

DINING FOR WOMEN
Interim Progress Report from Fistula Foundation
January, 2018

Your Impact

Fistula Foundation is deeply thankful to **Dining for Women** for choosing us as a charity worthy of your support since 2005. We are humbled and grateful to have been selected by Dining for Women as a grant recipient of your October, 2015-17 Sustained Program, providing \$60,000 to be distributed over a three year period, and helping fund fistula surgery for the women of the Democratic Republic of Congo, Guinea and South Sudan.

As of January 12, 2018, Dining for Women has fulfilled this gift pledge commitment, having provided the following gifts to Fistula Foundation which have been designated according to this grant's agreement guidelines:

- \$20,000, received January 22, 2016, designated for fistula treatment by our partner HEAL Africa in the Democratic Republic of Congo
- \$20,000, received November 22, 2016, designated for fistula treatment by our partner Women and Health Alliance International (WAHA) in Guinea
- \$20,000, received November 13, 2017, designated for fistula treatment by our partner WAHA in South Sudan

Following is an interim progress report on the impact of your giving through this important Dining for Women grant program.

You helped provide 120 fistula surgeries for women in Democratic Republic of Congo

Dining for Women helped rewrite the future for 120 women who received free, high-quality fistula surgery and care in the Democratic Republic of Congo. Your generous gift of \$20,000, received January 22, 2016, significantly helped fund our annual fistula treatment project with our longtime partner HEAL Africa which concluded in December, 2016.

As you may remember, in our last giving impact update report to Dining for Women, we provided a final report on this project and the impact of your gift for this purpose. Your support significantly helped this hospital team achieve its 2016 fistula treatment goals. And we hope you feel wonderful for the important role you played in making that possible!

To keep you thinking about the need for treating the many women waiting for fistula surgery in the Congo, we are pleased to share a news story with you. German publication *Der Spiegel* recently translated the following story "Living In Shame" into English. It is one of the few stories on the topic to appear in a major publication in recent years. We are grateful to *Der Spiegel* for shining a spotlight on this important issue.

<http://www.spiegel.de/international/tomorrow/living-in-shame-combating-fistulas-in-africa-a-1174407.html>

You changed many lives in Guinea

Your generous gift of \$20,000, received November 22, 2016, significantly helped fund our 2017 fistula treatment project by our partner Women and Health Alliance International (WAHA) in Guinea.

As you may remember, in our last giving impact update report to Dining for Women, we first introduced you to this important fistula treatment project which had a primary goal of providing fistula surgery and care for 200 women in Guinea. This project concluded in fall 2017. During our next giving impact report to you, we will share the final treatment numbers.



During this project, we funded provision and expansion of high-quality fistula care in Guinea by supporting the National University Hospital Ignace Deen in the capital city of Conakry. And since the WAHA fistula treatment team are keen to increase women's access to fistula treatment, they expanded their plans to also perform surgeries in Boke (northeast of the capital) and Labe (the capital of Homonyme prefecture located in the center of Guinea). As of our latest project update from WAHA, they had made great progress, providing 127 of their intended 200 fistula

surgeries. Thankfully, WAHA did not face any particular challenges during this project. As Guinea is now officially "Ebola-free," the nation's citizens are beginning to trust the health system again.



Dr. Sinan Khaddaj, Secretary General, Women and Health Alliance International, with colleagues from the National University Hospital Ignace Deen in Guinea.

One Woman's Story: Anne-Marie* from Guinea



Anne-Marie is 33 years old. She is a housewife living in Poredaka, located in Mamou prefecture which is quite far from the capital city of Conakry -- a 6 hour car ride. Anne-Marie was pregnant with her eighth child. When her labor started, she was advised to travel to her local health center to deliver her baby. And so her husband found a vehicle willing to transport her to the health center located in Poredaka. The staff here referred her to the hospital in Mamou, where the hospital team performed a c-section surgery. Unfortunately, by this time it was already too late. Her baby was no longer alive. Afterwards, Anne-Marie noticed new pain in her feet. And she could no longer control the flow of her urine. Anne-Marie contacted her father for guidance. He suggested that she ask her husband to allow her to be sent to their home so

they could see what they could do for her. She stayed there for a month and a half without any improvement. At the suggestion of her daughter, she made the long trip to Conakry. She was diagnosed at a local clinic with obstetric fistula. And soon after, she received fistula surgery at the Centre Médico Social Djigui Espoir. Anne-Marie's fistula surgery was successful. And she has returned to her family in Poredaka.

* - For privacy reasons, this fistula patient's name has been changed.

You are reducing the enormous backlog in South Sudan

Your generous gift of \$20,000, received November 13, 2017, is significantly helping fund our 2018 fistula treatment project by our partner WAHA in South Sudan.



Why do we work in South Sudan?

At 730 deaths per 100,000 live births, South Sudan has one of the highest maternal mortality rates in the world; each woman has a 1 in 28 chance of dying from pregnancy-related issues during her lifetime. What is more, for each woman that dies, an estimated 20 survive with devastating childbirth injuries like obstetric fistula (WHO 2014). In 2014, UNFPA estimated there are presently 60,000 women and girls suffering from obstetric fistula in this nation. And there are presently

no facilities in this nation providing ongoing fistula surgery in South Sudan.

Fistula Foundation began helping provide fistula treatment for the women of South Sudan in 2013 through our longest-term and most revered partner, WAHA. WAHA's projects are consistently recognized by Fistula Foundation as some of our most high-quality, forward-looking and comprehensive in our history. They are also among the most dangerous places where we're helping. With its roots in Médecins Sans Frontières (also known as Doctors Without Borders), WAHA has always been prepared to provide fistula services in the least secure areas. In spite of global hopes and dreams, the new nation of South Sudan has continued its status as what can only be described as a war zone. WAHA has made steady progress in building local capacity in the country and providing expert oversight and training for

the newer surgeons there. And once again, the word “commendable” comes to mind to describe WAHA’s fistula treatment accomplishments in South Sudan.

For the present time, WAHA have assessed that intense training and treatment visits are the most feasible way they can continue providing fistula care in South Sudan during 2018. Our most recent fistula treatment project to WAHA for South Sudan was in 2016. Then, the political and security situation worsened. It took WAHA a year before they could carry out their planned 2016 fistula surgeries.

Working conditions are challenging. Security is an issue. Inflation is galloping. And the government is setting up growing barriers for international humanitarian workers to have a presence here. WAHA returned to South Sudan in spring 2017, carrying out an intense fistula surgery and training effort based at the Juba teaching hospital. WAHA performed fistula surgeries on women from all of the eastern parts of the country, including Western Equatoria, Upper Nile, Lakes and Juba. They’ve set a goal of 100 fistula surgeries and important capacity-building fistula surgery and care training for multiple local hospital teams at Juba University Hospital and Aweil Hospital, depending on where the security situation allows for safe patient and WAHA fistula treatment team movement.

Number of fistula surgeries your grant will help make possible here: 100

Project Budget

Outreach.....	\$7,000
Fistula surgeries.....	\$96,000
Fistula surgery training.....	\$32,000
Patient transportation.....	\$15,000
Social reintegration / rehabilitation.....	\$6,000
Total project budget.....	\$156,000