



TERREWODE

WOMEN'S FUND

Treating Fistula, Restoring Health & Hope

2024

Impact Report



terrewodewomensfund.org

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info@terrewodewomensfund.org

Dear friends of Terrewode Women's Fund,

Every year, the doctors, nurses, and caretakers at Terrewode Women's Community Hospital work tirelessly to meet ambitious goals for treating more women and girls with obstetric fistula and other childbirth injuries.

In 2024, they went above and beyond in so many ways, treating more than 500 patients – more than any year since the hospital opened. Even more women and adolescent girls took part in Terrewode's renowned Reintegration Program, the final and critical part of the healing journey that helps patients recover emotionally as they restart their lives with dignity and new financial skills to lift themselves out of poverty.

The hard work that makes this success possible starts before patients step foot in the hospital. A vast network of volunteers identifies and mobilizes women and girls with fistula in remote and hard-to-reach communities. Community educational events raise awareness about fistula and the world-class surgical treatment available at Terrewode – free of cost to patients.

It's hard to describe the depth of my gratitude for the generous community of Terrewode Women's Fund supporters who make all of this care and advocacy possible. Thank you for your commitment to making a profoundly positive impact on the daily lives and future of women and girls who begin their healing journey at Terrewode.

With gratitude and hope,



Bonnie Ruder, MPH, PhD
Executive Director and Co-Founder

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MISSION

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

VISION

a world where all women are able to deliver their babies safely



Photos by Ugandan photographer and filmmaker
Kibuuku Mukisa

Core Values

Access to safe childbirth is a basic human right.

Healthy mothers are vital to strong families and communities.

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.

Obstetric fistula is an indicator of poverty, gender inequality and inadequate maternal health systems.

All women have a right to live with dignity and be economically empowered to care for themselves and their families.

Raising awareness about obstetric fistula will lead to a growing movement in support of ending this problem.

Through the use of voice, skills, and/or resources, everyone can contribute to addressing this problem.

WHAT WE DO



Terrewode Women's Fund 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 women and girls in Uganda and around the world.

Through a long-term partnership with Terrewode Women's Community Hospital, based in Soroti, Uganda, we support community-based outreach to find hard-to-reach women, surgical repair services, and reintegration programs that allow women to heal both physically and emotionally, develop income-generation skills, and 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 Terrewode Women's Community Hospital to provide high-quality maternal healthcare.

ABOUT THE HOSPITAL



Founded in 1999, TERREWODE is a non-governmental, women-led organization dedicated to the empowerment and well-being of women in Uganda. It has supported holistic treatment of fistula and related childbirth injuries for thousands of women and girls. The five key components of Terrewode's obstetric fistula program are: Treatment, Reintegration, Prevention, Awareness and Advocacy, and Research.

Terrewode Women's Community Hospital was built with support from Terrewode Women's Fund and other partners. It opened in 2019. It is the only hospital in Uganda dedicated to caring for women and girls with obstetric fistula and one of only a handful of such hospitals in Africa.

Located just northwest of the town of Soroti, the hospital serves women and girls in eastern, central and northern Uganda—all living in poverty. Terrewode staff also provide education about fistula and safe motherhood to communities in their region.



NEW in 2024

Cervical Cancer Screening

Cervical cancer is a leading cause of death for women in Uganda, yet screening rates are low. It's a highly preventable disease, and Terrewode is doing its part to give more women and adolescent girls access to this preventive care — starting with **110** patients screened in 2024.

AGNES'S STORY

In the final days of her last pregnancy, Agnes lost all movement in one of her legs — a sign that nerves in her pelvic area were severely compressed. She labored at length with little progress at her nearby clinic. She could no longer walk by the time she was referred to a district hospital, where doctors discovered her uterus had ruptured. Her baby did not survive.

After returning home, Agnes realized she was leaking urine constantly. She had an obstetric fistula. Doctors at the district hospital told her about a facility in Soroti, where she could receive treatment at no cost. Her son and daughter wasted no time and took her to Terrewode Women's Community Hospital later that day.

"When we reached Terrewode, I was warmly welcomed right from the reception," Agnes recalls. "Food was served with a great smile. I feared to dirty the very comfortable white beddings, but caretakers assured me it was OK — that every patient uses them."

Agnes' fistula was so fresh, she needed to wait six weeks for surgery and focus on physical therapy to restore movement to her paralyzed leg. A month and a half after her arrival, Agnes underwent surgery to repair her fistula.

"The day I felt like urinating, I considered that my miracle day," Agnes says.

In addition to the successful surgery, Agnes received counseling, education on safe motherhood, and took part in music, dance, and drama therapy through Terrewode's renowned Reintegration Program. Agnes now shares her story in public gatherings to raise awareness about fistula and other reproductive health issues, such as cervical cancer.



"I will be using my experience to help identify mothers with childbirth injuries and escort them for treatment at Terrewode Women's Community Hospital."

— Agnes

2024 IMPACT



502

women & girls received surgery and rehabilitative care at Terrewode Women's Community Hospital.

106

women & girls received surgery at partner hospitals, with support from Terrewode.

589

women & girls received counseling, safe motherhood education, economic empowerment training, and more in Terrewode's Reintegration Program.

496

survivors mentored as advocates to engage leaders.

49

Fistula Solidarity Groups involving over 1,000 women & girls received support and mentoring from Terrewode.

27

patients treated at Terrewode's Urodynamic & Incontinence Clinic.



Lifting up local healthcare systems

38

local health workers mentored by Terrewode to help area hospitals and clinics improve the quality of care.

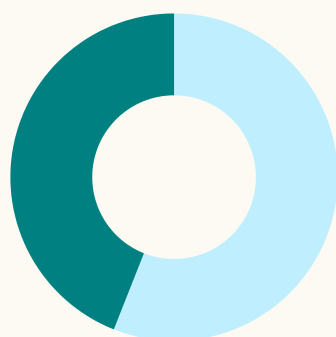
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rural health facilities collaborated with Terrewode to give more women and girls access to care.



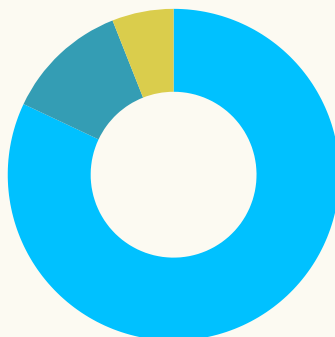
FINANCIALS

2024
TOTAL INCOME
\$1,022,858



- Foundations (56%)
- Individuals & Family Foundations (44%)

2024
TOTAL EXPENSES
\$632,895



- Programs (82%)
- Development (12%)
- Administration (6%)

Net assets
at beginning of 2024

\$744,000

Net assets
at end of 2024

\$628,127

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Our deepest thanks to everyone in the Terrewode Women's Fund community. Your support makes a life-changing impact on women and girls in Uganda who find healing from fistula and hope for the future at Terrewode Women's Community Hospital.

Let's end fistula. Together. For good.



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