



**FISTULA**  
FOUNDATION

2020 Annual Report

# Adversity

2020 was one of the most challenging years any of us have been through.

Yet, with your critical help, Fistula Foundation's partners forged ahead with their vital work across Africa and Asia.



Our dedicated partners in Angola, CEML (Centro Evangelico de Medicina do Lubango) have continued to help women with fistula amidst the Covid-19 pandemic.



Sister Dr. Florence Nalubega is a resident fistula surgeon at Kitovu Hospital, Fistula Foundation's partner in Uganda. She has dedicated her career to helping women in need. "Fistula is too prevalent in this country, and women go through a lot of suffering because of it—financially, socially, and mentally," she said.

# Resilience

During the Covid-19 pandemic, we pivoted quickly to give our doctors the emergency support they need. Together, we're helping to keep their doors open so they can continue their crucial mission: providing fistula care to women in need.



After many years of suffering, Joquelia finally received transformative repair surgery at Kitovu Hospital, our partner hospital in Uganda, in 2020. The other patients in the fistula ward lovingly called her “jajja,” which means “grandma” in Luganda.



# Hope

Thanks to your extraordinary generosity, our trusted partners in 22 countries were able to restore women’s health and hope for the future in 2020—even during an unprecedented global pandemic.





**Kanyangi,  
Democratic Republic of Congo**

Kanyangi is 59 years old, and has lived with obstetric fistula for nearly half her life. Doctors traveled for hundreds of kilometers to reach her rural area, where they performed Kanyangi's life-changing fistula surgery.

HEAL Africa

*I feel I am  
a woman again  
All my strength  
is back.*



**Polina,  
Democratic Republic of Congo**

"My happiness is too intense to be expressed in simple words," said Polina, after she underwent successful fistula repair surgery. Now that she is healed, Polina can't wait to return home to her family.

HEAL Africa

*Hugging my children,  
that's what I'll  
do first!*



**Namara, Uganda**

After Namara developed obstetric fistula, she felt crushed beneath the heavy weight of stigma. She hid herself at home, ashamed to be seen in public in her condition. Thankfully, Namara is now completely healed and eager to rejoin her community.

Sumy Sadurni

*I will finally  
go to the  
market again!*



**Sharon, Uganda**

Sharon was only 21 years old when she lost her baby in a traumatic labor that left her leaking urine. When she learned that treatment was available, she began to feel hopeful again. Today, Sharon is dry! "I'm so happy now," she said.

Sumy Sadurni

*I'll be able to  
visit my friends*

# Meeting the Moment

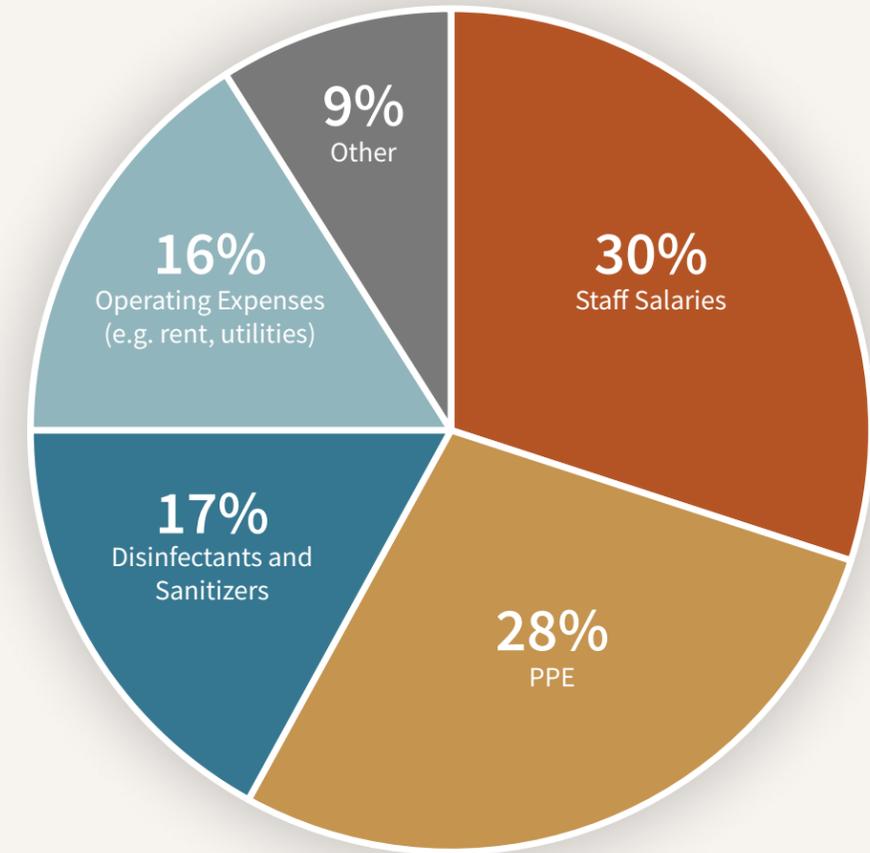
When the pandemic hit, our partners in Africa and Asia faced an exceptional challenge. While we have always been laser-focused on fistula treatment, we knew we needed to act quickly to help them weather the storm. So, with unanimous support from our Board of Directors, we amended our Articles of Incorporation to launch a Covid-19 Emergency Response Fund in April 2020. Thanks to you, in 2020, we provided nearly \$700,000 in aid.



Gynocare Kisii

*When Peninah arrived for fistula treatment at Gynocare Kisii, our partner hospital in Kenya, she was showing signs of Covid-19. Thanks to your generosity, our partners had the equipment they needed to help. Hospital staff took precautions and isolated Peninah for two weeks before she received successful fistula repair surgery.*

## Covid-19 Emergency Response Fund Allocation



**1,311**

staff salaries to prevent layoffs and maintain treatment capacity



**228,828**

masks to protect 6,332 healthcare workers at 51 hospitals



**3,589**

outreach workers trained in Covid-19 prevention



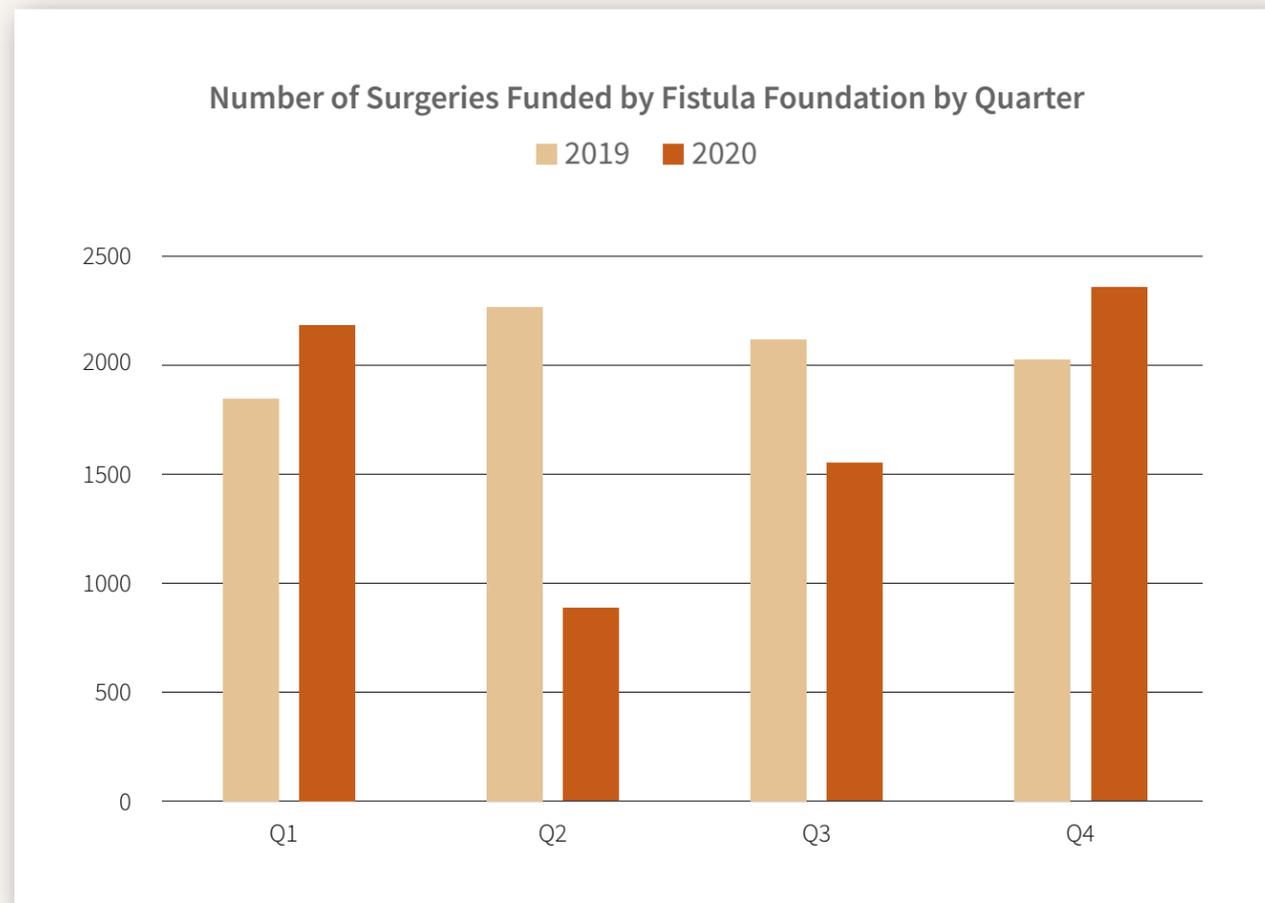
Gynocare Kisii

“I was one of the nurses who was set to be laid off due to a decline in revenue to the hospital, but [we received] good news: we were no longer going to be laid off because Fistula Foundation had given us a grant to keep us in employment.”

– Vanis, a nurse at Gynocare Kisii Hospital in Kenya.

# An Astonishing Rebound

After a sharp drop in surgeries in the second quarter, our partners finished the year strong, exceeding fistula treatment at pre-pandemic levels in the fourth quarter of 2020.



## You Helped Provide 6,833 Surgeries in 2020

In Q2, fistula surgeries decreased by nearly two-thirds compared to 2019. However, in an astounding rebound, Q4 surgery numbers were nearly 13% higher than those reported at the same time in 2019, a very encouraging trend!



## Each Surgery Represents a Woman Like Musabimana

Musabimana lives in a rural village in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). She was scheduled for surgery in early 2020 by HEAL Africa, our trusted partner hospital, but the Covid-19 pandemic made traveling impossible. However, our doctors on the ground refused to give up on her. As soon as it was safe, they arranged for her to come to the hospital for life-transforming surgery. Musabimana was discharged in November 2020, completely dry!



SINCE 2009:

**33**

countries served in Africa and Asia

**85**

partners operating at more than 150 sites

**57,000+**

women transformed through fistula surgery

# No Woman Left Behind

Fistula destroys the lives of over a million women worldwide. Our goal is to continue to expand our reach and help as many suffering women as possible. While there is still a long way to go, we are now helping treat more women in more places than any other organization in the world—thanks to a strong community of supporters like you.

# Proven Partners, Proven Strategy

For more than a decade, we have been helping our partners build in-country capacity for fistula care across Africa and Asia. During the pandemic, this strategy has paid off. As soon as conditions on the ground allowed, our partner hospitals were ready and eager to resume fistula treatment.



Leke Alabi/Isama

“Looking back to 2020, our center could not have survived without the generous support and funding from Fistula Foundation. Looking forward...[we] will strive to improve our performance and service to women living with fistula.”

– Dr. Sunday Lengmang, Nigeria

## Fistula Foundation - 2020 Partners

Country	Partner	Treatment	Health Provider Training	Outreach/ Reintegration	Capital Equipment	Covid-19
Afghanistan	CURE Hospital, A Be Team International Facility	◆	◆	◆		◆
	Centro Evangelico de Medicina de Lubango (CEML)	◆				◆
Angola	Kalukembe Hospital	◆	◆			
	Unidade Fistula Obstetrica (UFO)	◆	◆			
Bangladesh	HOPE Foundation for Women and Children of Bangladesh	◆		◆	◆	◆
Benin	Artemedis - Parakou University Teaching Hospital, Hopital Jean De Dieu deTanguieta, CHU Cotonou	◆	◆	◆		
Burkina Faso	Association Renaissance (ARENA)	◆	◆	◆		
Chad	Artemedis - Village des Femmes Fistula Center	◆	◆	◆		
DR Congo	Artemedis - Masiko General Hospital, Policlinic Beniker, General Bon Berger Tahikaji Hospital, Luebo Hospital	◆	◆	◆		
	Fistula Program DRC (FISPRO), Kinshasa and North Kivu	◆	◆	◆		
	HEAL Africa	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆
	Panzi Hospital	◆	◆	◆		◆
Ethiopia	Healing Hands of Joy			◆		
Global	Direct Relief				◆	
Guinea	Artemedis - Djigui Espoir Social Medical Center	◆	◆	◆		
	Bomu Hospital	◆		◆		◆
	Cherangany Nursing Home	◆				◆
	Daraja Mbili Vision Volunteers Youth Group (DM)			◆		◆
	Gynocare Women's and Fistula Hospital	◆				◆
Kenya	Jamaa Home and Mission Hospital - Edevale Trust	◆				◆
	Kisii Gynocare Fistula Centre	◆				◆
	Maisha Empowerment Initiative (MEI)			◆		◆
	Narok County Referral Hospital	◆				◆
	Women & Development Against Distress in Africa (WADADIA)			◆		◆
	Women Education and Health for Development (WOHED)			◆		◆
	SALFA	◆	◆		◆	◆
Mali	Artemedis - National Referral Hospital Point G	◆	◆	◆		
Mauritania	Artemedis - Sheikh Zayed Hospital	◆	◆	◆		
Nepal	International Nepal Fellowship	◆		◆	◆	◆
	Public Health Concern Trust-Nepal/CBRHCC			◆		
	Public Health Concern Trust-Nepal/Kathmandu Model Hospital	◆	◆	◆		◆
Nigeria	Evangel Vesico-Vaginal Fistula Centre (EVFC)	◆	◆			◆
	Family Life Centre/VVF Hospital, Itam	◆				◆
	Fistula Foundation, Nigeria			◆		
	Nigeria National Fistula Program	◆				
Pakistan	Pakistan National Forum on Women's Health	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆
Somaliland	Edna Adan Maternity Hospital	◆			◆	◆
	National Borama Fistula Hospital	◆		◆		◆
South Sudan	Artemedis - Aweil Hospital, Bentiu Hospital	◆	◆	◆		
Tanzania	Bugando Medical Centre	◆		◆		
	Comprehensive Community-Based Rehabilitation in Tanzania (CCBRT)	◆		◆		◆
	Comprehensive Rehabilitation Service in Uganda (CoRSU)	◆		◆		◆
	Kitovu Hospital	◆	◆	◆		◆
Uganda	Uganda Childbirth Injury Fund	◆	◆			
	Uganda Village Project	◆		◆		
	University of CA, San Francisco			◆		
Zambia	Zambia Fistula Treatment Network - Chilenje Level I Hospital, Chilonga Mission Hospital, Kabwe General Hospital, Mansa General Hospital, Mbala General Hospital, Monze Mission Hospital, St. Francis Katete Mission Hospital	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆
Zimbabwe	Artemedis - Mashoko Missionary Hospital	◆	◆	◆		

Note: The above is a list of all organizations that received 2020 grants from Fistula Foundation, and is not an exhaustive list of current partners.

# Empathy in Action

It is easy to look with sadness and resignation at the vast problems in the world and when confronted with suffering, to simply look the other way and move on. The harder path is to acknowledge the pain of another and truly recognize their humanity. Most Foundation supporters like you have never met a woman with fistula. And yet you are deeply moved by her plight, you want to end her misery, and you open your heart to help give her the priceless gift of health. To see her suffering as if it were your own or that of someone you love is empathy. To choose to help her, is an act of love. An often overused word, but in this case I believe the right word: Love.

— Kate Grant  
Chief Executive Officer

EMPATHY IN ACTION

# You're Part of an Unstoppable Force for Good

## Women Working Together to Transform Lives



*Soroptomist International is a global volunteer movement of women who work together to empower other women and girls. Over the last four years, the Central Solano County chapter has come together to fund over 18 life-changing surgeries! Their generosity each year is a reflection of the group's deep compassion. "If you share even a little bit of awareness with other women, it can make a big difference," said Judy Lloyd, Chapter President. "That's what Soroptomist is about. Working together, we can help."*

## Four College Students' 24-Hour Charity Walk for Fistula



*Charlie Rogers, Luke Antonia, Ben Rogers, and Jacob Lichty pledged to walk for 24 hours straight to support fistula care. Inspired by the Effective Altruism movement and The Life You Can Save, they knew that their efforts would make a transformative difference for women in need. Together, they raised enough to fund more than 10 fistula surgeries!*

*"As much as we were hurting and tired, we were simply living one uncomfortable day," said Ben, "in comparison to women affected by obstetric fistula, who can live a lifetime in discomfort and pain."*

## Small Business Owner in Texas Honors Her Family by Giving Back



*Nasim Bell is the owner of the Hummingbird Tea Room in The Woodlands, Texas. She first heard about Fistula Foundation many years ago on the Oprah Show, and since then, she has dedicated a portion of proceeds from her business to helping women with obstetric fistula. "Most of our support comes from women, and it's only fitting [for us] to give to an organization that helps women globally," she said.*

*Sadly, Nasim's parents passed away from Covid-19 in August 2020. To honor them, Nasim now also gives as an individual, sponsoring women's surgeries in their memory.*

## A Caring Family



*Jordan and Patti Clark discovered Fistula Foundation when a close friend shared “The Life You Can Save” book. With three adult daughters who are all mothers, it’s an issue close to their hearts. Jordan and Patti began supporting our work in 2020, and look forward to giving annually.*

*“By facilitating a simple surgical procedure, we can help transform the lives of women impacted by this condition and by extension, their families and their communities. We are heartened that our gift can be used to do some real good in the world.”*

## Sharing Good Fortune



*Holly Dodson began funding surgeries through Fistula Foundation’s monthly giving program over 10 years ago after watching a documentary. With a long career in the medical field, Holly has a calling to help as many people as she can with her available resources. But it’s supporting fistula survivors that makes her feel like she’s made a profound difference in women’s lives.*

*“I’m lucky enough to live in a place where I have access to all the medical care I could need. These women are so brave—all they have is the will to try.”*

## A Legacy of Healing



*Susan Stewart is keenly aware that global resources are not equitably divided between men and women, especially in Africa. A loyal Fistula Foundation donor since 2013, she’s focused her assets and energies on helping women and girls achieve their potential. She’s deeply moved by the stories of fistula survivors whose boundless joy is her reward for investing in fistula surgery.*

*Susan recently shared that she has decided to include Fistula Foundation in her will. “I’m not concerned with passing on generational wealth. I want to do the most good with the money I have now and after I die—particularly for women suffering without my privileges.”*

## One Woman at a Time



*Alisa Jijon supports Fistula Foundation through our Love A Sister program where she gives to fund an individual surgery. She said she wants her giving to be more than a drop in the bucket. With each donation she knows that she is changing a woman’s life in a direct and tangible way—through transformative fistula surgery.*

*“With Fistula Foundation, you just know that there are names, faces, personalities, and lives attached to the surgeries performed. It feels like a highly personal way of giving.” Alisa’s support is inspiring. To date she’s had a direct impact on healing the lives of 27 women.*

# Earning Your Trust



### Charity Navigator

Fistula Foundation has earned an “exceptional” 4-star rating 15 years in a row, an honor only 1% of evaluated charities receive.



### Better Business Bureau

Fistula Foundation has consistently met all 20 of the BBB’s Standards for Charity Accountability since 2006.



### GreatNonprofits

Thanks to over 740 reviews from supporters like you, we were named a 2020 Top-Rated Charity.



### The Life You Can Save

Since 2014, we have been honored to be one of The Life You Can Save’s recommended charities and part of the Effective Altruism movement.



### Charity Watch

We earned an ‘A’ rating from Charity Watch, which the *New York Times* calls the “pit bull of watchdogs.”



### GuideStar

Platinum Participant status is GuideStar’s highest ranking, awarded to organizations that demonstrate a superior level of impact and transparency.



John Donergan

“Fistula Foundation exemplifies what I look for in an organization as a donor: clarity of mission and focus, data-driven results, and strong ethical and financial arguments for impact.”

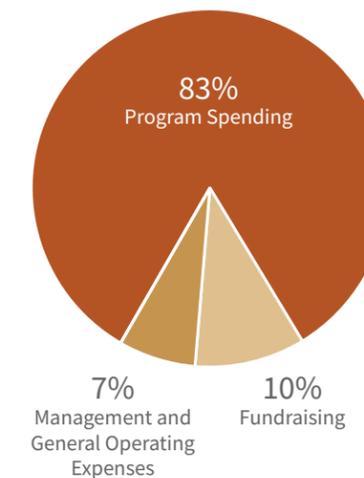
### Peter Singer

Professor, ethicist, and founder of The Life You Can Save organization

## 2020 Financials

	Without Donor Restrictions	With Donor Restrictions	Total
<b>Revenues and Support</b>			
Contributions	\$8,024,867	\$4,964,274	\$12,989,141
Net Investment Income (loss)	\$981,513	\$847,300	\$1,828,813
Net Assets Released from Restriction for Purpose	\$3,774,785	(\$3,774,785)	—
<b>Total Revenues and Support</b>	<b>\$12,781,165</b>	<b>\$2,036,789</b>	<b>\$14,817,954</b>
<b>Expenses</b>			
Program Services	\$9,392,891	—	\$9,392,891
Management and General	\$824,093	—	\$824,093
Fundraising Expense	\$1,136,206	—	\$1,136,206
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$11,353,190</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>\$11,353,190</b>
Change in Net Assets	\$1,427,975	\$2,036,789	\$3,464,764
Net Assets at Beginning of Year	\$1,301,412	\$10,289,793	\$11,591,205
Net Assets at End of Year	\$2,729,387	\$12,326,582	\$15,055,969

## Overall Spending in 2020



# Our Team: United to End Obstetric Fistula



## Fistula Foundation Team

### US Staff

**Kate Grant**  
Chief Executive Officer

**Anne Ferguson**  
Deputy Director

**Lindsey Pollaczek**  
Vice President of Programs

**Kimberly Adinolfi**  
Director of Development

**Kelly Anderson**  
Senior Director of Philanthropy

**Dr. Steve Arrowsmith**  
Medical Advisor

**Darren Blankenship**  
Database Administrator

**Dr. Andrew Browning**  
Medical Advisor

**Jesse Dubow**  
Program Manager

**Pamela Lowney**  
Senior Director of Strategic Initiatives

**Mirabel Miscala**  
Digital Engagement Manager

**Sajira Mae The**  
Senior Development Associate

**Morgan Walter**  
Video Editor/Producer

**Katherine Weller**  
Senior Writer

### Kenya Staff

**Habiba Corodhia Mohamed**  
Country Director

**Mercy Kalemela**  
Office Administrator

**Nelson Musa**  
Monitoring & Evaluation Officer

### Zambia Staff

**Bwalya Chomba**  
Program Director

**Precious Banda**  
Administrative Officer

**Victor Chibale**  
Driver

**Martin Chiyana**  
Program Officer

**Jordan Chileshe Chomba**  
Driver

**Emmanuel Chiluba**  
Program Officer

**Kalumba Kaputo**  
Senior Program Officer

**Jameson Kaunda**  
Monitoring & Evaluation Officer

### Board of Directors

**Kelly Brennan**  
Chair

**Cleo Kiros**  
Director

**Ling Yang Lew**  
Co-chair

**Dr. Charlotte Polle**  
Director

**Gillian Slinger**  
Director

**Vanessa Taylor**  
Director

**Robert Tessler**  
Director

**Mal Warwick**  
Director

### Mascot

**Carly Grant**



## Dr. Lena Gamble

ANGOLA

When the Covid-19 pandemic hit, you made a critical difference for our partners in Angola. With your support, CEML (Centro Evangelico Medicina do Lubango) enlisted the help of Dr. Lena Gamble. She provided infection control training and created a new Covid-19 protocol to keep patients and staff safe. You also helped CEML purchase much-needed PPE like masks and gloves, and covered staff salaries to keep the hospital functioning at full capacity. Thanks to you, these fistula heroes are forging ahead!