

Who We Are

Fistula Foundation is the global leader in treating fistula and other childbirth injuries that leave women incontinent and 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 75,000 life-transforming surgeries to women across sub-Saharan Africa and Asia.

We are an organization led by women and committed to the goal of empowering women leaders. Our program directors in Kenya and Zambia are women from those countries who deeply understand how best to serve their neighbors in need.



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. As a result, the woman can develop a fistula—a hole between her vagina and her bladder or rectum. Perineal tears are another type of childbirth injury, similar to fistula. If left untreated, a fistula or perineal tear will cause a woman to leak urine, stool, or both for the rest of her life.

At least one million women suffer needlessly from these devastating conditions across sub-Saharan Africa and Asia. The only cure for either condition is surgery.

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

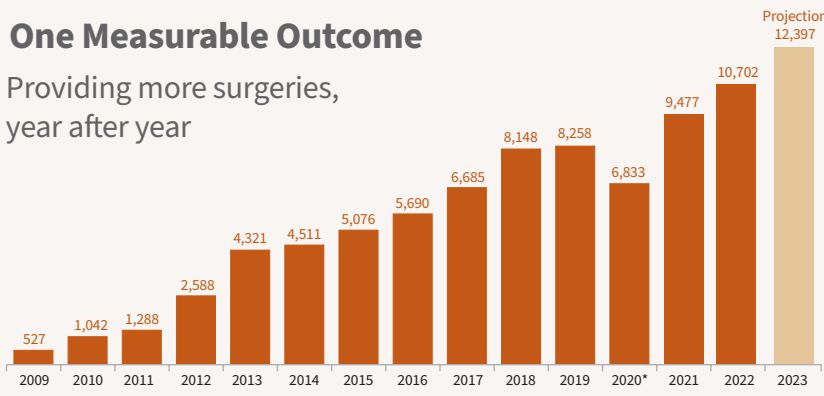
How We Work

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 and perineal tears.
- 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.

One Measurable Outcome

Providing more surgeries, year after year



* In 2020, surgical output was dramatically affected by the Covid-19 pandemic.

Our Impact Since 2009

75,000+
surgeries provided to women in need



33
countries served in Africa and Asia

120+
partner hospitals and community-based organizations supported

3
treatment networks built—in Kenya, Zambia, and the Democratic Republic of Congo

Where We Work

We partner with more than 70 local hospitals and community organizations in 26 countries to help them identify and treat women with fistula and tears.

-  Countries with Fistula Foundation Treatment Networks
-  Countries where Fistula Foundation partners operate

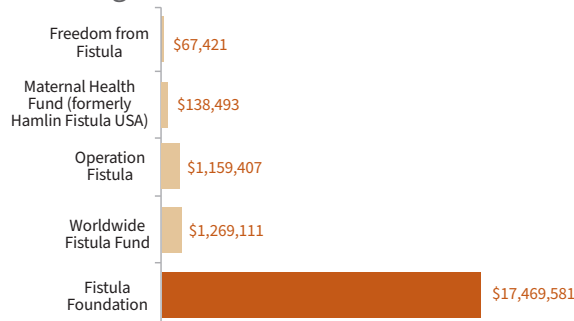


Our Leadership

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 commitment to fistula treatment. That leaves us.

The Global Leader

Investing more in fistula care



Fundraising revenue from the most recently reported year.

Our Model

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 three countries, and will launch a fourth network this year.

- **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



RECOMMENDED BY
The Life You Can Save



For 16 years, we've received the highest ratings from charity watchdog groups.