

# International Day to End Obstetric Fistula 2021

## We need your support!

On 23 May each year, FIGO joins the global community to raise awareness about obstetric fistula and generate much-needed additional support for women affected.

For this year's International Day to End Obstetric Fistula, we call upon you, our trusted colleagues and members, to join us in our efforts to end fistula.

Read on for more information about obstetric fistula, what to expect from us, and [resources you can use on the day](#) and beyond.

## What is obstetric fistula?

Obstetric fistula is a devastating childbirth injury, and a neglected public health and human rights issue. Two million women in low-resource settings have an obstetric fistula, and 100,000 more develop one every year.

Obstetric fistula is currently not a priority discussion point or high on international agendas. We believe it is high time this violation is put front and centre of global conversations, to ensure that no woman is left behind, most of all the most marginalised and neglected.

For information on previous years' activities, and for more details about the day, take a look at the [dedicated page on the website](#).

## Our main activities and what to look out for

- We will be launching an advocacy video about obstetric fistula and the impact of FIGO's Fistula Surgery Training Initiative, as well as a short news article announcing its launch.
- We will be publishing interviews with FIGO Fistula Trainers and Fellows on and around the day, as well during the following weeks, in which they answer questions about the impact of COVID-19 on obstetric fistula prevention and treatment, real-world experiences, and more.
- On 21 May at 10am CST/4pm BST/5pm CAT, we will be joining Texas Children's Hospital Global Health ([@TCHGlobalHealth](#)) on Twitter to answer a series of questions as part of a live chat. Please get involved using #EndFistulaChat #EndFistula #IDEOF2021
- We are launching our [JustGiving page](#) and fundraising drive to expand the FIGO Fistula Surgery Training Initiative for those who wish to donate/fundraise.

## What we would like you to do

- Download and share images from a folder with [a series of graphics about fistula](#). We've shared some messaging below that you can use to accompany the graphics, but they will also

be powerful on their own. Please do post the images and also share them widely with colleagues.

- Please share and retweet/repost our advocacy video – this will be a key piece of content even beyond the day, as it shares information about the incredible work of our team and partners.
- Share links to the FIGO Fistula Fellow and Trainer interviews that will be posted on [www.figo.org/news](http://www.figo.org/news), which will help to further spread the word about the work the team does at local level.

## Suggested messaging for you to use online

- Obstetric fistula is a devastating childbirth injury, and a neglected public health and human rights issue, affecting 2 million women in approx. 60 low-resource countries. FIGO is committed to helping [#EndFistula](#) through the Fistula Surgery Training Initiative.
- Texas Children's Hospital has committed to support the FIGO Fistula Initiative to help close the global fistula treatment gap. You can too. Together we will put obstetric fistula in the global history books where it belongs. #EndFistula
- FIGO and Texas Children's Hospital are partnering to implement a powerful 10-Step 10-Year Action Plan to help close the global fistula treatment gap.

**Thank you!**