



**WORLDWIDE FISTULA FUND**  
HEALING WOMEN, RESTORING LIVES

MAY  
2015

# HEALING & DIGNITY

The monthly newsletter for Worldwide Fistula Fund

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## Remember Olivia on May 23rd - International Day to End Fistula

### What's it like to give birth in rural Africa?

WFF's partners met Olivia (above) who arrived, in labor, at a rural health clinic in Uganda. She had an **obstructed labor**. Trained obstetricians are not available here to address childbirth complications like obstructed labor. Olivia needs to be moved to a hospital for delivery help -- likely a Cesarean section.

If she had stayed at home -- over 80% of women in sub-Saharan Africa deliver at home according to tradition -- Olivia would likely have been in labor for several more days, her baby would have died and the prolonged, obstructed labor would have left her with an obstetric fistula.

### Helping prevent fistula

Luckily, Olivia has found supportive women who know what must be done. Advocates from WFF partner TERREWODE help her rent a motorcycle and secure transport to a hospital.



In rural Africa, poverty and rugged terrain restrict women's access to the limited health services available. Without hospital transport, Olivia or her baby could die or both could suffer serious injury.

### International Day to End Fistula is a time to Intensify Action

May 23rd is End Fistula Day. **Join Worldwide Fistula Fund** along with the United Nations and over 90 other organizations in the 2015 campaign to end fistula.

With your support, we are changing lives. Yet the need persists: 1 million women worldwide need treatment with 50-100K more injured annually.

**Remember: one woman's life-changing surgery costs just \$450!**

**DONATE NOW**

**22%**

**Percentage of women in sub-Saharan Africa who receive needed care for complications of pregnancy or delivery**

Source: UNFPA, December 2014

## Dr. Itengre's Blog - My Good Day at Danja Fistula Center



When a former fistula patient, Garba, returns to share the news she's pregnant -- it is indeed a good day.

**READ BLOG**

An expert fistula surgeon trained by WFF founder Dr. L. Lewis Wall, Dr. Itengre Ouedraogo is the Chief Medical Officer at Danja Fistula Center. As our May Guest Blogger, he shares:

- his personal investment in every patient
- the outcome of Garba's pregnancy
- how he healed a woman named Amagadas after she lived with her fistula for 40 years.

## SPOTLIGHT: Collaboration to Improve Women's Health

International Women's Initiative (IWI) recently interviewed WFF Executive Director Maureen Powers for their "Women with Initiative" Blog and we learned of their new program to improve childbirth safety in Northern Uganda...**MORE**



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Worldwide Fistula Fund (WFF) is a nonprofit global health organization that helps heal girls and women in sub-Saharan Africa who suffer from obstetric fistula. Obstetric fistula is a devastating childbirth injury that leaves a woman incontinent: leaking urine or feces through her vagina uncontrollably. WFF provides life-changing surgery, rehabilitation, support and skills training to help women build new lives and rejoin communities that once shunned them. Founded in 1995, we are the oldest organization in the United States focused on obstetric fistula.