



**January 2021
Newsletter**

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



A cause for celebration

Former fistula patient celebrates the birth of her beautiful baby.

Memunatu developed obstetric fistula during an obstructed labor. 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>

2020!



Last year was the hardest in our 12 year history but thanks to **your support** and the resilience, tenacity and determination of our teams in Africa, we were still able to help more than **20,000** women and children – 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 safely delivered **2202** babies and treated more than **19,000** children last year. Our fistula unit also reopened in October after a six month suspension due to Covid-19 meaning more than **200** women and girls received free surgeries in 2020. 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 also treated **22** severely injured child and adolescent rape victims last 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 organizations 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.

In Madagascar and Malawi, we were able to help **150** women and girls receive free fistula care before both projects were suspended due to Covid. Our support of maternity clinics in Malawi continued, however, with **1042** babies safely born thanks to our funding.

We are confident that 2021 will see us return to full service across Africa and we look forward to updating you throughout the year.



Malawi

As you know, our Fistula Care Centre was requisitioned by Government in April 2020 for Covid-19 purposes. Since then, we have been seeking an agreement with the Ministry of Health to return the Centre to us so we can continue to deliver fistula services in the long term.

At the end of 2020 it looked like this may not be possible but we are DELIGHTED to say we have signed a new Memorandum of Understanding with the Ministry of Health which will allow us to reopen the Fistula Care Centre when it is no longer needed as a Covid treatment facility - hopefully within a few months.

In the meantime, we have redeployed some staff to Sierra Leone and will continue to pay a % of salary and provide monthly maize flour to help the rest of our Malawi staff.

Madagascar

We are hopeful that commercial international flights into Madagascar will restart in February, allowing our expert surgeon to return to the Fistula Care Centre and resume our service.

Until then, our staff are busy planning the identification and mobilization of patients for when we reopen, as well as a possible expansion of our facility to accommodate even more patients long term. We are excited by this possibility and will share more information in our next update.

We can't wait to be back!

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.

As we embark upon a new year, we are asking you to make a donation to; help us provide the best antenatal care for our pregnant moms, help provide a safe delivery for both mom and baby, and help provide vital immunizations and health checks for infants(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 - something you can make happen today!

Donate today at
<https://bit.ly/3gJ7e8s>

<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</p>	<p>\$5</p> <p>HELPS PROVIDE IMMUNIZATIONS AND HEALTH CHECKS SO THE LITTLE ONE CAN GROW AND FLOURISH</p> 