

Focus Fistula Mozambique

Five years of passionate work, improving women's health and restoring their physical integrity and dignity

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Focus Fistula emerged from the goodwill of Urologist and Reconstructive Surgeon Dr Igor Vaz who, in 2016, joined by other founding members, established a non-governmental, non-profit organisation operating in the field of obstetric fistula and reconstructive surgery, offering free, life-changing treatment to vulnerable low-income women, young people and children, with the goal to improve their health, restoring their physical integrity and dignity, allowing them to be reintegrated into family and community life.

Focus Fistula works with a holistic programme spanning from prevention to treatment and to psychosocial reintegration, while prioritising the area of treatment from simple to complex including deemed "incurable" cases of obstetric and iatrogenic fistula, disorder of sexual development (DSD) and congenital malformations including Rokitansky Syndrome, posterior urethral valves, prolapses, genital mutilation, prostate complications and other urogynaecology traumas; and the area of training for health professionals through different learning models with practical and theoretical approaches for surgeons, doctors, surgery technicians, nurses and other frontline health providers.

In the last five years, through the first phase of its strategy, Focus Fistula expanded the provision of free surgeries for patients mostly from rural areas, who could not afford surgical treatment, and established itself as the main partner of the Ministry of Health and other partners in the country and abroad for quality surgical training.

As of May 2024, Focus Fistula has provided 1 094 free fistula surgeries addressing mostly complex cases, and 48 other free reconstructive surgeries. We have 24 national surgeons and surgery technicians in training; 87 international surgeons who participated in surgical training workshops; 422 other healthcare providers benefiting from training activities; and directly supported 15 health units for improved operating rooms and wards.

The second phase of Focus Fistula strategy aims at creating a training centre of excellence in Mozambique with a comprehensive fellowship programme for pelvic reconstructive surgery, including urological congenital malformation and complex fistula cases. Working in partnership with renowned organisations and institutions such as SIU, COSECSA, GURS, ISOFS, FIGO among others, and in collaboration with a network of specialists from different countries in Africa, Asia, Europe and America.

Today, Focus Fistula is a reference organisation in Mozambique and worldwide for surgical treatment and innovative approaches for surgical training.

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