What is a fistula?
A fistula is a hole. Obstetric fistula is a hole between the vagina and rectum or bladder that is caused by prolonged obstructed labor, leaving a woman incontinent of urine or feces or both.

One Woman’s Story
Odeline was married at 23 years old and soon became pregnant and delivered a healthy baby boy. Three years later, she delivered a healthy baby girl. But when she went into labor with her third child, things were different. After enduring excruciating labor for two days, she knew something was wrong, so she began a 10-hour journey by carriage to the nearest hospital. Her baby did not survive. Then Odeline began to leak urine. She could no longer attend to her normal chores. Her husband left her and she was forced to return to her family’s home. She suffered for seven years before receiving a successful fistula surgery at the Center for Reproductive Health and Fistula Repair in Chad, from our partners at Women and Health Alliance International. Her fistula was so complicated that five operations were required to fully restore her health. But today she is healed and grateful for her new life.

The Challenge
Only 48% of women in sub-Saharan Africa give birth with a trained maternal health professional present.

Obstructed labor occurs in 5% of live births and accounts for 8% of all maternal deaths.

1,000,000 women are currently living with fistula worldwide.

For every single woman who receives care for her fistula, 50 women go without.

The $450 Solution
Give one woman a new life.

The difference between despair and restored health for a woman suffering with fistula is $450.

In the United States, the average cost of a pelvic ultrasound is $525.

In sub-Saharan Africa, $450 can provide about three weeks of inpatient care that includes a woman’s fistula repair surgery, pre- and post-operative care and reintegration support to help her rejoin a community that too often banished her.

You can transform a woman’s life by helping to fund her fistula repair surgery. www.fistulafoundation.org
Our Partners

At the heart of our ability to deliver results are the partners with whom we work. These partnerships allow us to understand challenges providers face and teach us how to help them advance care on the ground.

Our Model

Proven on-the-ground partners.
We work with established, in-country organizations that are trusted by the communities they serve and know how to deliver help in the right way.

Driven by results.
We’re focused on efficiency and productivity and work quickly to put donor funds to work in the field; we measure results in the number of lives changed.

Fueling innovation.
We fund projects that support treatment in new ways, from motorcycle ambulances that can navigate rough terrain to a Global Fistula Map that identifies fistula care facilities most poised for expansion.

Commitment to Accountability

Fistula Foundation adheres to the highest standards for financial management and is dedicated to keeping operating expenses low. Hundreds of positive reviews from our supporters have earned us Top-Rated status from GreatNonprofits. We have earned the GuideStar Exchange Seal for our deep commitment to nonprofit transparency and accountability, and the Better Business Bureau Seal for meeting its Standards for Charity Accountability since 2006. We have earned an A grade and Top-Rated charity status from CharityWatch, which uses the most stringent evaluation standards in the charity watchdog sector. And for nine consecutive years, we’ve earned a 4-star rating from Charity Navigator, a designation only 1 percent of charities they rate have received.