



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

A message from Ann Gloag

In 2008, I set up Freedom From Fistula (www.freedomfromfistula.org.uk) to help women and girls in Africa who are injured in childbirth and left suffering from obstetric fistula - a condition that leaves them incontinent and condemned to a life of shame, isolation and despair.

Freedom From Fistula (FFF) now operates in Sierra Leone, Malawi, Madagascar and Kenya and provides: free surgeries to heal fistulas; free and accessible maternity care; children's outpatient clinics, family planning; and training for nurses, midwives and doctors.

In 2018, Freedom From Fistula celebrates its 10th Anniversary and in the last 10 years we have:

- **Delivered free treatment to 120,000 women and children across four countries in Africa**
- **Performed more than 6,500 fistula operations**
- **Delivered more than 10,000 babies**
- **Trained 500 nurses and doctors**

But our work is not done. There are still an estimated 2 million women and girls suffering from obstetric fistula – and we need your help to change this.

Rotarians have offered invaluable support during the last 10 years, in particular, by securing Global Grants to fund the training of 60 nurse midwife technicians in Malawi and the purchase of two landcruisers in Malawi which provide a lifeline for the FFF team to access patients in the most rural areas and raise awareness of our work.

We are delighted that Rotarians have once again pledged their support through the launch of a new Global Grant to help our Aberdeen Women's Centre (AWC) in Sierra Leone.

The AWC is our biggest project – and is a perfect fit with **Rotary's Maternal and Child Health Area of Focus**.



Working in partnership with Freedom From Fistula, Rotarians around the world can save and transform the lives of women and children at Aberdeen Women's Centre where every year we:

- **perform around 240 fistula surgeries**
- **deliver more than 3000 babies in our maternity unit**
- **treat 20,000 children in our Outpatient Children's Clinic**
- **provide family planning services to more than 3000 women and girls**
- **provide literacy and numeracy classes to all fistula patients, as well as health education and skills training**
- **train national healthcare staff (doctors, nurses and midwives) to help build capacity in Sierra Leone's healthcare system.**

All these services are free to patients but it costs £1Million every year to achieve this – and we need your help.

Every **£1,000** raised by Rotarians can provide one of the following:

- **250 consultations at the Children's Outpatient Clinic including consultation, treatment and vaccinations**
- **10 safe births in the maternity unit**
- **One life-changing fistula surgery including rehabilitation and reintegration**
- **Provide literacy and numeracy classes for 20 girls**
- **Feed 500 patients**

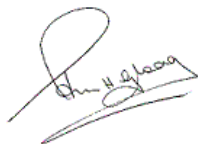
100% of donations go directly to the projects as my Gloag Foundation covers all the administration costs.

Earlier this year, I was honoured to be asked to present at Rotary's Convention in Toronto. I welcomed this opportunity to talk about the Charity and our ongoing partnership with Rotary International at such a prestigious event, attended by Rotarians from around the world. Click here to hear my speech <https://vimeo.com/276477324>

How many lives can Rotarians save and transform?

Your support has helped us achieve so much success in Malawi – let's do even more in Sierra Leone.

Thank you



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For more information on how to get involved in this project please contact Sue Hope - email: sue@thehopeconsultancy.org.uk or tel: 07702 812987 or Allan Maclaughlan - email: maglox@sky.com or tel: 01506 872544 / 07944 383173

