

Acknowledgments

The needs assessments were carried out with financial contributions from UNFPA and EngenderHealth. UNFPA and EngenderHealth are indebted to the many individuals who contributed to the creation of this report.

This is a facilities-based needs assessment, and the administrators and health providers at each of the facilities visited provided invaluable insights that shaped our understanding of the situation of fistula in the places where they work and the countries where they live: Benin, Chad, Malawi, Mali, Mozambique, Niger, Nigeria, Uganda and Zambia. These individuals (who are noted at the end of each country section in the report) gave freely of their time, shared their insights, often served as translators, and hosted us in the midst of many other responsibilities.

In addition, we are deeply grateful to the staff at UNFPA's and EngenderHealth's regional and country offices (also noted at the end of each country section in the report), all of whom devoted much time and effort to the project. Their help in arranging logistics and in facilitating communication enabled the work to be completed.

Without the support and guidance of critical individuals working in obstetric fistula—Maggie Bangser, Brian Hancock, Festus Ilako, John Kelly, Julius Kiiru, Maura Lynch and Tom Raassen—this assessment could not have gone forward. They provided important encouragement and critical details every step of the way.

We acknowledge the invaluable contribution of the UNFPA staff who helped to prepare this report, notably France Donnay, Micol Zarb and Anuradha Naidu. In addition, EngenderHealth staff Joseph Ruminjo, Erika Sinclair, Josephine Ventunelli and Mary Nell Wegner, as well as consultant Charlotte Bacon, were key contributors.

Finally and most importantly, we offer our deepest gratitude to the many women who have experienced obstetric fistula and were willing to share their stories with us. From them we have learned far more than could be included in this report.