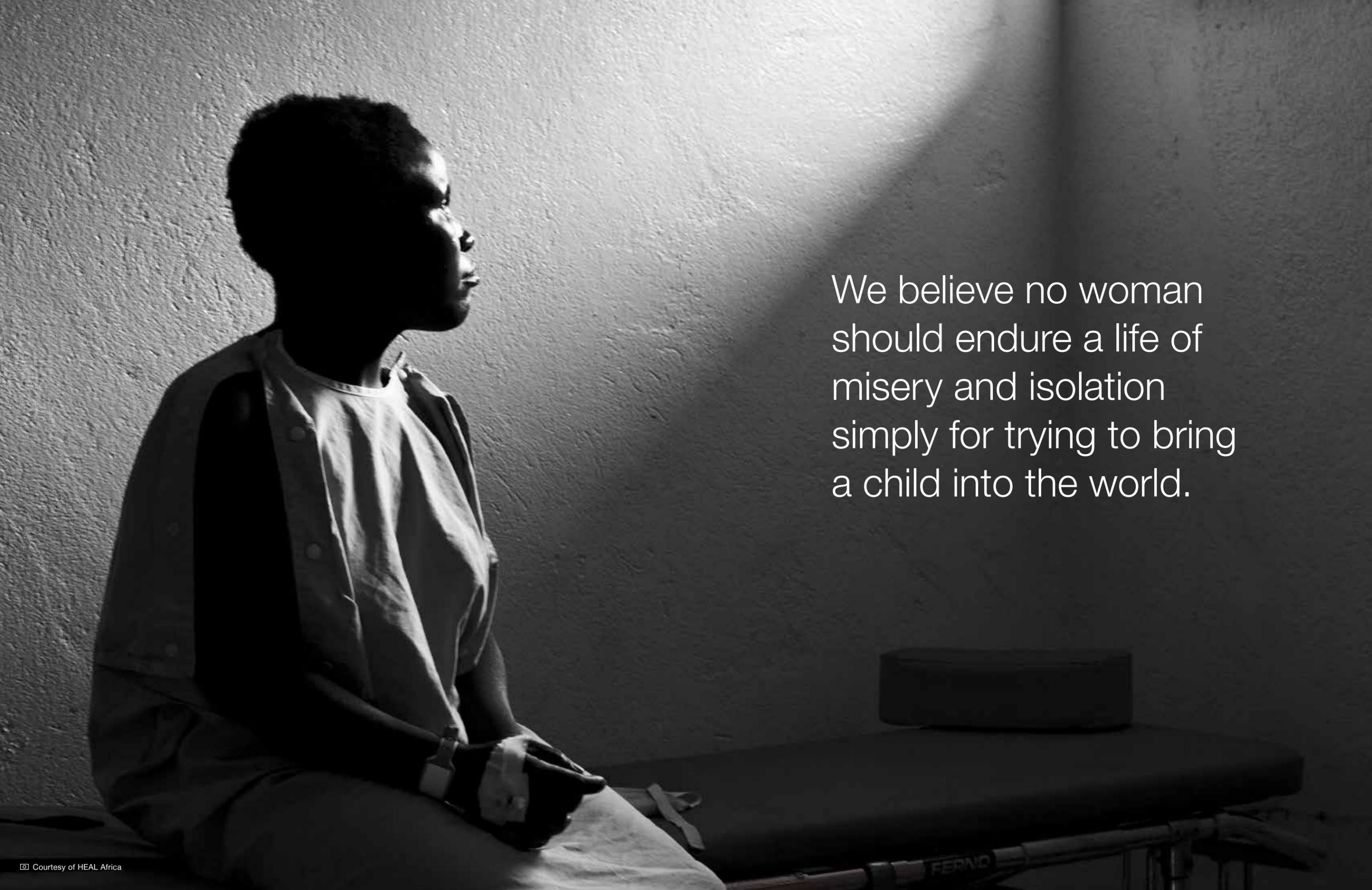




**FISTULA**  
FOUNDATION

2016 Annual Report





We believe no woman should endure a life of misery and isolation simply for trying to bring a child into the world.



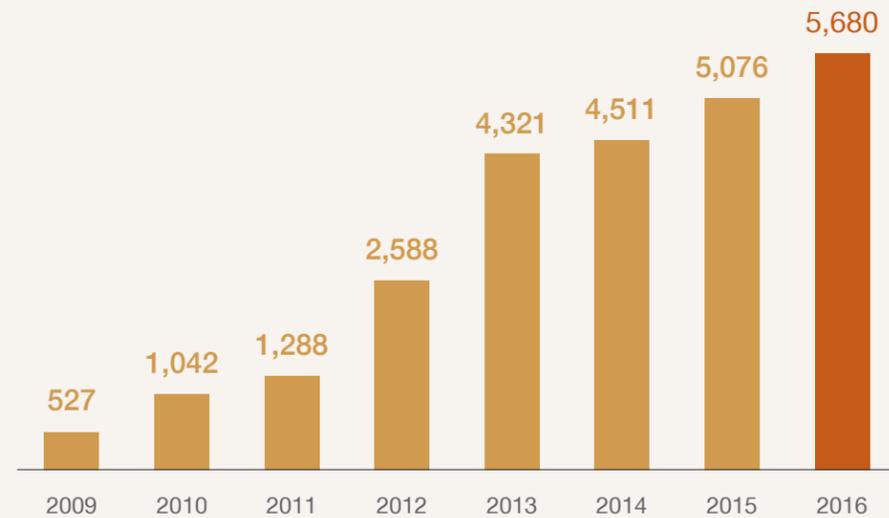
Obstetric fistula leaves over a million women needlessly incontinent in the poorest countries.

We're on a mission to end the suffering.

With your help, we provide life-transforming surgery to women who need it.

# We're 100% focused on treating obstetric fistula.

The only way to cure fistula is surgery. In 2016, we funded more fistula surgeries than any other organization, including the U.S. government, all because of generous people like you.



Over 25,000 Women Transformed by Fistula Surgery Since 2009

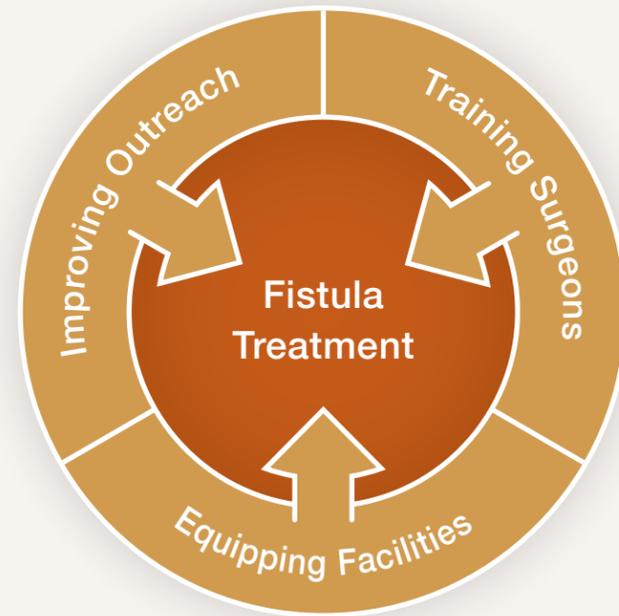
## Marivelo

Recovering from fistula surgery, Marivelo, 20, said she would “dance the whole way home” to her village in rural Madagascar. It was a stark contrast to three years ago, when Marivelo’s first and only child died in childbirth after a lengthy labor. Living with fistula, Marivelo didn’t venture outside her house for the first year. But when the truth finally came out, her friends were supportive, even rallying the community to help pay for a doctor. After learning about free surgery from a local radio ad, Marivelo received treatment last year through our partner SALFA.



# A Proven Strategy

Treating fistula is not simple. Patients are often unaware that treatment is available or lack funds to access transportation to the nearest hospital providing treatment. Surgeons require specialized training, and many facilities lack even the most basic equipment. Which is why we are committed to funding outreach, training and capacity building.



## Improving Outreach

Obstetric fistula is prevalent in remote, rural areas, and women often cannot access transportation to a distant hospital. Other patients might hide their condition out of shame or don't know that it is treatable, making them difficult to find. By supporting patient outreach efforts, we're helping identify, refer, and transport more women for life-changing treatment.

## Training Surgeons

A lack of trained fistula surgeons, especially in low-resource countries where fistula occurs, limits treatment capacity and adds to the growing backlog of women waiting for treatment. To meet this need, Fistula Foundation funds a pathbreaking, comprehensive fistula surgeon training program directed by the International Federation of Gynecology and Obstetrics (FIGO).

## Equipping Facilities

Many of our in-country partners have become accustomed to working in conditions that are less than ideal, performing surgery with aging equipment or making do with tools in need of upgrade or replacement. By listening and responding to their needs, we're able to provide targeted support that enables our partners to perform surgery in the safest environment possible.

## Jane

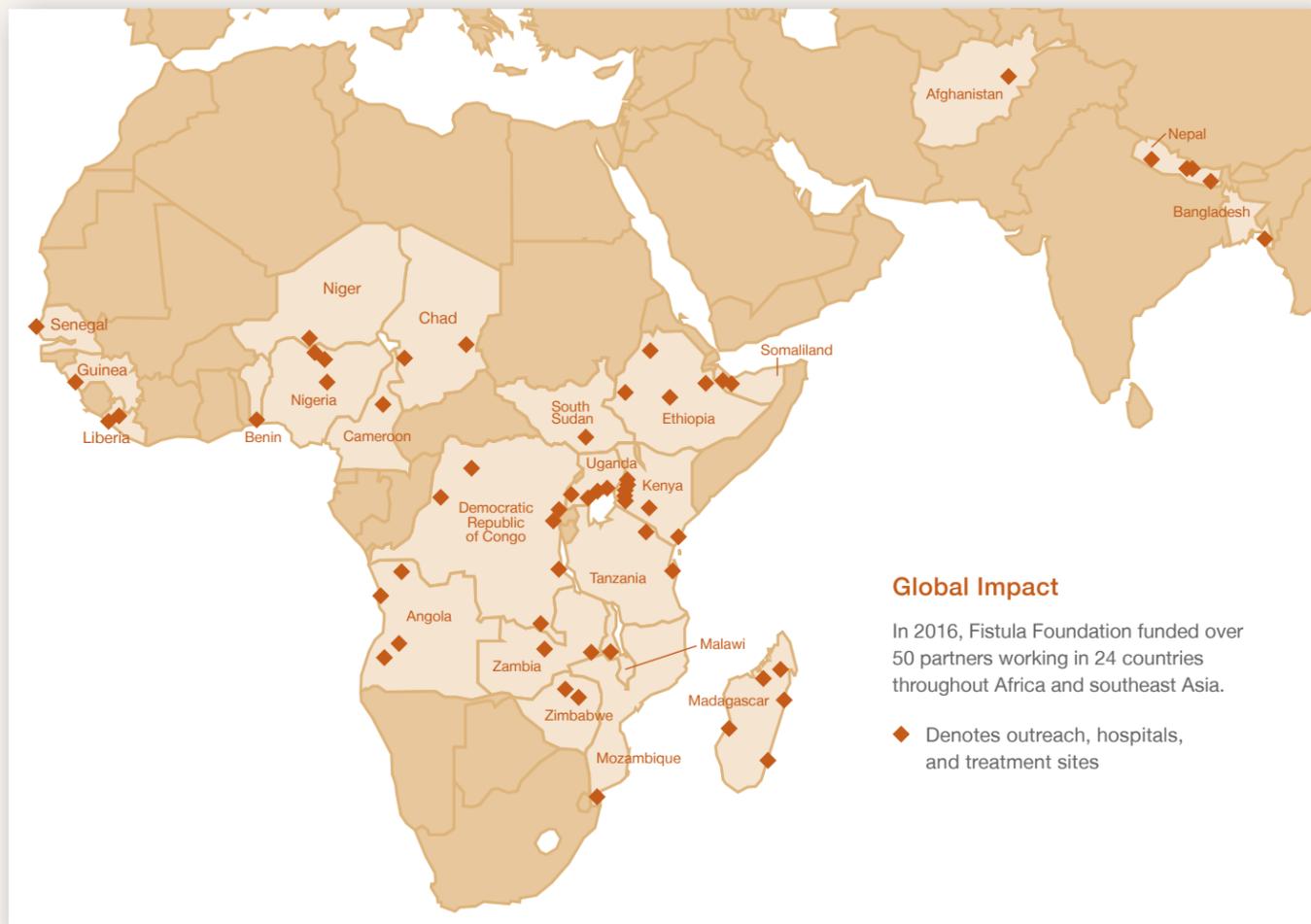
"To my mind, I thought my life was over. I had not seen such a thing and I did not expect such a thing to happen in my life," Jane said, describing her reaction to learning she had fistula. But thanks to the widespread availability and popularity of the Action on Fistula program in Kenya, Jane was quickly referred for treatment at Jamaa Mission Hospital. There, she received successful reparative surgery.

"I didn't believe it could happen, but now, I know it's true. I pray for this program, and I pray for you—all of you—to keep helping other people."



# Trusted Partners

Our partners are carefully vetted and treatment sites are coordinated and staffed by dedicated doctors and nurses who understand their communities and how to provide the best care possible to the women they treat.



### Global Impact

In 2016, Fistula Foundation funded over 50 partners working in 24 countries throughout Africa and southeast Asia.

◆ Denotes outreach, hospitals, and treatment sites



### International Federation of Gynecology and Obstetrics

The International Federation of Gynecology and Obstetrics (FIGO) was established in 1954 as the only global organization representing national societies of obstetricians and gynecologists. Since 2011, Fistula Foundation has been the primary funder of the FIGO Fistula Initiative, a training program designed to increase the global availability of skilled fistula surgeons. Through this program, we support the training and capacity building of fistula surgeons in accredited training centers, using the FIGO *Global Competency-Based Fistula Surgery Training Manual*.



### Women and Health Alliance International

Her Highness Sheikha Shamsa bint Hamdan Al-Nahyan of the United Arab Emirates founded Women And Health Alliance International (WAHA) in 2009. An international nonprofit nongovernmental organization, WAHA's overarching goal is to address maternal and neonatal health in disadvantaged communities. As one of our longest-term partners, WAHA plays a critical role in Fistula Foundation's ability to deliver quality treatment to women suffering in some of the most dangerous regions of the world.

## Fistula Foundation Partners

Location	Partners	Treatment	Training	Facilities/Equipment	Research & Outreach
Afghanistan	CURE International Hospital	◆	◆		◆
	Unidade Fistula Obstetrica	◆	◆		◆
Angola	Kalukembe Hospital	◆	◆		◆
	Central Evangelical Medical Center	◆			◆
Bangladesh	Hope Foundation for Women & Children of Bangladesh	◆		◆	◆
Benin	WAHA – National University Hospital, Cotonou	◆	◆		◆
Cameroon	Dr. Franklin Danki	◆			◆
Chad	WAHA – Center for Reproductive Health and Fistula Repair and District Hospital of Abeche	◆	◆		◆
Democratic Republic of Congo	HEAL Africa	◆			◆
	Panzi Hospital	◆			◆
	WAHA – Kirungu and Beniker Hospitals	◆			◆
	Aira Nursing School		◆		
Ethiopia	Hamlin Fistula Hospitals – Addis Ababa and Harar	◆			◆
	WAHA – University of Gondar	◆			◆
Guinea	WAHA – National University Hospital Ignace Deen and Centre Médico Social Djigui Espoir	◆	◆		◆
	Gynocare Women's and Fistula Hospital	◆	◆	◆	
	Cherangany Nursing Home	◆			
	Women and Development Against Distress in Africa (WADADIA)				◆
	Kisii Gynocare Fistula Centre	◆		◆	
Kenya	Disciples of Mercy		◆		◆
	Daraja Mbili Vision Volunteers				◆
	Bomu Hospital	◆			◆
	Beyond Fistula		◆		
	Jamaa Mission Hospital	◆			
	Kisumu East District Hospital	◆		◆	
Liberia	WAHA – Family Medical Hospital	◆			◆
	Hopitaly Vaovao Mahafaly	◆			
Madagascar	SALFA	◆			
	Freedom From Fistula Foundation	◆	◆	◆	◆
Malawi	Freedom From Fistula Foundation	◆	◆	◆	◆
Mozambique	WAHA – Maputo Teaching Hospital	◆	◆	◆	◆
	Fistula Free Nepal	◆			◆
Nepal	International Nepal Fellowship		◆	◆	◆
	PHECT-Nepal – Community Based Reproductive Health and Counseling Center		◆		◆
	PHECT-Nepal – Kathmandu Model Hospital	◆	◆	◆	
Niger	SIM USA – Danja Fistula Center	◆			◆
	Evangel Vesico-Vaginal Fistula Center	◆	◆		◆
Nigeria	Fistula Foundation Nigeria	◆			◆
	Nigeria National Fistula Program	◆	◆		
Senegal	International Society of Obstetric Fistula Surgeons				◆
Somaliland	Edna Adan University Hospital	◆	◆		
	National Borama Fistula Hospital	◆	◆		
South Sudan	WAHA – Juba Teaching Hospital	◆	◆		
	Dr. Andrew Browning	◆			
Tanzania	Comprehensive Community Based Rehabilitation in Tanzania	◆	◆		◆
	Maternity Africa			◆	
	CoRSU Rehabilitation Hospital	◆			
	Kagando Mission Hospital	◆			◆
Uganda	Uganda Village Project	◆			◆
	Kitovu Hospital			◆	◆
UK, London	International Federation of Gynecology and Obstetrics		◆		
US, California	Direct Relief – Medical Supplies			◆	
	Direct Relief – Mapping Project				◆
US, New York	Expert Fistula Surgeons – Site Visits		◆		
	University of California, San Francisco				◆
Zambia	St. Francis Mission Hospital	◆			◆
	Kabwe General Hospital	◆			◆
Zimbabwe	WAHA – Parirenyatwa Hospital, Harare	◆	◆		◆

Note: The above is a list of organizations that were supported by Fistula Foundation in 2016, and is not an exhaustive list of all partners.

WAHA (Women and Health Alliance International)

# Thank You

We are deeply grateful to our supporters in over 60 countries around the world who are raising awareness and giving generously to further Fistula Foundation's mission.



## In Memoriam - Paula Weil



Our most generous donor of all time, Paula Weil, passed away, somewhat unexpectedly, in November 2016. No supporter of ours has done more to help women with fistula than Paula. While she was born into a prosperous family, Paula chose to spend her life doing something truly meaningful: teaching English in New York City public schools. A humble, gentle, caring woman, she selected Fistula Foundation as

one of her main charities because she wanted to help poor women get care that could transform their lives. Thousands of women who never met Paula had their lives touched and changed because of her caring heart. Her gift, coupled with our many donors and the employees of Astellas, enabled us to build the new hospital in Eldoret, Kenya, where women will be treated for decades to come.



### Paul and Pamela Wood Foundation

In September 2016, the Paul and Pamela Wood Foundation donated \$1 million—one of the largest gifts in Fistula Foundation history. This incredibly generous gift is helping fund construction of two new hospitals in Tanzania and Bangladesh. It also established Fistula Foundation's first-ever endowment, providing a lasting source of funds for treating women with fistula, now and for years to come.



### Michael Nedham

Since 2015, Michael Nedham has supported Fistula Foundation by hosting local fundraising events, including a 40th birthday celebration that featured an African drumming circle for 100 people. He recently teamed up with some colleagues to raise money for three charities by climbing Tanzania's Mount Kilimanjaro, the tallest peak in Africa. Together, they raised \$1,000 for Fistula Foundation.



David Smoler for Show of Force

### Nicholas Kristof

Author and *New York Times* columnist Nicholas Kristof, a two-time Pulitzer Prize winner, does more to open hearts and minds to the plight of the world's poor than anyone we know. We are truly grateful for his consistent and empathetic coverage of fistula patients and the dedicated surgeons who treat them.



Tony Phillips

### Peter Singer

Founder of The Life You Can Save, ethicist Peter Singer has long been championing ideas about why we should be giving more—and giving smarter—to reduce the suffering of people living in extreme poverty. We are proud to be recognized among The Life You Can Save's list of 18 recommended charities.



For more than a decade, Johnson & Johnson has been committed to supporting our efforts to transform the lives of women suffering from fistula, through product donations and financial contributions totaling more than \$1 million. We remain grateful for their vital partnership.

# Ending Fistula in a Generation

**Our three-year success with this Kenya pilot program shows us the way.**

In 2014 we launched Action on Fistula in Kenya, with indispensable support from Astellas Pharma EMEA, and built something powerful: a nationwide treatment network with the capacity to end fistula. We've established a network of six hospitals across Kenya, trained surgeons, engaged in countrywide outreach to inform women of treatment availability, and built a major new training and treatment center. We believe we've found the way to defeat fistula permanently in Kenya—with a model we can deploy in other countries.



# Ending Fistula: The Way Forward

Action on Fistula is the first ever countrywide network for fistula treatment, one that embraces robust outreach, enables vital surgeon training, and equips a network of hospitals. In three years it has permanently transformed the fistula treatment landscape in Kenya.



## An Integrated Network

Action on Fistula has brought together fistula surgeons, hospitals, and outreach teams that make up our Fistula Treatment Network, a partnership through which information and resources are easily and regularly shared. Treatment sites work together so a patient can receive the level of care she needs from an appropriately trained surgeon, closer to home, without delay. This has created trust among our partners and a strong and sustainable community of practice, which did not previously exist in Kenya. We are so sure of this model we are replicating it now in Zambia, with vital support from Johnson & Johnson.

## Innovative Outreach Programs

To reach women in even the remotest areas of Kenya, we have built strong partnerships with outreach organizations strategically located in regions where fistula is most prevalent. These carefully selected partners know the cultural norms and practices in the regions where they work, and also understand which strategies will be most effective in educating people about fistula and helping women access treatment. Their efforts have resulted in women from 43 of Kenya's 47 counties receiving life-changing surgery.

## Expanded Surgeon Training

To expand availability of high-quality treatment, we partnered with the International Federation of Gynecology and Obstetrics (FIGO) to train and certify six new Kenyan fistula surgeons to FIGO's globally recognized standard. Each of our surgeon trainees now treats patients, and one has opened a new facility in Kisii, which offers routine fistula surgery in a region where year-round treatment was previously unavailable. We've built the first official fistula surgeon training site in Kenya certified by FIGO, creating a regional hub where African surgeons from neighboring countries can now receive training they can apply in their home countries.

## Equipping Facilities

It is vital that the care we provide is of the highest quality. That's why we invest in facilities, tools, and equipment that allow our surgeons to conduct surgery in the safest environment possible. At Kisumu East District Hospital, we refurbished a second operating room that had previously gone unused, expanding treatment capacity. We also fully funded the construction and equipment costs for the Gynocare Women's and Fistula Hospital in Eldoret, doubling the previous facility's treatment capacity at the only FIGO-certified training site in Kenya.



## A Lasting Impact in Kenya

Fistula Foundation and Astellas staff met in Kenya to mark the grand opening of the Gynocare Women's and Fistula Hospital, which began treating patients in 2016, and to celebrate the success of Action on Fistula.



Georgina Goodwin

## Six Surgeons Trained

Dr. Charlotte Kaliti is one of six Kenyan surgeons to receive free training through Action on Fistula, and certification from FIGO, increasing capacity to provide quality care to more women in more regions of Kenya.



One Production Place



## Gynocare Doubles Capacity

Partners of our Fistula Treatment Network receive support for upgrading facilities, equipment, and surgical tools, to help ensure safe surgeries. Last year, construction of a new three-floor facility (pictured above) enabled Gynocare hospital to double its capacity, with room to grow.



Georgina Goodwin

## Reaching Out in Mumias

Inventive outreach events, such as this fistula rally and soccer tournament in Mumias, have resulted in women from 43 of Kenya's 47 counties receiving treatment. Over 8,500 outreach activities have reached 514,115 people to date.

# “My Charity is Fistula Foundation, Alex”

Competing on *Jeopardy!* in a special Power Players edition, Emmy Award-winning writer, actor, and comedian Louis CK claimed top prize for Fistula Foundation.



Louis CK pictured with (from left) Board Chair Bill Mann and wife Judy Mann, CEO Kate Grant, and Grant's son, Bobby Houston.

Louis CK's May 18 *Jeopardy!* win secured a \$50,000 donation to Fistula Foundation—enough funding for 85 women's surgeries—and raised priceless awareness about a condition that is little known in the U.S. "Obstetric fistula is a fixable problem," said CK. "That's why Fistula Foundation is my kind of charity: they do a simple thing that completely transforms a woman's life."

## Louis CK

Louis CK began supporting Fistula Foundation in 2011, when he donated \$40,000 of proceeds from his *Live at the Beacon Theater* comedy special. Three years later, one supportive tweet from him sent thousands of interested followers to our website—so many that the site briefly crashed. CEO Kate Grant says: "Louis CK is a household name, adored by millions of fans like me. He sells out stadiums and wins countless Emmys. When he talks about fistula, people listen. He's given us something priceless: awareness with people who otherwise wouldn't know about fistula or how to help. We love him."



# Accountability

We are committed to getting as much money as possible to our trusted partners in the field, because that's where women's lives are changed. We are honored to receive the highest marks from every industry watchdog group.



“On behalf of Charity Navigator, I wish to congratulate Fistula Foundation on attaining the coveted 4-star rating for demonstrating strong financial health and commitment to accountability and transparency. ... Only 1% of the charities we evaluate have received at least 11 consecutive 4-star evaluations, indicating that Fistula Foundation outperforms most other charities in America. ...”

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Michael Thatcher".

Michael Thatcher  
President and CEO  
Charity Navigator



Ayesha

Pregnant at the tender age of 12, Ayesha labored at home for seven days. She desperately needed emergency care, but stormy weather made it impossible to leave the small island she called home in the Bay of Bengal. After her stillborn baby was delivered, she began leaking urine. Eventually her husband grew tired of the constant smell and stopped supporting her, marrying another woman. Shunned by neighbors, Ayesha became completely dependent on her parents. But after years of suffering, she was finally able to get the help she needed, receiving free fistula treatment at Hope Hospital in Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh.



We are proud to have earned a spot on GreatNonprofits' 2016 Top-Rated List. The list is updated each year based on the latest user reviews.



We earned an 'A' rating from Charity Watch, which The New York Times has hailed as the "pit bull of watchdogs."



The Life You Can Save maintains a list of 18 recommended charities that the organization believes can make the most positive change in the most effective ways.



Fistula Foundation has met all 20 of the Better Business Bureau's Standards for Charity Accountability since 2006.

## Zatindravelo

When the time came to deliver her first baby, Zatindravelo dutifully made her way to a medical facility, but there were no doctors or nurses there to assist her. After 17 hours of labor, her child did not survive, and the ordeal left her leaking urine uncontrollably. Embarrassed, she told her friends she was sick and avoided visitors for several lonely months. One day, her mother's cousin learned about possible treatment through our local partner SALFA, and Zatindravelo received free surgery in 2016. Overjoyed, she said, "I have no reason to be shy anymore!" She intends to share her story in hopes of helping other women who might be suffering.



© Sam Biddle

# 2016 Financials

Revenues and Support	Unrestricted	Temporarily Restricted	Permanently Restricted	Total
Contributions	\$7,406,865	\$2,288,327		\$9,695,192
Net investment income (loss)	\$439,764			\$439,764
Net assets released from restriction for purpose	\$1,779,049	(\$1,746,894)	(\$32,155)	
<b>Total revenues and support</b>	<b>\$9,625,678</b>	<b>\$541,433</b>	<b>(\$32,155)</b>	<b>\$10,134,956</b>

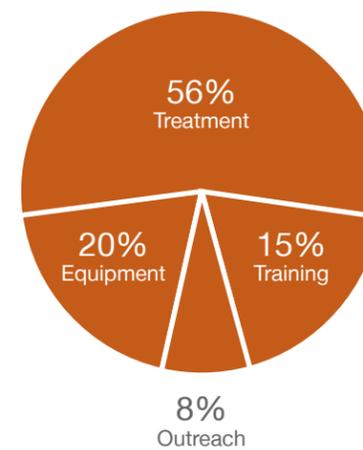
  

Expenses	Unrestricted	Temporarily Restricted	Permanently Restricted	Total
Program services	\$8,400,510			\$8,400,510
Management and general	\$823,111			\$823,111
Fundraising expense	\$923,497			\$923,497
<b>Total expenses</b>	<b>\$10,147,118</b>			<b>\$10,147,118</b>

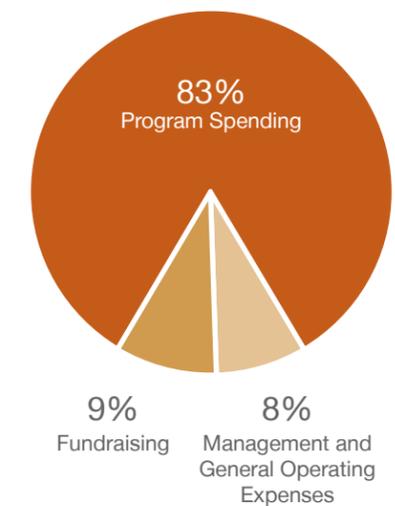
  

Change in net assets	(\$521,440)	\$541,433	(\$32,155)	(\$12,162)
Net assets at beginning of year	\$2,980,943	\$1,471,224	\$32,155	\$4,484,322
Net assets at end of year	\$2,459,503	\$2,012,657		\$4,472,160

2016 Program Spending



Overall Spending in 2016



# Our Team



U.S. staff



Kenya staff

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The Motley Fool

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**Jessica Love**  
Vice President, Communications

**Mirabel Miscala**  
Digital Engagement Manager

**Jerry Goldstein**  
Our invaluable volunteer for 13 years

.....

**Bwalya Magawa Chomba**  
Regional Program Manager, Zambia

**Habiba Corodhia Mohamed**  
Outreach Manager, Kenya

**Sarah Omega Kidangasi**  
Communications Officer, Kenya

**Lindsey Pollaczek**  
Senior Program Director

## Mwajuma

Mwajuma, 32, is a mother of six from a rural village in western Kenya. It was while in labor with her seventh child that she developed an obstetric fistula. Unable to reach the hospital in time, her baby did not survive. When Mwajuma began leaking urine two days later, she was at a loss—she had never heard of such a thing happening.

Thankfully, it wasn't long before she met Mariam, who helped her get free, timely fistula treatment through our Action on Fistula program in Kenya. With her health restored, Mwajuma now has plans to start a hairdressing business so she can help support her family.

