



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

## **FACT SHEET**

### **WHO WE ARE**

We are a nonprofit organization headquartered in Schaumburg, IL. We have a fistula treatment facility operating in Danja, Niger, and partnerships and programs throughout the continent. We also support fistula research through grants and other support mechanisms.

### **WHAT WE DO**

We are focused on helping women suffering from obstetric fistula in developing nations by providing surgical care and rehabilitation services. We also support medical education, surgical training and preventative programs to end the scourge of fistula.

### **WHY WE DO IT**

Obstetric fistula is a medical condition caused by lack of proper medical care during prolonged labor. After days of terrifying and painful labor, affected women often give birth to dead babies and are left with holes between their bladders and vaginas or their rectums and vaginas, through which they leak waste uncontrollably. Because modern surgery can generally repair these holes successfully, the fistula problem is limited to women in developing countries. Once they are injured in this way, they are often shunned by their families and friends and left to live a life of devastating discomfort and isolation.

Operations to repair obstetric fistula – and bring sufferers the relief they so desperately need – cost as little as \$450 and have a high success rate.



**WORLDWIDE FISTULA FUND**  
**TWO WOODFIELD LAKE**  
**1100 EAST WOODFIELD DRIVE, SUITE 350**  
**SCHAUMBURG, IL 60173-5116**  
**PHONE: (847) 517-7225**  
**WORLDWIDEFISTULAFUND.ORG**



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## **FACT SHEET CONTINUED**

### **HOW WE DO IT**

As a public charity, we rely on donations and grants to fund our initiatives. Through a vast network of supporters, we have been able to raise funds to build a specialist fistula center in Danja, Niger.

### **WHO WE DO IT FOR**

We work with afflicted women throughout sub-Saharan Africa, with a focus on West Africa. Our fistula patients range in age from 12 to their 60's, generally live in extreme poverty and are usually illiterate and without formal schooling.



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