The Campaign to End Fistula:
Looking back, moving forward…

Woodrow Wilson Center
Erin Anastasi, Interim Coordinator, Campaign to End Fistula, UNFPA
Campaign to End Fistula Vision

- No new cases
- Existing cases successfully treated
- Survivors reintegrated into society & followed up
- Incurable/inoperable cases supported
Campaign to End Fistula - Coverage

- 50+ countries
- 90+ int’l. partners (+ 100s of local partners)
- 57,000+ repairs
Key Strategies: The “3 pillars”

Prevention
- Midwives
- EmONC
- FP

Social Reintegration & Follow up

Treatment
1) **Prevention:**
- Monitoring labour (partograph)
- Timely referral for C-section
- Family planning
- Birth planning & preparedness

2) **Management:**
- Bladder catheter for fresh fistula &/or to prevent fistula
- Identification of fistula cases

3) **Referral:**
- To skilled, trained, expert fistula surgeon for repair
- Ensure recovered fistula patients get C-section in subsequent pregnancies
“End fistula in our lifetime”: Advocacy

International Day to End Obstetric Fistula (May 23rd 2015)

Going from global to local – National leadership and strategies toward ending fistula

Speakers include:

Singer and actress Natalie Imbruglia, spokesperson for the Campaign to End Fistula
Ms. Razia Shamshad, fistula survivor (Pakistan)
Dr. Catherine Hamlin, co-founder of the Addis Ababa Fistula Hospital
Dr. John Mulbah, lead surgeon of the Liberia Fistula Project
H.E. Amb. Martin Eyolfsson, Permanent Representative of Iceland
Dr. Addis Tamire Woldermariam, Director General, Office of the Minister of Health of Ethiopia
Representative, Ministry of Health of Liberia

Hosted by the Permanent Missions of Ethiopia, Iceland and Liberia to the United Nations in Geneva, UNFPA and WHO

Photo: Ollivier Girard/UNFPA
The “power & potential” of MOBILE PHONES to help fistula sufferers

- Wiring money to pay patient transport costs to treatment (Tanzania)
- Toll free help-line (Sierra Leone)
- Follow up with mobile phones: recovery, reintegration, future pregnancies

*mFistula* film released (IDEOF, 2014)
UNFPA Fistula Repair Kits

* Kit 1 – instruments

* Kit 2 – extra, specific materials for 20 repairs & their post-op care

http://www.myaccessrh.org/products
Sixty-ninth session
Item 27 of the provisional agenda*
Advancement of women

Supporting efforts to end obstetric fistula
Report of the Secretary-General

Summary
The present report has been prepared in response to General Assembly resolution 67/147. Obstetric fistula is a devastating childbirth injury that leaves

Available at: http://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/69/256
2014 UN Secretary General’s Report: Key Highlights …

• Progress, yet urgent action & increased support needed…

• Predictable & sustained financing

• Health systems strengthening & access = critical
  – Midwives+

• Increased availability of fistula surgeons

• Nat’l. strategies, action plans (+ policies + budgets)

• Tackle root causes: poverty, inequity, vulnerability

• Call to make OF a nationally notifiable condition…
Priorities - 2015 & beyond…

→ Supporting scale up of **national capacity** – prevent, treat, & reintegrate

→ **National strategies/action plans** for ending OF (costed, time-bound)

→ **National Task Force** for Fistula (MoH-led)

→ **Advocacy & awareness raising** → increased support

→ Improved availability + quality of **data**
Challenges

- Lack of **political will** & weak policy environment
- Insufficient **financial resources**
- Inadequate **human resources** and expertise (including fistula surgeons)
- **Backlog** of ~2 million cases
- Lack of **social reintegration** services (incl. “inoperable/incurable”)
- Preventing fistula returning to its former **Neglected** status
Thank you!

Photo courtesy of Musa Isa, Fistula Foundation Nigeria