



Winter 2020 Newsletter

All the latest news from our projects in Madagascar, Malawi and Sierra Leone

2020!

This year has been the hardest in our 12 year history but thanks to **your support** and the resilience, tenacity and determination of our teams in the UK and Africa, we have still been able to help more than **20,000** women and children this year – and for that, we are truly thankful.

We were delighted to be able to keep open our hospital in Sierra Leone, the Aberdeen Women's Centre (AWC), which will safely deliver nearly **2000** babies and treat more than **17,000** children this year. Our fistula unit also reopened in October after a six month suspension due to Covid-19 and **60** women and girls will have received free surgeries by the end of the year. Special thanks go to the Aminata Maternal Foundation and UNFPA Sierra Leone for their continued support of the AWC and for their flexibility in diverting funds to urgent Covid-19 costs.

Sadly, we have also treated more than **40** rape victims this year, including children as young as five. Thankfully, the issue of child rape is now high up on the political agenda in Sierra Leone and we are part of the network of organisations working with the Government to tackle this issue. We thank the local donors who are supporting this vital work and we look forward to helping even more survivors next year.

We are also planning for our Fistula Care Centre in Madagascar to reopen in January, government restrictions permitting, and hope to expand our work there to help even more fistula patients.

Lois Boyle
Director of Operations & Communications



A cause for celebration

Former fistula patient celebrates the birth of her beautiful baby.

Memunatu developed obstetric fistula during an obstructed labour. Sadly she lost her baby. Staff visiting her village spoke to Memunatu about Fistula and brought her to our Centre for treatment. She returned home dry and hopeful she could become a mother.

We were delighted to meet with Memunatu once more when she returned to us to safely deliver her baby. You can read her story here <https://bit.ly/3q6Hnvo>

Malawi

It is with great sadness we have to report that, after 10 years running our world class Fistula Care Centre in Malawi, we are unable to continue next year.

As you know from our update emails, the Centre was requisitioned by Government in April for Covid-19 purposes. Since then, and despite our extensive efforts, we have not been able to reach agreement with the Ministry of Health to return to the Centre and operate fistula services in the long term, despite indications in October this may be possible. The government is committed to integrating fistula care into the central hospital in Lilongwe from 2021 and we pray that will be successful.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank our Country Director Margaret Moyo and all our staff who have worked with us over the last 10 years. Their dedication and personal commitment to help almost **3000** fistula patients went above and beyond the medical care and we couldn't have achieved so much without them.

We are able to redeploy a small number of critical clinical staff to our other projects which ensures their skills are not lost.

It is our hope we will one day return to fistula care in Malawi and, in the meantime, we hope to increase support to our maternity partners next year in order to prevent fistulas happening in the first place. We will update you further on this early next year.

How can YOU help?...



Safe deliveries save lives

We need **YOU** to help us in 2021. **100%** of your donations go directly to the projects as all administration costs are met by the charity founder.

This holiday season we are asking you to make a donation to; help us provide the best antenatal care for our pregnant mums, help provide a safe delivery for both mum and baby, and help provide vital immunisations and health checks for the little one (from birth to 15).

Supporting this wraparound care has a direct impact on the health and wellbeing of women and children in Africa. Your donations **will** help prevent maternal death and childbirth injuries, truly a holiday miracle!

Donate online today at www.justgiving.com/freedomfromfistula

<p>£20</p> <p>HELPS PROVIDE ANTENATAL APPOINTMENTS ENSURING THE BEST MEDICAL CARE DURING PREGNANCY</p> 	<p>£100</p> <p>HELPS PROVIDE A SAFE DELIVERY PREVENTING MATERNAL DEATH & CHILDBIRTH INJURY</p> 
<p>YOUR DONATIONS PROVIDE HOPE & JOY THIS HOLIDAY SEASON</p> 	<p>£5</p> <p>HELPS PROVIDE IMMUNISATIONS AND HEALTH CHECKS SO THE LITTLE ONE CAN GROW AND FLOURISH</p> 