



FISTULA  
FOUNDATION

2015 Annual Report



## Fatuma

Five years ago, Fatuma fled Somalia to join hundreds of thousands of Somali refugees in Kenya, many of whom have been displaced by decades of conflict and famine at home. Living in Dadaab, the world's largest refugee camp, she developed a fistula while giving birth to her fourth child. Thanks to support from our Action on Fistula program, Fatuma was able to travel from the camp to Jamaa Mission Hospital in Nairobi, where she received free fistula repair surgery. Now recovered, she is thankful for the treatment that restored her health.



## Dear Friend

Thanks to you, 2015 proved to be an exciting year of new records, deepened partnerships, and rapid response to critical need. This year, you truly helped us treat more women than ever before.

The surgeries you helped fund enabled 5,076 women to receive life-changing treatment, surpassing our goal for the year. Together, we raised enough funds to build a fistula hospital in Kenya, satisfying a dedicated surgeon's lifelong dream to treat his fellow countrywomen. And together, we answered an urgent call from our partners in Nepal, helping rebuild after the April 25 earthquake damaged an operating room essential to their hospital's ability to treat fistula patients.

At Fistula Foundation, we see ourselves as a conduit, an organization that connects generous people like you to committed partners who are changing lives. We remain ever grateful for the trust you place in our ability to use your donations to transform women's lives through surgery.

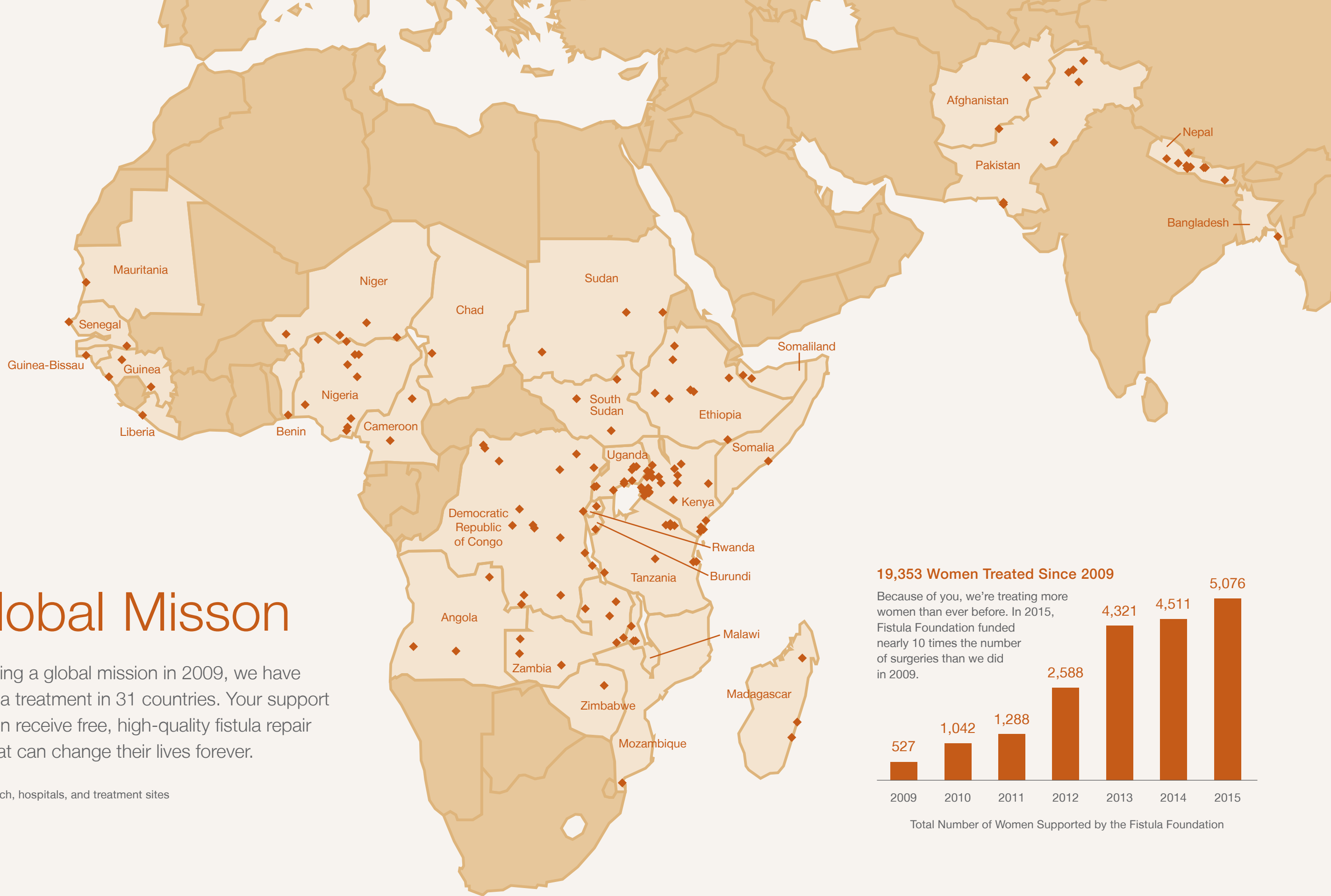
Thank you for the lives you continue to enable us to change.

Sincerely,

William H. Mann III  
Board Chair

Kate Grant  
Chief Executive Officer





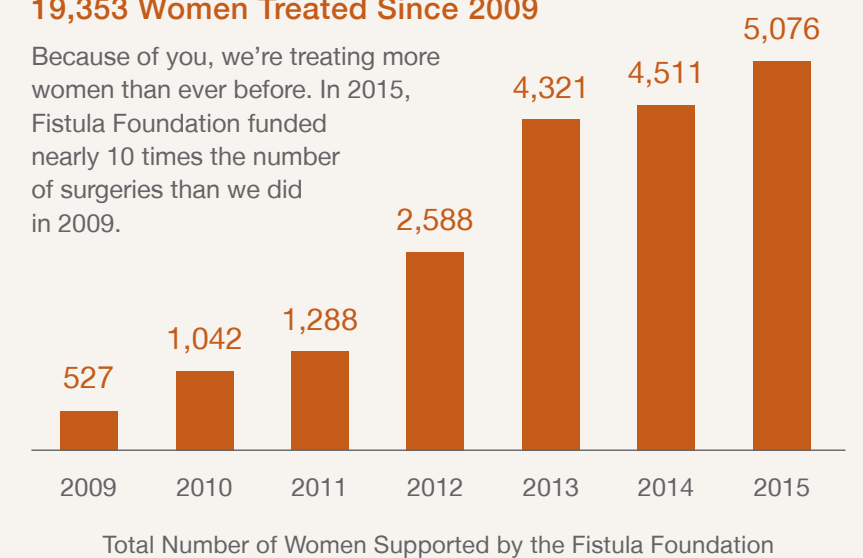
# A Global Mission

Since adopting a global mission in 2009, we have funded fistula treatment in 31 countries. Your support helps women receive free, high-quality fistula repair surgeries that can change their lives forever.

◆ Denotes outreach, hospitals, and treatment sites

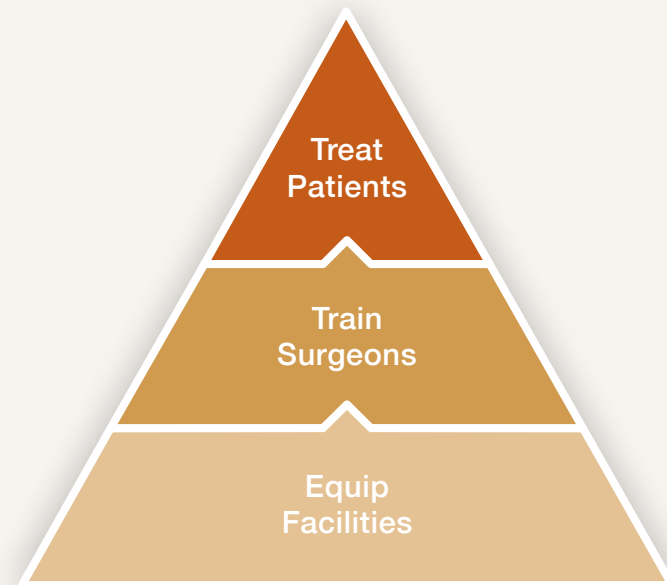
## 19,353 Women Treated Since 2009

Because of you, we're treating more women than ever before. In 2015, Fistula Foundation funded nearly 10 times the number of surgeries that we did in 2009.



# A Comprehensive Approach

To successfully treat fistula, three elements are needed: a patient, a trained surgeon, and a properly equipped facility. Yet each of these elements seems deceptively simple.



## Treating Patients

Treating patients is what we are in business to do. But too often patients hide their condition out of shame or don't know that their injury is treatable, making them difficult to find. Many women who develop obstetric fistula live in remote, rural areas and might not have the means to afford transportation to a distant hospital. Fistula Foundation funds patient outreach to educate communities about the condition and to help identify, refer, and transport women to life-changing treatment.

## Training Surgeons

A lack of trained surgeons throughout sub-Saharan Africa and Southeast Asia means that capacity to treat the growing backlog of fistula patients is limited. Compounding this challenge, no two fistulas are identical—it can take years of training for a single surgeon to be sufficiently prepared to treat a complex injury. To meet this need, Fistula Foundation funds a comprehensive fistula surgeon training program, directed by the International Federation of Gynecology and Obstetrics (FIGO).

## Equipping Facilities

Many facilities lack even the most basic equipment. Our partners have become accustomed to working in conditions that are less than ideal, performing surgery with aging equipment, or making do with tools that may not be the most appropriate for fistula surgery. We listen and respond to the needs of our partners and help provide support that will enable them to perform surgery in the safest environment possible.

## Brenda

At 16, Brenda had to drop out of school after developing a fistula while in labor with her first child. Fortunately, she didn't have to wait more than six months for treatment. After hearing a local radio ad about a newly opened fistula hospital, she called the hotline and was referred to Kisii Gynocare Fistula Center. This new clinic is part of our Action on Fistula initiative in Kenya, which aims to treat fistula from every angle. Brenda's surgeon, Dr. John Omboga, was trained through the initiative and is committed to providing fistula treatment in Kisii, his home county.

Two days after her surgery, Brenda was once again envisioning her future. Her dream? To become a nurse.



# Committed Partners

The challenges of delivering high-quality treatment to every woman in need are too great for us to meet alone. We remain truly grateful to our committed partners.



## Peter Singer and The Life You Can Save

Nearly a decade ago, Peter Singer, Princeton ethicist and founder of The Life You Can Save, met Grammy Award-winning singer-songwriter Paul Simon. They had just been named to *Time* magazine's list of "100 People Who Shaped the World" and the two formed a lasting friendship.

Last year, Simon offered to do a concert to benefit a favorite organization of The Life You Can Save. We are honored that when Singer described our work, Simon chose Fistula Foundation. Held in New York last October, the intimate event raised more than \$150,000 to fund fistula surgery for women in need. The Life You Can Save publishes an annual list of the most effective charities dedicated to improving the lives of the world's poorest individuals, and we are proud to be among these 17 recommended charities.

## 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.



David Smoler for Show of Force

## The Motley Fool

Fistula Foundation was proud to be the selected charity of The Motley Fool's 2015 Foolanthropy campaign, which raised an impressive \$81,447.

Our deep gratitude goes out to the employees and members of The Motley Fool community who gave generously, enlisting the help of friends and family to reach their fundraising goal.



## Women and Health Alliance Intl.

WAHA, founded by Her Highness Sheikhha Shamsa bint Hamdan Al Nahyan of the United Arab Emirates, is one of our longest-term partners. The organization plays a critical role in our ability to deliver quality treatment to women suffering in some of the most dangerous regions of the world.



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.

## Fistula Foundation 2015 Partners

Location	Partners	Treatment	Training	Facilities/ Equipment	Research & Outreach
Afghanistan	CURE International Hospital	◆	◆	◆	◆
Angola	Central Evangelical Medical Center	◆			◆
	Unidade Fistula Obstetrica	◆	◆		◆
Bangladesh	Hope Foundation for Women & Children of Bangladesh	◆	◆		◆
Benin	WAHA – National University Hospital – Cotonou	◆	◆		◆
Cameroon	Islamic Hospital of Ngaoundéré	◆			◆
Democratic Republic of Congo	HEAL Africa	◆			◆
	Panzi Hospital	◆			◆
Ethiopia	Aira Nursing School		◆		
	WAHA – University of Gondar	◆			◆
Guinea	EngenderHealth – Jean Paul II Hospital	◆			
	Gynocare Fistula Center	◆	◆	◆	
	Cherangany Nursing Home	◆			
	Women and Development Against Distress in Africa				◆
Kenya	Disciples of Mercy				◆
	Daraja Mbili Vision Volunteers				◆
	Isiolo Development Project				◆
	Bomu Hospital	◆			◆
	Wamba Catholic Hospital	◆			
	Liberia	WAHA – Family Medical Hospital	◆		
Malawi	Freedom From Fistula Foundation	◆			
Nepal	International Nepal Fellowship		◆	◆	◆
	PHECT-Nepal – Community Based Reproductive Health and Counseling Center				◆
	PHECT-Nepal – Kathmandu Model Hospital	◆		◆	
Niger	SIM USA – Danja Fistula Center	◆			
Nigeria	Nigeria National Fistula Program	◆	◆		
	Evangel Vesico-Vaginal Fistula Center	◆	◆		
	Fistula Foundation Nigeria				◆
	University College Hospital, Ibadan			◆	
	Usmanu Danfodiyo University Teaching Hospital, Sokoto			◆	
	Mariya Sanusi Maternity Hospital			◆	
Somaliland	Edna Adan University Hospital	◆	◆	◆	
	Dr. Andrew Browning	◆			
Tanzania	Arusha Lutheran Medical Centre	◆			
	Association of Obstetric Fistula Surgeons of Tanzania	◆	◆		◆
	Comprehensive Community Based Rehabilitation in Tanzania	◆	◆	◆	◆
	Kilimanjaro Christian Medical Center / Duke Global Health Institute				◆
	Maternity Africa	◆			
	CoRSU Rehabilitation Hospital	◆			
Uganda	Kagando Mission Hospital	◆			
	Uganda Village Project	◆	◆		◆
	Kitovu Hospital			◆	
UK, London	International Federation of Gynecology and Obstetrics		◆		
	Delphin Films				◆
US, California	Direct Relief – Medical Supplies			◆	
	Direct Relief – Mapping Project				◆
US, New York	Expert Fistula Surgeons – Site Visits	◆	◆		
Zambia	St. Francis Mission Hospital	◆			
	Family Life Office, Mpika Diocese		◆		◆
Zimbabwe	WAHA – Parirenyatwa Hospital, Harare	◆			◆

WAHA (Women and Health Alliance International)  
 Note: The above is a list of all organizations that received 2015 grants from Fistula Foundation, and is not an exhaustive list of current partners.



# Action on Fistula

## Changing the Fistula Treatment Landscape in Kenya

In only two years, Action on Fistula has achieved nearly every goal we set out to accomplish in three.

Photography by Georgina Goodwin



### Providing Life-Transforming Treatment

Since Action on Fistula began in May 2014, more than 1,300 women have received free fistula repair surgery—surpassing our program goal. Patients from all over the country have received treatment, representing 40 of Kenya's 47 counties.







### Creating a National Fistula Treatment Network

Before Action on Fistula, there were only two hospitals in Kenya providing routine fistula repair surgery. In just two years, that number has more than tripled, to seven treatment sites.



### Finding Patients in Hard-to-Reach Areas

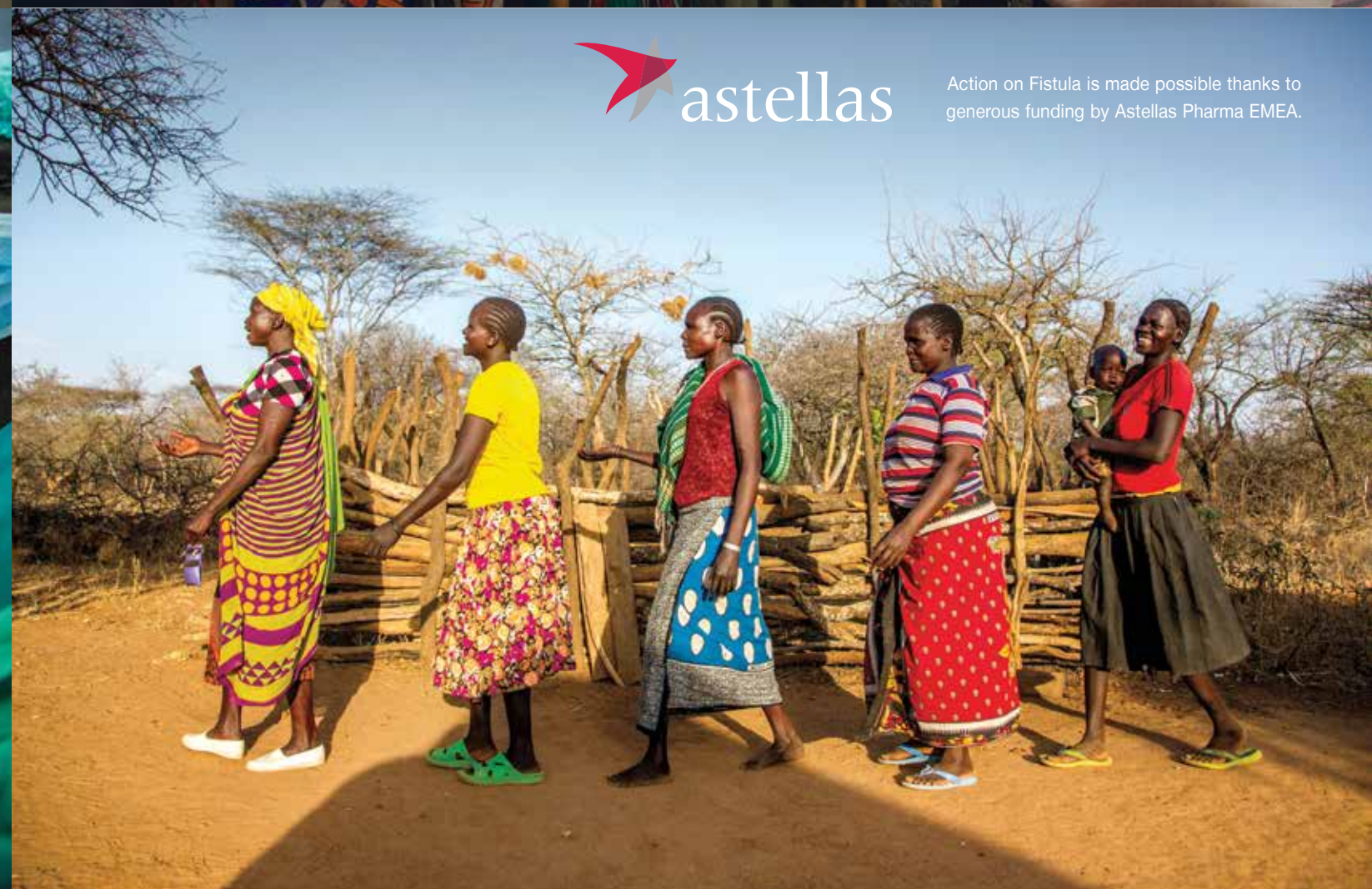
More than 200 local community health volunteers have been trained to educate people about fistula and help women who are suffering gain access to treatment. By conducting more than 4,300 outreach activities—many in remote, rural areas—their message has reached more than 206,000 community members to date.

© Lindsey Pollaczek



### Training Local Surgeons

Five Kenyan surgeons have been trained through Action on Fistula and certified by the International Federation of Gynecology and Obstetrics (FIGO), increasing capacity to provide quality care to more women in more regions of Kenya.



Action on Fistula is made possible thanks to generous funding by Astellas Pharma EMEA.



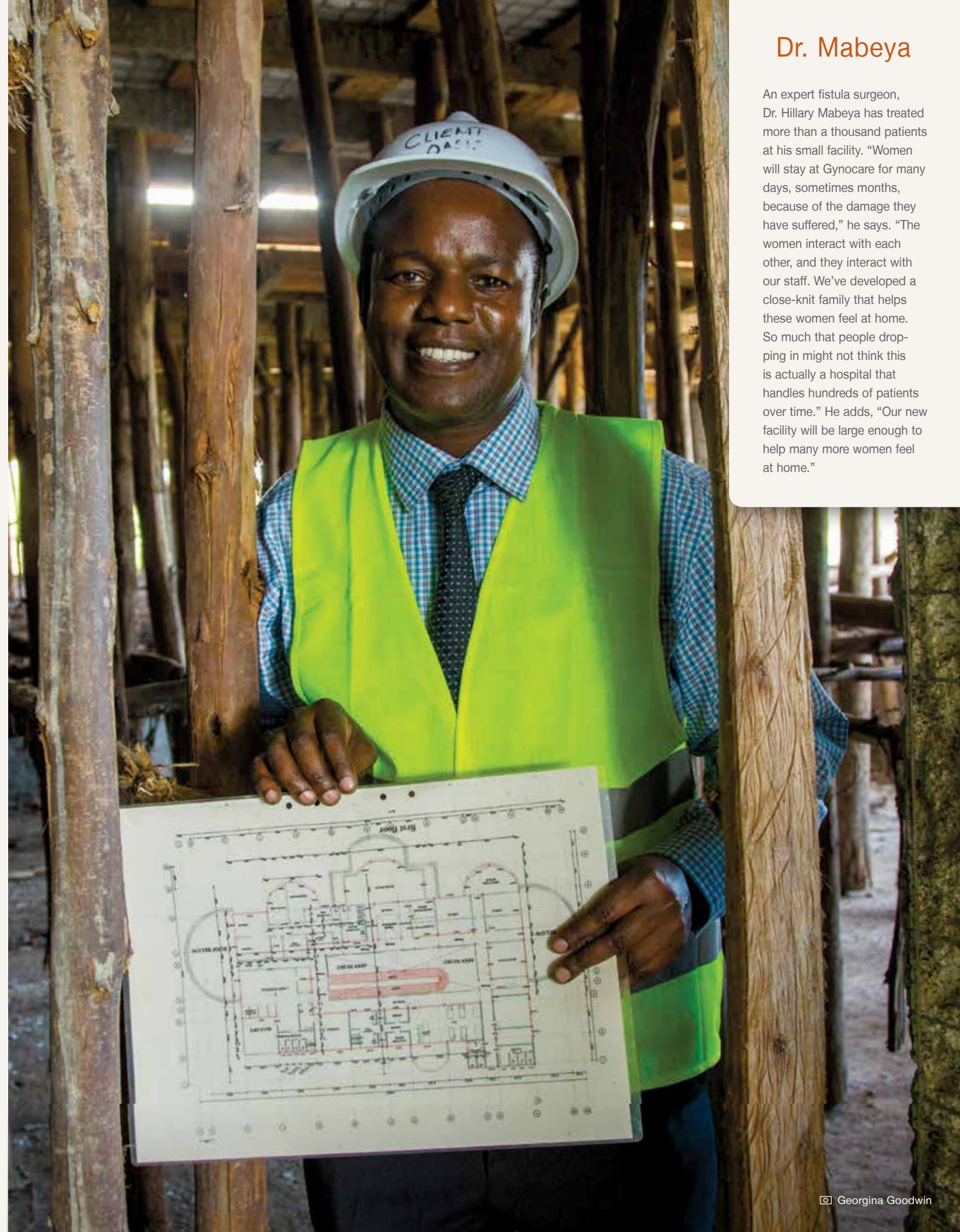
# A Dream Fulfilled

Dr. Hillary Mabeya has changed hundreds of women's lives, but he wanted to do more. Finally, his dream will be realized when his new hospital opens in October 2016.



In 2011, Dr. Hillary Mabeya converted a run-down rental home and former car wash in Eldoret, Kenya, into the Gynocare Fistula Center. It is now the country's most prolific fistula treatment center, having provided life-changing surgery to more than 1,500 women. But with skyrocketing rent and only 24 beds available, there simply wasn't enough space to accommodate all the women awaiting treatment.

Dr. Mabeya dreamed of a facility that would double the hospital's capacity, with room to grow. We asked for your help, and in less than one month, your generosity exceeded our goal of raising \$250,000 to secure a dollar-for-dollar matching gift from our most generous individual donor, who chose to remain anonymous. We are also grateful to the employees of Astellas Pharma EMEA, who voted to donate \$100,000 to this project, making a lasting impact on fistula treatment in Kenya for years to come. Today, construction of the Gynocare Fistula & Women's Hospital is well under way, and the facility is expected to open in October 2016.



An expert fistula surgeon, Dr. Hillary Mabeya has treated more than a thousand patients at his small facility. "Women will stay at Gynocare for many days, sometimes months, because of the damage they have suffered," he says. "The women interact with each other, and they interact with our staff. We've developed a close-knit family that helps these women feel at home. So much that people dropping in might not think this is actually a hospital that handles hundreds of patients over time." He adds, "Our new facility will be large enough to help many more women feel at home."



## Dr. Karki

Fistula surgeon Dr. Aruna Karki has worked at Kathmandu Model Hospital for 22 years. She recalls the day of the earthquake: "Everybody was afraid," she says. "Every patient was taken with stretchers to the parking lot, and they were kept there, because any time our building could fall, because it was a big earthquake." She adds, "The next day we decided not to do operations in that hospital because any time the building could fall, because there were more aftershocks."

One year later, she says, patients are beginning to overcome their fears related to the earthquake and are returning to the hospital for surgery.



# Rapid Response

On April 25, 2015, a 7.8-magnitude earthquake devastated Nepal, damaging our partner's facility in Kathmandu. Thanks to your caring hearts, that hospital is fully functional once again.



**April 25, 2015**

*Immediately following the earthquake, all patients were taken outside to the parking lot amid fears that the building could collapse.*



**March 26, 2016**

*Less than one year later, excited patients awaiting fistula surgery fill the hospital's ward.*



Frank Richardson

The day after the quake, our partner, PHECT-Nepal, reported that Kathmandu Model Hospital had suffered significant damage rendering a main fistula operating room unusable.

We asked for help to rebuild their operating room. Supporter Frank Richardson generously offered \$100,000 as a matching gift, and then hundreds of donors like you answered the call, reaching our goal of \$150,000 in less than 24 hours.

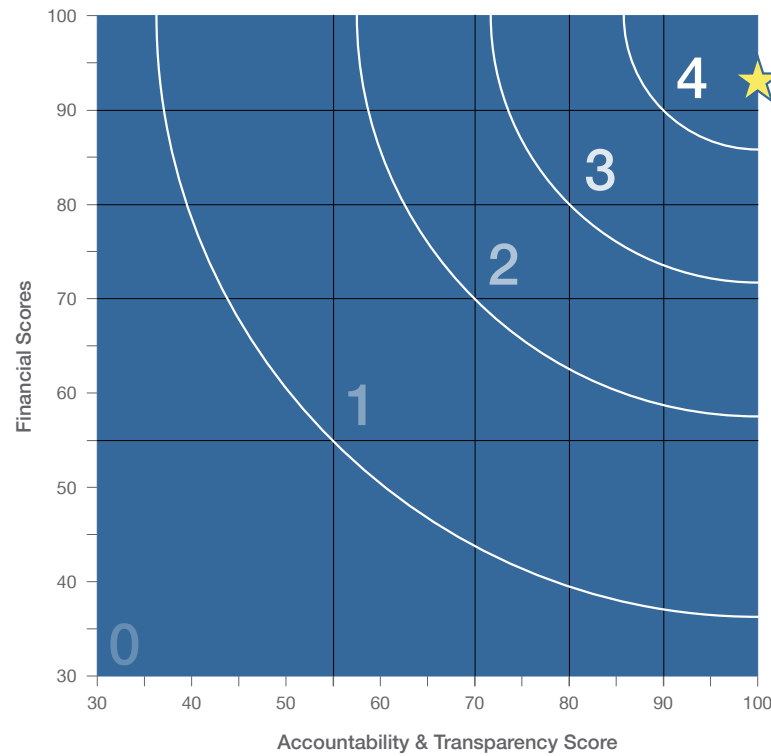
We were stunned by this overwhelming outpouring of support and are proud to report that Kathmandu Model Hospital is once again providing routine fistula surgery to women who are suffering.



Many fistula patients, like Chepochemu, live in remote, rural areas. They might suffer for years—or even decades—without access to treatment. By funding patient outreach, we’re hoping to change that. Chepochemu is in her 70s and lives in West Pokot County, home to the indigenous Pokot people in Kenya’s Rift Valley. When she arrived at our partner site Cherangany Nursing Home, she had been living with a fistula for approximately 30 years. But after her successful surgery last March, she is finally dry.

# Transparency & Trust

We achieve more, dollar for dollar, than any charity you’ll find. But don’t just take our word for it. Take a look at our ratings from every industry watchdog group.



## ‘Exceptional’ 10 Years in a Row

“Only 1 percent of the charities we rate have received at least 10 consecutive four-star evaluations, indicating that Fistula Foundation outperforms most other charities in America. This ‘exceptional’ designation from Charity Navigator differentiates Fistula Foundation from its peers and demonstrates to the public it is worthy of their trust.”

*Michael Thatcher  
President and CEO  
Charity Navigator*



We are proud to have earned a spot on GreatNonprofits’ 2015 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 17 recommended charities that the organization believes can make the most positive change in the most effective ways.



Fistula Foundation meets all 20 of the Better Business Bureau’s Standards for Charity Accountability.



## Annet Jane

Annet Jane was only 14 when she became pregnant with her first and only child. Her water broke at night, and she planned to labor at home until the next morning, when she and her husband would borrow a bicycle for the 18-mile trip to the nearest hospital. Tragically, she lost the baby. The prolonged labor also left her with a fistula.

Twenty-three years later, through a fistula clinic at our partner site CoRSU Rehabilitation Hospital in Uganda, Annet Jane was finally able to receive treatment. "I am happy that for the first time in my life I am completely dry," she says. "I can freely speak in public without anyone belittling me."



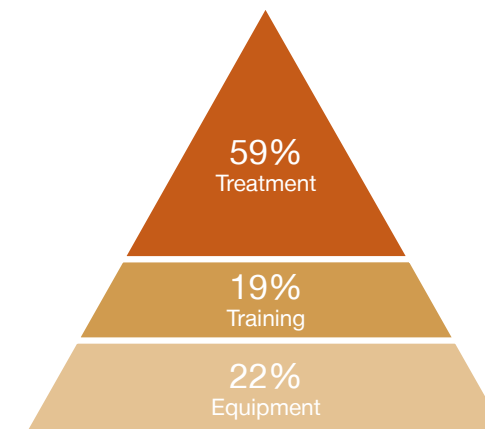
# Our Financials

Revenues and Support	Unrestricted	Temporarily Restricted	Permanently Restricted	Total
Contributions	\$6,114,366	\$1,885,788		\$8,000,154
Net investment income (loss)	(\$159,820)			(\$159,820)
Net assets released from restriction for purpose	\$931,789	(\$931,789)		
<b>Total revenues and support</b>	<b>\$6,886,335</b>	<b>\$953,999</b>		<b>\$7,840,334</b>

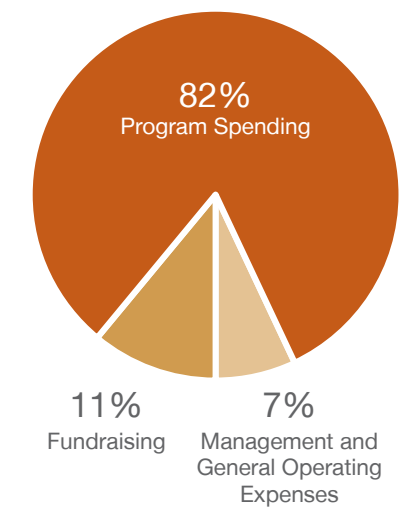
Expenses	Unrestricted	Temporarily Restricted	Permanently Restricted	Total
Program services	\$6,694,201			\$6,694,201
Management and general	\$572,485			\$572,485
Fundraising expense	\$939,198			\$939,198
<b>Total expenses</b>	<b>\$8,205,884</b>			<b>\$8,205,884</b>

Change in net assets	(\$1,319,549)	\$953,999		(\$365,550)
Net assets at beginning of year	\$4,300,492	\$517,225	\$32,155	\$4,849,872
Net assets at end of year	\$2,980,943	\$1,471,224	\$32,155	\$4,484,322

2015 Program Spending



Overall Spending in 2015





# Our Team

At Fistula Foundation, we like to say we are “lean but never mean.”



Our organization is governed by a small Board of Directors composed entirely of volunteers. We have a lean staff that manages partner relationships in many countries, serving thousands of women each year, as well as several dedicated volunteers.

We keep our staff small deliberately. We are very efficient. We can make decisions quickly and operate with minimal overhead. We strive to keep our costs of doing business low. Less money spent on staff means more money goes to help women waiting for fistula treatment.

## Board of Directors

**William H. Mann III, Chair**  
Chief Investment Officer,  
Motley Fool Asset Management

**Teri Whitcraft, Vice Chair**  
Senior Producer, ABC News

**Kelly Brennan**  
Managing Director, Goldman Sachs

**Denis Robson**  
Retired, Johnson & Johnson

**Robert Tessler**  
Retired, Toberoff, Tessler & Schochet

**Mal Warwick**  
Chairman and Founder,  
Mal Warwick | Donordigital

## Staff

**Kate Grant**  
Chief Executive Officer

**Anne Ferguson**  
Deputy Director

**Kimberly Adinolfi**  
Development Manager

**Steven Armstrong**  
Communications Assistant

**Dr. Steven Arrowsmith**  
Medical Director

**Sally Cole**  
Development Coordinator

**Linda Edwards**  
Office Manager

**Renee Gardner**  
HR / Donor Relations Admin

**Kristen Intlekofer**  
Program Communications Officer

**Melissa Johnson**  
Senior Director, Donor Relations

**Sarah Omega Kidangasi**  
Communications Officer, Action on Fistula

**Jessica Love**  
Vice President, Communications

**Habiba Corodhia Mohamed**  
Outreach Manager, Action on Fistula

**Mirabel Miscalá**  
Digital Engagement Coordinator

**Lindsey Pollaczek**  
Program Director

**Jerry Goldstein**  
Our invaluable volunteer for 12 years

.....

**Naomi Baer**  
Advisor

**Kay Sprinkel Grace**  
Advisor



## Kaudha & Loy

Loy Tumusime (pictured below, right), fistula program coordinator at our partner Uganda Village Project, recalls the first time she met Kaudha (below, left). She remembers a woman with a quiet strength, somber and reserved. About five months before, Kaudha had given birth to a stillborn baby. As if that weren't painful enough, she soon realized she was leaking urine. She felt depressed and isolated.

Last fall, through the efforts of Uganda Village Project, Kaudha received free fistula repair surgery. Loy paid a routine follow-up visit weeks later. "When we reached her village, it took a moment to register that the young, animated woman laughing and waving at us was Kaudha," Loy says. "She was completely transformed."



