



WORLDWIDE FISTULA FUND

HEALING WOMEN, RESTORING LIVES

Giving Thanks for Your Ongoing Support

As we kick off the holiday season, we have much to be grateful for at the Worldwide Fistula Fund. We have had a remarkable year with the opening of the Danja Fistula Center, which has had a tremendous impact on the lives of women suffering from obstetric fistula in Niger.

Today, we are joining nonprofits nationwide in celebrating [#GivingTuesday](#). The goal of [#GivingTuesday](#) is to encourage people everywhere to come together to help others and incentivize ways to give more, give better and give smarter. In this spirit, we want to share one story with you that fills us with gratitude and joy. It is the story of Habiba.

Habiba is 20. Married at 16 and pregnant soon thereafter, she began her labor at home, as most women in Niger do. After two difficult days with no resolution, Habiba set off for the hospital in a traditional ox-cart. She continued labor for four days before finally receiving a cesarean section. After the surgery, she began leaking, the result of a fistula. When her husband learned Habiba had a fistula, he sent a message to the hospital that she was not to come back to his house. She moved back in with her parents, depressed. Her fistula confined her to the house, so she could not visit her friends or socialize with others. She worried that she would never find another husband or have children.

Habiba had a successful fistula surgery at the Danja Fistula Center earlier this year. Recently, she returned for a six-month check-up. She was wearing the ceremonial dress that was given to her after her surgery. And while Habiba still has many concerns about her future, she grinned ear to ear as she told the Danja team, "I am happy." That is a phrase that was unfamiliar to her six months before.

We are inspired by the ongoing encouragement we have received from our friends and supporters like you. We give thanks every day for the wonderful and loyal support you show both us and the women like Habiba in Niger.

If you haven't made your year-end donations yet, please [donate online](#) or via

Paypal. Thank you for your generous support!



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