

## What is a fistula?

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

## The Challenge



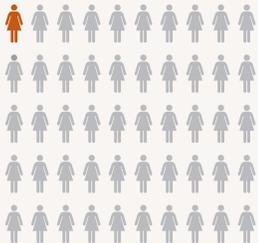
Only **52% of women** in sub-Saharan Africa give birth with a trained maternal health professional present.



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 \$586 Solution

Give one woman a new life.

**The difference** between despair and restored health for a woman suffering with fistula **is \$586.**

In sub-Saharan Africa, \$586 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](http://www.fistulafoundation.org)

## One Woman's Story



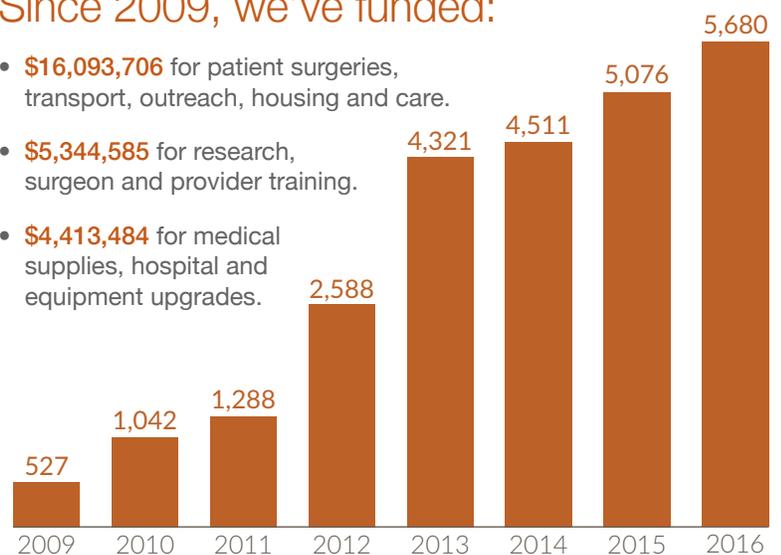
Seline is from a small village in the remote region of West Pokot, Kenya. She did not go to school and married young, as is tradition in this pastoralist community. When she went into labor with her fourth child, she labored for two days at home without making progress. Finally, Seline gave birth – unfortunately, the baby did not survive, and the difficult labor left Seline with a fistula that caused her to leak urine constantly. Her husband tried to kick her out of the house, but since she was orphaned and had no living parents, she was forced to stay even though her husband would not associate with her. Seline suffered with fistula for three years before receiving information on fistula treatment from Jane, a community health volunteer with WADADIA, an Action on Fistula outreach partner. Seline was thrilled when Jane told her that she could access free treatment for her condition at Cherangany Nursing Home, a hospital that is part of the Action on Fistula Treatment Network. She was admitted for surgery soon after, and her fistula was successfully repaired. Seline's health has now been restored, and she is happy and hopeful about her future.

## A Single, Solvable Problem

Fistula Foundation funds more life-transforming surgeries for women suffering from obstetric fistula than any other organization in the world not receiving government funding. We are focused on this single, solvable maternal health problem because we believe that no woman should suffer a life of misery and isolation simply for trying to bring a child into the world.

Since 2009, we've funded:

- **\$16,093,706** for patient surgeries, transport, outreach, housing and care.
- **\$5,344,585** for research, surgeon and provider training.
- **\$4,413,484** for medical supplies, hospital and equipment upgrades.



**More than 25,000 surgeries funded since 2009**

# Where We Work

We fund treatment in more than 20 countries

Afghanistan  
 Angola  
 Bangladesh  
 Benin  
 Burundi  
 Cameroon  
 Chad  
 DR Congo  
 Ethiopia  
 Guinea  
 Kenya  
 Liberia  
 Madagascar  
 Malawi  
 Mozambique  
 Nepal  
 Niger  
 Nigeria  
 Pakistan  
 Somaliland  
 South Sudan  
 Tanzania  
 Uganda  
 Zambia  
 Zimbabwe



## 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 women who receive life-transforming surgery.

### 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, to development of a nationwide Fistula Treatment Network in Kenya.

## 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 eleven consecutive years, we've earned a 4-star rating from **Charity Navigator**, a designation only 1 percent of charities they rate have received.

