

**Quotes on Fistula by Thoraya Ahmed Obaid, Executive Director of UNFPA**

“I hope that the ‘Fistula Fortnight’ will help to heal wounds and renew hope for hundreds of women suffering from fistula in Nigeria. It is one step to help address the tremendous backlog of patients and get care to those in need.”

“Obstetric fistula is a double sorrow because women lose their babies and they lose their dignity. UNFPA hopes that this Campaign will eventually make fistula as rare in Africa and Asia as it is in other parts of the world.”

“Together we can end fistula. We must strengthen maternal health systems, bring this to the attention of policy makers and communities and ensure that women living with fistula receive the care they need.”

“Fistula is more than just a medical condition. It is also a social problem because it is linked with shame and rejection.”

“Women living with fistula put a human face on the importance of good maternal health care.”

*Thoraya Ahmed Obaid is the Executive Director of UNFPA, the United Nations Population Fund, the world’s largest multilateral source of population assistance. Ms. Obaid was appointed head of UNFPA, effective 1 January 2001. She is the first Saudi Arabian to be named head of a United Nations agency.*

*To download high-resolution photographs of Ms. Obaid, please visit the following Web address:  
<http://www.unfpa.org/ed/photos.htm>*