



A YEAR OF GRATITUDE

ANNUAL REPORT 2020



Dear friends of Terrewode Women's Fund,

2020 was a year like no other. In March, just seven months after opening Terrewode Women's Community Hospital, a national lockdown in Uganda was ordered to mitigate the spread of Covid-19. All non-emergency surgeries were postponed, including fistula surgery, and all public transportation was banned. While well-intentioned and necessary, the lockdown had severe negative consequences for women throughout the country. Reports of domestic violence skyrocketed and women in labor were unable to access transportation to hospitals and health facilities, causing a rise in maternal complications. Misinformation about Covid spread throughout rural communities. It was a frightening time for everyone.

With your help, however, TERREWODE was able to quickly rise to the challenge. TWF launched an emergency appeal and your generosity allowed the TERREWODE team to pivot and meet the needs of their community in real time. In this report, you'll read about the resourcefulness and ingenuity of the TERREWODE team as they navigated unprecedented hardships and continued to serve women and girls who found themselves more vulnerable than ever. Even in this most challenging of years, 216 women were treated with life-changing surgery and reintegration services at Terrewode Women's Community Hospital in 2020.

Despite the uncertainty we all faced in 2020, you continued to give generously. Our shared commitment to ensuring health, dignity and opportunity for all women and girls is a powerful and much-needed force for good in the world. We hope that this report brings you closer to the impact of the work we are all supporting.

With much gratitude,

Bonnie Ruder
Executive Director & Co-founder

Carolyn Anderman
President, Board of Directors

2293 Alder Street | Eugene, Oregon 97405
info@terrewodewomensfund.org | EIN 47-230-4060

ABOUT TERREWODE WOMEN'S FUND (TWF)

WHAT WE DO

Terrewode Women's Fund (TWF) is dedicated to restoring the health and dignity of women with obstetric fistula in Uganda, and to helping prevent fistula by supporting improved access to safe childbirth for all women. We seek to build a community of concerned people who will invest in the work to end this grave childbirth injury that is both preventable and treatable, yet continues to devastate the lives of girls and women in Uganda and around the world. Through a long-term partnership with TERREWODE, based in Soroti, Uganda, we support community-based outreach to find hard-to-reach women, surgical repair services, and reintegration programs that allow women who have suffered with fistula to heal both physically and emotionally, to develop income-generation skills, and to successfully reintegrate into family and community life. We invest in the work to prevent fistula altogether through support of TERREWODE's community-based activities around safe childbirth education and advocacy, and their plan to build capacity at the new Terrewode Women's Community Hospital (TWCH) to provide high-quality maternal health care.



OUR MISSION AND VISION

Terrewode Women's Fund's mission is to help end obstetric fistula and other childbirth injuries in Uganda through a long-term partnership with TERREWODE, by supporting holistic treatment and access to safe childbirth education and services.

Our vision is a world where all women are able to deliver their babies safely.

OUR CORE VALUES

- Access to safe childbirth is a basic human right.
- No woman should die during childbirth or be left with a devastating injury such as fistula simply because she does not have access to basic and emergency obstetric care.
- Healthy mothers are vital to strong families and communities.
- All women have a right to live with dignity and be economically empowered to care for themselves and their families.
- Obstetric fistula is an indicator of poverty, gender inequality and inadequate maternal health systems.
- Raising awareness about obstetric fistula will lead to a growing movement in support of ending this problem.
- Through the use of their voice, skills, and/or resources, everyone can contribute to addressing this problem.



TWF'S SPECIAL APPEAL FOR TERREWODE'S AMBULANCE PROJECT AND COVID RESPONSE

On March 31st a lockdown was imposed in Uganda, banning all public and most private transportation. TERREWODE quickly pivoted their activities to meet the emerging needs of women in rural communities—and TWF was right there to support them. TWF put out a special appeal to our community of supporters and we were able to provide TERREWODE with an additional \$10,000 for Covid-related activities. This included money for TERREWODE's Ambulance Project, which transported 268 laboring women to the hospital for safe delivery. As reports of increasing maternal mortality grew around the country, TERREWODE was working 24/7 to ensure women had access to safe deliveries in local health facilities.



Members of the TERREWODE ambulance team assist a laboring woman into the hospital

TWF's Covid funding also supported Covid supplies, including PPE and hand sanitizer, along with funding for a media campaign to increase community access to accurate Covid information. With TWF's support, the TERREWODE team also provided virtual counseling to more than 100 women and emergency grants to 62 victims of domestic violence.

The hospital safely reopened in July and quickly resumed services. New Covid procedures were implemented in order to keep patients and staff safe. These included masks for all staff and patients, new policies for admittance to hospital grounds, and the installation of hand sanitizer stations throughout the hospital complex.

HOSPITAL HIGHLIGHTS

New Physiotherapy Program Established

In 2020, the Terrewode team established the first pelvic floor physiotherapy program for women with childbirth injuries in Uganda. The program was developed with training and mentorship from Dr. Tracy Spitznagle of Washington University St. Louis and Dr. Paul Ochen, a visiting Ugandan physiotherapist. Pelvic floor physiotherapy improves pelvic muscle strength and function, and leads to improved fistula treatment outcomes.

The core team has integrated physiotherapy services into their holistic fistula treatment program, providing physiotherapy 5 hours per day, 3 days a week. For many patients, they begin physiotherapy prior to their surgery, strengthening muscles that have atrophied due to their injury. Patients continue exercises after treatment, which often leads to improved surgical outcomes. Women with the most severe injuries, such as foot-drop from nerve damage, may remain at the hospital for several weeks after surgery in order to continue with their physiotherapy rehabilitation.



TWCH nurses observe Dr. Ochen teaching a patient physiotherapy exercises as part of the Terrewode Women's Community Hospital's new physiotherapy program



HOSPITAL HIGHLIGHTS

Welcome Dr. Tino Kevin Okedi

Dr. Tino Kevin Okedi joined the Terrewode Women's Community Hospital team as the new Medical Director and obstetrics and gynecology specialist. Dr. Tino is an experienced gynecologist, with over 10 years in both public and private service in Uganda. She recently received her Master's Degree specializing in Obstetrics and Gynecology from Makerere College of Medical Sciences. Dr. Tino joins Dr. Josephine Namugenyi, who has been serving as the resident specialist at TWCH, and Dr. Fekade, the visiting expert fistula surgeon and trainer.



“This appointment is a fulfilment of my dream. I’m a gynecologist and I have a passion in helping vulnerable mothers lead full and healthy lives, both physically and emotionally. The task ahead of me is to turn the Hospital into a Centre of Clinical Excellence and a point of reference for better knowledge and practices for obstetric care,”
Dr. Tino explains.

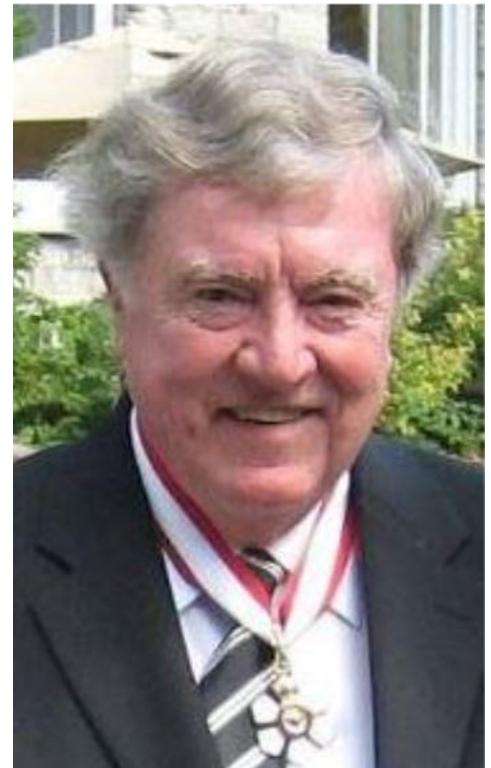


GORDON PERKIN MATERNAL HEALTH INNOVATION FUND ESTABLISHED

With great sadness, we marked the death in August 2020 of one of our great supporters and a founding board member of TWF, Dr. Gordon Perkin. Gordon was dedicated to improving maternal health throughout his life.

He was a physician with a deep understanding of the importance of public health and an enduring belief in the power of innovation to solve long-standing health problems. As president of PATH, a global health organization, for nearly two decades and the founding director of the global health program of the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, he put women's health high on the agenda. As a board member of TWF, he shared his insights and enthusiasm for TERREWODE'S work and inspired us all to join him in supporting this critical cause.

In honor of his many contributions and deep commitment to our mission, we established The Gordon Perkin Maternal Health Innovation Fund.



FROM FISTULA PATIENT TO TERREWODE MATERNAL HEALTH ADVOCATE

Josephine lived with fistula for 13 years. Like many women with this debilitating injury, she lived an isolated life, suffering from stigma, harassment and crushing poverty. Finally, Josephine met with a TERREWODE advocate who told her that she could access free treatment with TERREWODE. After successful surgery, Josephine attended TERREWODE's Reintegration Program and was trained as a maternal health advocate herself.

Josephine shows her gratitude for her new life free from fistula by dedicating her time to help other women suffering from fistula. Her enthusiasm for her work paid off and as part of TERREWODE's Fistula Awareness Program, Josephine was one of 50 advocates who received a bicycle. Her new bike enables Josephine to conduct outreach to an even larger community of women.

When Covid cases began to rise in Uganda, Josephine didn't let the pandemic slow her down. After learning about the TERREWODE Ambulance Project, she offered to transport expectant mothers in her community to the nearest health center. Throughout the lockdown, she used her bicycle to identify women and girls suffering from fistula and forward their contacts to TERREWODE's outreach team. She also devoted time to providing basic counseling to fistula survivors, especially those experiencing gender-based violence.

Since receiving her bicycle, Josephine says she is even more dedicated to preventing obstetric fistula, maternal mortality, and violence of any type against women and girls.



Josephine, a former fistula patient, now serves as a TERREWODE Maternal Health Advocate, providing education and referrals to women in her community.



Josephine (right) shares her story of treatment and social reintegration with a fellow survivor who recently received treatment at TWCH. As part of her work as a TERREWODE advocate, Josephine follows up with newly treated survivors and their families for ongoing reintegration support.

ABOUT TERREWODE WOMEN'S COMMUNITY HOSPITAL

Since 1999, TERREWODE has been dedicated to the empowerment and well-being of women in Uganda. This nongovernmental organization has supported treatment of fistula and related childbirth injuries and reintegration of more than 5,000 women and girls. The five key components of TERREWODE's obstetric fistula program are: Awareness and Advocacy, Treatment, Reintegration, Prevention, and Research.

With support from international partners, TERREWODE built the Terrewode Women's Community Hospital (TWCH) which opened in 2019. It is the first specialized women's hospital in Uganda and one of just a handful in Africa dedicated to obstetric fistula repair. It is located 7km northwest of the town of Soroti in Soroti district and serves women in eastern, central and northern Uganda. All of the women they serve live in poverty, and many experienced their fistula in their teens or early twenties. TERREWODE staff also provide education about fistula and safe motherhood to communities in their region.

TERREWODE is a women-led organization. The Executive Director and all management positions are held by women and the top three positions of the Board of Directors are reserved for women. The Hospital's medical director and surgeon, nurses, and counselors are all women. In addition to surgeries at TWCH, TERREWODE supports the costs of fistula surgeries in selected government hospitals for women who live far from Soroti.

IMPACT

216

216 women received surgery and rehabilitative post-operative care at TWCH

27

27 Fistula Solidarity Groups involving over 800 women received TERREWODE support and mentoring

100+

Over 100 women received virtual counseling

62

62 women received emergency grants during the COVID-19 lockdown

268

268 pregnant women received ambulance transport to hospitals for safe delivery

320

320 women participated in TERREWODE's Reintegration Program, which includes counseling, Safe Motherhood education, and economic empowerment and skills training

127

127 women received fistula surgery at public hospitals supported by TERREWODE



2020 FINANCIAL REPORT

Revenue: \$146,765

- Individuals and Family Foundations: \$142,492 (97%)
- Foundations and Corporations: \$4,273 (3%)

Total Expenditure: \$124,875

- Program: \$110,000 (88%)
- Administration: \$8,683 (7%)
- Development: \$6,192 (5%)

Net assets at the beginning of the year:

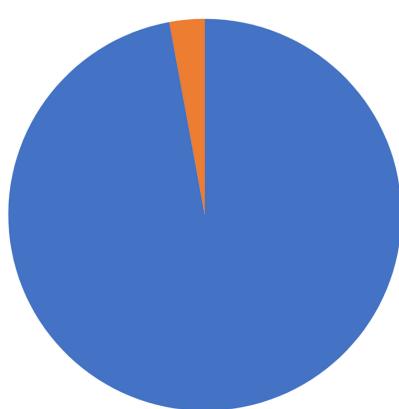
\$ 27,178

Net assets at the end of the year:

\$ 49,068

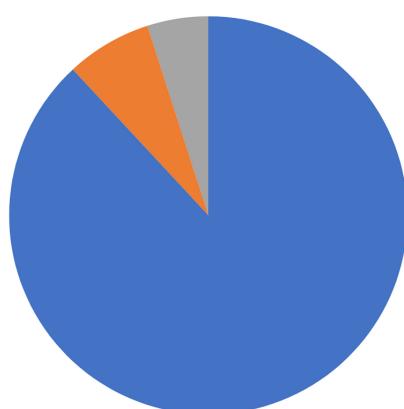
Terrewode Women's Fund depends on the generosity of individual donors who provide the critical funding to support Terrewode Women's Community Hospital in their life-changing work. Looking forward, in 2021 TERREWODE plans to increase capacity and provide fistula care to even more women in need.

2020 Revenue



● Indiv/Fam Fdn ● Fdns/Corp

2020 Expenditures



● Program ● Administration ● Development

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Board of Directors

Bonnie Ruder, PhD, Executive Director, Eugene, OR (ex officio)
Carolyn Anderman, PhD, President, Seattle, WA
John Agaba, Kent, WA
Thomas (Tom) Bascom, MD, Eugene, OR
Kate Dandel, MPA, Seattle, WA
Connie DiMarco, MD, Eugene, OR
Lynne Dobson, Austin, TX
Claire Dugan, MA, Seattle, WA
Sohier (Suzy) ElNeil, MD, London, England
Alice Emasu, MSW, Executive Director TERREWODE, Uganda (ex officio)
Audrey Garrett, MD, Eugene, OR
Sharon Howe, Past-President, Seattle, WA
Gordon Perkin, MD, Seattle, WA
Julie Tempest, MBA, Seattle, WA
Vivien Tsu, PhD, Seattle, WA
Annika van Gilder, Seattle, WA

Board of Advisors

Monica Stephenson, Seattle, WA

Photo credit: Lynne Dobson