



# CHAD



## PHASE III

### Country Situation at Baseline

- **Profile of typical fistula survivor:** A 2002 needs assessment noted that women between the ages of 15 and 20 comprise the majority of fistula survivors, with many reporting having been married at age 13 and some as early as age nine. Most live in rural settings in the Ouaddaï region, are housewives, and are very poor.
- **Caseload:** In site visits to two separate facilities, a total of seven physicians performing fistula repair were found. There were 162 documented cases of women seeking fistula treatment between March 2002 and March 2003.
- **Barriers:** Hospitals report that there are shortages of trained personnel, surgical supplies and mattresses for fistula wards; there are just 17 OB/GYNs, including three volunteers from the United Nations (UNV), in all of Chad. There are few health care facilities providing emergency obstetric care, especially in rural areas. Poor quality of transportation and bad roads also hinder access to care.
- **Cultural context:** Early marriage is common in rural areas, and in some settings women require their husband's permission to seek health care. Most women do not have access to a vehicle and must travel to hospitals by donkey or camel. Additionally, women may be ashamed to seek care from male health professionals, who are often the only health care providers available. Fistula is commonly viewed as untreatable, and superstitious beliefs attribute fistula to divine punishment for the woman's presumed infidelity and other inappropriate behaviours.

### SELECTED INDICATORS

Total population (millions)	8.9
Total fertility rate (2000-2005)	6.65
MMR (per 100,000 live births)	1,100
% births with skilled birth attendant	16
birth among women 15-19 (per 1,000 live births)	195
IMR (per 1,000 live births)	115

Source: UNFPA State of World Population, 2004

Source: Findings from Nine African Countries, EngenderHealth and UNFPA, 2003

### Facilities Available to Treat Fistula

1. Hôpital de la Liberté (Liberty Hospital), N'djamena
  - 300 beds, 30 beds in the maternity ward, and four rooms reserved for fistula clients (two for pre-op and two for post-op); one rehabilitation room; three operating theatres
  - Four gynaecologists, including Dr. Mahamat Koyalta (trained in Addis Ababa); 12 midwives (two of them trained on-site in fistula care), two nurses (one of them trained on-site in fistula care)
2. Hôpital Préfectoral d'Abéché (Regional Hospital of Abéché), Ouaddaï region
  - 214 beds, two operating theatres, and one delivery room with six delivery beds
  - Four physicians, six nurses, three midwives (two of them trained on-site in fistula care)
3. Hôpital Préfectoral de Mongo (Regional Hospital of Mongo), Guéra region
4. Hôpital de District de Kélo (District Hospital of Kélo), Tandjilé region

## **Campaign Achievements**

### ***Policy***

- Chad is currently in the process of implementing its National Strategy to End Fistula, finalised in 2003.

### ***Research***

- Details from a 2002 rapid needs assessment were reported in the *Findings from Nine African Countries* report.

### ***Advocacy & Community Mobilisation***

- As part of an extensive awareness-raising strategy, radio programmes (“Population and Development,” “The Voice of the Chadian Woman,” “The Quarter Hour of the Teacher”) featuring testimonies from fistula survivors have aired on national stations. Traditional leaders have also spoken about fistula on four rural radio stations.
- Fistula advocacy and information days, collaboratively planned by traditional leaders and parliamentarians, have received extensive media coverage.
- Television stations frequently broadcast advocacy messages from the Minister of Health and UNFPA country office staff. Media coverage of the missions carried out by Addis Ababa Fistula Hospital to train doctors and provide assistance in fistula repair is also expected to increase awareness of the issue.

### ***Treatment***

- To date, Chad has provided repairs to over 352 women through its national programme. Due to increased awareness of fistula as a treatable condition, there is also increased demand for treatment from fistula survivors throughout Chad.
- Two fistula treatment centres, equipped with medical supplies and two physicians trained to perform repairs, have been established at Hôpital de la Liberté and Hôpital Préfectoral d’Abéché and receive patients from throughout Chad. In the years 2003 and 2004, a total of more than 247 patients received repair surgeries at the Hôpital de la Liberté, with a success rate of 90%.
- Two new fistula treatment centres have also been created in the Hôpital Préfectoral de Mongo (Guéra region), and in the Hôpital de District de Kélo (Tandjilé region). The two physicians at these centres, who were trained locally by Dr. Mahamat Koyalta (the fistula project coordinator), will repair simple cases and refer more complicated cases to the Hôpital de la Liberté, the national referral centre.
- Through a partnership with UNHCR, refugees suffering from fistula will be referred for treatment. To date, 20 refugees have been treated at Hôpital Préfectoral d’Abéché, and 10 have been treated at Hôpital de la Liberté.

### ***Rehabilitation***

- The NGO COTIMAF operates a rehabilitation centre to help recovering fistula survivors reintegrate into their communities. The centre provides training to 45 women in sewing and embroidery, and the products are sold in Ndjamen and surrounding villages. The fistula project covers the membership and access fees of US \$100 for each treated woman. As a result of the national television coverage of fistula, the Catholic Church in Ndjamen has also supported six treated women to receive skills training at the centre.
- Six fistula survivors who received treatment now work as janitorial assistants in the fistula treatment programme at Hôpital de la Liberté.

## **Partners**

1. Ministry of Health
2. Addis Ababa Fistula Hospital
3. UNHCR
4. Parliamentary Network for Population and Development
5. Network of Women Ministers and Parliamentarians
6. CONA-CIAF (National Committee Against Traditional Practices Harmful to Women and Children)
7. Association of Women Lawyers of Chad
8. Association of Midwives
9. The Liaison Network of Women’s Associations
10. Traditional and religious leaders
11. COTIMAF