



**FREEDOM**  
from  
**FISTULA**  
Foundation

Making **life** worth **living**

“ Today an estimated 2 million women in Africa are suffering from obstetric fistula caused by obstructed childbirth ”

SEPTEMBER 2014

## Spotlight on KENYA

In addition to our regular fistula clinic at Kenyatta National Hospital in Nairobi, our Kenyan team recently completed the country's biggest ever fistula 'camp' which saw 160 patients receiving free treatment in just over two weeks at the hospital.

More than 1500 potential patients were screened and three Kenyan surgeons were joined by three visiting surgeons, including our Dr Tagie from the AWC in Sierra Leone. Women who had gynaecological conditions, other than fistula, were referred on for appropriate help.

[Mukei was just one of the patients treated at the camp](#)  
[read her story on the next page](#)

We were delighted to have support from the Flying Doctors Society of Africa (FDSA), our new partners in Kenya, as well as Royal Media Services, the largest media organisation in Kenya, which assisted with an intensive advertising campaign to promote the camp.

Since this large camp, another 84 women have been treated at two camps at Embu and Kisii this month.

## WELL DONE TO OUR WHOLE TEAM IN KENYA!



## EBOLA affects fistula services in Sierra Leone

Due to the Ebola outbreak in West Africa and the high percentage of patients that travel to our fistula clinic from the rural areas of Sierra Leone and Guinea, we had to make the difficult decision to suspend our fistula service at the Aberdeen Women's Centre (AWC).

We are, however, continuing to operate our children's clinic and maternity unit for the benefit of the local community and it is our intention to continue with these services while we have the required level of staff and supplies available.

Rigorous screening of patients has been in place for many weeks and all precautions are being taken to help safeguard our staff and patients. Please keep them in your thoughts and prayers during this extremely difficult time.



## Our Projects

### Malawi

The Fistula Care Centre (FCC) in Lilongwe continues to be a success. Our education and empowerment program has expanded and is helping prepare our patients for a brighter future. We are also at the early stages of a new project to overhaul the country's busiest maternity hospital which is situated next to the FCC at Bwaila. *More to follow in the next newsletter!*

### Sierra Leone

We are one of the few charity healthcare facilities still operating in Sierra Leone during the Ebola outbreak and we will continue to do so for as long as we can.



[@WeFixFistulas](#) [Freedom From Fistula Foundation](#)

Freedom From Fistula Foundation Inc

777 United Nations Plaza, 6th Floor Suite L-M, New York, NY10017

Tel 646 590 2707 | Fax 646 590 2708 | Email [info@freedomfromfistula.com](mailto:info@freedomfromfistula.com)

Web [www.freedomfromfistula.com](http://www.freedomfromfistula.com) | Registration Number for 501c(3):45-3541106

# CASE STUDY

## 68 year old Mukei has had fistula for 53 years

At 15, Mukei endured hours of agonizing labor before she was taken to a hospital 30 km away, where she waited another three hours for a doctor to come. When the doctor finally arrived they used a vacuum to pull the baby out, feet first. Sadly the baby had already died.

When Mukei awoke, not only did she suffer the devastation of knowing she had lost her baby but also found she was leaking urine. The doctors told her nothing could be done and for 53 years she suffered. Her incontinence meant that she was no longer able to work or go to church or family gatherings. Then she heard an advert on the radio about the Kenyatta camp and one week later she was DRY.

*"I am still in shock that I am dry. I hope no other woman has to endure the shame I lived with for over 50 years. I am so thankful for the help I have received"*

## News and Events

### Sept 17th Alex and Ani fundraiser

We are holding a cocktail reception at one of fashion jewelers Alex and Ani's flagship stores in New York on the evening of September 17th. Guests can shop and mingle in the sound knowledge that 15% of all proceeds are going straight to Freedom from Fistula Foundation. Everyone is welcome.

### Oct 25<sup>th</sup> Linda Andrews Silver Spring Challenge

On October 25<sup>th</sup> Linda Andrews, a fitness instructor from Washington DC will be running the 'Silver Spring Challenge', a mass fitness event to raise money and awareness for the Freedom from Fistula Foundation and two other charities. Good luck to Linda and a huge thanks to all who are taking part.

## Update

We have been busy finalising our relationship with the United Nations Department of Public Information, of which we are now successfully affiliated. This achievement allows us to participate in UN conferences and events, which gave us the opportunity to network and advocate for fistula in the recent UN DPI annual conference, which the US team attended. We will continue to participate in the CSW - Commission for the Status of Women and other platforms, allowing us to petition for the cause further.

Fundraising is starting to gather pace in the US also with a number of events scheduled in the coming weeks including a mass boot camp exercise fundraiser in Washington DC; an Alex and Ani jewellery store fundraiser event; a Rotary cocktail event for members of Rotary to meet with our founder and senior UK team; and a meeting with fistula youth advocacy charity Pretty Purposeful to discuss potential collaboration.

## Thank you to everyone who has supported us this year



The team have been busy talking to various Rotary clubs about the work of FFFF. Following a talk at the Paterson Rotary Club in New Jersey, we were delighted to receive a cheque for **\$150** so a huge thanks so the Paterson Rotary club for their generosity and engagement.

*Img (1) Joseph Dino (President) Paterson Rotary Club & Louisa Boyle*

*Img (2) Louisa Boyle, Dave D'Elleva (President) & Mike Veny (Wall Street Rotary Club) at the Locust Valley Rotary Club in Long Island*

## Support us

# Donate

**To make a donation** either send a check to our office or make a donation online [www.freedomfromfistula.com](http://www.freedomfromfistula.com)

# Fundraise

**To fundraise for us** view our A-Z of fundraising ideas and view/download our helpful fundraising resources [www.freedomfromfistula.com/resources](http://www.freedomfromfistula.com/resources) Alternatively you can contact us to discuss your fundraising ideas on 01738 633264

# Raise profile

**Help raise our profile** which is vital to raising funds. Are you part of an organization who would like to hear more? To arrange a speaker contact us on 646 590 2707

100% of donations go directly to the projects as our administration costs are met by The Gloag Foundation