



# BURKI NA FASO



## PHASE II

### Country Situation at Baseline

- **Profile of fistula survivors:** According to a 2004 needs assessment, the average age of 285 fistula survivors seen in treatment facilities from 2001 to 2003 was 28 years old. The majority had developed the fistula during their first or second pregnancy, and almost a quarter of the women had suffered from fistula for more than five years. Most were illiterate and had no income of their own.
- **Caseload:** University and regional hospitals treat the most fistula cases, with medical centres handling a few cases, depending on the availability of visiting surgeons. At one regional hospital, fistula patients accounted for 1% of patients. According to the Ministry of Health, from 1997 to 2002, the average number of fistula patients treated at all of the regional and university hospitals combined was 69 per year. The Centre Hospitalier Universitaire at Sanon Sourou treats the most cases, an average of 25 per year.
- **Barriers:** Few health care providers have the training and equipment necessary for treating fistula, and reliance on visiting surgeons raises issues of sustainability. There are no hospitals in rural areas that offer fistula treatment, and there is no system to identify fistula survivors in rural areas and refer them for treatment. Even trained OB/GYNs are rare outside of university hospitals. The cost of health care is unaffordable for many, especially for women with fistula, who often have limited or no income of their own to access services.
- **Cultural context:** In some areas of Burkina Faso, the decision to seek health care is delayed by the traditional belief that childbirth complications will be resolved once a woman confesses to adultery or sorcery. Many women have limited decision-making power and must await permission from the head of the family to seek care. Additionally, there is little awareness among community members and health workers that fistula is preventable and treatable.

### SELECTED INDICATORS

|  |        |
|--|--------|
| Total population (millions)                      | 13.4*  |
| Total fertility rate (2000-2005)                 | 6.2**  |
| MMR (per 100,000 live births)                    | 1,000* |
| % births with skilled birth attendant            | 57**   |
| births among women 15-19 (per 1,000 live births) | 136*   |
| IMR (per 1,000 live births)                      | 81**   |

*Sources:*

\*UNFPA State of World Population, 2004

\*\* Rapport Final: Analyse de la Prise en Charge des Fistules Urogénitales, MOH of Burkina Faso and UNFPA, 2004

Source: Rapport Final: Analyse de la Prise en Charge des Fistules Urogénitales au Niveau des Services de Santé de Référence du Burkina, Ministry of health of Burkina Faso and UNFPA, 2004

### Facilities Available to Treat Fistula

1. Centre Hospitalier Universitaire de Sourou Sanon (Sourou Sanon University Hospital Centre), Bobo-Dioulasso
  - Four surgeons, three anaesthetists, 34 surgery nurses, 22 anaesthesiology nurses, three OB/GYNs and 15 midwives

2. Centre Hospitalier Universitaire Yalgado Ouédraogo (Yalgado Ouédraogo University Hospital Centre), Ouagadougou
3. Centre Hospitalier Régional (Regional Hospital Centre), Fada
  - Five surgery nurses, one anaesthesiology nurse, and four midwives
4. Centre Hospitalier Régional (Regional Hospital Centre), Banfora
  - One surgeon, one OB/GYN, 10 surgery nurses, six anaesthesiology nurses, and seven midwives
5. Centre Médical avec Antenne Chirurgicale (Medical Centre with Surgical Outpost), Pissy
  - Ten midwives, four anaesthesiology nurses, two surgery nurses
6. Centre Médical avec Antenne Chirurgicale (Medical Centre with Surgical Outpost), Barsalogo
  - One emergency surgeon, three surgery nurses, one anaesthesiology nurse, three midwives
7. Centre Hospitalier Régional (Regional Hospital Centre), Dori
  - One surgeon, six surgery nurses, three anaesthesiology nurses, seven midwives
  - Visiting surgical missions periodically provide fistula surgery
8. Centre Médical avec Antenne Chirurgicale (Medical Centre with Surgical Outpost), Léo/To
  - Two surgery nurses, two anaesthesiology nurses, two midwives
  - Visiting surgical missions periodically provide fistula surgery

## **Campaign Achievements**

### ***Policy***

- Burkina Faso has developed a National Strategy for the Eradication of Fistula for the years 2004 to 2008. Activities focusing on fistula prevention, treatment, and rehabilitation will be integrated into the national Safe Motherhood strategy.

### ***Research***

- An in-depth needs assessment was completed in August 2004, investigating service delivery, resources, and the socio-cultural context of fistula. The study included assessments of hospitals in 13 regions of the country, as well as interviews with health care professionals, fistula survivors, their relatives, and community members. Hospital records for the three previous years were also assessed.

## **Partners**

1. Ministry of Health