Registrations

FIGO is a benevolent, non-profit organization that is incorporated under the Swiss civil code and established at 42 rue du 31 December, Geneva, Switzerland.

FIGO’s international office and headquarters is located in London, UK.

A UK Registered Charity – International Federation of Gynecology & Obstetrics (Registered Charity No 1113263; Company No 5498067) – registered in England and Wales.

The trading company - FIGO Trading Limited – Company No 5895905 – registered in England and Wales) is a wholly owned subsidiary of the UK Registered Charity.

The FIGO Charitable Foundation is a US 501(c)(3) corporation – wholly owned by FIGO – incorporated in the State of Illinois, USA as a Not for Profit Corporation. (EIN No 98-0362884).
1. Introduction

Who we are

The International Federation of Gynecology and Obstetrics (“FIGO”) was established in July 1954 with the mission of promoting the well-being of women and raising the standard of practice in obstetrics and gynaecology. It is the only international professional body that represents obstetricians and gynaecologists from all over the world. FIGO currently works through 125 national member societies of obstetricians and gynecologists from both developed and developing countries and is considered a respectable and credible voice in the promotion of women’s health around the world.

What we do

FIGO has traditionally focused on promoting best practices in obstetrics and gynaecology and on advocating for the enhancement of the quality of care available to women and their children. The Federation also commits its resources to the promotion of sexual and reproductive health and rights through educational, research and advocacy activities and to strengthening communication links with, and between, its member societies.

Safe motherhood projects around the world, initiatives to prevent and treat postpartum haemorrhage, the promotion of women's sexual and reproductive rights in areas of need, action to prevent and treat the devastating scourge of fistula in sub-Saharan Africa – all of these have been the subject of concerted efforts by FIGO through its Committees, Working Groups, dedicated individuals and the Secretariat.

The ethical guidelines produced by the FIGO Committee for the Ethical Aspects of Human Reproduction & Women’s Health; the Good Practice Guidelines and the Annual Report on the Results of Treatment in Gynecologic Cancer produced by the FIGO Committee for Gynecologic Oncology are examples of the invaluable resources provided by FIGO for practicing obstetricians and gynaecologists around the world.

FIGO’s triennial World Congress of Gynecology & Obstetrics is the largest gathering of obstetricians and gynaecologists from around the world and provides a major source of education for the specialty.

Consolidating and further intensifying these efforts, particularly in preparation for the post 2015 development agenda will remain a priority for FIGO over the next three years.
How we work

Executive board
Since its establishment, the Federation has relied on elected Officers and Executive Board members working from their various countries, and only meeting occasionally, to take decisions on important matters.

Secretariat
Led by the Chief Executive, the Secretariat based in London manages the day to day operations of FIGO.

Committees and Working groups
Specialist Committees and Working groups seek to ensure that the latest evidence and best practices in gynecology and obstetrics are disseminated globally and that new opportunities to promote women’s health that emerge are seized.

Committees
1. Education, training & capacity building
2. Ethical Aspects of Human Reproduction and Women’s Health
3. Fistula
4. Gynecologic Oncology
   a. Combatting cervical cancer
5. Reproductive Medicine
6. Safe motherhood and newborn health
7. Women’s Sexual & Reproductive Rights

Working groups
1. Prevention and treatment of Unsafe Abortion
2. Menstrual disorders
3. Pelvic floor dysfunction
4. Challenges in the care of mothers and infants during labour and delivery
5. Best practices in maternal foetal medicine

General Assembly
The General Assembly meets every three years at the time of the triennial World Congress and is composed of delegates from each affiliated association. It ratifies recommendations on the governance of the organisation made by the Executive Board, and elects the officers and new members of the Executive Board for the ensuing three-year term.
Purpose of the FIGO Strategic Framework

The 2013 - 2016 Strategic Framework encapsulates the learning from our past together with a vision for our future. It seeks to unite the Federation under the common mission to promote the highest possible standard of practice and care in obstetrics and gynecology. Most importantly, this new framework enables FIGO to work with its Member Associations to respond comprehensively and innovatively to the sexual and reproductive health needs of women worldwide.

This document includes:

- A SWOT analysis
- Operational objectives for the period 2013 - 2016
- Strategies to achieve these objectives
2. FIGO SWOT Analysis - Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and threats

**Strengths**

- FIGO is a unique organization as it is the only professional body representing obstetricians and gynaecologists from all over the world.

- Its 125 strong membership of national obstetrics and gynaecology societies enables a comprehensive and sustained approach to the promotion of women’s wellbeing to be adopted which in turn provides a unique selling point in resource mobilization efforts.

- The professionalism and credibility of the organization is well established and is exemplified by the world renowned Triennial Congresses and the activities of its expert Committees and Working Groups.

- The organisation’s leadership is composed of committed volunteers both at the central level and at the level of national societies. The extent of voluntary work done by the senior professionals at all levels constitutes a great contribution to the initiatives undertaken by FIGO.

- The Secretariat headed by the Chief Executive and staffed by dedicated employees allows for a range of activities to be undertaken to progress the work of the member associations and the organization as a whole.

**Weaknesses**

- As with all charitable organizations, the long term financial stability of FIGO is a cause for concern and urges consideration of further sources of support. The main source of funding for the organisation is from the Triennial Congress income. The donations of member societies represent only a comparatively minor contribution to FIGO’s finances. Recently, grant donations (considered “restricted funds” which cannot be used for the organisation’s day to day activities) for project activities have been forthcoming through the FIGO Charitable Foundation and these efforts need to be scaled up as a matter of urgency.

- Although FIGO has 125 member societies, only those in resource-rich countries have strong infrastructures and the capability to contribute to the advancement of women’s health in their countries. Hence in countries where there is arguably the greatest need for action, obstetricians and gynaecologists are not sufficiently equipped to effect policy and implement women’s and neonatal health projects. Building on the lessons learned from the LOGIC initiative and investing in national obstetrics and gynaecology societies to play a leading role in promoting women’s health in developing countries needs to remain a priority.
Opportunities

- The international development agenda continues to focus on women’s health and as such, FIGO remains relevant and indispensable. The Millennium Development Goals have three goals directly related to the health of women and newborns (MDGs 4, 5, and 6) while the rest of the goals are also indirectly related. To sustain the gains that have been made on improved maternal and newborn health and to ensure more equitable levels of achievement across countries, the post-2015 framework will necessitate FIGO to intensify its focus.

- There is a persistent need for evidence based good practices in gynecological and obstetric care. This provides FIGO with unique opportunities to play a leading role in advocating for the enhancement of the quality of care available to women and their children and with a strong ability to raise funds to do so.

- The international aid environment increasingly requires multi-stakeholder initiatives to be undertaken. The organization’s core values and its credibility renders it an attractive partner and opens up numerous opportunities for increased resource mobilization for the promotion of women’s health and rights.

Threats

- The threats for FIGO are the same as for all charitable organisations that depend on volunteerism and donations to exist. If either of these factors is adversely affected, there will be a threat to the active existence of the organisation. Diversifying funding sources and continuously inspiring volunteerism will therefore remain a priority.

- Sub-specialities in obstetrics and gynaecology are increasingly establishing their own organisations and are holding successful regional and international meetings. In order to address this potential competition and maintain high levels of participation at the Triennial Congresses FIGO will continue to develop innovative congress strategies and programmes.
### 3. Mission Statement

#### Vision
FIGO envisions a world in which all women achieve the highest possible standards of physical, mental, reproductive and sexual health and wellbeing throughout their lives.

#### Mission
FIGO is dedicated to the promotion of the status of women’s health; to the reduction of disparities in health care available to women and newborns; and to advancing the science and practice of obstetrics and gynaecology. The organisation pursues its mission through global advocacy, education and capacity building programmes.

#### Values
The values of the organisation are those of innovative leadership, integrity, transparency, professionalism, respect for cultural diversity and high scientific and ethical standards.

#### Overall Goals
- Improved health and well-being of women and newborn children worldwide
- Enhanced status of women, enabling them to actively participate in realizing their reproductive and sexual rights and to access high quality education and services throughout their life cycle
- Advanced practices in obstetrics and gynaecology through education and training resulting in high standards of professionalism and ethical adherence in the field

#### Commitments
- Encouraging all efforts for raising the status of women; for advancing their role in the development and implementation of health policies; and for promoting gender equality as a human right
- Promoting sexual and reproductive health and rights through education, research and advocacy as well as through the provision of accessible, affordable, sustainable and comprehensive reproductive health services
- Continually upgrading the practice of gynecology and obstetrics in order to establish the optimal method of care of mothers and children in both developing countries and industrialized nations through research, education and training and by maintaining the highest levels of professionalism and scientific and ethical standards
- Providing leadership and clarity for the application of the new (and relatively new) techniques and clinical options that are now available to clinicians by fostering scientific and policy dialogues and disseminating the latest evidence in the field of obstetrics and gynecology through high calibre congresses, the International Journal of Gynecology and Obstetrics and good practice guidelines
- Accelerating efforts to reach international development targets especially in the area of safe motherhood and newborn health and strengthening partnerships with other professional organizations, UN agencies, and the public and private sector to undertake collaborative efforts for the advancements of women’s health and rights
- Strengthening the capacities of national societies to play a pivotal role in the development and implementation of sustainable programmes aimed at the improvement of care available to women and newborns especially in poor and underserved populations
4. Operational Objectives to achieve the overall goals

1. To strengthen the capacities of the FIGO Secretariat, enabling it to support the development of the organisation. – “Management Strategy”

2. To increase the financial resources of FIGO with the aim of sustaining its active existence and expanding its charitable activities. – “Funding Strategy”

3. To develop an effective communication strategy that profiles the organisation, disseminates its messages and promotes networking with other relevant organisations. – “Communication Strategy”

4. To strengthen and expand the programmatic activities of FIGO Committees and Working Groups through soliciting support from donor agencies for building the capacity building of member associations and conducting innovative women’s health projects. – “Programmatic Strategies”
5. Strategies to Achieve Objectives

Management Strategy

Overall Objective – to strengthen the capacities of the FIGO Secretariat, enabling it to support the development of the organisation.

Strategic Objectives

A. Maintain a Secretariat that is efficient and responsive to the needs of FIGO activities and supportive of programme implementation at all times.

B. Maintain FIGO finances in accordance with the highest degree of precision and accountability.

C. Provide administrative back-up to support efforts to make FIGO stable and financially sustainable.

Activities to Attain Objectives

- Activity A -
  - Recruit high quality staff who could contribute effectively to the FIGO Secretariat’s work
  - Develop clear and defined job descriptions for staff.
  - Conduct regular assessments of staff work and encourage a team approach through regular monthly meetings.
  - Reward staff members for their good work, motivating them and encouraging contributions to the Federation and Secretariat.
  - Establish systems for smooth transitions in the event of staff departures.
  - Assess work load and output, and periodically assess the need for additional staff members.

- Activity B
  - Keep financial records accurately as per standard bookkeeping procedures.
  - Provide regular monthly financial statements prepared and reviewed by the Chief Executive and Administrative Director.
  - Minimise as much as possible costs involved in running the Secretariat - travel, meetings etc - through reviewing competitive offers or bids.

- Activity C
  - Produce an investment plan for FIGO’s reserves.
  - Introduce more effective ways for collecting contributions from national societies.
  - Ensure that the triennial Congress and other FIGO educational meetings are widely advertised and well-organised to ensure high attendance and returns for FIGO.
Funding Strategy

Overall objective - To increase the financial resources of FIGO with the aim of sustaining its active existence and expanding its charitable activities

Strategic Objectives

A. To initiate and sustain fund raising efforts for FIGO through both the USA Charitable Foundation and UK Charity.

B. To mobilize resources from Foundations and other donor agencies in support of FIGO’s priority activities.

C. To enlist financial support from Industry for FIGO educational and other activities.

D. To promote the regional congresses and the triennial world congresses as valuable sources of income to FIGO

E. To ensure the widest possible distribution of the IJGO as an important income generating tool

Activities to attain objectives

- Hold fundraising events for specific causes such as fistula treatment, ending female genital mutilation and combating cervical cancer, targeting Charitable Foundations

- Develop projects for submission to donor organisations to implement women’s health activities especially in low-resource countries and to build the capacity of member associations.

- As industry has always been a vital source of funding especially for educational activities such as seminars, workshops and fellowships for training, continue to secure their support by strengthening relationships and submitting relevant documentation on FIGO’s achievements and future aims.

- Develop an online charity donation mechanism for specific women’s health issues.

- Develop strategies to ensure that the Regional Congresses and the Triennial Congresses maintain high levels of attendance and in turn provide high returns.

- As the IJGO is an important educational and professional development arm of FIGO which also provides an essential source of income, expand its distribution online and in print as a means on increasing FIGO’s royalties from the publisher.
Communication Strategy

Overall objective - To develop an effective communication strategy that profiles the organisation, disseminates its messages and promotes networking with other relevant organisations.

Strategic Objectives
A. To promote the profile of FIGO as a leading professional international organisation in women’s health.

B. To disseminate the messages of FIGO for the promotion of women’s health to health professionals, policy makers, community leaders and the public.

C. To strengthen the links between FIGO and its member associations.

D. To create effective partnerships with professional international organisations working in women’s and newborn health

Activities to attain objectives
• Sustain the high calibre of the FIGO Triennial World Congresses as an invaluable means of raising the profile of the organization and disseminating the latest evidence in women’s health care

• Participate in relevant national, regional and international meetings and activities promoting women’s health.

• Maintain the high standard of the IJGO to ensure the increased availability of credible scientific information on women’s health issues.

• Utilise the media to highlight women’s health issues; to promote the FIGO mission; and to raise funds for related activities.

• Improve the FIGO website and newsletter to increase access to high quality information and education to member associations and the wider public.

• Invest in making materials available in the three official languages (English, French and Spanish) and identify innovative means of highlighting women’s health issues (e.g. action to mark relevant international days) and disseminating good practices in obstetric and gynecological care (e.g GLOWM)

• Use the LOGIC web forum and establish a data bank for member societies to facilitate effective communication and to document good practices which can be used for publicity and fundraising efforts.

• Develop partnerships with a diverse range of stakeholders to strengthen advocacy messages; to mobilize resources and ensure a comprehensive approach to programmatic activities.
Programmatic Strategy

Overall objective - To strengthen and expand the programmatic activities of FIGO Committees and Working Groups through soliciting support from donor agencies for building the capacity building of member associations and conducting innovative women’s health projects

- Use the lessons learned from the LOGIC initiative, to build the capacities of member associations to be pivotal stakeholders at policy making level and to deliver on a range of maternal health issues

- Promote the LOGIC capacity building toolkit as an effective means of helping member associations to strengthen their overall capacities