FISTULA FOUNDATION

A Woman's Life Changed. One Million Still Waiting.



Anatu, a fistula survivor

Bwalya Chomba

For five years, Anatu leaked urine from a childbirth injury. Isolated, mocked, and unable to work, she thought her life was over—until a single surgery changed everything.

Anatu regained her life, and can now return to work farming her land. But across Africa and Asia, up to one million women still suffer from untreated fistula and hundreds of thousands more endure severe perineal tears—childbirth injuries caused by prolonged, obstructed labor without access to emergency C-sections. Both injuries leave women incontinent, leaking urine, stool, or both. Ashamed and too often socially shunned, they lose their health, their livelihoods, and their futures.

Understanding Fistula

- Up to one million women live untreated, across Africa and Asia, where access to care remains limited
- On average, women are 27 years old at the time of injury
- The women we treat have suffered 5.7 years, on average, before receiving care

SURGERY IS THE ONLY CURE

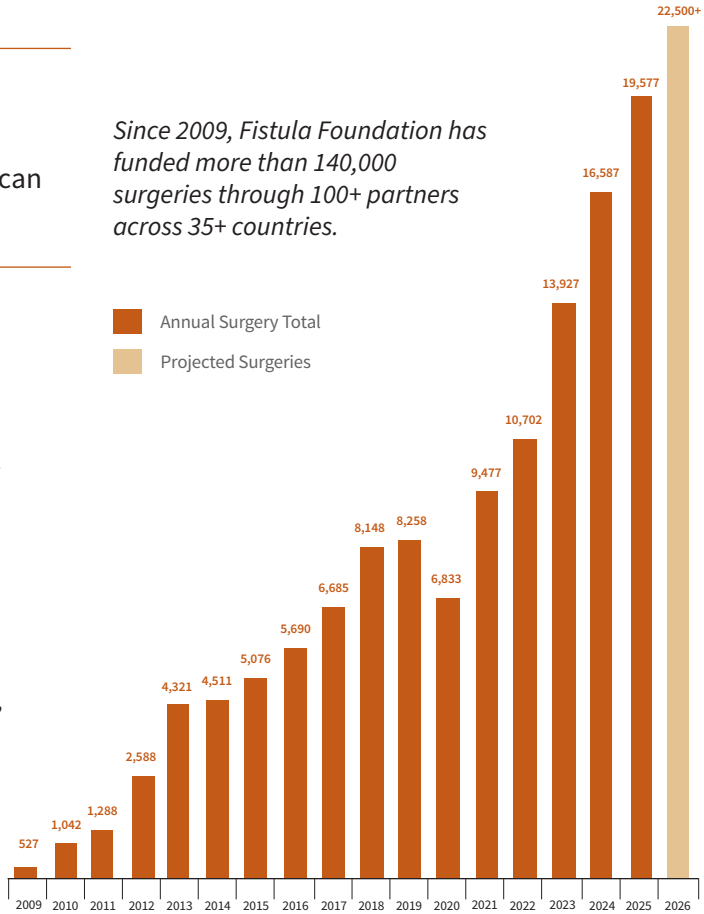
With an average direct cost of $624, a single surgery can end a woman's suffering and restore her health.

One Surgery, 40 Years of Restored Health

Today, women with fistula suffer needlessly due to lack of access to care. Yet a single surgery, with an average direct cost of $624, can restore 40+ years of healthy life for one woman.

This highly cost-effective intervention—for one of humanity's most disabling injuries—has benefits that reach far beyond the operating room. Results from Kenya, the site of our longest-standing countrywide treatment program, show that 86% of women are able to socialize, work, and participate fully in their communities within a year of surgery. The economic impact for a woman, her family, and her community is profound.

Since 2009, Fistula Foundation has funded more than 140,000 surgeries through 100+ partners across 35+ countries.





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Strengthening Care Where It's Needed Most

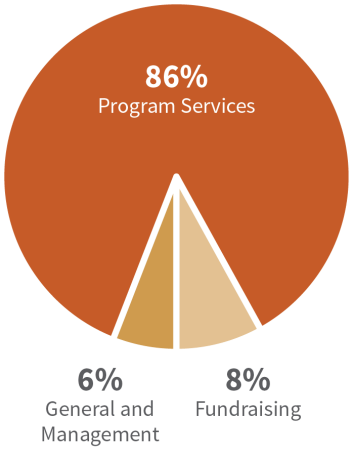
Fistula Foundation doesn't just fund surgeries. Our network model heals women today while strenthening the surgical capacity to restore more lives in the future.

- Community outreach reduces stigma and identifies women in need
- Healthcare provider training enables local surgeons and medical teams to deliver high-quality, culturally appropriate care
- Referral networks improve outcomes for complex cases
- Leveraging government programs (such as national health insurance) helps to amplify impact

Doing the Most Good With Every Dollar

As the world's largest private funder of fistula repair surgery, we work hard to deliver the greatest good with the funds entrusted to us. Our laser focus on one critical outcome—the number of women we can heal—has allowed us to closely track results and continually improve our efforts to remove all barriers to care:

- 86¢ of every $1 donated goes to program services, supporting partners and program staff
- While our revenue has grown 10x since 2009, we've increased surgeries more than 37x
- We rely on trusted local doctors and amplify their impact—95% of funded surgeons are from the regions they serve



Scaling Care. Ending Suffering.

Our model is built to scale—and it's working.

In 2023, when MacKenzie Scott invested $15 million—our largest gift to date—we put it to work, increasing surgeries by 83% in just three years, from 10,702 in 2022 to 19,577 in 2025.

Our ability to scale rapidly and responsibly ensures every new investment goes directly to the field, transforming lives, communities, and healthcare systems.

We strive every day to end the suffering of women injured in childbirth—and to ensure that no woman is left behind.

About Fistula Foundation

Fistula Foundation is the global leader in fistula repair surgery, partnering with trusted local surgeons and hospitals in areas of high unmet need. Together with our global community of supporters, we deliver more life-changing surgeries than any other organization in the world.

Charity Navigator FOUR-STAR 2026 · CHARITY WATCH TOP-RATED · The Life You Can Save

Fistula Foundation is consistently recognized for transparency, efficiency, and proven impact.

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