



FISTULA  
FOUNDATION

2013 Annual Report





## Sokhina

Bangladesh

When Sokhina became pregnant, she was aided by a traditional birth attendant, as the women in her family had done before. As labor progressed, Sokhina was in great pain but the birth attendant assured her she was fine. After four days of excruciating labor, the birth attendant realized the birth was too complicated and left Sokhina to deliver on her own. After convincing her husband to take her to a hospital, she delivered a stillborn baby.

Soon after, she began to leak urine. Her husband left her to take a second wife because he could not stand the smell of Sokhina's incontinence. Friends and family stopped visiting. For eight years, Sokhina lived a life of shame and isolation simply for trying to bring a child into this world.

Then she learned about HOPE Hospital for Women & Children of Bangladesh, which provides fistula repair surgeries free of charge thanks to support from Fistula Foundation. Successful surgery completely transformed Sokhina's life. Today, she is dry and once again in high spirits, hopeful about her future.



Dear Friends and Partners,

This year, Fistula Foundation celebrated five years of treating fistula globally. Over the course of these past five years, your donations have enabled us to help more women in more places, providing more fistula surgeries than any other nonprofit not taking government funding. We are proud of the nearly 10,000 surgeries we've accomplished to date – more than 4,000 this year alone – thanks to your generous support. This year, you also helped us expand our reach into six additional countries, bringing to 26 the total number of countries in which we've been able to transform women's lives.

We have a focused goal: provide treatment to women who are suffering from fistula. In order to provide this treatment, three elements must be in place: a patient, an appropriately equipped facility and an effectively trained surgeon. While this sounds simple enough, the truth is, it's not. But with your help, we are making tremendous progress.

In the pages that follow, you will learn how donors just like you are helping change lives of women they will likely never meet, in places they will likely never visit. You will be introduced to some of our trusted partners and surgeons, you will see facilities that are far better equipped thanks to your donations, and most importantly, you will meet some of the women whose lives are forever changed because of your support.

Sincerely,



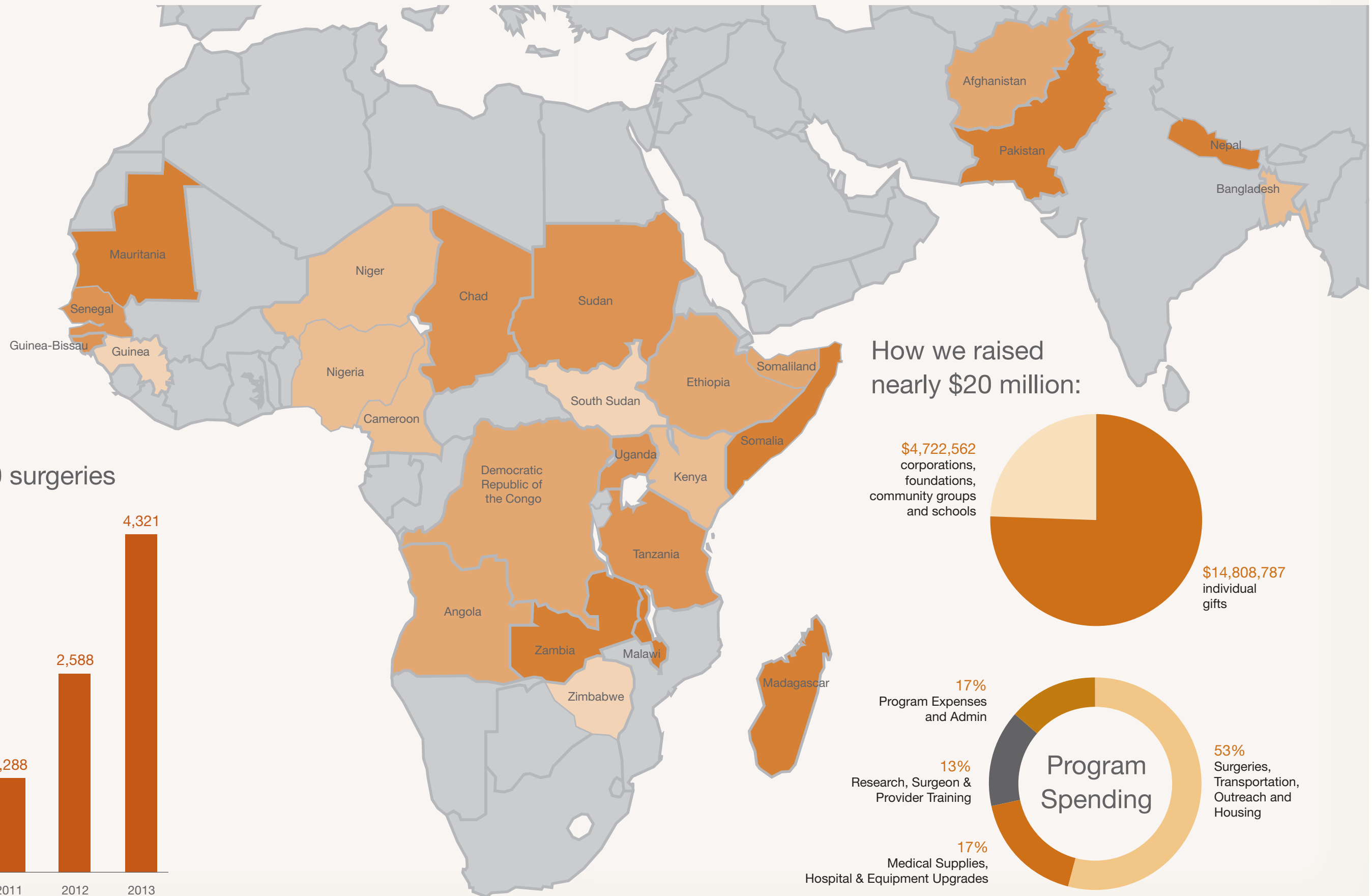
  
Dr. Sohier Elneil  
Board Chair



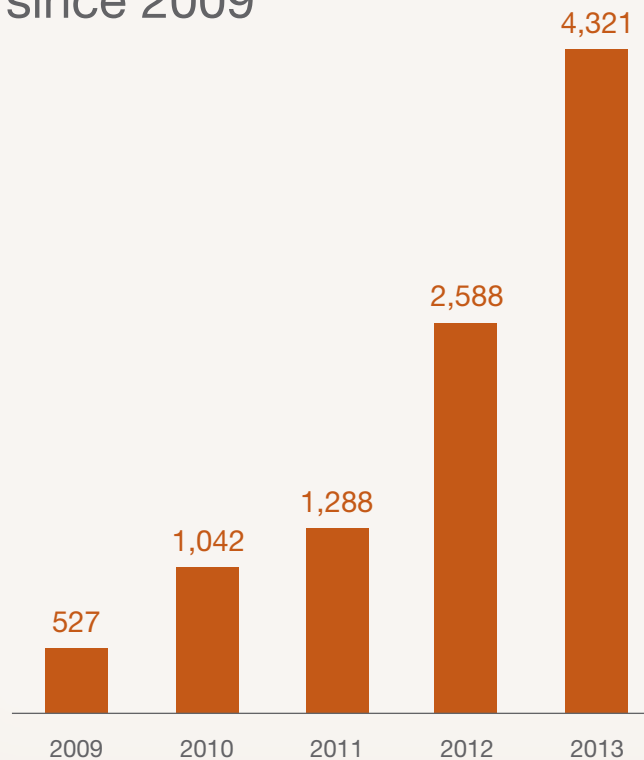
  
Kate Grant  
Chief Executive Officer

# Celebrating Five Years of Treating Women Globally

- 2009  
Afghanistan, Angola, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ethiopia, Somaliland
- 2010  
Bangladesh, Cameroon, Kenya, Niger, Nigeria
- 2011  
Chad, Guinea-Bissau, Sudan, Tanzania, Uganda, Senegal
- 2012  
Pakistan, Malawi, Mauritania, Madagascar, Zambia, Nepal, Somalia
- 2013  
Guinea, Zimbabwe, South Sudan

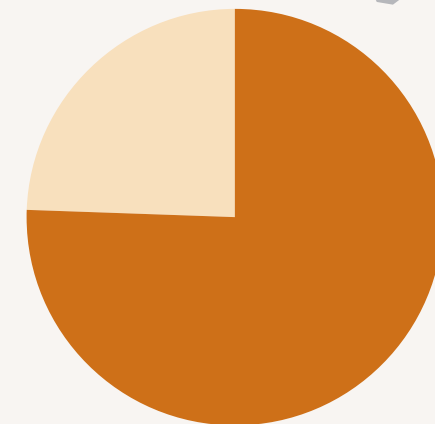


Nearly 10,000 surgeries since 2009



How we raised nearly \$20 million:

\$4,722,562  
corporations,  
foundations,  
community groups  
and schools

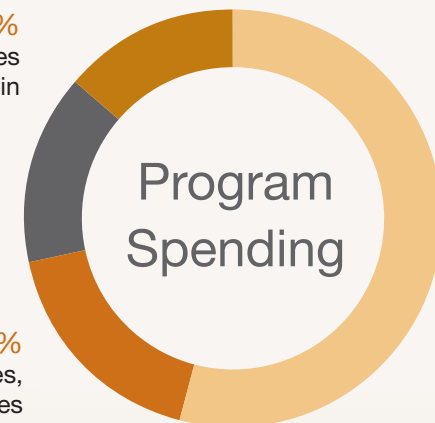


\$14,808,787  
individual  
gifts

17%  
Program Expenses  
and Admin

13%  
Research, Surgeon &  
Provider Training

17%  
Medical Supplies,  
Hospital & Equipment Upgrades



53%  
Surgeries,  
Transportation,  
Outreach and  
Housing



# Our Trusted Partners



## Dr. Iftikher Mahmood

**Founder, HOPE Foundation for Women & Children of Bangladesh**

For the last 14 years, Dr. Iftikher Mahmood has quietly been improving the health of countless women in need who would otherwise be forgotten.

Dr. Mahmood was born in southern Bangladesh in Cox's Bazar, a region of the country where 9 in 10 women deliver their babies at home without access to a trained medical professional. Today, he lives in Miami, Florida, where he is a pediatrician.

He always knew he wanted to do something to help those who needed medical care in his home country. So, in 1999, he rented a facility that he turned into a one-room outpatient clinic, putting his own money and energy into his dream before asking anyone else to join him.

After these humble beginnings, support from the Bangladeshi community in the US helped him raise funds in 2005 to build what is today HOPE Hospital: a 40-bed charitable hospital with eight rural medical centers, a training center for midwives, and a strong network of grassroots-based staff and volunteers who implement localized solutions for identifying and referring women for treatment of fistula and other obstetric complications.

Dr. Mahmood's vision is to transform the healthcare landscape for women throughout Bangladesh and to train health professionals around the country about fistula care. To date, HOPE Hospital in Cox's Bazar has provided services to more than 400,000 people and is the only facility providing obstetric fistula treatment in southeastern Bangladesh. Your donations fund fistula care in this area where previously none was available.



© Dr. Tareq Salahuddin

When you entrust your donations to us, we put them as quickly as possible into the hands of trusted partners in the field who inspire us every day with their dedication and determination.

## 2013 Partners

Location	Partners	Treatment	Training	Facilities/ Equipment	Research & Advocacy
Afghanistan	CURE International Hospital – Kabul		◆		◆
Angola	Evangelical Medical Center of Lubango (CEML) – Lubango	◆			
	Unidade Fistula Obstetrica (UFO) – Damba	◆			◆
Bangladesh	HOPE Foundation for Women & Children of Bangladesh – Cox's Bazar	◆			◆
Chad	WAHA – Center for Reproductive Health & Fistula Repair – N'Djamena	◆	◆	◆	◆
Democratic Republic of the Congo	Panzi Hospital – Bukavu	◆	◆		◆
	HEAL Africa – Goma	◆			◆
Ethiopia	Hamlin Fistula Hospitals – Addis Ababa, Harar	◆		◆	
	WAHA – Dollo Ado refugee camp – Dollo Ado	◆	◆		
Guinea	WAHA – National University Hospital Ignace Deen – Conakry	◆	◆		
Kenya	Direct Relief – Jaramogi Oginga Odinga Teaching and Referral Hospital (JOOTRH) – Kisumu	◆			◆
	Jamaa Mission Hospital – Nairobi	◆			◆
	International Nepal Fellowship – Surkhet		◆	◆	
Nepal	Fistula Free Nepal – Dharan	◆	◆		
	Worldwide Fistula Fund – Danja Fistula Center – Danja	◆	◆		◆
Nigeria	Kirker Hospital – Maïné Soroa			◆	
	Fistula Foundation Nigeria – Kano			◆	
	Evangel Vesico-Vaginal Fistula Center (EVFC) – Jos	◆	◆		◆
Nigeria	Nigeria National Fistula Program – Katsina	◆		◆	
	WAHA – Banadir Hospital – Mogadishu	◆	◆	◆	◆
Somaliland	Edna Adan University Hospital – Hargeisa	◆		◆	
	National Borama Fistula Hospital – Borama			◆	
Sudan	WAHA – Dr. Abbo Khartoum Teaching Hospital – Khartoum	◆	◆	◆	◆
South Sudan	WAHA – Malakal Teaching Hospital – Malakal	◆			
Tanzania	Arusha Lutheran Medical Centre – Arusha			◆	◆
	Association of Obstetric Fistula Surgeons of Tanzania – Dar es Salaam	◆	◆		◆
	Comprehensive Community Based Rehabilitation in Tanzania (CCBRT) – Dar es Salaam			◆	◆
Uganda	Kitovu Hospital – Masaka	◆		◆	
	TERREWODE – Soroti	◆			◆
	Kagando Hospital – Kagando	◆			
	Uganda Village Project – Iganga	◆			◆
UK	International Federation of Gynecology and Obstetrics (FIGO)		◆		
US, California	Direct Relief – Global Fistula Map 2.0				◆
	Direct Relief – Medical Supplies			◆	
US, NY & MI	Expert Fistula Surgeons – Surgical Training/Site Visits	◆	◆		
Zambia	St. Francis Mission Hospital – Katete	◆			
Zimbabwe	WAHA – Parirenyatwa Hospital – Harare	◆			

WAHA (Women and Health Alliance International)

© Dr. Tareq Salahuddin



# Equipping Facilities

Women with fistula deserve the highest quality of care available, and your donations are a critical source of funding for facilities that lack proper equipment or are in need of upgrades. This year, your donations helped to improve fistula care by equipping and improving a number of facilities, where more surgeries can now take place.



WAHA

## Banadir Hospital

Mogadishu, Somalia

Located in central Mogadishu, the fistula center includes screening and consultations, surgery activities, and postoperative care with a 60-bed ward. As most of the equipment at the hospital was broken down or very dilapidated, new items were provided for the operating room. The new fistula ward at Banadir Hospital was filled with beds, mattresses, infusion drips, and nursing care material. In 2013, additional items were purchased to support fistula care services at Banadir Hospital, such as operating theatre tables and lamps, surgical kits for fistula repair and other related equipment.



WAHA

## National University Hospital Ignace Deen

Conakry, Guinea

This facility is one of Guinea's largest hospitals. With plenty of space and staff, the hospital had the ability to treat women with fistula, but not the tools that were needed in order to provide safe treatment. Your donations helped to supply surgical instruments and to refurbish and upgrade the patient ward of the hospital's urology center, where fistula treatment takes place. Surgeons now have the tools they need and a comfortable, hygienic facility in which to operate, and report that these changes have already led to increases in the number of women they are able to treat.



Will Chamberlain courtesy of Kitovu Hospital

## Kitovu Hospital

Masaka, Uganda

Kitovu Hospital offers a variety of women's health services to the community, including four to six fistula surgery clinics each year. In addition to regular funding for costs associated with women's surgeries, your donations funded the construction of a brand new water tank and incinerator at the hospital in 2013. Thanks to this support, Kitovu Hospital now has an adequate water supply as well as proper means for disposal of medical waste on site.



International Nepal Fellowship

## International Nepal Fellowship

Surkhet, Nepal

International Nepal Fellowship (INF) focuses on surveillance, prevention and treatment of obstetric fistula in remote areas of western Nepal. They conduct periodic fistula surgery clinics at a regional hospital in Surkhet, but until recently were lacking the necessary medical equipment for effective diagnosis and treatment. In 2013, funding from Fistula Foundation allowed them to purchase medical supplies, a much-needed new ultrasound machine, and a four-wheel drive vehicle to facilitate access to treatment for patients from remote areas. These equipment upgrades led to over 50 women receiving life-changing treatment over a period of several days at INF's most recent surgery clinic.

# Training Surgeons

We are working with the International Federation of Gynecology and Obstetrics (FIGO) to grow the field of trained fistula surgeons across Africa and Asia. This year with Fistula Foundation support, FIGO added 29 master trainers to its Train-the-Trainer program, accredited six surgical training centers and trained six new fistula surgeons.



Drs. Naima and Shukri pose for a photo with Dr. Lauri Romanzi and Edna Adan.

## Drs. Shukri Mohamed Dahir and Naima Ahmed Mohamed

Edna Adan University Hospital

Edna Adan University Hospital in Hargeisa, Somaliland was founded by Edna Adan, an accomplished nurse and midwife who is internationally recognized for her dedication to women's health. Ms. Adan has long been an advocate for gender equality and girls' education, and encourages young women to study as nurses and midwives at her hospital.

Two of these women are Dr. Shukri Mohamed Dahir and Dr. Naima Ahmed Mohamed, both of whom graduated from the Edna Adan School of Midwifery before continuing their training at the hospital as nurses and eventually attending medical school. In July 2011, Shukri and Naima officially graduated from Amoud University to become the very first female doctors on staff at Edna Adan's hospital.



Edna Adan University Hospital.

Thanks to your donations, Drs. Shukri and Naima have received advanced training in fistula surgery from expert surgeon, Dr. Lauri Romanzi. Impressed by the young doctors' progress in surgical ability and competence, Dr. Romanzi commented, "It is encouraging to know that women with these specific fistula and prolapse conditions will undergo surgery without delay, as Drs. Naima and Shukri begin to independently address the childbirth-related pelvic floor injuries in the Somaliland community."



Dr. Shukri operates on a complex case of obstetric fistula at Edna Adan University Hospital.

*"The training support provided by Fistula Foundation has transformed the care we are able to offer to women suffering from fistula at our hospital. The advanced training and mentorship provided by Dr. Lauri Romanzi has enabled Dr. Naima and Dr. Shukri to now offer fistula repair services at our hospital year round."*

**Edna Adan**

Founder, Edna Adan University Hospital



# Key Partners



## Half the Sky Movement: The Game

Based on the book by Pulitzer Prize-winning authors Nicholas Kristof and Sheryl WuDunn, *Half the Sky: Turning Oppression into Opportunity for Women Worldwide*, this Facebook-based game provides opportunities to learn about issues like obstetric fistula in an approachable way. The game is also a chance to act online for real-world change offline thanks to Johnson & Johnson, which generously donated \$250,000 to Fistula Foundation through the game; funds that go directly toward fistula treatment as players meet key milestones within the game.



## Nicholas Kristof

No one does more to raise the profile of obstetric fistula than two-time Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist Nicholas Kristof. He writes regularly about our work and the women we treat. We are thankful for his compassion and willingness to consistently use his platform to raise awareness about this too often underreported issue.



## Johnson & Johnson

Johnson & Johnson continued its decade of support for Fistula Foundation this year through Half the Sky Movement: The Game, graciously contributing \$250,000 toward fistula treatment; funds that are released when players take specific actions while playing the game.



## Women and Health Alliance International

One of our longest-term partners, WAHA plays a critical role in our ability to deliver quality fistula treatment to women who are suffering in some of the most dangerous regions in the world.

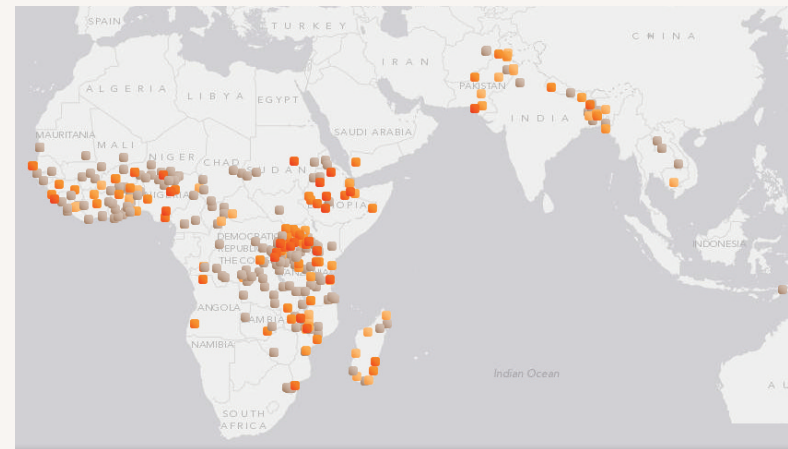
We know that for every 50 women in need of fistula repair surgery, only one is treated. Fistula Foundation is committed to expanding the pool of trained surgeons and fistula care providers at our partner sites throughout Africa and Asia.



Of every **50** women in need only **one** gets treatment.

## Global Fistula Map 2.0

Since its initial launch in 2012, the Global Fistula Map has been the single most comprehensive source for understanding worldwide availability of treatment for women living with obstetric fistula. Fistula Foundation funded updates to the map this year that nearly doubled the number of fistula treatment sites added and allowed for greater depth of data to be captured for each facility. Direct Relief reports that the updated version of the map has already improved their distribution of medical supplies to partner facilities in need, and that public health researchers have used the enhanced map to explore fistula treatment supply and demand issues.



## Direct Relief

Since expanding to a global mission in 2009, Fistula Foundation has funded and partnered with Direct Relief to identify and supply partners throughout Africa and Asia with surgical supplies that enable fistula care.



## UNFPA Campaign to End Fistula

We are a proud partner of UNFPA's global campaign to improve maternal health, and to join in our shared goal of reducing the number of women suffering from obstetric fistula in developing countries.



## Aid for Africa

Fistula Foundation is a participating member of Aid for Africa, a charity alliance of U.S.-based nonprofits and their African partners working to help children, families, and communities throughout sub-Saharan Africa.



## Global Impact

Global Impact raises funds to meet critical humanitarian needs around the world for more than 80 U.S.-based international charities, including Fistula Foundation. Funds are raised through innovative partnerships and employee giving programs for some of America's top corporations and one of the world's largest workplace giving campaigns, the Combined Federal Campaign-Overseas.



# People Like You Are Changing Lives

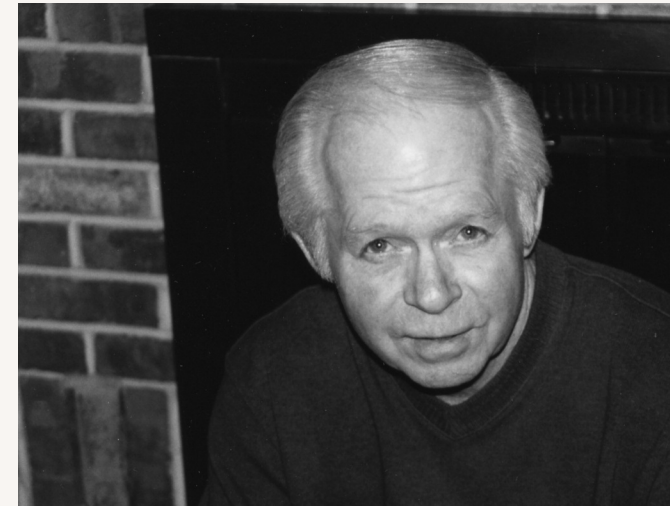
Every day, people like you are working to transform the lives of women who suffer from obstetric fistula.



**Kimberly Robinson**

The Walt Disney Company  
Burbank, CA

*"I am proud to have supported the Fistula Foundation for the last eight years, and even more proud to announce that Fistula Foundation has been accepted into the Employee Matching Gifts program at The Walt Disney Company Foundation! Disney employees worldwide can now have their donations matched, up to \$15,000 per employee, per calendar year! Wow! I can't wait to see how many surgeries will be completed and how many lives will be changed as Disney matches my donations, and donations from employees around the globe."*



**Vince Gallagher**

Audubon, NJ

Vince Gallagher has shared Fistula Foundation's work through lectures about the impacts of globalization since 2009, raising a significant amount of funds in the process.

*"It is devastating that women are still treated as property; that many suffer so much in childbirth and are then cast aside to live in isolation. When I realized one surgery could change lives, I couldn't help but respond. My support helps to provide healthcare and life. When speaking to groups about issues of justice, I always mention how we can dramatically affect the lives of precious young women who suffer obstetric fistulas by supporting the Fistula Foundation."*



**Natalie Papa**

Freshman, High Tech High School  
North Bergen, NJ

*"I think it is important to know that there are women in the world suffering from fistula. That is why I will keep spreading awareness and encouraging others to reach out to these women. It meant so much to educate people about obstetric fistula and to raise money for an operation for a woman. Thank you for giving me a chance to help someone else."*



**Izzy Howerton**

Mary Institute and St. Louis Country Day School  
St. Louis, MO

Izzy Howerton is a runner who loves to go the distance, hitting the pavement for women with obstetric fistula. Inspired by her Global Action Project class, Izzy decided to take on the issue of obstetric fistula in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. She decided to combine her love of running with a project that could make a difference, and began asking friends and family to pledge a donation to Fistula Foundation for every mile she ran. On May 22, 2013, Izzy hit her goal of 200 miles run – and was able to donate an impressive \$1,263 toward treatment for women with fistula in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.



# Investing in Lives Transformed

Fistula Foundation was fortunate this year to have received our largest individual gift ever from one donor who has asked to remain anonymous. This record \$1.084 million donation to our work enabled us to go deeper into several countries, funding surgeries, training and other critical components of our partners' work to treat women who might otherwise still be waiting for treatment. In total, the investment by this single generous benefactor funded surgeries for more than 1,500 women between 2013-2014.



## Chad

### Center for Reproductive Health and Fistula Repair, N'Djamena

Provided surgeon training, support for patient recruitment, fistula repair surgeries and transportation for fistula patients.



## Democratic Republic of the Congo

### Panzi Hospital, Bukavu

Funded surgeon training, patient recruitment and fistula repair surgeries.



## Kenya

### Jaramogi Oginga Odinga Teaching & Referral Hospital (JOOTRH), Kisumu

Enabled facility to identify and refer patients for treatment, provided fistula repair surgeries and funded a mapping and research project that will allow the facility to better understand the areas with highest prevalence of fistula.



## Nigeria

### Evangel Vesico-Vaginal Fistula Center, Jos

Funded fistula surgeries, patient recruitment and surgeon training.



## Sudan

### Dr Abbo's National Fistula and Urogynaecology Center, Khartoum

Provided equipment upgrades, treatment for highly complex fistula cases, and supported patient recruitment.



**Halime's Story:** Halime lives in northern Chad and developed her fistula after two excruciating days of prolonged labor. She suffered for one year before learning about free treatment available at the Center. After her successful surgery, she told her nurse, "It is very nice of you to help us because our regular means are insufficient and we would not otherwise get treatment."



**Anna's Story:** By 23, Anna had already lived with fistula for nine years, shamed and isolated by her condition. One day, a radio ad changed her life, leading her to free fistula treatment at JOOTRH. Today she is dry and making plans to support herself by becoming a tailor in her community.

# Our Financials

Revenues and Support	Unrestricted	Temporarily Restricted	Permanently Restricted	Total
Contributions	\$5,231,478	\$835,451		\$6,066,929
Net investment income (loss)	\$357,470			\$357,470
Net assets released from restriction for purpose	\$644,936	\$644,936		
<b>Total revenues and support</b>	<b>\$6,233,884</b>	<b>\$190,515</b>		<b>\$6,424,399</b>

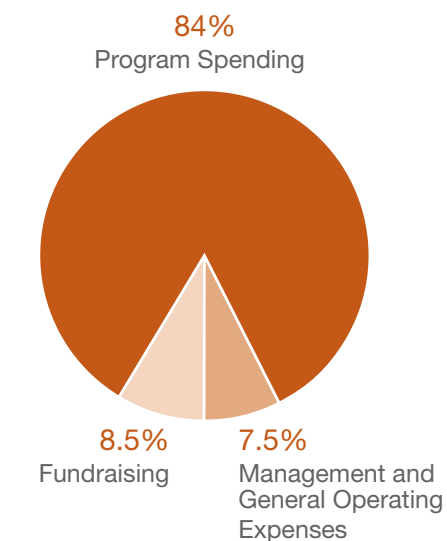
Expenses	Unrestricted	Temporarily Restricted	Permanently Restricted	Total
Program services	\$4,871,403			\$4,871,403
Management and general	\$432,289			\$432,289
Fundraising expenses	\$496,576			\$496,576
<b>Total expenses</b>	<b>\$5,800,268</b>			<b>\$5,800,268</b>

Change in net assets	\$433,616	\$190,515		\$624,131
Net assets at beginning of year	\$4,632,536	\$28,987	\$32,155	\$4,693,678
<b>Net assets at end of year</b>	<b>\$5,066,152</b>	<b>\$219,502</b>	<b>\$32,155</b>	<b>\$5,317,809</b>

"Panzi Hospital has a good reputation, and it is partly thanks to the funds offered by Fistula Foundation that we have managed to establish ourselves as a key actor in providing quality maternal health care. Panzi Hospital and Fistula Foundation are long-time partners in DR Congo. Without the assistance of Fistula Foundation we could not have conducted the number of fistula reparations that we did during 2013."

**Dr. Denis Mukwege**  
 Founder, Panzi Hospital  
 Democratic Republic of the Congo

## Overall Spending in 2013





# Delivering on Our Promise

We strive to put every dollar you entrust to our care into the field as quickly as we can, and work to be as effective with your hard-earned funds as possible. We were honored to be recognized by a number of organizations in 2013 for our dedication to transparency and efficiency.



**Dr. Molly Johnson**  
Professor of Women's and Gender Studies  
University of Alabama  
Huntsville, AL

## Molly's lasting gift will deliver changed lives in the future

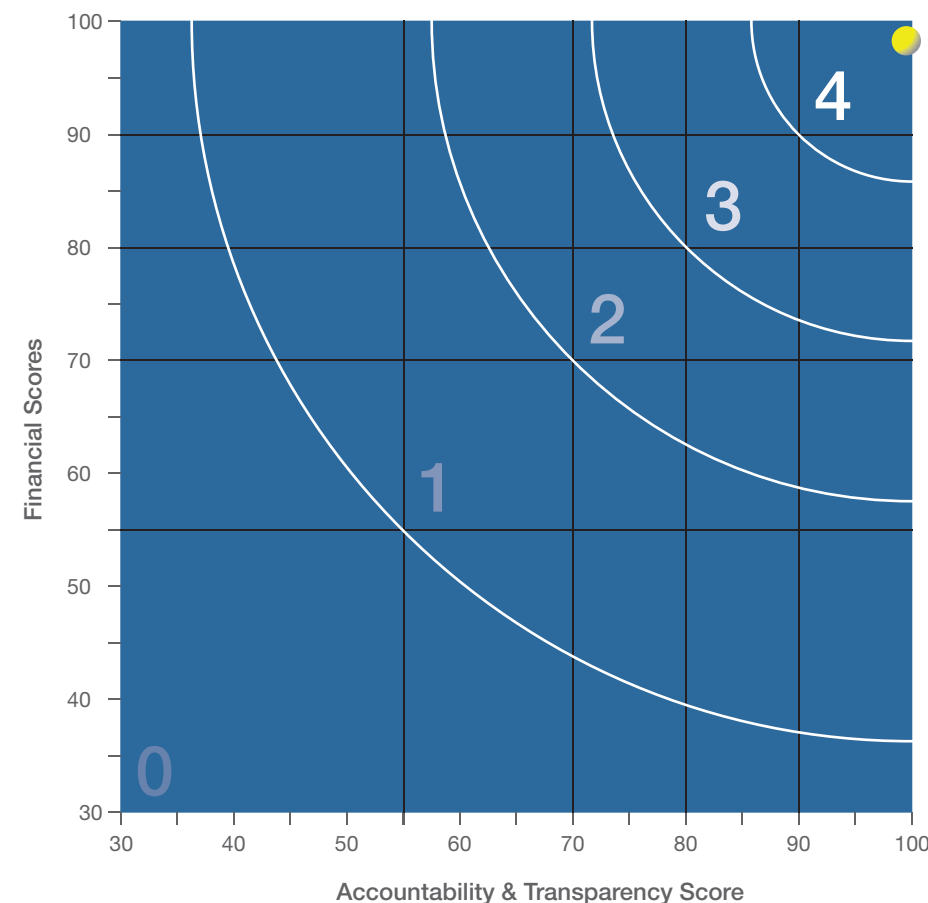
For Molly, a decade of support for Fistula Foundation's work has turned into a lifetime of giving.

*"I first read about obstetric fistula and Fistula Foundation in a New York Times column by Nicholas Kristof. Ten years later, I remain a loyal donor to the Foundation. When I give to Fistula Foundation, I know I am making a difference in transforming a woman's life.*

*One afternoon, years later, I read Nicholas Kristof and Sheryl WuDunn's book, Half the Sky: Turning Oppression into Opportunity for Women Worldwide while nursing my daughter. I realized that her life would be less valued in some parts of the world, and this made me feel a strong sense of responsibility to all mothers and daughters.*

*So, when my husband and I decided to write a will to ensure guardianship of our children – should anything ever happen to us – we decided to include several bequests, one of them to benefit Fistula Foundation. Wills, trusts and bequests are not just for the wealthy. We are a middle class family and found the fees reasonable, process straightforward and resulting document a relief.*

*Making a bequest to Fistula Foundation in our will also offers a "final" lesson to my children about the value of giving back and helping others who are less fortunate. I like knowing that when I leave this world, I will leave a lasting gift that will make a difference in several women's lives."*



**"Only 1% of the charities we rate have received at least eight consecutive 4-star evaluations, indicating that Fistula Foundation outperforms most other charities in America."**

— Charity Navigator



## Eight Years at Four Stars

*"Fistula Foundation has earned our eighth consecutive 4-star rating. Receiving four out of a possible four stars indicates that your organization adheres to good governance and other best practices that minimize the chance of unethical activities and consistently executes its mission in a fiscally responsible way. Only 1% of the charities we rate have received at least 8 consecutive 4-star evaluations, indicating that Fistula Foundation outperforms most other charities in America."*

~ Extracted from Charity Navigator letter to the Fistula Foundation



Of approximately 600 charities currently rated by CharityWatch, only a select number qualify to be listed as a Top-Rated Charity based on their rigorous analysis. Fistula Foundation has earned an 'A' grade and is one of only 37 "Top Rated International Organizations" by CharityWatch.



Fistula Foundation is recognized as a Top-Rated Nonprofit by GreatNonprofits, a site that allows donors to share reviews and personal experiences with nonprofits. We are delighted and grateful that the 248 reviews we've received from our supporters have resulted in the highest nonprofit rating possible!



The BBB Wise Giving Alliance Standards for Charity Accountability were developed to assist donors in making sound giving decisions and to foster public confidence in charitable organizations. Fistula Foundation has met all 20 of the Better Business Bureau's Standards for Charity Accountability since 2006.



The Life You Can Save organization maintains a list of 10 recommended charities which the organization believes can make the most positive change in the most effective ways. Fistula Foundation is proud to be one of these recommended charities.



Fistula Foundation was honored to be selected in 2013 as the featured charity of the Mothers' Day Movement, a small group of women working to encourage all of us to rethink our giving priorities each Mother's Day and to move the apostrophe to make the day a Mothers' Day, in honor of all mothers.



We remain grateful to be part of the Half the Sky Movement, which brings together video, websites, games, blogs and other educational tools to raise awareness and empower women worldwide.



# Our Team

## Board of Directors



Not pictured: Sarah Omega Kidangasi, Dr. France Donnay

**Sohier Elneil, MD PhD FRCOG**  
Consultant In Urogynaecology and Uro-neurology,  
University College London Hospital and National Hospital for Neurology and Neurosurgery

**France Anne Donnay, MD, FACOG**  
Senior Program Officer,  
Maternal, Neonatal and Child Health,  
Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation

**Kate Grant (Ex Officio)**  
Chief Executive Officer,  
Fistula Foundation

**Kassahun Kebede**  
Founder, Principal, and  
Managing Partner,  
PANTON Capital Group

**Sarah Omega Kidangasi**  
Outreach Manager,  
One by One's Let's End Fistula Initiative

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Partner,  
Saunders, Norval, Pargaman & Atkins, LLP

**Robert Tessler, Esq.**  
Partner,  
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**Linda Tripp**  
Vice President (Retired),  
World Vision Canada

**Teri Whitcraft**  
Senior Producer,  
ABC News

**Larry William, MD**  
Medical Director (Retired),  
Pacific Partners Management Services, Inc.

**Susan N. Wilson, Ms.Ed.**  
Senior Advisor,  
Answer and New Jersey Newsroom Columnist

## 2013 Dr. Allan Rosenfield Award



This year, Fistula Foundation presented the inaugural Dr. Allan Rosenfield Award to Kassahun Kebede and Dr. Gerald Shefren. The award to Kebede and Shefren recognizes their significant contributions to the organization during their ten year tenure on the Foundation board of directors. Kebede served for eight years as board chair and both men helped the organization grow profoundly.

The award is named for the late Dr. Allan Rosenfield, who served on the Fistula Foundation's board of directors for five years. As dean of the Mailman School of Public Health at Columbia University he was known globally for his pioneering leadership and myriad contributions to the field of women's health. We still miss Allan and will remember him by recognizing others who have made significant contributions to the Foundation.

## Staff



**Kate Grant**  
Chief Executive Officer

**Anne Ferguson**  
Deputy Director

**Dr. Steven Arrowsmith**  
Medical and Programs Director

**Joop Rubens**  
Director of Marketing and Development

**Lindsey Pollaczek**  
Kenya Program Director

**Jessica Love**  
Communications Director

**Niki Friedman**  
Office Manager

**Ashley Burke**  
Communications Associate

**Linda Edwards**  
Administrative Assistant



© WAHA

## Odeline

Chad

*"I don't know how to express my joy the day I recovered my health."*

Odeline was married at the age of 23 and soon became pregnant. The pregnancy went well and she delivered a healthy baby boy. Three years later she also delivered her second baby girl without problems. She then became pregnant with her third child, and this time when she went into labor, things were different. After enduring excruciating labor for more than two days, it was obvious something was seriously wrong. So she began a 10-hour journey by carriage to the nearest hospital, where her stillborn baby was delivered.

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 with fistula for seven years until finally receiving a successful fistula repair surgery from Dr. Nesy Basimike at the National Center for Reproductive Health and Fistula Repair, a facility funded by Fistula Foundation and run by our partner, Women and Health Alliance International (WAHA).

Odeline's fistula was so complicated that five operations were required in order to finally heal her injury. Afterward, she shared her story with WAHA, "I don't know how to express my joy the day I recovered my health. I am grateful to God and all the medical team at the Center for Fistula Repair."



A. A.L. 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