



**FISTULA**  
FOUNDATION

2021 Progress Report





We believe that no woman should suffer a life of misery simply for trying to bring a child into the world.

# MISSION

© Benson Ibeabuchi/GGIimages



© Khaula Jamil

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

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

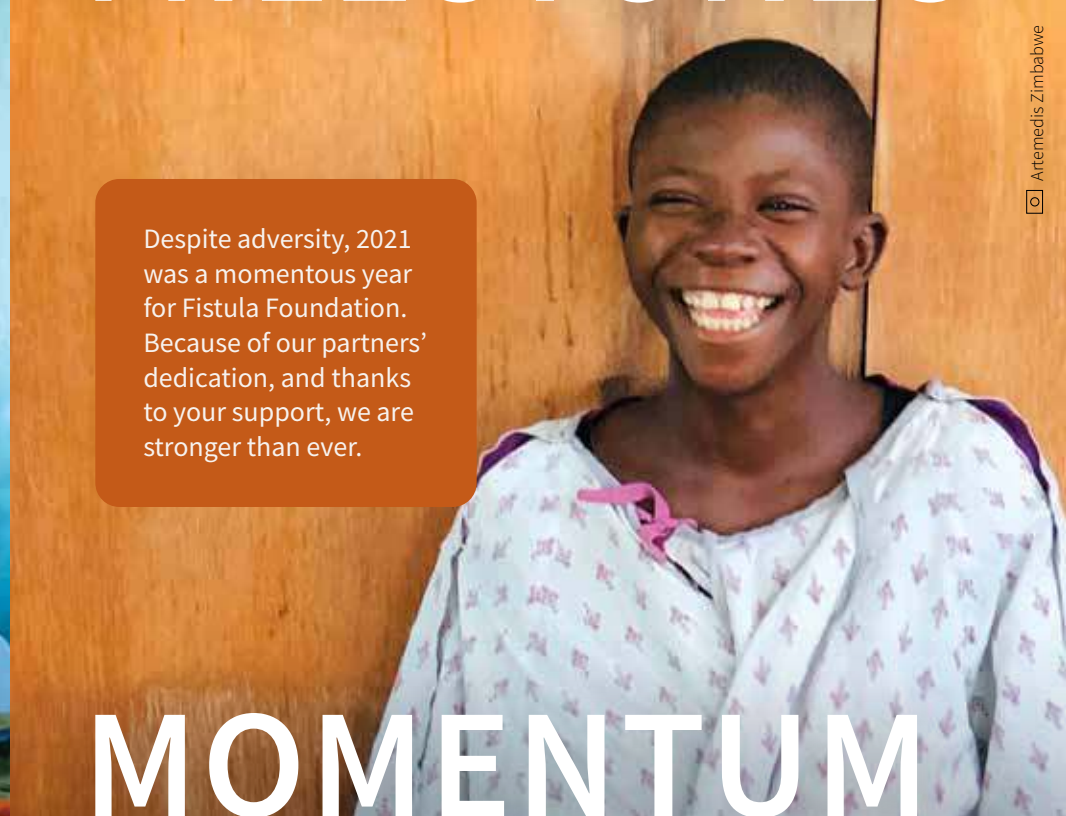
# MILESTONES



© Rijasolo/GGIimages

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.

# MIRACLES



© Artemedis Zimbabwe

Despite adversity, 2021 was a momentous year for Fistula Foundation. Because of our partners' dedication, and thanks to your support, we are stronger than ever.

# MOMENTUM

# 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

## 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."*

## 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.*

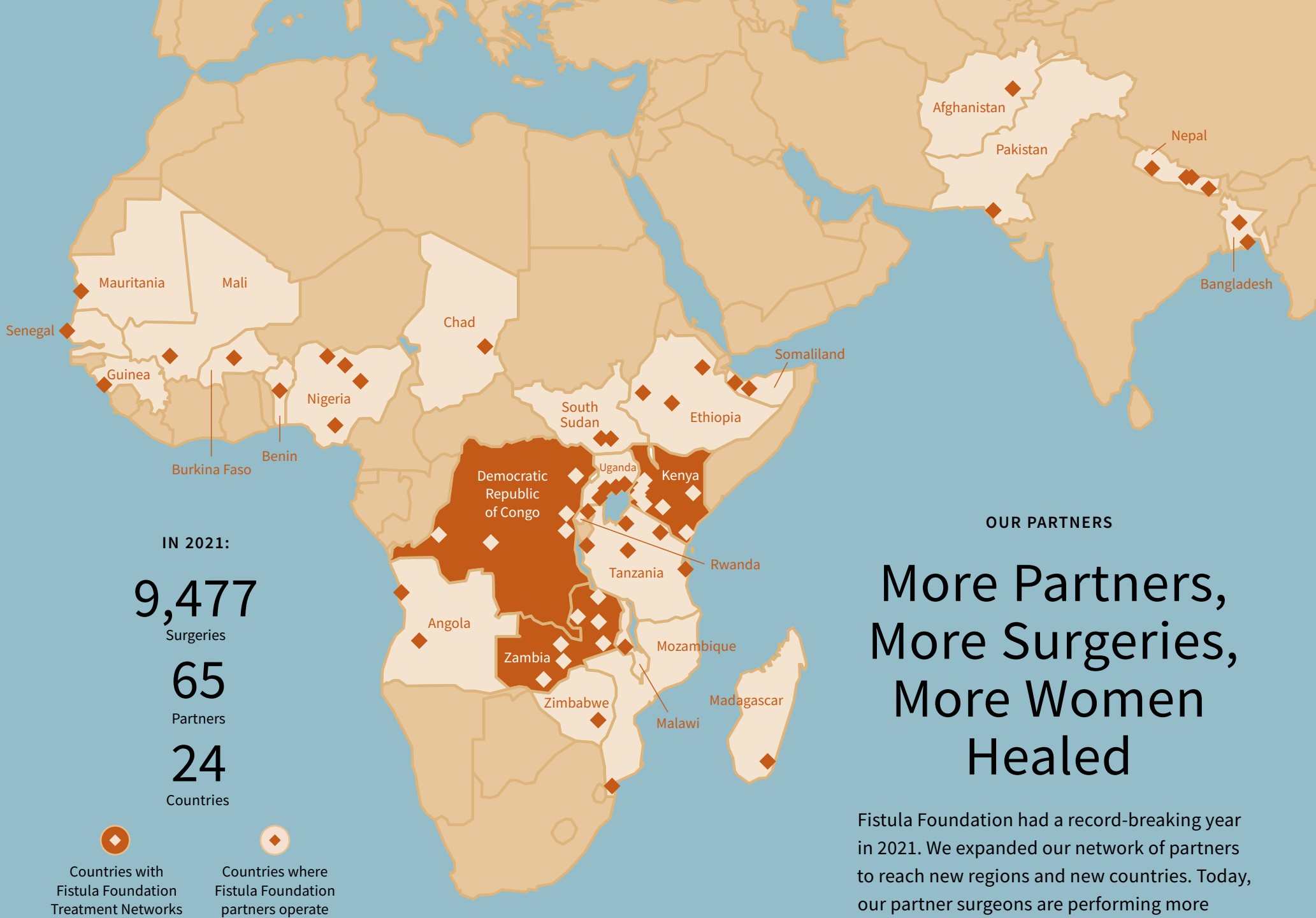
*"When I give my pitch, people are like 'Oh, wow, that's amazing, I'd love to contribute to that.' It's about the collective effort and how many lives we can change. The power of one is not that great, but the power of many is wonderful."*

## 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 ... decided to begin giving to Fistula Foundation."*



**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.

*(Note: Data shown here reflect currently active partners.)*

## 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.



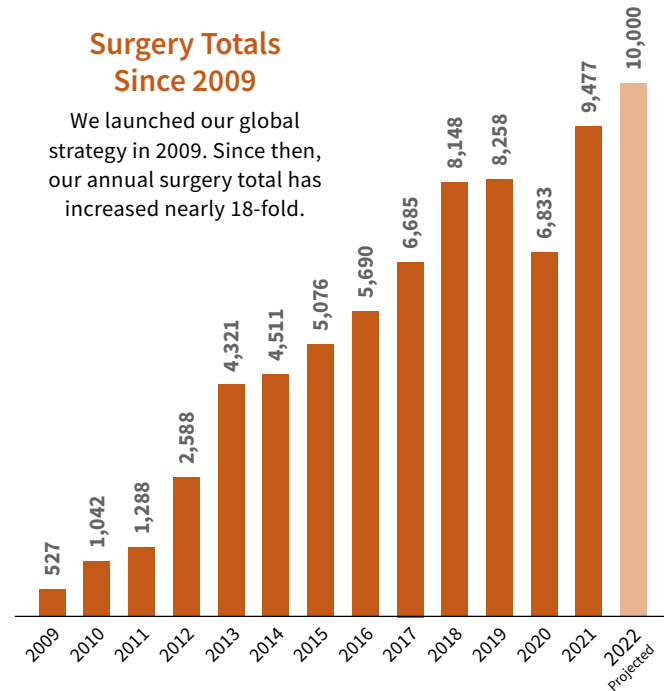
Sumy Sadurni/GGimages

*"It makes me so happy to see the smiling face of a mother who has been reborn again because she has been healed. I don't see what I do as 'treatment.' I see it as rebirth. It allows a woman to start anew. She can participate in society; she has freedom. Her happy face says everything. It makes me proud."*

— **Dr. Nasra Ibrahim**  
National Borama Fistula Hospital in Somaliland

### Surgery Totals Since 2009

We launched our global strategy in 2009. Since then, our annual surgery total has increased nearly 18-fold.



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.



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

OUR PERFORMANCE

# Your Gift Is in Good Hands



**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.



**GuideStar**

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



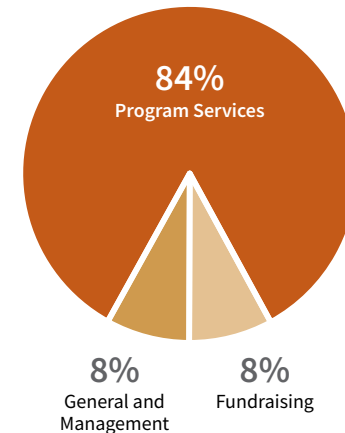
**Charity Watch**

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.

## 2021 Financials


Revenues and Support	Total
Contributions	\$17,469,581
Net Investment Income	\$2,599,528
Net Assets Released from Restriction for Purpose	—
<b>Total Revenues and Support</b>	<b>\$20,069,109</b>
<b>Expenses</b>	
Program Services	\$11,209,216
Management and General	\$1,040,255
Fundraising Expense	\$1,054,868
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$13,304,339</b>
Change in Net Assets	\$6,764,770
Net Assets at Beginning of Year	\$15,055,969
Net Assets at End of Year	\$21,820,739

## Overall Spending in 2021







 Rijasolo/iStock.com

## 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 cost of transportation to the hospital. "Without [Fistula Foundation], I would still be suffering," said Miza. "I thank them for healing me."