forward on other fronts. The original profile of Lion Heart and the international non-governmental organisation (INGO) in Sierra Leone was changed during the year; the Nedoil palm oil plant was officially transferred to Natural Habitats and agreements were reached for the transfer of the hydropower plant.

Lion Heart is now focusing fully on preparing the LHMC to become self-sufficient; a fine challenge for the coming years.

A strong organisation

Lion Heart looks ahead to the future with confidence. That confidence is based on the knowledge that the organisation can rely on a strong team on location and a loyal support base in the Netherlands.

However, in order to be able to continue to provide good health care in the coming years, we must anticipate changes.

One of the pillars of our policy for the coming years is to seek partnerships with related organisations. Benefits can be realised in this way in the fields of knowledge, networking and cost savings. We are also seeking possibilities together for generating more structural income flows and are aiming for training and (higher) education of our local employees. After all, education is the first step towards a better, independent future. Our ultimate goal is for the hospital to become self-supporting. We still have a long way

to go, but thanks to Erdi Huizenga and her team, each year this goal draws a little closer.

Many people support Lion Heart. We are extremely grateful for this. Without their support, we would be left empty-handed. We would like to offer our very grateful thanks to everyone who has made a contribution to the work of Lion Heart in the past year. This gives us a strong sense of encouragement and we look towards the future with hope.



*Pien Bax-Engelsman
Director Lion Heart Foundation*

Sierra Leone and Lion Heart

Sierra Leone

First a bloody civil war, then a few years later, an unprecedentedly widespread outbreak of Ebola; Sierra Leone has had a hard time of it in recent years. With an average life expectancy of 50 and one of the highest mother and infant mortality rates in the world, the country remains extremely vulnerable. Sierra Leone ranks among the countries at the bottom of the United Nations Human Development Index, in position 181. Nevertheless, the country has high potential. The image of warring citizens, dying Ebola patients and starving children is therefore far too one-sided. Little is written about the resilience and lust for life of Sierra Leoneans. In our hospital, that lust for life is clearly visible: among patients and also among our staff. They are highly motivated people who work hard for a better future for themselves, their families and their community.



Lion Heart Foundation

The Lion Heart Foundation (LHF) has worked since 2006 for good health care, employment and education in Sierra Leone: three important pillars that form the basis for countering poverty. Within that framework, we focus on strengthening self-support in the local population, with the goal of making ourselves redundant.

Organisation

Small in the Netherlands, big in Sierra Leone. LHF is an efficient organisation with short lines of communication to the work floor in Yele. This enables us to respond quickly and flexibly to current situations in the country. We believe in the power of personal contact. The organisation is transparently organised and has high levels of knowledge and experience. We are convinced that with education and good health care, we can contribute towards a sustainable and self-supporting community. We involve the local government and community in our plans as far as possible, so that we are also highly effective on the spot.

Board of the Lion Heart Foundation

In 2015, the composition of the LHF Board changed. Medical advisor H.F. Veen and Treasurer P.H.M. Deiters handed over their Board duties to Ton R.H. Hilkemeijer and Gerard Vesseur respectively during the year under review. The voluntary Board thus consists of:
Joanne Meyboom-Fernhout, Chairwoman
Gerard Vesseur, Treasurer
Ton Hilkemeijer, Medical Affairs

Lion Heart Foundation team in the Netherlands

Pien Bax-Engelsman is responsible for the daily management of the organisation. As the Director, she coordinates the activities and processes and is responsible for the Foundation's day-to-day operations. Maciel Toorenvliet-Stoker, a self-employed marketing communication advisor, supports her in this on a part-time basis. Ad Olivier began work as a voluntary financial controller on 1 December.



The team is also supported by the members of the Board and a number of loyal volunteers. In March of the year under review, Johan Luijting, a familiar supporter, travelled to Yele as financial controller. Piet Bakker also visited the hospital, together with Pien Bax. As technical advisor, he focused primarily on the water supplies and the ambition to build a solar panel park on the site of the hospital. In the Netherlands, Marleen Peeters worked for the foundation on various fronts. We are enormously grateful to these volunteers for their contributions!

Team in Sierra Leone

At the start of 2015, due to the Ebola outbreak, the medical team in Sierra Leone consisted of a larger group of expats: tropical physicians Erdi Huizenga and Nick Zwinkels were joined by Carolien van der Ende and her husband Jacob van der Ende. Dutch nurse Anneke de Boer and Filipino nurse Maria Estrella Hernandez supported them. In April, after a year, we bade farewell to Nick Zwinkels. We would like to express our appreciation for his efforts, enthusiasm and commitment to Lion Heart. Carolien van der Ende took over his role, while her husband Jacob addressed various tasks in the LHMC.

In April 2015, Ruurd van Rooijen, in addition to his duties as Facility Manager of the LHMC, was appointed Country Director and thus become responsible for the projects in Sierra Leone.

Recommendations Committee

The membership of the Recommendations Committee remained unchanged in 2015 and consists of Messrs. Ahmed Aboutaleb, Frits Bolkestein, Felix Rottenberg and Atto Mensah, Mrs. Mariette Opstelten-Dutilh and Mrs. Willemijn Verloop.



The Lion Heart Medical Centre

Ebola

The first half of 2015 was still dominated primarily by the battle against Ebola. In addition to addressing this dreadful infectious disease, the hospital was one of the few in Sierra Leone that was also open for regular health care.

In order to be able to admit patients with suspected Ebola, the nursing department of the LHMC was converted into a patient-friendly isolation ward with 19 beds at the end of 2014. From that time on, the hospital was an official Ebola Holding Centre. Patients who tested positive were transferred to an Ebola treatment centre, while patients in whom no Ebola was found after two tests were transferred to the 'ordinary' nursing ward in the LHMC.



The original nursing ward had room for 38 patients. In order to compensate for this loss of capacity, the maternity ward was converted into a nursing ward and tents were set up on the hospital site. As a result, the hospital had an average capacity of 50 beds in 2015.



Although few patients were coming to the hospital at the start of 2015, for fear of Ebola, the numbers gradually rose again. With the diminution in the number of infections, confidence in the hospital rose. The population dared to seek medical assistance more often again. In July 2015, the epidemic was under control and the number of patients in the LHMC was back at the level before the outbreak. In total, the LHMC saw more than 10,000 patients in 2015 and 1,800 patients were admitted. More than 500 surgical interventions were performed.

From the time at which the LHMC opened again on 17 November 2014 to the first time that Sierra Leone was declared Ebola-free, on 7 November 2015, more than 8,000 patients were examined at the LHMC. About 10% of these were tested for Ebola and 20 patients tested positive for the disease and were transferred to an Ebola treatment centre.

Employees

With more than 45 local employees, the LHMC creates a large part of the employment in its chiefdom. Almost all LHMC employees come from the vicinity of Yele. They work under the supervision of two Dutch tropical physicians. In early 2015, the team was expanded with the arrival of two additional tropical physicians, Carolien and Jacob van der Ende and a nurse, Anneke de Boer.



Both tropical physicians stayed for the entire year, Carolien in order to replace tropical physician Nick Zwinkels, who returned to the Netherlands in March as planned, at the same time as Anneke. During the year, Jacob van der Ende worked for the LHMC on various fronts, both as a physician and as a researcher. Towards the end of the year, we bade farewell to our Filipino nurse Maria Estrella Hernandez after a stay of more than eight years. She had been there since the birth of the LHMC and had meant a great deal to the hospital and the community of Yele. We are very grateful for all Maria has done for Lion Heart and she is greatly missed. She found a new challenge at a clinic near Freetown, which enables us to keep in touch with her.

Education

Education is the key to sustainable development in a country, which makes it the most effective investment. We believe that education can help in a structural manner. It makes employees more independent and enables them to make a more effective contribution. Education also benefits not only the individual, but also the entire community. It is a sustainable form of poverty control. There are various educational activities at the hospital. For example, there is 'éducation permanente': continual retraining and upgrading in order to increase the knowledge of our employees.



During the Ebola epidemic, all employees received regular training in infection prevention control (IPC) and general health information. Attention to hygiene is and will remain essential here. During the morning transfer, attention was also devoted to various matters such as pregnancy and birth, HIV/AIDS, Ebola symptoms and malnutrition.

Public awareness and information also form part of the hospital's tasks. For this, the hospital works intensively with the local radio station Radio Gbonkolenken. Every Saturday morning, employees (from physicians to nursing assistants) are present in the studio to draw attention to a medical topic and answer questions from listeners.

The LHMC also offered training placements to community health (CHO) students (from the Njala University) and CHOs from the surgical training programme (STP), in cooperation with Masanga Hospital and the CapaCare organisation. Jobs were also offered to nurses in training from government institutions.

For the future, we are thinking in terms of more cooperation with both the government and Masanga Hospital and other non-governmental organisations (NGOs).

At the end of 2015, we set up the Lion Heart Study Fund, in the conviction that education contributes towards self-sufficiency. Our hospital employs many talented local nurses who are very keen to continue learning. Unfortunately, this is usually not feasible due to lack of funding. With the Study Fund, we aim to give these employees prospects of a better future. This primarily concerns the motivated (senior) employees, who are given opportunities to continue studying with support from Lion Heart. An important condition is that after graduating, they actually deploy the knowledge obtained at the LHMC in Yele. In 2016, we are aiming to raise funds for these employees and hope to be able to send the first candidates to university at the end of the year.



Our partnership with the Smarter Hospital NGO is a logical follow-up to the investments we have been making for some time in training and education. We are focusing together on the renovation of the five schools in Yele. All schools have now been renovated and toilets and water supplies have been installed. In 2016, the school furnishings and educational materials will be replaced and expanded.

In addition to education and training, we also focused on research in 2015. Together with Prof. Martin Grobusch, who lectures in Tropical Medicine at the University of Amsterdam and is affiliated to the Amsterdam Academic Medical Centre, the Lion Heart Medical Research Unit was formed in order to conduct clinical (scientific) research. Prof.

Grobusch has broad experience with such research in developing countries and focuses primarily in this on prevention, diagnosis, clinical aspects and treatment of malaria. Jacob van der Ende, who was sent to Yele as a volunteer during the Ebola crisis, enthusiastically took up the role of researcher. We hope and expect the research at the research unit to contribute towards further improvements in health care in Yele and the surrounding areas.

Other results

Clean water and good hygiene are literally a matter of life and death when it comes to prevention of infection.



During the Ebola epidemic, we were able to install one more water well with international aid, in order to guarantee a continual supply of clean water at the hospital.

This was realised next to the existing water tower. With the aid of a special solar-powered pump, the water is transferred to large storage tanks. A UV filtering system, which kills bacteria, improves the water quality. With two water wells, the hospital is now entirely self-sufficient in terms of clean water. And we are very proud of that!

Another gift was a 16.5 KVA diesel generator that provides a back-up power supply for the entire hospital. This is a major benefit, which limits dependence on the hydropower plant.



In addition, the LHMC blood bank has now been fitted with solar panels that power the cooling system. This guarantees the continuity of power supplies for this important facility.

For safety and hygiene for patients and employees, extra sand was deposited at the hospital site in order to prevent big water puddles as a result of extreme rainfall and potholes caused by drought. This makes the tents and toilets more easily accessible. This elevation also means that fewer puddles of stagnant water, a source of infection, remain. The above projects were applied for, set up and implemented under the inspiring management of our Facility Manager and local Country Director Ruurd van Rooijen. Ruurd works for Lion Heart on a voluntary basis and we owe him a great debt of gratitude.



Finally, a long-cherished wish became a reality during the past year. After a long period of dependence on the Nedoil satellite for an Internet connection, the hospital acquired its own connection.

Our thanks go to Matthijs Altena, who installed the network, and to Sander Maarleveld and Rick Gelderblom for their expertise prior to and during the implementation of this project.

With a well-functioning Internet connection, our employees can contact the office in the Netherlands, present medical questions to other physicians and communicate with the home front (still) faster and more effectively.



Financial review

The Lion Heart Foundation (LHF) is an independent foundation with the status of a public benefit organisation (ANBI). As a result, donations to the Foundation are tax-deductible.

The following figures relate to the tenth financial year of the LHF. The Foundation was formed on 6 April 2006.

Statement of income and expenditure

Income

A total of €324,713 was received in 2015 (2014: €798,133) for financing of the operating costs and specific projects, with expenditure amounting to €290,974.

Expenditure

The Board of the Lion Heart Foundation receives no remuneration. The management is performed by an employee with the support of one part-time employee. Salaries were not adjusted in 2015. Both the Board and the management can charge expenses on the basis of a claim. During the 2015 financial year, the office was moved to the home address of the Director, for a minimal monthly fee.

The general expenses concern the costs of formation, fund-raising, website maintenance, etc.

LHF aims to keep management and administrative expenses as low as possible. The expenses rose slightly in 2015, to 12.7%, due to the temporary deployment of a paid administrator.

Once again, various employees also worked for LHF in Sierra Leone in 2015. At least two Dutch tropical physicians worked full-time in Sierra Leone, as well as a Dutch country director/facility manager. The other employees in Sierra Leone were of local origin.

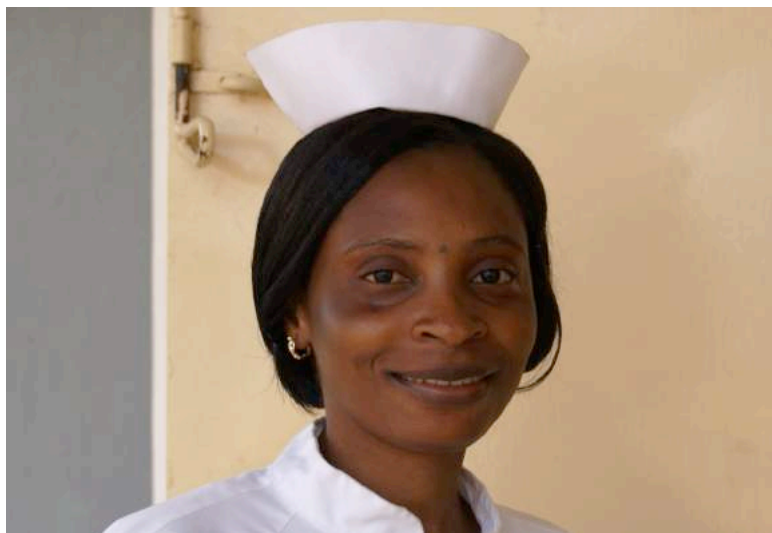
The following amounts were spent on the projects in Sierra Leone during 2015:

Expenditure on projects	2015	2014
Lion Heart Medical Centre	221,197	252,23
Ebola control	7,039	202,38
Miscellaneous	<u> </u>	<u>35,61</u>
	228,236	490,22

	2015		2014	
Income				
Donations and gifts		324,713		798,133
Expenditure				
Expenditure on objective	78.4%	228,236	86.6%	490,229
Fund-raising	8.8%	25,688	6.3%	35,392
Management and administration expenses	12.7%	37,050	7.2%	40,534
Total expenses		290,974		566,155
Operating result		<u>33,739</u>		<u>231,978</u>

Balance Sheet

	2015	2014
Assets		
Various assets	1	1
Receivables	3,392	-
Cash and cash equivalents	304,119	278,629
	307,512	278,630
Liabilities		
Reserves	11,212	9,009
Specific funds	286,923	255,387
Current liabilities	9,377	14,234
	307,512	278,630



Stichting Lion Heart Foundation
Oranjelaan 15
3062 BN ROTTERDAM

Controleverklaring van de onafhankelijke accountant

Bijgesloten samengevatte jaarrekening, bestaande uit de samengevatte balans per 31 december 2015 en de samengevatte staat van baten en lasten met bijhorende toelichting, zijn ontleend aan de gecontroleerde jaarrekening van Stichting Lion Heart Foundation te Rotterdam per 31 december 2015. Wij hebben een goedkeurend oordeel verstrekt bij die jaarrekening in onze controleverklaring van 14 juni 2016.

De samengevatte jaarrekening bevat niet alle toelichtingen die zijn vereist op basis van de in Nederland geldende RJ-Richtlijn 650 Fondsenwervende instellingen. Het kennisnemen van de samengevatte jaarrekening kan derhalve niet in de plaats treden van het kennisnemen van de gecontroleerde jaarrekening van Stichting Lion Heart Foundation te Rotterdam.

Verantwoordelijkheid van het bestuur

Het bestuur is verantwoordelijk voor het opstellen van een samenvatting van de gecontroleerde jaarrekening in overeenstemming met de in Nederland geldende RJ-Richtlijn 650 Fondsenwervende instellingen.

Verantwoordelijkheid van de accountant

Onze verantwoordelijkheid is het geven van een oordeel over de samengevatte jaarrekening op basis van onze werkzaamheden, uitgevoerd in overeenstemming met Nederlands Recht, waaronder de Nederlandse Standaard 810, "Opdrachten om te rapporteren betreffende samengevatte financiële overzichten".

Oordeel

Naar ons oordeel is de samengevatte jaarrekening in alle van materieel belang zijnde aspecten consistent met de gecontroleerde jaarrekening van Stichting Lion Heart Foundation te Rotterdam en in overeenstemming met de in Nederland geldende RJ-Richtlijn 650 Fondsenwervende instellingen.

Was getekend,
Sliedrecht, 14 juni 2016
WITH accountants B.V.
P. Alblas RA



2015

The year in pictures



Outlook with focus on 'Healthy Independence'

Lion Heart's mission is to create a healthy and self-supporting community. In order to realise this, the focus in the coming years will lie on working towards self-sustainability of the hospital in Yele. Education will play a crucial role in this. This will involve investing in the education and training of the hospital staff, both internal and external. Promising hospital employees will be offered an opportunity to pursue follow-up training, as e.g. midwives or clinical health officer at the university and new employees will be trained internally as nurse's aides.

Two new projects are in the pipeline in 2016: the construction of a permanent isolation unit in order to be able to nurse suspected cases separately right away in the event of future outbreaks of infectious diseases such as Ebola, and the construction of a solar panel park in order to make the hospital entirely self-sufficient with regard to power supply.

Further fund-raising efforts will be made in the Netherlands. Among other things, we aim to organise an annual large-scale event to which companies can invite their business relations.

Possibilities for partnerships with other (larger) NGOs active in health care in West Africa will also be investigated further, both in the Netherlands and in Sierra Leone.





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BIC TRIONL 2U

Chamber of commerce: 24393793 in Rotterdam
Lion Heart Foundation has the ANBI status

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