



FISTULA
FOUNDATION

2023 ANNUAL REPORT



Jane Rose suffered needlessly with obstetric fistula for nearly 20 years. In her hometown of Kitale, Kenya, she was a social outcast.

“I was stinking, and people ran away from me.”

— Jane Rose



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A New Life

Everything changed when Jane Rose learned that healing was possible. A kind neighbor recognized her symptoms, and connected her with our partner Cherangany Nursing Home for free fistula repair surgery. Today, Jane Rose is more than a fistula survivor. She is a farmer, a doting grandmother, and a voice for change in her community. “Now I am welcomed when I visit people, and I visit everywhere,” she said.

That is the power of your support. A single surgery changed a woman’s whole world. People like you gave Jane Rose a new life.

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.

New Beginnings

In 2023, supporters like you were inspired by the stories of Florence, Razia, Aisha, Beatrice, Sapana, and Kongo. The injustice of their suffering spurred you to take action. In total, you helped us provide 13,927 life-transforming surgeries. Behind each woman's smile is a beautiful new beginning.



Zambia

Sumy Sadumi

You showed Florence love.



Pakistan

Khaula Jamil

You revived the health of Razia.



Nigeria

Roshni Lodhia

*You helped mothers like Aisha
conquer fistula.*



Kenya

Georgina Smith

*You empowered Beatrice
to face fistula.*



Nepal

International Nepal Fellowship

*You delivered hope
to Sapana.*



DRC

Bienfait Tussi

*You made healing
possible for Kongo.*

New Connections

Caring for women with obstetric fistula is an intimate act that depends on tact and trust. It requires providers who have not only specialized training, but also the strength of an empathetic soul. Our 85 partners across 32 countries are committed to delivering high-quality, compassionate care to the women who walk through their doors.



“You have supported me to support these women, so that they go home happy.”

— Dr. Nathan Matasi (right), Cherangany Nursing Home, Kenya

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Dr. Benjamin Kataliko (right) shares a smile with Ngalula, a fistula patient, during a surgical outreach effort hosted by HEAL Africa in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

Bienfait Tussi

“Fistula affects the poorest of the poor in our society. ... Support from donors goes a long, long way.”

— Nurse Grace Okewu (left), Evangel Vesico-Vaginal Fistula Center, Nigeria

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Roshni Lodhia



Nurse Olivia Mshanga (right) cares for Vanesa (left), a fistula patient at Comprehensive Community Based Rehabilitation in Tanzania.

A New Opportunity

In March 2023, I got a call I'll never forget. It was from an advisor to philanthropist MacKenzie Scott, calling to say that Scott was giving us \$15 million. It was the largest gift in the Foundation's history, and it was all the more extraordinary because only about 5% of Scott's gifts have gone to international organizations. We decided to spend down the donation rapidly, because the women we serve are suffering now. We empowered both new and existing partners to find and treat more women. What happened next is astounding, and truly inspiring: We and our partners were able to demonstrate—as never before—our capacity to help women with fistula on a scale that matches the urgency of their suffering. Our goal today, as always, is to help as many women as we can, as quickly and effectively as possible.

— Kate Grant
Chief Executive Officer

New Heights



With your support, we reached new heights in 2023. In addition to supporting nearly 14,000 life-transforming surgeries, we celebrated several milestones and achievements—from inaugurating a new fistula ward to hosting a special event for a longtime advocate.

Partners and Advocates Take Us Higher



Fabeha Monir



Fabeha Monir

On May 31, 2023, our partner HOPE Hospital in Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh, opened HOPE Maternity and Fistula Center—the first dedicated fistula center in that country. Fistula Foundation donors supported the construction of this facility, and CEO Kate Grant was on hand to celebrate the momentous achievement. She met with fistula patients alongside Dr. Iftikher Mahmood, founder of HOPE, during a tour of the brand-new, 75-bed facility.



Rachel Kenaston



Rachel Kenaston

On November 10, 2023, Fistula Foundation hosted a special conversation about Effective Altruism between philosopher Peter Singer and CEO Kate Grant. The event was held at the 92nd Street Y in New York City; Brooke Gladstone of National Public Radio moderated the conversation. During the event, Grant honored Singer with the Allan Rosenfield Award for his visionary leadership, which has transformed countless lives. The award is named for the late Dr. Allan Rosenfield, a renowned figure in the field of women's health, who served on the Fistula Foundation Board of Directors and was the dean of Columbia University's Mailman School of Public Health.

New Transformations, Empowered by You



Tiff Gravel

Restoring Smiles, One Stitch at a Time

While most Fistula Foundation supporters will never witness the glowing radiance of a fistula survivor right after her treatment, Linda Chamberlain (above, left) is one of the privileged few who has witnessed this transformation firsthand. Linda and her husband, Will, have been generous supporters of our work since 2011. In fact, the couple introduced us to our partner Kitovu Hospital, where we've funded more than 1,200 surgeries since 2018.

Linda learned about obstetric fistula in 2010, and in 2011 she recruited a group of 12 women to travel to Entebbe, Uganda, to visit fistula patients at Kitovu Hospital. The goal of the visit was to teach pre- and post-op patients how to knit, and to support them in their journey from being a patient to becoming a survivor.

"The women's resilience is incredible. Before they come for care, they're made to feel like nobodies. Here at the hospital, knitting makes them feel special. After their surgery, you can see their resilience shining through!"

Over the past dozen years, Linda has taught about 1,000 patients how to knit, and she is a well-known figure in the fistula ward at Kitovu. Patients lovingly refer to her as "jjaja," which means "grandmother" in Luganda, one of the major languages in Uganda.

In addition to Linda's efforts at Kitovu, she and Will donate proceeds from their blueberry patch—Wilinda Blueberry Patch—in Hood River, Oregon, to support life-transforming fistula surgeries in Uganda and the Democratic Republic of Congo.

"They Call Me Mama, Never Doctor"

Dr. Dolorès Nembunzu was brought up to serve the poorest of the poor. That commitment led her to discover her true calling: She is the first trained female fistula surgeon in her home country, the Democratic Republic of Congo. Building relationships with patients is the highlight of Dr. Dolorès's work. On quiet afternoons at St. Joseph's Hospital, she hops from patient to patient to listen to their stories. The women call her "Mama"; they never call her "Doctor."

Dr. Dolorès also enables surgeries for women who suffer beyond the reach of her care—by donating to Fistula Foundation. "I [give] to provide other women with care, because I too have operated on women for free, thanks to the donations of others," she said.

Thomas Francine



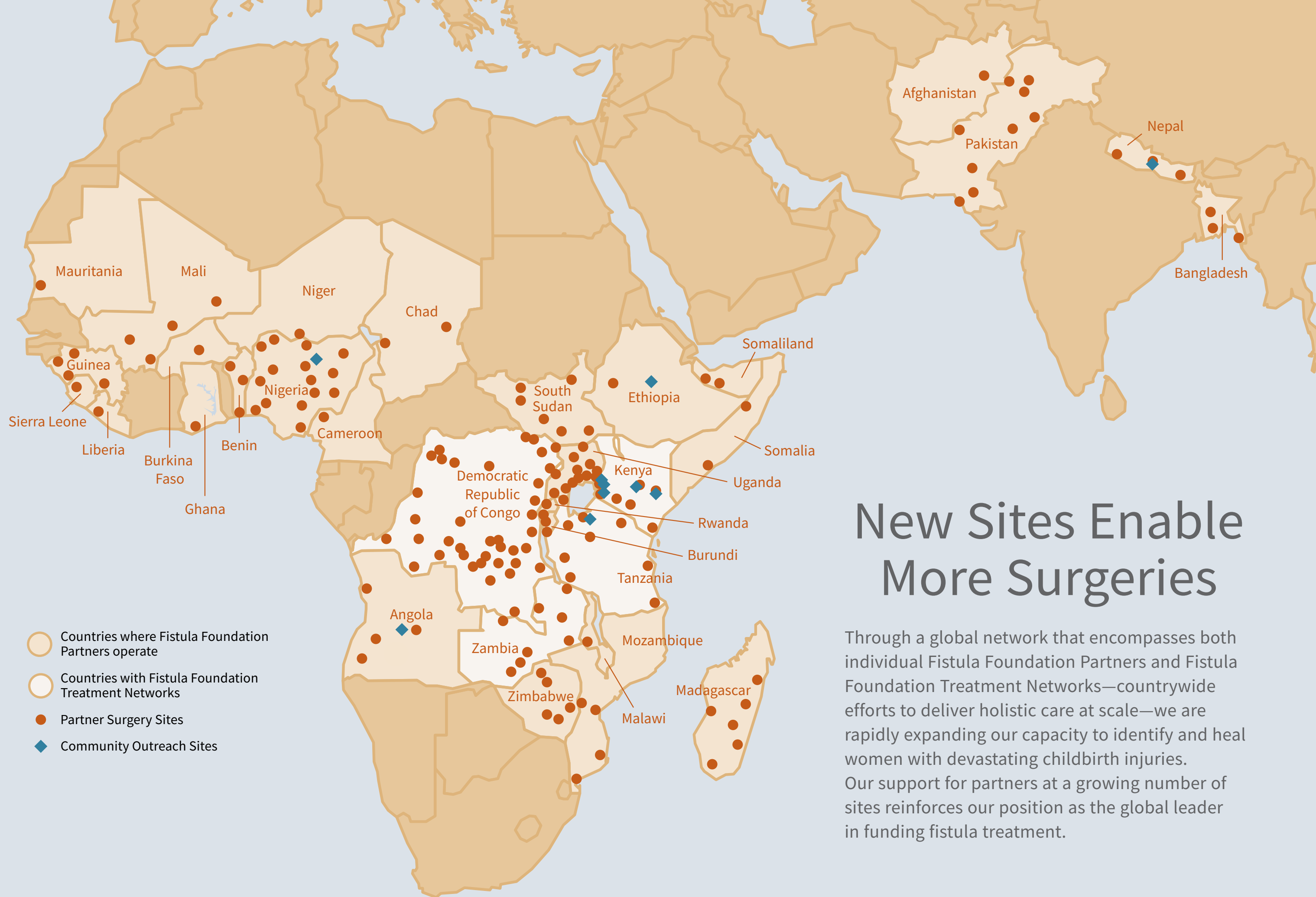
Baring It All in Support of Fistula Patients

Thomas Francine is an educator who lives in New Jersey and the founder of SkinnyDipDay.org. In his effort to overcome body shame, Thomas tried skinny dipping. Once he learned about International Skinny Dip Day, he saw an opportunity to help others who experience body shame and to help raise funds for a group of people—fistula patients—who endure an especially devastating form of body shame. In 2019, SkinnyDipDay.org was born, and since then the organization has raised thousands of dollars for Fistula Foundation. Skinny Dip Day takes place annually on the second Saturday in July.

"I've spoken directly to thousands of people about Fistula Foundation. I value that it has a realistic plan to permanently solve a specific problem. And, perhaps most importantly, the cause tugged at my heart strings," said Thomas, who learned about the Foundation from The Life You Can Save, an organization cofounded by Peter Singer.



St. Joseph's Hospital



- Countries where Fistula Foundation Partners operate
- Countries with Fistula Foundation Treatment Networks
- Partner Surgery Sites
- ◆ Community Outreach Sites

New Sites Enable More Surgeries

Through a global network that encompasses both individual Fistula Foundation Partners and Fistula Foundation Treatment Networks—countrywide efforts to deliver holistic care at scale—we are rapidly expanding our capacity to identify and heal women with devastating childbirth injuries. Our support for partners at a growing number of sites reinforces our position as the global leader in funding fistula treatment.

New Leaders

In 2023, we added new team members to manage our Fistula Foundation Treatment Networks in the Democratic Republic of Congo and Tanzania. In addition, we have expanded our group of medical advisors—expert surgeons who undertake monitoring and evaluation and provide targeted coaching and mentorship across partner hospital sites. These and other leading experts on our team work tirelessly to bring healing to women in need.

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A group of women at our partner Kitovu Hospital in Uganda practice knitting outside their dormitory during a surgical outreach effort.

New Accolades, Same Integrity

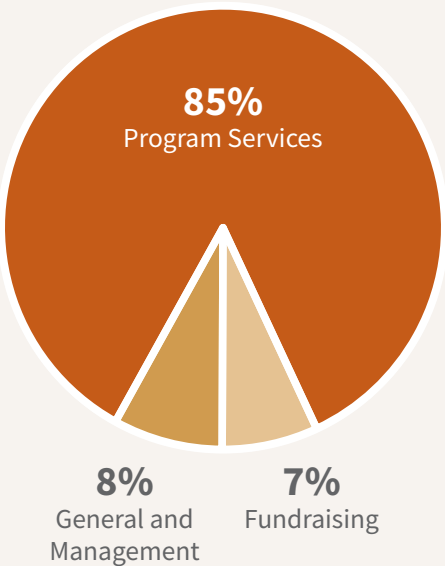
Year after year, we seek to earn and keep your trust. Each year since 2006, we’ve received top honors for efficiency, impact, and innovation from a variety of rating organizations. This year, *Fast Company* magazine bestowed a World Changing Ideas award on the Foundation. We aim to combine the speed and ingenuity of a Silicon Valley startup with the integrity and thrift of a well-run nonprofit, and we consistently send 85% of our revenue to our partners in the field—because that’s where women’s lives are changed.



2023 Financials

	Without Donor Restrictions	With Donor Restrictions	Total
Revenues and Support			
Contributions	\$25,680,027	\$2,299,123	\$27,979,150
Net Investment Income (loss)	\$2,795,736	\$1,325,059	\$4,120,795
Net Assets Released from Restriction for Purpose	\$2,332,513	(\$2,332,513)	—
Total Revenues and Support	\$30,808,276	\$1,291,669	\$32,099,945
Expenses			
Program Services	\$19,445,950	—	\$19,445,950
Management and General	\$1,815,359	—	\$1,815,359
Fundraising Expense	\$1,648,773	—	\$1,648,773
Total Expenses	\$22,910,082	—	\$22,910,082
Change in Net Assets	\$7,898,194	\$1,291,669	\$9,189,863
Net Assets at Beginning of Year	\$5,162,702	\$12,251,217	\$17,413,919
Net Assets at End of Year	\$13,060,896	\$13,542,886	\$26,603,782

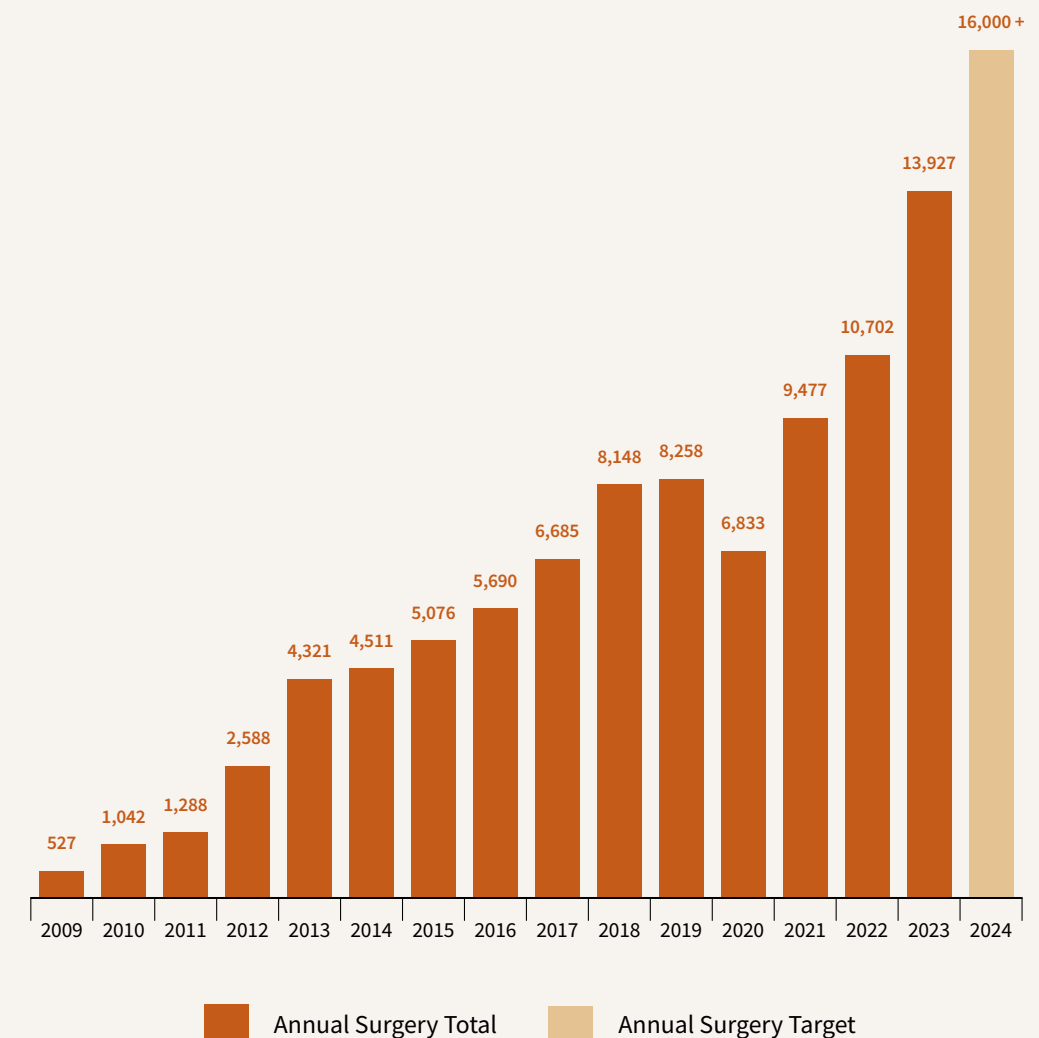
Overall Spending in 2023



New Horizons

We have always focused on one measurable outcome—the number of life-transforming surgeries that we can provide to women with devastating childbirth injuries. Since launching our global mission in 2009, we have consistently achieved significant growth in our annual surgery totals.

In 2023, we increased our surgery count by 30%. And we've set our sights on new horizons. From increasing the output of existing Fistula Foundation Partners to expanding partnerships into West and Central Africa, we have ambitious plans for the future. But this growth is achievable only with sustained support from people like you. Will you join us on our journey to ensure that obstetric fistula becomes a relic of the past?



Since 2009, when Fistula Foundation launched a global strategy to treat women with obstetric fistula, we have supported more than 90,000 surgeries for women in need.



Women and Development Against Distress in Africa

On a staff trip to Kenya in 2023, Fistula Foundation team members met Mwanahamisi (pictured above) and her husband, Patrick, and spoke with them over tea in their hut near Mumias. Mwanahamisi told our team about how she suffered needlessly with fistula for 15 years. Surgery transformed her life. Today, Mwanahamisi runs a successful hairdressing business, and takes part in a survivor support group that helps other women who suffer as she once did. People like you made her healing possible!

Fistula Foundation

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