



FISTULA
FOUNDATION

2021 Annual Report



Paulina, now 28, suffered a prolonged, obstructed labor during her most recent pregnancy. She was treated at Evangel Vesico-Vaginal Fistula Center (EVVF) in Jos, Nigeria, and today she is a happy mother of three.

We believe that no woman should suffer a life of misery simply for trying to bring a child into the world. Inspired by that belief, we work to provide life-transforming surgeries to women who have undergone devastating childbirth injuries.

With your help, we are expanding access to care across Africa and Asia. Together, we can end fistula within a generation.

MISSION



Empowered by your generosity, the healthcare heroes in our network bring the miracle of healing to women who have known the shame and isolation caused by fistula. Countless acts of grace go into this work—the work of transforming a woman’s life.

Soanezy, age 30, suffered alone with fistula in her small village. Then, with support from providers like Nurse Fenosoa (shown here), she received treatment at SALFA Betela Hospital in Morondava, Madagascar.

MIRACLES

Afsana developed fistula at age 25. Thankfully, she found healing at Koochi Goth Hospital in Pakistan. “The doctors worked very hard with me and took great care of me,” said Afsana. “Now, I am cured!”

Because of you, we are meeting the moment for women across the world:

- 65,000+ life-changing surgeries since 2009
- 9,000+ surgeries across 24 countries in 2021
- 8 new partners from 6 countries in 2021

MILESTONES

MOMENTUM

Despite adversity, 2021 was a momentous year for Fistula Foundation. Our partners—resilient in the face of Covid-19—changed the lives of thousands of women. Equally important, they continued building the capacity to help more women in 2022, and beyond. Because of their dedication, and thanks to your support, we are stronger than ever.

Rachel, a 17-year-old fistula patient, received life-changing care during a surgical outreach effort hosted by Artemedis at Mashoko Christian Hospital in Zimbabwe. Today, she has her whole life ahead of her.



A Bridge to Healing

Fistula Foundation is simply a bridge. On one side of that bridge are women whose lives have been decimated by fistula and the doctors trained to heal their injured bodies. On the other side are compassionate, selfless people who step up to provide the priceless gift of health to women they will likely never meet. What flows across that bridge is loving kindness, given in the form of money by donors who take quiet satisfaction in knowing that they have helped give a woman a new life.

— Kate Grant
Chief Executive Officer

OUR DONORS

A Story of Healing Starts with You

Your decision to support women with fistula is a selfless act of love. It's powerfully simple, and simply powerful: Thanks to your compassion and generosity, our partners can do the work of transforming a woman's life. Here's how kind people like you are supporting women in need.

A Lesson in the Joy of Giving



Jane Bier has been inspiring students to give back to their communities for nearly two decades. Each year, in her women's studies class at Elyria High School in Elyria, Ohio, she holds a fundraiser to support charities that help women in need. For the past 16 years, Fistula Foundation has benefited from the generosity of Jane and her students.

"I always encourage my students [to see] that they have the power to change themselves, and to effect positive change in the lives of others," said Jane. "It doesn't take a lot to impact a life. By giving a little, you get so much. Without donors, this work can't be done. We all have an obligation to help these women."

The Power of a Loving Legacy

Madelaine Einbinder and Leda Rapp are twin sisters who always believed in giving back to their communities, both during their lifetimes and after death. Leda, who made her home in the Lowcountry region of South Carolina, died after a long illness in 2019. In her estate planning, she had named Fistula Foundation as a beneficiary and had selected Madelaine to administer the estate. Today, Leda's legacy endures in the lives of women in Africa and Asia who have benefited from her posthumous giving.

"This year marks the fourth and final year of my distribution of Leda's estate to charity," said Madelaine. "I am so glad that Fistula Foundation has been my lodestar, embodying all that Leda and I hoped a charity could be."



Giving That's Good for Business



After reading *The Life You Can Save*, by Peter Singer, Andrei Smith was inspired by Singer's model of Effective Altruism. The idea of giving to causes in which his money would do the most good spoke to Andrei's perspective as a businessman. At the time, he worked as a car salesman in San Jose, California, and for several years he donated 5% of each commission to organizations—including Fistula Foundation—on Singer's exclusive list of effective charities.

Today, Andrei works at a software company, where he encourages colleagues to practice effective giving. "Last year, I did a short presentation to my new company about Effective Altruism and mentioned my connection to Fistula Foundation," said Andrei. "The talk resonated with the team, and one executive—Ian [Alexander], a long-term good friend of mine—decided to begin giving to Fistula Foundation." (See Ian's story on the opposite page.)

Old Friends Share New Ways of Giving Back



Ian Alexander, a businessman based in Sacramento, California, was looking for a charitable giving opportunity when he attended a talk at his company by Andrei Smith. (Andrei, a friend of Ian's since high school, now works for the company. See his story on the opposite page.) After the talk, the stars seemed to align for Ian. His wife, Jessie Becker Alexander (shown here with Ian), has a background in women's health, and she started a medical device company to help women who experience postpartum hemorrhages.

Now, twice each month, Ian makes a donation to Fistula Foundation through a donor-advised fund. Paying for women's surgeries has brought a different meaning to everyday work, he explained: "I like that the impact is tangible. Unlike other worthy causes that can't necessarily be solved in a simple way, fistula is a quantifiable problem with a clear solution."

Ethical Investment Firm Is Changing Lives in Pakistan

Australian Ethical Foundation



Australian Ethical Foundation (AEF) is the charitable arm of Australian Ethical, a leading investment firm that manages pension funds. AEF exists to direct philanthropic resources to effective climate solutions, and it has identified empowering women and girls as an important component of that mission. Part of AEF's strategy involves improving healthcare access for vulnerable women, and in 2021 it began funding our work to provide fistula surgeries in Pakistan.

"With Fistula Foundation, you can have full confidence that your donation is creating direct and meaningful outcomes in the lives of women—helping as many women as possible live dignified lives," said Nick Chadwick, head of the foundation. "Better yet, the ripple effect of healthy, empowered women creates even more impact for their families and community."

A Birthday Bash That Gives Back



Sheila Bell hosted her first birthday fundraiser to benefit Fistula Foundation in 2004. She had recently learned about the plight of fistula patients, and was inspired to host a luncheon for their benefit. Now in its 17th year, this "labor of love"—as she affectionately calls her annual luncheon—has migrated with Sheila from New Jersey to Florida, and the guest list has quadrupled in size. Sheila, a retired teacher who taught for 40 years, loves educating people about fistula.

"When I give my pitch, people are like 'Oh, wow, that's amazing, I'd love to contribute to that.' It's about the collective effort and how many lives we can change. The power of one is not that great, but the power of many is wonderful." This year, thanks to matching funds, Sheila's birthday fundraiser brought in nearly \$12,000—an amount that will help transform the lives of 20 women.

OUR AMBASSADORS

Raising Their Voices for the Voiceless

Because fistula is a little-known condition, it takes the work of many kindhearted and dedicated people to champion the cause of women who suffer in silence. If it weren't for the awareness raised by these trusted ambassadors, we would not be where we are today.



Dr. Shershah Syed is an expert fistula surgeon—and executive director of the Pakistan National Forum on Women's Health—who advocates for women's rights in Pakistan.



Nicholas Kristof is a Pulitzer Prize-winning reporter who uses his platform as a journalist to illuminate the plight of fistula patients across the world.



Peter Singer is a renowned ethicist whose organization, The Life You Can Save, has recommended Fistula Foundation as one of the "best charities for effective giving" since 2014.



Channeling Empathy into Action

You don't have to be a surgeon or a celebrity to make a difference. Take it from Paul Muli, a pharmaceutical technologist in Kenya whose empathy prompted him to help a woman with fistula.

When Nicaka walked into Paul's pharmacy, he knew she was hiding a painful history. She would regularly visit him for antibiotics, and always seemed distressed.

One day, Nicaka appeared especially sad and worn out. Paul worked up the courage to ask her about her health challenges. Nicaka bravely shared her story: For five years, she had been silently suffering with fistula. "I have a big heart, and it was broken over her condition," said Paul.

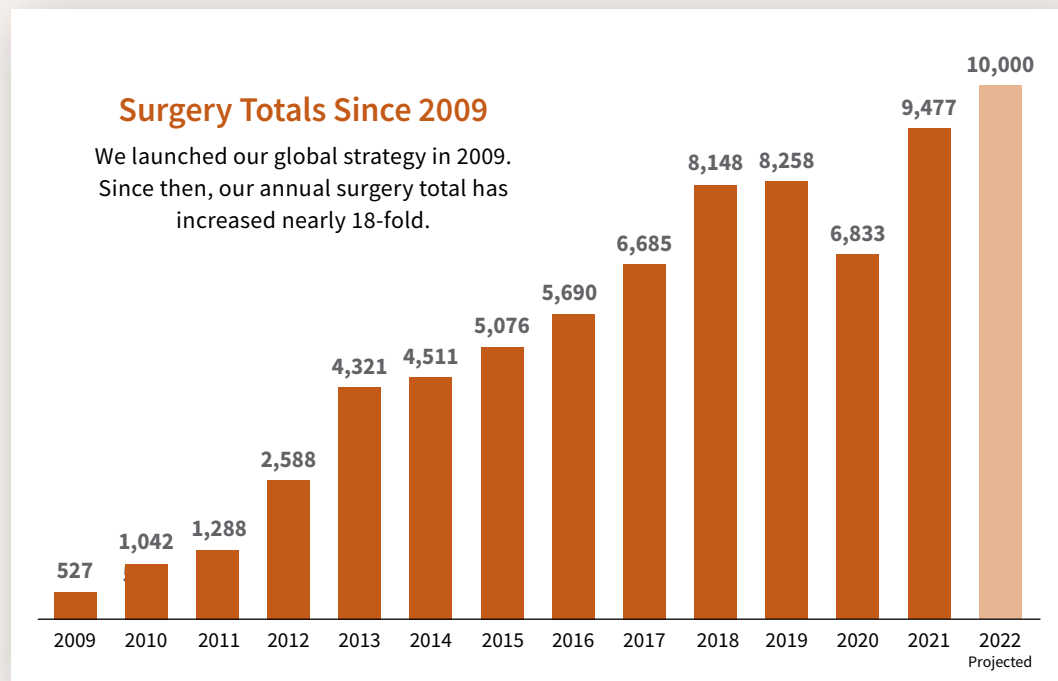
Determined to find free care for Nicaka, Paul conducted research about fistula and learned about Fistula Foundation. After he reached out to us, our U.S.-based team connected him with our team in Kenya. As it turned out, a hospital that could treat Nicaka for free was located less than 3 kilometers (less than 2 miles) from her home. The facility took down Nicaka's information and arranged care for her shortly after Paul contacted its staff.

Today, Nicaka is dry! She and Paul continue to be advocates for women with fistula, helping them access care from our partners. "I'm so thankful to Fistula Foundation for the work that you are doing, and the many lives that you're impacting," said Paul. "[These] women will live with dignity one day."

OUR STRATEGY

Surgery Is the Only Cure

We focus on one measurable outcome: the number of women we can heal through life-transforming surgery. Through our comprehensive treatment model, our partners support all of the critical steps along a woman's journey to healing. In collaboration with them, we are working to end obstetric fistula within a generation.



Our Plan to End Fistula



OUR NETWORK

A Comprehensive Model of Care

In 2014, we launched a groundbreaking initiative: a holistic, countrywide fistula treatment network in Kenya. Three years later, we expanded this model to Zambia, and today we are extending it to the Democratic Republic of Congo.

From outreach to surgery to reintegration, the Fistula Foundation Treatment Network brings together hospitals, teams of community health workers, and grassroots groups. With this approach—and with your support—we are working to end fistula, one country at a time.



FISTULA
FOUNDATION
Treatment Network

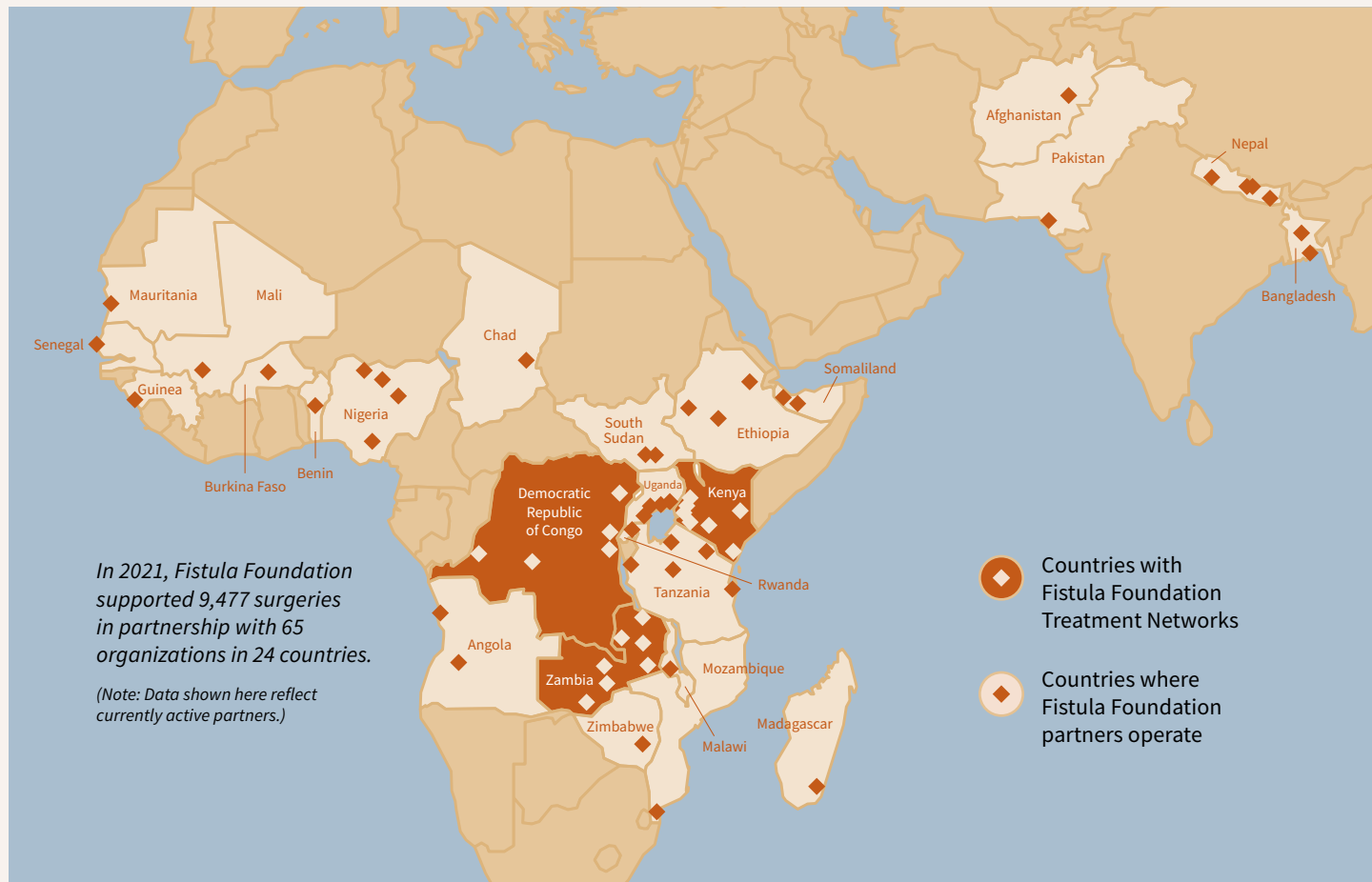


At left, from the top: WADADIA, WADADIA, Chilenje Hospital, Mansa General Hospital; at right, from the top: Daraja Mbili, WADADIA, Gynocare Hospital, WADADIA

OUR PARTNERS

More Partners, More Surgeries, More Women Healed

Fistula Foundation had a record-breaking year in 2021. We expanded our network of partners to reach new regions and new countries. Today, our partner surgeons are performing more surgeries to heal more women in more places than any comparable organization in the world.



Fistula Foundation Partners

Afghanistan	Cure Hospital, a Be Team International Facility
Angola	Centro Evangelico de Medicina de Lubango (CEML) Unidade Fistula Obstetrica (UFO)
Bangladesh	Hope Foundation for Women and Children of Bangladesh Kumudini Women's Medical College and Hospital
Benin	Artemedis – Parakou University Teaching Hospital (primary facility)
Burkina Faso	Association Renaissance (ARENA)
Chad	Artemedis – Village des Femmes Abeche Hospital (primary facility)
Democratic Republic of Congo	Artemedis – Luebo Hospital (primary facility) Fistula Program DRC (FISPRO) HEAL Africa Panzi Hospital Rwankole Hospital
Ethiopia	Dr. Andrew Browning Healing Hands of Joy Village Health Partnership
Guinea	Artemedis - Djigui Espoir Social Medical Center (primary facility)
Kenya	Bomu Hospital Cherangany Nursing Home Daraja Mbili Vision Volunteers Youth Group (DM) Garissa County Referral Hospital Gynocare Fistula Centre Jamaa Home and Mission Hospital – Edevale Trust Kapenguria County Referral Hospital Kisii Gynocare Fistula Centre Maisha Empowerment Initiative (MEI) Narok County Referral Hospital Vihiga County Referral Hospital Women & Development Against Distress in Africa (WADADIA) Women Education and Health for Development (WOHED)
Madagascar	SALFA
Malawi	Freedom from Fistula Foundation
Mali	Artemedis – National Referral Hospital Point G (primary facility)
Mauritania	Artemedis - Sheikh Zayed Hospital
Mozambique	Focus Fistula
Nepal	Fistula Free Nepal International Nepal Fellowship Public Health Concern Trust–Nepal / CBRHCC Public Health Concern Trust–Nepal / Kathmandu Model Hospital
Nigeria	Evangel Vesico-Vaginal Fistula Centre (EVVF) Family Life Centre / V.V.F Hospital, Itam Fistula Foundation, Nigeria Nigeria National Fistula Program
Pakistan	Pakistan National Forum on Women's Health
Rwanda	Ubi Caritas
Senegal	Dr. Charlotte Polle
Somaliland	Edna Adan Maternity Hospital National Borama Fistula Hospital
South Sudan	Artemedis – Juba University Hospital (primary facility) Global Health Ministries
Tanzania	Association of Obstetric Fistula Surgeons of Tanzania (AOFST) Bugando Medical Centre Comprehensive Community Based Rehabilitation in Tanzania (CCBRT) Maternity Africa Nkinga Referral Hospital
Uganda	Comprehensive Rehabilitation Services in Uganda (CoRSU) Kitovu Hospital Uganda Childbirth Injury Fund Uganda Village Project
Zambia	Chilenje Level I Hospital Chilonga Mission Hospital Kabwe General Hospital Mansa General Hospital Mbala General Hospital Monze Mission Hospital St. Francis Katete Mission Hospital
Zimbabwe	Artemedis - Mashoko University Hospital (primary facility)

OUR COMMUNITY

Your Generosity Fuels Their Compassionate Care

Our partners work on the frontlines of fistula care every day. They dedicate their lives to saving women from the scourge of a devastating condition—because, to them, seeing a woman smile again is priceless.



Honoring a Legacy of Healing

Dr. Tom Raassen, a longtime leader in fistula treatment, retired in 2021 after decades of service. By our estimate, Dr. Raassen performed fistula surgeries in more countries than any other surgeon in the world.



OUR COMMITMENT

Your Support Keeps Them Strong

In moments of adversity—a national crisis, a global pandemic—our supporters and our partners worked together to deliver resources to people in need.



Cure Hospital/Be Team International

An angel donor provided special funding to support hospital operations and medical outreach, as well as an ambitious nutrition program, in Afghanistan. This gift was a lifeline for Afghans, and Fistula Foundation was proud to facilitate it. Our partner Cure Hospital, a Be Team International facility, helped manage this funding. Here, Afghan families in the capital city of Kabul await the distribution of a three-month supply of oil, flour, rice, and beans.



Daraja Mbili

A staff member from our partner Daraja Mbili Vision Volunteers in Kenya hands out PPE (personal protective equipment)—paid for by supporters of our Covid-19 Emergency Response Fund—at a training event for community health volunteers.

“We are so grateful to Fistula Foundation for enabling us to have enough PPE as we continue with our community work to help poor women access fistula care. I will never stop working, because I feel well protected.”

— Everlyne Bosire

Community Health Volunteer from Daraja Mbili

OUR PERFORMANCE

Your Gift Is in Good Hands

Year after year, we receive the highest rating from every major charity watchdog group. We work hard to earn and keep your trust—because your gift is precious to us: It has the power to change a woman’s life.



Charity Navigator

Fistula Foundation has earned an “exceptional” four-star rating for 16 years in a row—an honor that only 1% of evaluated charities receive.



BBB Wise Giving Alliance

Each year since 2006, Fistula Foundation has met all 20 of the BBB Standards for Charity Accountability.



The Life You Can Save

The Life You can Save—cofounded by Peter Singer—has featured Fistula Foundation on its list of the “best charities for effective giving” since 2014.



GreatNonprofits

Thanks to more than 770 reviews from supporters like you, Fistula Foundation was named a Top-Rated Charity in 2021.



Charity Watch

Fistula Foundation has earned an A rating from Charity Watch, and is one of only 34 charities on Charity Watch’s list of Top Rated International Organizations.



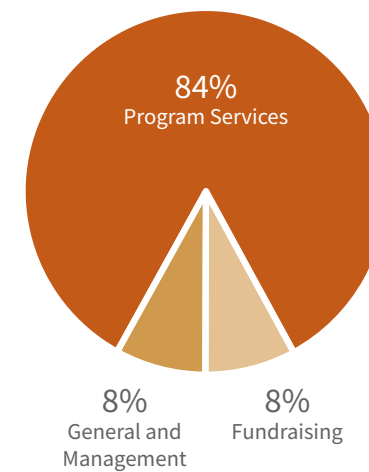
GuideStar

GuideStar has awarded Fistula Foundation a Platinum rating, given to organizations that demonstrate the highest level of transparency.

2021 Financials

	Without Donor Restrictions	With Donor Restrictions	Total
Revenues and Support			
Contributions	\$10,535,622	\$6,933,959	\$17,469,581
Net Investment Income (loss)	\$1,202,770	\$1,396,758	\$2,599,528
Net Assets Released from Restriction for Purpose	\$6,154,332	(\$6,154,332)	—
Total Revenues and Support	\$17,892,724	\$2,176,385	\$20,069,109
Expenses			
Program Services	\$11,209,216	—	\$11,209,216
Management and General	\$1,040,255	—	\$1,040,255
Fundraising Expense	\$1,054,868	—	\$1,054,868
Total Expenses	\$13,304,339	—	\$13,304,339
Change in Net Assets	\$4,588,385	\$2,176,385	\$6,764,770
Net Assets at Beginning of Year	\$2,729,387	\$12,326,582	\$15,055,969
Net Assets at End of Year	\$7,317,772	\$14,502,967	\$21,820,739

Overall Spending in 2021



United by a Global Mission to End Fistula



Fistula Foundation Team

Team U.S.

Kate Grant
Chief Executive Officer

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Deputy Director

Lindsey Pollaczek
Vice President of Programs

Kelly Anderson
Senior Director of Philanthropy

Darren Blankenship
Database Administrator

Jesse Chu
Program Manager

Hannah Garone
Donor Relations Manager

Pam Lowney
Senior Director of Strategic Initiatives

Michael Slind
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Regional Director

Nelson Musa
Program Manager

Team Zambia

Bwalya Chomba
Program Director

Victor Chibale
Driver

Emmanuel Chiluba
Senior Program Officer

Martin Chiyana
Program Officer

Jordan Chileshe Chomba
Driver

Kalumba Kaputo
Senior Program Officer

Jameson Kaunda
Monitoring and Evaluation Coordinator

Florence C Mulenga
Administrative Officer

Patricia Tempo
Program Officer

Mascot
Lizzy

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Member

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Member

Gillian Slinger
Member

Vanessa Taylor
Member

Medical Advisors

Dr. Steve Arrowsmith

Dr. Andrew Browning



Rijasolo/GGIimages

Miza

MADAGASCAR

Miza, a 16-year-old from Betsingivoky in Madagascar, developed fistula after suffering a prolonged, obstructed labor. Her life with fistula was horribly lonely. She couldn't go to the market because her neighbors hated her. They spat on her when she walked by. Eventually, she heard that treatment was available at Betela Hospital in Morondava. Thanks to donors like you, every cost of Miza's care was covered, including the transportation she needed to get to the hospital. "Without [Fistula Foundation], I would still be suffering," said Miza. "I thank them for healing me."