



FISTULA
FOUNDATION

2025 ANNUAL REPORT



**Because of You,
We're Reaching New Heights
and Restoring More Lives**

In 2025, you helped us provide 19,577 life-changing surgeries—2,000 more than our target of 17,500 surgeries, and 83% more than in 2022. That is extraordinary.



BECAUSE OF YOU

Sadeya was able to access the care that freed her from fistula.

In 2025, you chose to act, based on a belief that women whom you'll likely never meet deserve to be healthy and whole. Sadeya's entire family and community had given up on her. But you were there for her, and women like her.

The women our partners treated in 2025 were, on average, 27 years old at the time of injury. This means that each woman healed regained about 40 years of healthy life.

For a woman like Sadeya, that's 40 years of living fistula-free, able to work, to care for her family, and to move freely and confidently through the world.



BECAUSE OF YOU

Thousands of women became part of a healing community.



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Freedom from Fistula, Madagascar: Ziane (left) and Temafety (right) both endured fistula for about a decade. Here, they heal together in the ward at Fistula Care Center.

A woman's healing starts when she arrives at the hospital and finds that she is not alone. This is often the first time she meets other women who, like her, are suffering from obstetric fistula. In 2025, thousands of women experienced the relief of this homecoming, because of you.



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Kwali Rehabilitation Center, Nigeria: Chief Program Officer Dr. Esther Njoroge-Muriithi (middle left) and CEO Pam Lowney (middle right) celebrate the graduation of fistula survivors from a reintegration program during the launch of the Fistula Foundation Treatment Network in Nigeria in October 2025.



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Vangulula Foundation, Angola: Rose (left), an 18-year-old fistula patient who suffered with both rectovaginal fistula and vesicovaginal fistula, laughs with a nurse at Dr. Manuel Pedro Azancot de Menezes Maternal-Infant Hospital in Luanda.



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CoRSU, Uganda: Director of Programs Kee Rajagopal (right) shares a moment with a fistula patient recovering in the ward during a monitoring and evaluation site visit to CoRSU Hospital.



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FisPro, DRC: Dr. Lucien Wasingya Kasareka (left) checks up on Tekazaya, a fistula patient who believed she was the victim of sorcery until Dr. Lucien repaired her fistula.

BECAUSE OF YOU

Our countrywide treatment networks are expanding access across the globe.

Our robust, countrywide treatment networks in Kenya, Zambia, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Tanzania, and Nigeria are finding women faster and creating sustainable access to care. Today, these networks account for 60% of our total surgical output and represent our blueprint for expanding timely access to care.

In October 2025, we launched our fifth countrywide treatment network, the Fistula Foundation Treatment Network in Nigeria—the country with Africa’s highest burden of obstetric fistula. Through a public-private partnership, we’re able to deliver care at a significantly lower cost, enabling us to fund even more life-transforming treatment in Nigeria.



Supercharging Surgeries in the DRC

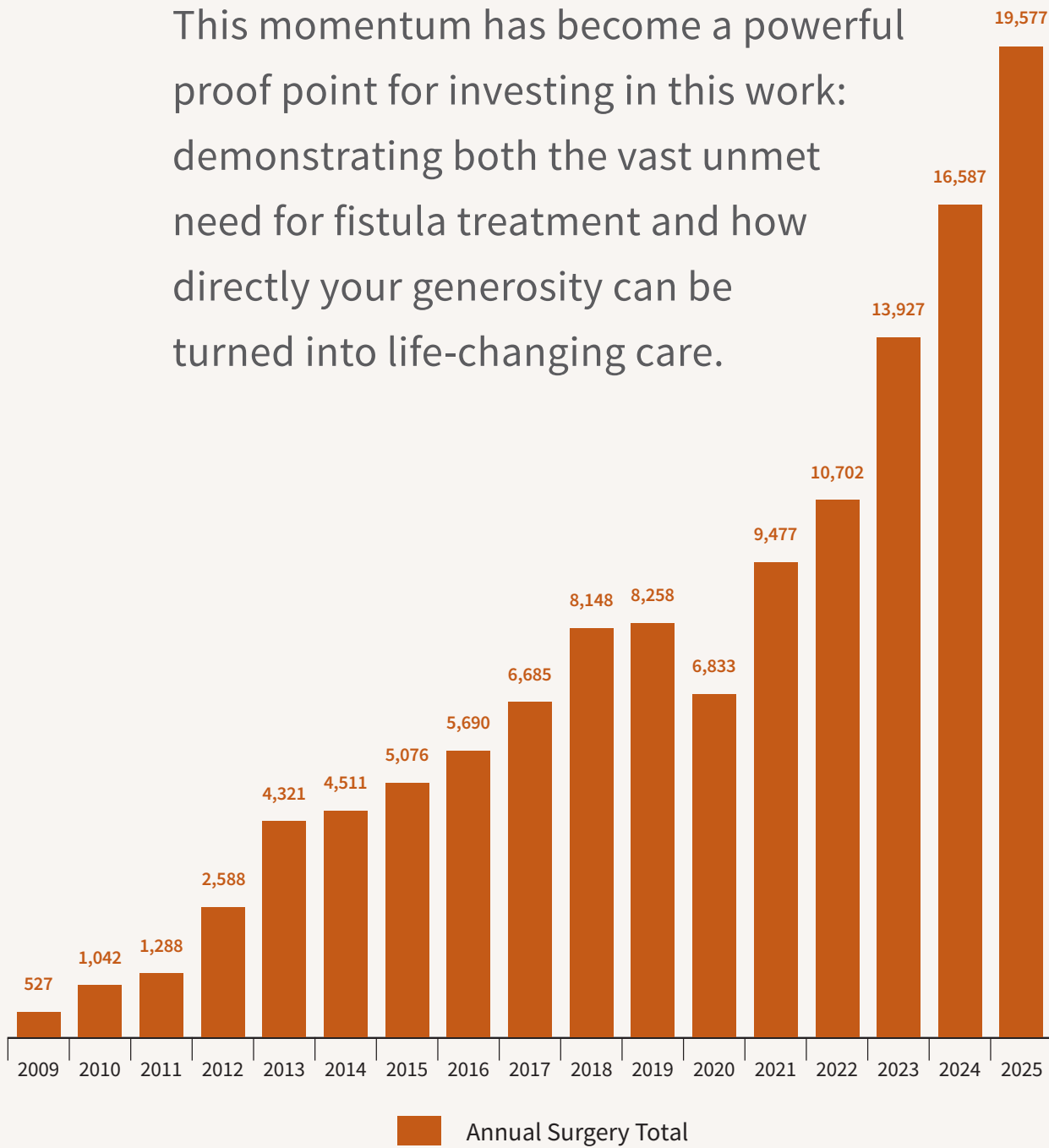
A landmark gift from Bloomberg Philanthropies in 2025 accelerated the expansion of our treatment network in the Democratic Republic of Congo. With this support, our partners have provided 12,282 surgeries since the network launched in 2022, marking a 336% increase in surgical capacity.

*“My peace is back,” said Lula, after she was successfully treated in 2025.
“I only think of good things for my future.”*

BECAUSE OF YOU

We are achieving surgery numbers that once felt unimaginable.

This momentum has become a powerful proof point for investing in this work: demonstrating both the vast unmet need for fistula treatment and how directly your generosity can be turned into life-changing care.



*At **Fistula Foundation**, we believe that no woman should live a life of misery and isolation, simply for trying to bring a child into the world. We strive every day to end the suffering of women injured in childbirth—and to ensure that no woman is left behind.*



THE NETWORK

From Afghanistan to Zimbabwe: You're Enabling Care Where It's Needed Most

In 2025, we added 11 new partners to our global network and entered six new countries, further expanding access to cost-effective, high-quality care. Today, thanks to your support, we're funding 100-plus partners across more than 35 countries in sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia.

OUR PARTNERS

Their Heroic Dedication Ensures That No Woman Will Be Left Behind

Our partners work in under-resourced areas and routinely navigate difficult conditions to deliver high-quality care to women who desperately need it. What they see on the ground is our clearest guide to action, and actively shapes our investment decisions.

Beginning in 2024, our partner Cure Hospital in Taliban-controlled Afghanistan emphasized the urgent need for fistula treatment beyond the capital city of Kabul. Nangarhar Regional Hospital in Jalalabad was identified as a promising site for expansion, so long as surgeons there were provided with specialized training.

But there was one glaring problem. Taliban travel restrictions and the persecution of non-Muslims made it impossible to send in most of our certified trainers (most of whom are African surgeons). As a Pakistani Muslim fistula surgeon with decades of expertise, Dr. Shershah Syed was uniquely positioned to make the journey others could not.



Khaula Jamil

In July 2025, Dr. Shershah Syed traveled with his team to Nangarhar Regional Hospital to provide hands-on training to two local surgeons and other healthcare providers at the facility.



Dr. Sidra Ahmed

Dr. Sidra Ahmed (right), a Pakistani surgeon, poses with Afghani midwives, known as Qabla.

OUR DONORS

Enduring Empathy, Enduring Impact

Movements don't just happen. They're built by people like you—people who see the suffering of others and refuse to look away. You are part of a global community of supporters for whom indifference is not an option.



When Women Come Together, Anything Is Possible

Most chapter members of Together Women Rise had never heard of obstetric fistula before they encountered Fistula Foundation as a featured grantee. And yet, when members worldwide were recently asked to vote for a grantee to win a bonus gift, they chose the Foundation—by a landslide.

Together Women Rise is a collective giving movement with some 300 active chapters across the U.S., uniting everyday philanthropists around a simple conviction: when women invest in women, the impact multiplies across families, communities, and generations. The nonprofit funds organizations working directly with women and girls

in low-income and marginalized communities across the Global South. Since 2008, Together Women Rise has awarded Fistula Foundation several, multi-year grants.

“Fistula Foundation has always been one of the favorite grantees for our members,” said Together Women Rise’s CEO, Beverley Francis-Gibson. She cited how moving it is to learn that a relatively low-cost surgery can restore a woman’s health and return her fully to her life.

“When you empower women, they are then able to do so much more for their own families, their communities, and future generations,” said Francis-Gibson.



In Mary Jane’s Honor, Women Worldwide Receive Care

About 15 years ago, George Hanby III and his wife Mary Jane were reading Nicholas Kristof and Sheryl WuDunn’s *Half the Sky* together and looking for causes worth supporting. Fistula Foundation stood out. Throughout the years, we remained on the couple’s giving list.

Mary Jane has since passed away, but George, a retired schoolteacher living in Italy, now gives in her memory. He also gives because he believes, simply and firmly, that he must.

“Helping these women gives my life purpose,” he said.

George is driven to give by the knowledge that his support reaches women who need it, managed by an organization he trusts to spend those resources well. “It’s better to give more than you receive,” said George.

Way Better Than a Jewelry Store Trinket

One afternoon in 2004, Rebecca happened to catch renowned fistula surgeon Dr. Catherine Hamlin on The Oprah Winfrey Show describing the hidden horrors of women living with obstetric fistula. Her heart broke for them, and she decided to help.

“I could never again think of buying some trinket in a jewelry store, something I might wear twice a year, when that money could change a whole life,” she said.

A former art restorer who once knew poverty herself, Rebecca has supported Fistula Foundation since its earliest days. As a Christian, she believes in giving anonymously, but she knows her story could inspire others to help more women. She has since named Fistula Foundation in her will.

“To fix someone for life,” she says, “is a call from God.”

“I could never again think of buying some trinket in a jewelry store, something I might wear twice a year, when that money could change a whole life.”

—Rebecca



A Portrait with a Purpose

When Kristin Hernandez’s 14-year-old daughter Vivi saw Florence on the cover of Fistula Foundation’s 2024 annual report, she did what came naturally: she drew her portrait and Kristin shared it with our team.

Kristin, a mom of four from Tennessee, first learned about obstetric fistula from the book *Kisses* from Katie. It stayed with her.

“That such a horrific problem can be fixed with a relatively small amount of money really spoke to my heart,” she said. “With fistula, you feel like every dollar is giving a woman a new life. It’s like a permanent transformation.”

Compassionate donor families like the Hernandezes are proving that women like Florence do indeed deserve better, one donation and one drawing at a time.

OUR TEAM

An Essential Bridge— Restoring Futures Faster

Fistula Foundation is a bridge, connecting the compassionate generosity of donors like you with the skilled hands of trusted local surgeons in hospitals across the world. We honor that responsibility with a relentless focus on one outcome: helping as many women as possible regain their health and futures.

TEAM U.S.

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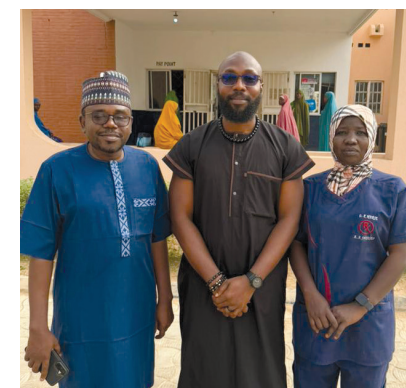
Dr. Shershah Syed



Fistula Foundation Board of Directors and staff gather at the Foundation's headquarters in the U.S.



LEFT: Program Director Dr. Pascal M. Vahwere (left) celebrates healing with Julienne, a fistula patient treated by our partner Artemedis at General Referral Hospital of Wangata, in the Democratic Republic of Congo. RIGHT: Program Director Nelson Musa (right) shares a lighthearted moment with a nurse from Mandera County Referral Hospital (left) and Luley (middle), a patient from Kenya awaiting discharge from the hospital.



LEFT: Program Coordinator Clement Enenmoh (middle) stands beside Principal Medical Officer Alhaji Kolo (left) and Head Theater Nurse Adama (right) during a surgical outreach effort at Yobe State Women and Children Hospital in Nigeria. MIDDLE: Program Manager Jameson Kaunda (right) joins Lillian Chilefwaya, a community health worker, during a community sensitization meeting in Mansa, Zambia. RIGHT: Program Director for Southern Africa Bwalya Chomba (left) bids farewell to Juliana (right) on the day of her discharge from Mercy Women's Catholic Hospital in Ghana.

OUR COMMITMENT

One Million Reasons to Grow Responsibly

Year after year, we remain committed to one measurable outcome: the number of women we can heal. *That* we grow is just as important as *how* we grow. We partner with trusted local doctors and hospitals, provide reliable funding, and measure quality and cost relentlessly.

More than a goal, delivering more high-quality, cost-effective care each year is our mission-driven mandate. After all, up to one million women are counting on us. And so are you.

That’s why we hold ourselves to the highest standards of quality, accountability, and stewardship. For the women who are still waiting, we’re committed to growing responsibly, year after year.



This is the highest rating given by Charity Navigator, reflecting exceptional financial health, accountability, and transparency. With a four-star charity, you can trust that your gift is managed responsibly and used effectively.



The Life You Can Save maintains a small list of charities that it believes provide the greatest good for funds spent. As a recommended charity, Fistula Foundation is vetted for impact and cost-effectiveness, ensuring donations go toward proven, high-impact programs that save and improve lives.

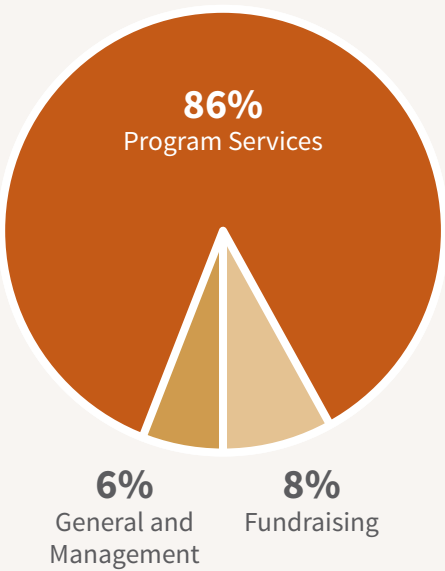


An ‘A’ rating from CharityWatch signifies excellent financial efficiency and transparency, demonstrating that the organization uses the vast majority of donations directly for program services rather than overhead.

2025 Financials

	Without Donor Restrictions	With Donor Restrictions	Total
Revenues and Support			
Contributions	\$22,302,567	\$5,508,021	\$27,810,588
Net Investment Income	\$1,520,100	\$2,306,896	\$3,826,996
Net Assets Released from Restriction for Purpose	\$6,664,656	(\$6,664,656)	—
Total Revenues and Support	\$30,487,323	\$1,150,261	\$31,637,584
Expenses			
Program Services	\$20,604,972	—	\$20,604,972
Management and General	\$1,533,442	—	\$1,533,442
Fundraising Expense	\$1,884,939	—	\$1,884,939
Total Expenses	\$24,023,353	—	\$24,023,353
Change in Net Assets	\$6,463,970	\$1,150,261	\$7,614,231
Net Assets at Beginning of Year	\$10,277,569	\$19,290,075	\$29,567,644
Net Assets at End of Year	\$16,741,539	\$20,440,336	\$37,181,875

Overall Spending in 2025





CEO Pam Lowney (left) visits the home of Salamatu (right), a fistula survivor from Nigeria who has her life back after a successful fistula surgery. “Thank you, thank you. I’m so happy now, and grateful,” said Salamatu.

Because of you,

life-changing care is expanding further than ever before—meeting the urgency of women’s suffering. The sooner a woman is healed, the sooner her life begins anew. That is why each year, with every milestone reached, we ask ourselves one question: what more can we do?

Pam Lowney
CEO, Fistula Foundation



Let's Keep Reaching Higher

In 2025, you stood with women like Betty, a 33-year-old fistula patient from Uganda who was incessantly mocked for her incontinence. After receiving treatment last year, Betty vowed to forgive everyone who laughed at her. Today, she's dry and thankful for the free treatment made possible by compassionate people like you.

But countless women like Betty are still waiting for care, and our partners have proven what's possible when we set our sights high. With your support, we will continue expanding access to life-changing surgeries to reach every woman in need of care.

Fistula Foundation

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