



WORLDWIDE FISTULA FUND

HEALING WOMEN, RESTORING LIVES

Looking Forward on International Women's Day

Happy International Women's Day to you, our wonderful friends, partners and champions! Today is a day to celebrate women the world over. As supporters of the Worldwide Fistula Fund, we know that you live every day with this mission in your hearts. While we often tell you stories of helping women with obstetric fistula, we would be remiss to exclude the important work we're doing to ensure that women and girls stop developing this devastating condition in the future.

With one of the highest birth rates in the world and incredibly limited access to maternal health care, Nigerienne women have a severely heightened risk of developing obstetric fistula or other birthing complications. They give birth young, they give birth alone and they give birth without medical assistance. It can be a frightening and confusing experience, especially for those who have seen their friends and neighbors become severely injured, lose their babies or even lose their own lives in childbirth.

In partnership with Human Development International (HDI), the Worldwide Fistula Fund is implementing a far-reaching prevention and education outreach program in an expansive area around the [*Danja Fistula Center*](#). The program, which will reach up to 100,000 women in year one, aims to achieve the following:

- Determine a woman and man in each village to serve as program representatives/advocates
- Educate all villagers about obstetric fistula risk factors and prevention techniques
- Create action steps with each village on what to do in the event of an obstructed labor (e.g., use a vehicle or donkey cart to transport the woman, use a cell



- STAFF PROFILE -

Dr. Itengré Ouédraogo, Medical Director of the Danja Fistula Center

Dr. Itengré's dedication to the women of west Africa, his skills at fistula surgery and his administrative expertise give him unparalleled qualification to serve as the medical director of the Danja Fistula Center. But it is his warm, bright smile and assured attitude that is of the most comfort to the women he helps every day.

Born and raised in Burkina Faso, Dr. Itengré was identified as an exceptional individual by the government when he was just a teenager. Sent to Cuba for

phone to alert the medical center, etc.)

- Forge partnerships with local hospitals to provide health care and services for women in labor
- Track and collect data on at-risk women to ensure that they receive the care and support they need to have a safe birth

The prevention program is one aspect of our multi-tiered approach to treating fistula. By coupling the provision of surgical care and reintegration services to women who have already developed the condition with a comprehensive and proven method of preventing new cases from occurring, we are confident that we can make a significant impact on the number of women affected by this condition both today . . . and tomorrow.

If you would like to support our prevention programming, and help the girls and women of Niger gain access to much-needed education and medical care, [please make a one-time or recurring gift to the Worldwide Fistula Fund.](#)



further education, he soon decided he would like to commit his professional life to medicine. After 20 years in Cuba, during which he trained and worked as a general surgeon, he returned to west Africa and spent nine years providing surgical services to the rural community of Gouré as a part of a United Nations health initiative. He also pursued years of training in obstetric fistula surgery from many of the preeminent experts in the world, including our own Dr. Arrowsmith as well as Dr. Sanda Ganda in Niamey, Niger.

Dr. Itengré is fluent in his village language, Hausa, French, English and Spanish, which allows him to communicate with ease with any and all Danja Fistula Center visitors, staff and patients.

Along with his wife Rasmata and daughters Grace and Esther, Dr. Itengré has settled in to life in Danja and we hope that he will stay with us until retirement!

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