

## Fistula Care *Plus*

Annual Report

October 2014 to September 2015

Managing Partner: EngenderHealth;  
Associate Partners: The Population  
Council, Dimagi, Direct Relief, Fistula  
Foundation, Maternal Health Task Force,  
TERREWODE

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The annual report presents key accomplishments and activities for the second fiscal year (October 1, 2014 to September 30, 2015) of *Fistula Care Plus* (FC+). EngenderHealth manages the project in collaboration with international and national partners. In FY14/15, USAID supported fistula treatment and prevention services through the FC+ project in **six** countries—Bangladesh, the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), Niger, Nigeria, Togo, and Uganda. USAID also supports fistula activities in DRC, Ethiopia, Mali, Pakistan, and Tanzania through bilateral funding. EngenderHealth also supported fistula prevention and care activities in Guinea with non-USAID funds.

Key accomplishments during the October 2014 to September 2015 period included:

### **Objective 1: Strengthened enabling environment**

- National fistula working group/strategy meetings in Bangladesh, Niger, and Uganda.
- National level meetings on women deemed incurable (WDI) in Nigeria and Uganda.
- Co-hosting and participation at annual International Society of Fistula Surgeons (ISOFS) and International Obstetric Fistula Working Group (IOFWG) meetings.
- Global and country-level events to celebrate International Day to End Obstetric Fistula on May 23.
- Founding membership and board participation in the new G4 Alliance for global surgery.
- Inventory and content analysis of tools for survey/interview-based fistula case identification
- Co-organization of Wilson Center panel: “Restoring Hope and Dignity: New Developments and Best Practices in Addressing Maternal Morbidities.”

### **Objective 2: Enhanced community understanding and practices**

- 776 community volunteers/educators trained in tools and approaches to raise awareness regarding fistula prevention and repair. 1,990 community awareness-raising activities/events conducted by program partners, reaching 414,067 participants.
- Training and support for outreach activities of religious leaders in Uganda and Nigeria, village committees in Niger.

### **Objective 3: Reduced transportation, communications, and financial barriers**

- Completion of systematic literature review of barriers to fistula treatment.
- Formative research to investigate barriers faced by women implemented in Nigeria and planned for Uganda (FY15/16).

### **Objective 4: Strengthened provider and health facility capacity**

- 2,876 fistula repairs supported through FC+; 986 repairs supported by other bilateral USAID support.
- Site assessments and facility audits carried out in six countries.
- 31 sites supported by FC+ for fistula treatment and prevention activities; nine sites supported through other USAID bilateral support.
- 749 sites supported by FC+ for prevention-only activities; one site supported through other USAID bilateral support.
- 22 surgeons trained in fistula repair (including 11 first-time trainees)

- 1,065 health system personnel trained in non-surgical fistula repair and prevention topics
- Pelvic organ prolapse (POP)/fistula integration workshop convened, with selection of five sites in four countries for technical assistance to integrate POP into fistula services.

**Objective 5: Strengthened evidence base**

- Training for all FC+ M&E staff in DHIS2 platform established for FC+ and partner data collection, analysis, and storage.
- Collaborative secondary analysis of Demographic and Health Survey (DHS) fistula data and of FC project research data.
- Dissemination of findings from FC project randomized controlled trial on shorter-duration catheterization after fistula repair.
- Research consultation convened on catheterization for fistula prevention.