We Are IN IT TO END IT

We dream of a world where the suffering caused by fistula comes to an end in all countries where this condition persists today. By adding new Fistula Foundation Partners, and by building new Fistula Foundation Treatment Networks that connect all women in all parts of a country with high-quality care, we can make this dream a reality.

**Prisila** was treated for vesicovaginal fistula at Gynocare Women’s and Fistula Hospital in Kenya. Today, she is dry.

**Cristobel** lived for nine years with a severe perineal tear that caused incontinence. She received free care at Mbala General Hospital in Zambia.

**Batena** was successfully treated by doctors from HEAL Africa during a surgical outreach effort in Tshibala, Democratic Republic of Congo.

**Bhoke** developed fistula after undergoing a cesarean hysterectomy. She received life-changing treatment at Bugando Medical Center in Tanzania.
Surgeons from FFTN in Kenya and FFTN in Zambia convene at Gynocare Women’s and Fistula Hospital in Eldoret, Kenya, for an advanced training workshop.

We piloted our countrywide treatment model in Kenya in 2014. Nine years and more than 10,000 surgeries later, Fistula Foundation Treatment Network (FFTN) in Kenya serves as our flagship network. Peer-reviewed research on the first six years of our work in that country demonstrates the remarkable power of this model. Today, lessons learned from FFTN in Kenya guide our efforts elsewhere.

Building on Success

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IN IT TO END IT

Training Compassionate Ambassadors

Following our success in Kenya, we built a second countrywide treatment network in Zambia in 2017. Zambia’s varied terrain makes reaching women in rural parts of the country very difficult. So we built an army of nearly 1,500 community health volunteers and Safe Motherhood Action Group members who are trained to spread information about fistula and to refer patients to partner hospitals for care.

Florence (right), who was successfully treated for a perineal tear that caused incontinence, embraces Beatrice (left), an outreach worker from the Safe Motherhood Action Group in Zambia, during a post-surgery follow-up visit to Florence’s village.
Patients dress each other’s hair as they await treatment at a surgical outreach effort hosted by HEAL Africa in Tshibala, Democratic Republic of Congo.

In 2022, we launched a third treatment network in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC)—a country known as “the worst place on Earth to be a woman.” Where possible, we work with partners to operate continuous care facilities. But where necessary, we provide care through specially arranged surgical outreach efforts. Today in the DRC, particularly in areas rife with instability, we support treatment on a large scale through surgical outreach sites.

Going the Last Mile

In 2022, we launched a third treatment network in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC)—a country known as “the worst place on Earth to be a woman.” Where possible, we work with partners to operate continuous care facilities. But where necessary, we provide care through specially arranged surgical outreach efforts. Today in the DRC, particularly in areas rife with instability, we support treatment on a large scale through surgical outreach sites.

Bienfait Tussi
Reaching Every Woman

With our newest countrywide treatment network, FFTN in Tanzania, we take a decisive step toward achieving our vision to end the suffering caused by fistula—country by country, surgery by surgery, one woman at a time. FFTN in Tanzania is the first of five new networks that we plan to build over the next five years. Working closely with our partners, we are creating an infrastructure of care that will ensure that no woman is left behind.
No Woman Left Behind

When we say *In It to End It*, we mean that we won’t stop until every woman injured in childbirth has access to surgery than can restore her health and give her hope for the future. Our model works at scale to end the needless suffering of multitudes of women. But we need you, our compassionate supporters, to make this vision a reality. I hope we can count on you to stick with us.

— Kate Grant
Chief Executive Officer
Our Mission in Action

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.

Everlyn suffered with fistula for two decades. After she was treated by our partner Mbala General Hospital, Everlyn reunited with her husband, John.

An Ambitious Plan

Since 2009, when Fistula Foundation launched a global strategy to treat women with obstetric fistula, we have supported more than 75,000 surgeries for women in need.

Under a new strategic plan, we will exceed that achievement in just five years. From 2023 to 2027, we aim to provide 80,000 surgeries, add more than 40 partners, and build five new countrywide treatment networks. By pursuing this plan, we will reach and serve women with devastating childbirth injuries on a scale that equals the urgency of their suffering.
World-Class Partners

Your support helps healthcare heroes provide world-class care to the patients who walk through the doors at each of our partner facilities. The dedicated surgeons, nurses, and outreach workers who work with our partners are grateful for what you enable them to achieve for women in their countries.

AFGHANISTAN
Care Hospital, A Be Team International Facility

ANGOLA
Centro Evangélico de Medicina de Luanda (CEML)

BANGLADESH
Hope Foundation for Women & Children of Bangladesh
Rambodha Women’s Medical College and Hospital

BHUTAN
Artemed Research

BURKINA Faso
Association Renaissance (ARENA)

CHAD
Artemed Chad

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO
Artemed DRC
Fistula Program DRC (FisPro DRC)
HEAL Africa
Mambileko Fistula Care
Pascal Hospital
Rosebush Hospital
Vanga Hospital

ETHIOPIA
Healing Hands of Joy
Village Health Partnership

GUINEA
Artemed Guinea

KENYA
Bumi Hospital
Cheeragav Nursing Home
Dunga Mbil vision/Volunteers Youth Group (DV)
Garissa County Referral Hospital
Gynocare Women’s and Fistula Hospital
Jamea Home & Mission Hospital – Edelweiss Trust
Kapenguria County Referral Hospital
Ken Gynocare Fistula Centre
Kakuma Empowerment Initiative
Kakurki County Referral Hospital
Nyiragongo Sub-County Hospital
Kilosa County Referral Hospital
Women and Development Against Distress in Africa (MASADUA)

LIBERIA
Artemed Liberia

MALAYSIA
Freedom from Fistula Foundation Malaysia

MAURITANIA
Artemed Mauritania

MOZAMBIQUE
Focus Fistula

NEPAL
Fistula Free Nepal
International Nepal Fellowship
Kathmandu Model Hospital / Public Health Concern Trust - Nepal
Public Health Concern Trust/CMHRC

NIGERIA
Dame Gidayinka Obaluyin Obstetric Fistula Center
Dagon Nasara Fistula Foundation
Evangel Vescio-Vaginal Fistula Center (EVPF)
Family Life Centre/COV. Hospital
Fistula Foundation, Nigeria

PAKISTAN
Pakistan National Forum on Women’s Health

RWANDA
Ula Cartos

SIERRA LEONE
Artemed Sierra Leone

SOMALIA
Galkayo Medical Foundation

SOUTH SUDAN
Artemed South Sudan
Dr Andrew Browning
Health Coordination Department, Catholic Diocese of Wau

TANZANIA
Association of Obstetric Fistula Surgeons of Tanzania (AOFST)
Bioguard Medical Center
Comprehensive Community Based Rehabilitation in Tanzania (CCBRT)
Fertility Africa

UGANDA
Bubiri Hospital
Catholic School Hospital
Uganda Childbirth Injury Fund
Uganda Village Project

ZAMBIA
Chilenje Level 1 Hospital
Chilenje Mission Hospital
Chilonga Mission Hospital
Kabwe General Hospital
Mbala General Hospital
Mansa General Hospital
Monze Mission Hospital
St. Francis Hospital, Kabwe

ZIMBABWE
Artemed Zimbabwe
To provide better, faster, and more effective care to women in need, we continuously assess and adapt our program operations. To improve our understanding of fistula care coverage across our global network, we now collect site-specific data from each partner organization. Today, our partners are reaching and healing women at 148 sites in 28 countries.
Leveraging the Power of You

Every donor has a powerful story—and a unique connection to our cause. No matter how you originally learned about fistula, or what motivates you to support women with this devastating condition, you and thousands of supporters like you have changed tens of thousands of lives.

Turning Passion into Purpose

What happens when you turn your passion for women’s health into a new career? Dr. Brandie Freeman did just that. Brandie is a longtime donor to Fistula Foundation who learned about fistula from the documentary *Half the Sky*, based on a book by Nicholas Kristof and Sheryl WuDunn. At the time, she was a science teacher. Each year in one of her courses, she showed scenes from the film and talked with students about how healthcare disparities lead to conditions like obstetric fistula.

In 2019, Brandie had a revelation that came to her in a dream: To follow her passion for women’s healthcare, she should become a pelvic floor therapist. She left teaching and underwent training in physical therapy, and today runs her own practice in Acworth, Georgia. “It is important to me to provide an oasis of care here in the county where I was raised,” Brandie said. “Most of my clients are from a rural area, and I’m the only clinic in the vicinity.”

For the past 10 years, Brandie has supported Fistula Foundation by making monthly and annual gifts. In recent years, she has hosted pelvic floor workshops that serve as fundraising events. Brandie also hopes one day to pursue mission work in developing countries, where she would train people in pelvic floor therapy. “I try as much as I can to make my life about service. When that’s your mindset, opportunity presents itself,” she said.
Effective Altruism in Action

Ellen Walton is an artist who uses her creativity to help others. After a career as a real estate professional in northern Virginia, Ellen retired with her husband in Santa Fe, New Mexico. She wanted to find a new way to channel her energy, and began oil painting. Today, she sells her paintings to raise money for charities, including Fistula Foundation.

Several years ago, Ellen decided to leave money in her will for charities that help women in need. Then her husband suggested that she could have an impact right away. So now Ellen directs proceeds from the sale of her work to several nonprofits. Over the past six years, Ellen has made donations through Fistula Foundation to support seven repair surgeries. To market her paintings, she sends out a monthly online newsletter. In one newsletter, she told the story of a fistula patient named Salma, and noted that Salma had undergone repair surgery—thanks to donors’ generosity. “As you can see, proceeds from the sale of my art do help to make a difference,” she wrote.

Giving While Living—and While Painting

Since 2001, Randy Harshbarger has made 40 trips to Ethiopia. Randy, a Christian minister based in Nacogdoches, Texas, began traveling to Africa because he wanted to help people who live in extreme poverty. On an early trip, he made the first of several visits to the Hamlin Fistula Hospital in Addis Ababa. Hearing about the plight of fistula patients at that facility had a life-changing effect on him. “The trauma of these young girls, who are often forced into marriage at a young age, is heartbreaking,” Randy said.

“A Mission to Support Healing

“Yet the joy that comes from the healing of both their body and their soul will soften the hardest of hearts.”

Randy has made numerous gifts to Fistula Foundation in recent years, and urges others to follow his example. “To any who cares to listen: You probably will not go to Africa,” he said. “But you have enough money—right now, in your pocket—that will make a difference in the lives of these beautiful women. Why not give it today?”

“Effective Altruism is an approach to philanthropy that emphasizes “doing the most good” with money spent.

John and Emily are pediatricians who live in Southern California. As U.S.-based healthcare professionals, they routinely treat chronic conditions that can be managed but not solved. In the case of fistula, they saw an opportunity to address a problem that has a clear, known solution. They were also eager to support a specific project. In 2022, when Narok County Referral Hospital joined the Fistula Foundation Treatment Network in Kenya, they signed up to sponsor that site. “The amount of care that Narok [Hospital] provides with such a small investment really shows the need in the region,” said John.

“When we heard about fistula, and how it was easily fixable but wasn’t being fixed, it affected both of us. It was heartbreaking,” said John Nevin, speaking also for his wife, Emily. The Nevins learned about Fistula Foundation from the book The Life You Can Save, by Peter Singer, a founder of the Effective Altruism movement. Effective Altruism is an approach to philanthropy that emphasizes “doing the most good” with money spent.

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A Growing Team

We are adding new leaders in treatment network countries and investing for growth by expanding our team across multiple sites. No matter where we live and work, our vision to end the suffering caused by fistula unites us all.

TEAM U.S.
Kate Grant  
Chief Executive Officer
Kate Grant  
Chief Executive Officer
Lindsey Pollack  
Chief Program Officer
Michael Slind  
Chief Marketing Officer
Kelly Anderson  
Senior Director of Philanthropy
Darren Blankenship  
Database Administrator
Jesse Chu  
Program Manager
Hannah Garone  
Senior Director of Philanthropy
Jamie Heisch  
Philanthropy Associate
Shelly Helgeson  
Director of Partnerships
Nicole Huelar  
Administrative Manager
Jing Shi  
Finance Manager

TEAM DRC
Clément Lofumbwa Baillio  
Program Officer
Pascal M. Vahwere  
Program Manager

TEAM KENYA
Habiba Corodiaaio Mohamed  
Regional Director
Nelson Musa  
Monitoring and Evaluation Officer

TEAM TANZANIA
Clement George Ndahani  
Program Manager

TEAM ZAMBIA
Florence Changwe Mulenga  
Program Manager
Bwalya Chomba  
Program Director

TEAM DRC
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Bwalya Chomba  
Program Director

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Program Director

BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Ling Yang  
Board Chair
Thomas Huntington  
Cleo Kiros  
Charlotte Polle  
Vanessa Taylor

MEDICAL DIRECTORS
Dr. Steve Arrowsmith  
Dr. Andrew Browning

Celebrating Two Decades of Service

In January 2023, we said farewell to Fistula Foundation’s first full-time—and longest-serving—staff member, Anne Ferguson. Anne has now begun her next life chapter: retirement. She started at the Foundation in 2003, and proved herself to be indispensable as the Foundation grew to become a global leader in fistula care. For more than a decade, she served as deputy director and excelled in the role of right-hand woman to CEO Kate Grant. Thank you, Anne, for the integrity and dedication that you brought to your many years of service.
Fistula surgeons Dr. Sajjad Siddiqui (left) and Dr. Shershah Syed (right) check in on Naseema, a patient at Koohi Goth Hospital in Pakistan.

Built on Trust

Charity Navigator
Fistula Foundation has earned an “exceptional” four-star rating from Charity Navigator every year since 2005.

BBB Wise Giving Alliance
For the past 17 years, Fistula Foundation has met all 20 of the BBB Standards for Charity Accountability.

GreatNonprofits
Thanks to nearly 800 five-star reviews from supporters, Fistula Foundation was named a Top-Rated Charity in 2022.

Charity Watch
CharityWatch has awarded an A rating to Fistula Foundation, and recognizes the Foundation as one of only 45 charities on its list of Top Rated International Organizations.

GuideStar by Candid
Fistula Foundation has been named a Platinum-level GuideStar Participant—the highest level of recognition given to charities by GuideStar.

Each year since 2005, we have received the highest rating from every nonprofit sector watchdog group.

2022 Financials

Revenues and Support

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Without Donor Restrictions</th>
<th>With Donor Restrictions</th>
<th>Total</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Contributions</td>
<td>$9,805,075</td>
<td>$5,610,464</td>
<td>$15,415,539</td>
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<tr>
<td>Net Investment Income (loss)</td>
<td>($1,879,318)</td>
<td>($1,609,986)</td>
<td>($3,489,304)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Net Assets Released from Restriction for Purpose</td>
<td>$6,252,228</td>
<td>($6,252,228)</td>
<td>—</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total Revenues and Support</td>
<td>$14,177,985</td>
<td>($2,251,750)</td>
<td>$11,926,235</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Expenses

<table>
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<tr>
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<th>Without Donor Restrictions</th>
<th>With Donor Restrictions</th>
<th>Total</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Program Services</td>
<td>$13,815,700</td>
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<td>$13,815,700</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Management and General</td>
<td>$1,318,524</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>$1,318,524</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fundraising Expense</td>
<td>$1,198,831</td>
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<td>$1,198,831</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total Expenses</td>
<td>$16,333,055</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>$16,333,055</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Change in Net Assets

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Without Donor Restrictions</th>
<th>With Donor Restrictions</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>($2,155,070)</td>
<td>($2,251,750)</td>
<td>($4,406,820)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net Assets at Beginning of Year</td>
<td>$7,317,772</td>
<td>$14,502,967</td>
<td>$21,820,739</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net Assets at End of Year</td>
<td>$5,162,702</td>
<td>$12,251,217</td>
<td>$17,413,919</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Overall Spending in 2022

- **85%** Program Services
- **8%** General and Management
- **7%** Fundraising
Patients at Comprehensive Community-Based Rehabilitation in Tanzania (CCBRT), in Dar es Salaam, sing joyful songs together. By tradition at CCBRT, patients wear like-colored gowns—including blue gowns on weekends.