



Standing
Stronger,
Together



STANDING STRONGER, TOGETHER

An Unstoppable Force for Good

*“There’s a growing community of people
who believe that being your sister’s keeper
is a privilege, not a burden,
and that empathy is its own reward.”*

– Kate Grant, CEO

You are a part of this community. Tens of thousands of supporters like you in more than 80 countries have joined forces with dedicated doctors, outreach workers, and brave survivors. Together, we can end the suffering caused by obstetric fistula—and give women their lives back.



Zainisha

Tanzania

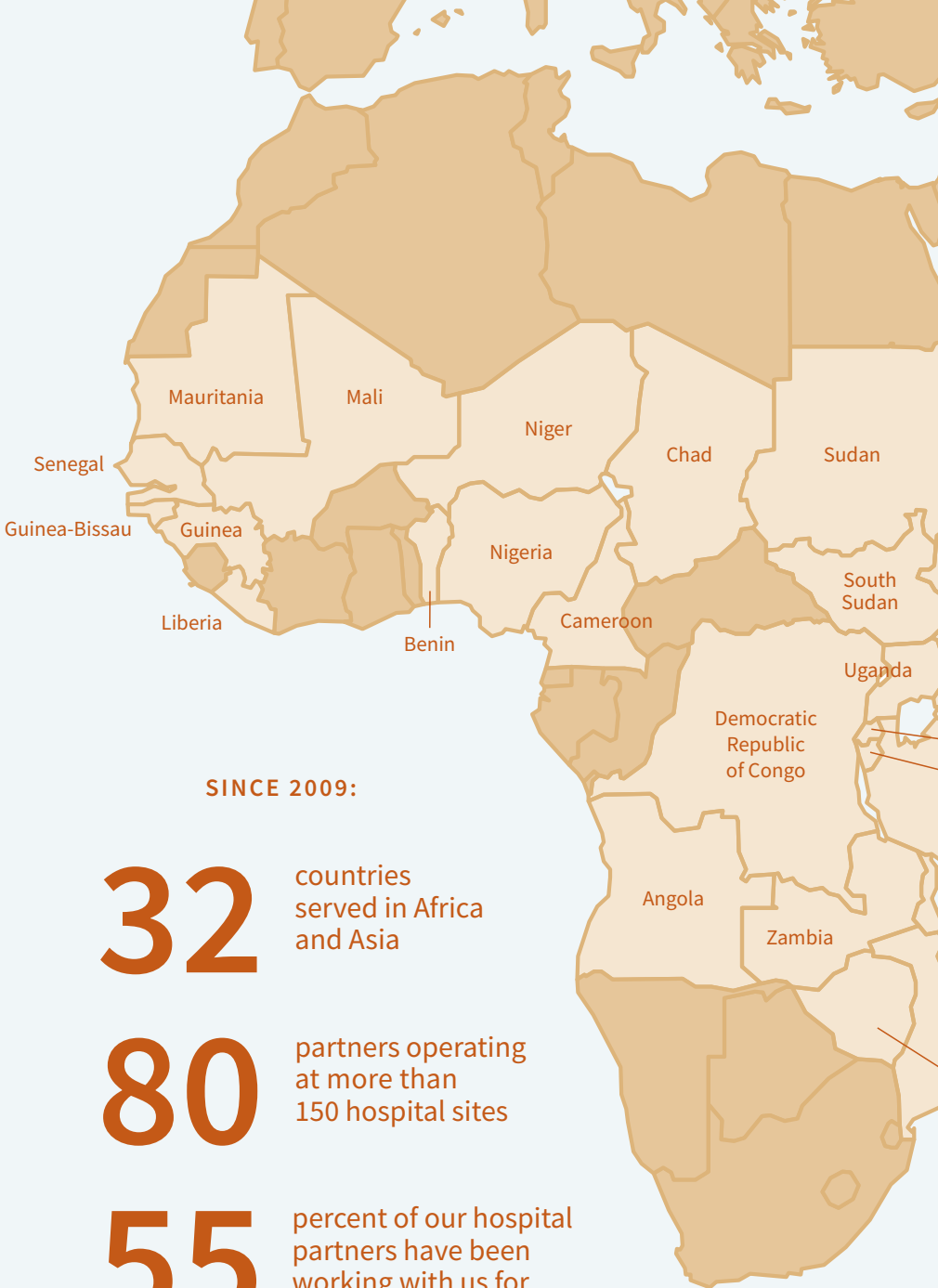
22 year-old Zainisha was devastated when an obstructed labor left her with obstetric fistula. Her baby was stillborn, her friends were distant, and she had never met anyone with her condition—leaking urine uncontrollably. Local doctors didn't know how to help her. But everything changed when she was referred to Fistula Foundation's partner hospital. In the fistula ward, Zainisha met other women with her condition and began to feel hope. Her surgery was successful, and today she is healed, healthy, and thriving!

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50,000 Surgeries, 50,000 Stories

In 2020, we hit a remarkable milestone:
50,000 fistula repair surgeries since 2009.
Your generosity made this possible.

Women with fistula face immense
challenges. Usually, their baby has died.
Too often, they are stigmatized and
ostracized because of their incontinence.
Behind each surgery is a story like
Zainisha's—despair turned to hope and
healing, thanks to supporters like you.

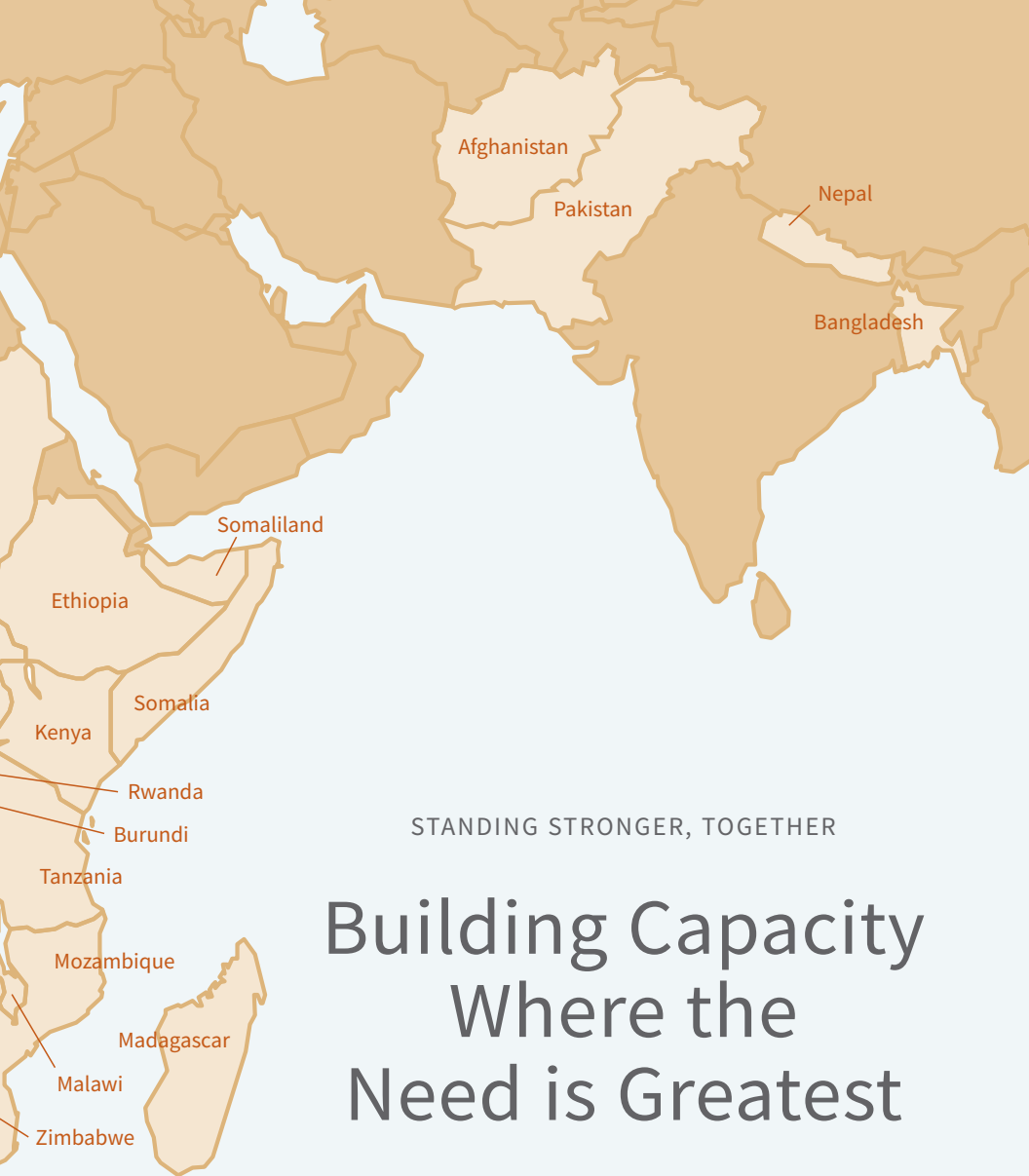


SINCE 2009:

32 countries served in Africa and Asia

80 partners operating at more than 150 hospital sites

55 percent of our hospital partners have been working with us for more than five years



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Building Capacity Where the Need is Greatest

Fistula is most prevalent in sub-Saharan Africa and Asia, so that's where we focus our efforts. We approach our work with humility. We know that local doctors understand how to treat fistula far better than we ever will.



📷 Touhidul Islam

“Sometimes the people who come don’t want to show [their private areas] to male surgeons. The females want female surgeons. So, I think for Bangladeshi people, there is a need for female fistula surgeons. But in Cox’s Bazar, I am the only one.”

Dr. Fahmida Akter

Dr. Fahmida Akter was certified as a fistula surgeon in 2018. Since then, she has continued to provide fistula surgeries in Bangladesh amidst the overlapping Rohingya refugee crisis and Covid-19 pandemic.

“Taking action means saying ‘no’ to indifference... It is a choice: whether or not to support a woman, whether or not to protect her, whether or not to defend her rights.”

Dr. Denis Mukwege

Our longtime partner, Dr. Denis Mukwege, is a legendary activist, fistula surgeon, and founder of Panzi Hospital in the Democratic Republic of Congo. In 2018, he received the Nobel Peace Prize for his work with women who are survivors of wartime rape.



📷 Larry Williams

STANDING STRONGER, TOGETHER

From Your Caring Heart to Their Capable Hands

We identify the best trained surgeons trusted by their communities—and then amplify their efforts by directing your donations straight to these proven experts.

*“Life is suffering, but some do really suffer more than others. Therefore, I decided [a] long time ago to do something about it, and will continue to lessen the suffering of others as long as I am able to do so.
Together, we are strong.”*

*– Dr. Kees Waaldijk, past president of the
International Society of Obstetric Fistula Surgeons*

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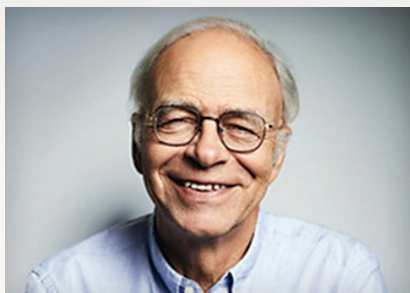
You're Part of a Powerful Community

Together, we are ambassadors of hope and healing, steadfast in our commitment to helping women who've been forsaken simply for trying to bring a child into the world.



Monika Reed

Monika Reed is the founder and owner of Favor, a Portland-based jewelry company. Since 2018, Monika has donated 3% of every online purchase to Fistula Foundation. Thanks to her generosity, Favor has already funded 25 life-changing fistula surgeries!



Alletta Vaandering

Peter Singer

Princeton University Ethics Professor Peter Singer is the father of the Effective Altruism movement, which uses reasoning and evidence to do the most good. In 2019, we were honored to be featured prominently in the 10th anniversary edition of his seminal work, "The Life You Can Save."



Nicholas Kristof & Sheryl WuDunn

Nicholas Kristof and Sheryl WuDunn's 2009 book "Half the Sky" was a rallying cry for many Fistula Foundation supporters. They've continued their advocacy with two additional books. Kristof also regularly covers fistula in his "New York Times" opinion column. The couple is pictured here with CEO Kate Grant in 2020 at the launch of their latest book, "Tightrope."



Brad Aronson

Author Brad Aronson recommended Fistula Foundation as a trustworthy and cost-effective charity in his 2020 book, "HumanKind: Changing the World One Small Act at a Time." Brad believes that simple acts of kindness can transform lives, at home and around the world. "HumanKind" has been called "one of the most uplifting and life-affirming books in years."



D'Anne Burwell

Supporter D'Anne Burwell organized an event at her home for her friends and family, to raise funds and awareness for obstetric fistula survivors. The event was a huge success—and raised over \$10,000!



Dr. Tedros Ghebreyesus

Dr. Tedros Ghebreyesus, Director-General of the World Health Organization (WHO), sent Fistula Foundation CEO, Kate Grant, a glowing letter of commendation in late 2019. He applauded our innovative countrywide treatment programs in Kenya and Zambia, calling them "an excellent positive demonstration" of high-quality fistula care.



“Tears are flowing in my eyes. Tears of joy,
because God is taking care of SALFA
through your support. Thank you so much!”

Dr. Sahondra Rasoarimanana

General Manager of SALFA, our hospital partner in Madagascar

STANDING STRONGER, TOGETHER

Covid-19 Emergency Response Fund

Fistula Foundation pivoted quickly to help our partners amidst the Covid-19 crisis. We established an Emergency Response Fund with the commitment to send 100% of donations to the field. Your response was overwhelming. Together, we have raised more than \$570,000 to date to fund:



*Staff salaries
to prevent layoffs*



*Essential supplies
like masks, gloves,
and bleach*



*Infection control
training*

Earning Your Trust



Charity Navigator

Fistula Foundation has earned an “exceptional” 4-star rating 14 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.



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.



GreatNonprofits

Thanks to more than 675 reviews from supporters like you, we were named a 2019 Top-Rated Charity.



GuideStar

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



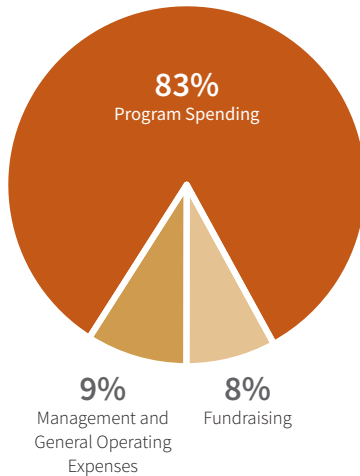
Charity Watch

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

2019 Financials

Revenues and Support	Total
Contributions	\$11,417,747
Net Investment Income	\$2,392,371
Net Assets Released from Restriction for Purpose	—
Total Revenues and Support	\$13,810,118
Expenses	
Program Services	\$10,642,576
Management and General	\$1,100,283
Fundraising Expense	\$1,036,551
Total Expenses	\$12,779,410
Change in Net Assets	\$1,030,708
Net Assets at Beginning of Year	\$10,560,497
Net Assets at End of Year	\$11,591,205

Overall Spending in 2019



Dr. Sunday Lengmang

NIGERIA

Dr. Sunday Lengmang works in Nigeria, the country with the highest burden of obstetric fistula in the world. Under his leadership, the team at Evangel Vesico-Vaginal Fistula Center (EVVF) treats complex fistula cases, giving hope to women who would otherwise be considered “incurable.” Like so many of our partners, Dr. Lengmang’s team has been hit hard by the Covid-19 pandemic—yet they persevere, and continue to provide life-changing fistula surgeries to women in need.