UNFPA Pakistan



Beyond Surgical Repair

An Equity-Driven Continuum of Genital Fistula Care and South-South Collaboration for Women Living with Genital Fistula

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Background

Genital Fistula is a severe but preventable maternal morbidity that disproportionately affects women, particularly those facing poverty, geographical barriers, and social exclusion.
Ending fistula requires more than surgical repair, it needs an integrated ecosystem combining clinical excellence, community case-finding, and holistic social reintegration.

Objectives

- To describe the UNFPA Pakistan - Koohi Goth Hospital (KGH) collaboration
- To examine how a national referral and training hub has combined clinical
  care, survivor engagement and South-South capacity development

Methods

Data Sources

- Clinical registries
- Service records from KGH & 9 regional satellite centers
- Training logs

Core Model Evaluated
Three Interconnected Pillars for Fistula Care & Prevention

1. Clinical Care

- Free, 24/7 specialized fistula care
- Safe pelvic surgery

2. Community Outreach

- Case-finding
- Stigma reduction & advocacy
- Led by "Ambassadors" & frontline workers

3. 3. Capacity Development

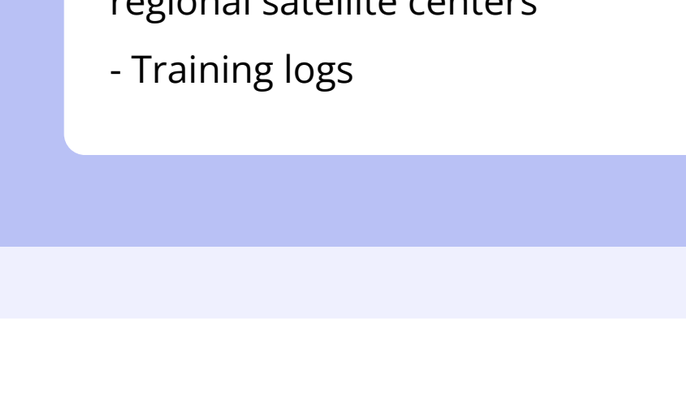
- South–South surgical mentoring
- Clinical network across Asia-Pacific

Results

From 2003 to 2025, UNFPA supported more than 153,000 fistula repair surgeries worldwide.

1. Annual Case Volume & Etiology (Causes)

390+ fistula cases managed by KGH and its satellite network



2. Surgical Outcomes & High Safety Standards

80% First-Attempt Success Rate

96% Ultimate Repair Success Rate

< 5% Complication Rate

0% Reported Mortality

3. Holistic Rehabilitation Care

20 Beds

Dedicated Rehabilitation Center
Extends care beyond surgical treatment

Comprehensive Recovery Services:
60 patients received treatment and support in the first half of 2026.

- Post-Operative Counseling
- Literacy Education
- Vocational Skill-Building

4. International Surgical Training Platform

International Surgical Training at KGH has further positioned the programme as a South–South platform for skills and knowledge exchange.



Serves as a regional network for clinical collaboration and complex case referrals across the Asia-Pacific region (Afghanistan, Nepal, Bangladesh).
You can watch our trainee testimonials!

Conclusion

The KGH–UNFPA model redefines fistula care into a comprehensive continuum—spanning prevention, community finding, treatment, rehabilitation, and regional South–South collaboration. This transferable approach tackles both obstetric and iatrogenic fistula, effectively restoring women's health, rights, and dignity.

Fistula care is more than surgery —it is about restoring dignity, equity, and life.

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This poster was presented at the conference of the Geneva Health Forum 2026