

Who We Are

Fistula Foundation is the global leader in treating fistula and other childbirth injuries that leave women incontinent, ashamed, and—all too often—shunned by their communities. We believe that no woman should lead a life of misery simply for trying to bring a child into the world.

Since 2009, our organization has provided more than 90,000 life-transforming surgeries to women across sub-Saharan Africa and Asia.

We are an organization built and led by women, and we empower local leaders in all countries where we operate.



Andrew Kelvin Rutto (right), a fistula nurse at our partner Gynocare Women's and Fistula Hospital in Eldoret, Kenya, interacts with a fistula patient.

What We Do

Obstetric fistula is a childbirth injury that occurs when a woman has a prolonged, obstructed labor but is unable to access emergency obstetric care, such as a C-section. As a result, the woman can develop a fistula—a hole between her vagina and her bladder or rectum. If left untreated, a fistula will cause a woman to leak urine, stool, or both for the rest of her life.

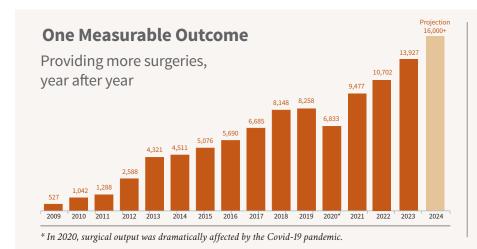
At least one million women suffer needlessly from this devastating condition across sub-Saharan Africa and Asia. Fistula is curable through a surgery that succeeds in restoring a woman's health and hope in the vast majority of cases.

We partner with local teams in more than 30 countries to find women in need of fistula repair surgery, provide care free of charge, and support women's reintegration into society.

How We Work

We pursue a dual strategy to end the suffering of women with childbirth injuries.

- First, we partner with local community organizations, hospitals, and surgical teams to identify and treat women with fistula.
- Second, under our Fistula Foundation Treatment Network model, we build comprehensive treatment networks that work on a country-by-country basis to provide integrated outreach, training, and reintegration services.



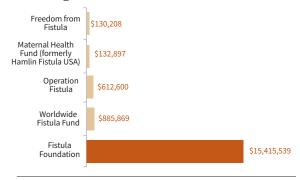
Our Impact Since 2009 90,000+ surgeries provided to women in need 140+ partner hospitals and community-based organizations supported Since 2009 4 treatment networks built—in Kenya, Zambia, the DRC and Tanzania

Where We Work We partner with more than 80 local hospitals and community organizations in 31 countries to help them identify and treat women with fistula and tears. Countries with Fistula Foundation Treatment Networks Countries where Fistula Foundation partners operate

We Lead the Field

We are, by far, the leading funder in the field of fistula treatment. Over the past decade, the U.S. Agency for International Development and the United Nations Population Fund have decreased their spending on fistula care. And no other NGO has made a comparable investment in fistula treatment. That leaves us.

The Global Leader Investing more in fistula care



Fundraising revenue as reported in each organization's 2022 U.S. tax return.

Our Model Gets Results

We create and operate integrated, comprehensive networks of care that work to eliminate women's suffering on a country-by-country basis. Since 2014, we have launched networks in four countries.

- **Kenya** (2014)
- Zambia (2017)
- Democratic Republic of Congo (2022)
- **Tanzania** (2023)

Key Results from Published, Peer-Reviewed Research

During its first six years of operation, FFTN in Kenya achieved the following:

- 90.5% of surgeries resulted in an outcome of "fistula closed and woman continent at discharge."
- 85% of women treated by FFTN partners reported being able to fully socialize, work, and function normally one year after surgery (compared with 18% who reported normal functioning pre-surgery).

Pollaczek, L., El Ayadi, A.M. & Mohamed, H.C. Building a country-wide Fistula Treatment Network in Kenya-results from the first six years (2014-2020). BMC Health Serv Res 22, 280 (2022).

"Fistula Foundation runs a high-quality, cost-effective global program, which I am proud to support."

— Peter Singer, founder of The Life You Can Save











Each year since 2006, we have received the highest rating from every nonprofit sector watchdog group.