No Woman Left Behind

2017 was a year of tremendous growth for Fistula Foundation, and none of it would have been possible without donors like you. Thanks to your support, we now fund more fistula surgeries than any other organization, and to date, have partnered with more than 150 hospitals and clinics in 31 countries. Every day we are inspired by your generosity, and our shared belief that no woman should be forced to live a life of misery and isolation simply for trying to bring a child into the world.

In 2014, with seed funding from Astellas Pharma EMEA, we launched a countrywide treatment program in Kenya, and built an integrated network of hospitals, surgeons, and community outreach organizations. This groundbreaking model delivered tremendous results—in just three years, we provided thousands of surgeries, trained six surgeons, and conducted over 10,000 outreach events.

We seized the momentum in 2017 and launched a second nationwide program in Zambia. Thanks to generous support from Johnson & Johnson, we made strong progress in our first year, training two surgeons and bringing together four hospitals. Between the two networks in Kenya and Zambia, over 3,800 women have already received treatment.

This life-changing work wouldn’t happen without donors like you! Your gifts have helped transform the lives of more than 31,000 women across Africa and Asia. We are deeply grateful, but we know there is still much work to be done. For every woman who receives surgery, an estimated 50 more wait. With continued focus, together, we can end fistula in a generation.

Your Donations Transform Women’s Lives

We are committed to keeping our operating expenses low: 80% of our income goes directly to work on the ground in Africa and Asia, delivering life-transforming surgeries for women in need. Our staff and board work efficiently and effectively, and our finances are transparent. Every audit, tax return and annual report is posted on our website.

We consistently receive the highest ratings from leading industry watchdog groups, assuring supporters like you that your hard-earned donations are used wisely. It is an honor to be listed among the small number of charities recommended by ethicist Professor Peter Singer’s The Life You Can Save. We are also thankful for champions like New York Times columnist Nicholas Kristof, who consistently and compassionately brings attention to the plight of obstetric fistula survivors.

Help give a woman a new life.

Fistula Foundation works to end the suffering caused by the childbirth injury obstetric fistula, because we believe no woman should endure a life of misery and isolation simply for trying to bring a child into the world.

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Damsa* became pregnant when she was just fourteen. She planned to have her baby at home, like most women in her remote Afghan village. Damsa labored for two days, but her family could not afford a car to take her to the hospital. On foot, it took them four hours to reach a health facility. By that time, her baby had died, and she was left incontinent. Damsa’s husband abandoned her, but thankfully, her parents refused to give up hope for her recovery. After years of seeking help, they eventually heard that treatment was available through CURE International Hospital, Fistula Foundation’s long-term partner in Afghanistan. Damsa underwent successful surgery and returned home, ready to start a new life.

*Name changed for privacy

31 Countries Supported by Fistula Foundation Across Africa and Asia Since 2009

31,718 Life-Changing Fistula Surgeries Provided Since 2009

We continue to focus on training surgeons and equipping hospitals, to deliver thousands more life-changing surgeries to women in need.