



## Proud of Hamlin, proud of you! Thank you for your ongoing support

This year was a year of tremendous success at Hamlin Fistula Ethiopia. In the twelve months from July 2020 to June 2021, 1,508 surgeries were performed at Hamlin's six fistula hospitals. That's 1,508 women's lives restored.

Hamlin Fistula Ethiopia's outreach officers and clinical team are doing an amazing job in what we all know has been a difficult year. We are proud of them. They remain committed to working towards the eradication of obstetric fistula and we remain committed to ensuring they have the funding to do this work and change women's lives.

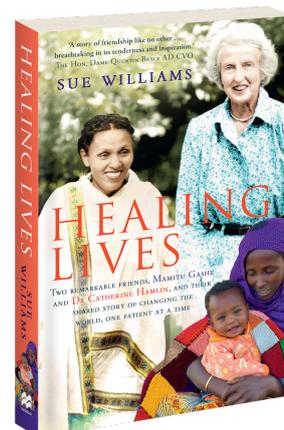
Dr Catherine Hamlin's legacy remains at the core of everything we do. Catherine's vision for Hamlin Fistula Ethiopia to be run and led by Ethiopians, for Ethiopians, continues to serve our hospitals and the women of Ethiopia well.

Hamlin's entire program is delivered by Ethiopians and one of the reasons Hamlin's progress toward eradication continued so strongly this year is our treatment and prevention programs were not delayed by international travel restrictions. Hamlin employs 550 Ethiopians including highly skilled Ethiopian surgical teams at all six Hamlin fistula hospitals. All of them are working hard to eradicate fistula from Ethiopia.

Thank you to everyone who has donated and supported Hamlin so far this year. Because of you, our team is treating more women who are able to return to their communities healed and with hope.

**Carolyn Hardy**  
Chief Executive Officer  
Catherine Hamlin Fistula Foundation

P.S. In other good news from Hamlin Fistula Ethiopia, Mamitu is continuing in surgery and bringing joy and healing to everyone she meets. If you haven't read *Healing Lives* yet, get your copy today at [store.hamlin.org.au](http://store.hamlin.org.au) - it is a must-read book! The decades long friendship between Mamitu and Catherine Hamlin, and the lives these formidable women changed is an inspiration. Proceeds from Hamlin Shop sales of *Healing Lives* support the work at Hamlin Fistula Ethiopia.





Sekina leaving Hamlin's Harar Fistula Hospital with her health and dignity restored!

## Thanks to you, more Ethiopian women can return home with hope.

For most women, giving birth marks the beginning of a new life filled with love and a new sense of purpose - but every year, for at least 3,000 women in Ethiopia, childbirth brings unimaginable grief, pain and isolation.

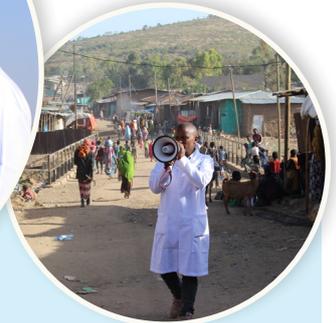
Sadly, there are still an estimated 31,000 Ethiopian women living with obstetric fistula today. Many of these women are physically and socially isolated, left to suffer, hidden and alone.

**Hamlin's Patient Identification Program aims to find every woman suffering with an untreated fistula injury and connect her to treatment.**

The program has identified key strategies to educate communities and increase awareness about treatment and care. Sharing vital information with communities through one-on-one and group education sessions, as well as via mass and local media campaigns, is key to dispelling misconceptions and empowering women to reach out for support.

Many of the physical barriers to seeking treatment are also being removed through door-to-door visits to identify women, arranging transportation and reducing out-of-pocket expenses for women.

**Thanks to your recent support of our appeal, we are able to help more women start their new beginning. Pictured above, Sekina, who was recently treated at Hamlin, leaves Hamlin's Harar Fistula Hospital healed and hopeful.**



## Searching the most remote areas of Ethiopia for women with fistula

Dedicated Hamlin Patient Identification Officers, like Mohammed, search strategically-identified remote regions, tirelessly looking for women who are hidden away with untreated obstetric fistula injuries and who are unaware that help is available.

Mohammed and Hamlin's other Patient Identification Officers are training frontline health professionals, and community and religious leaders in identifying fistula cases, raising awareness and fostering acceptance in the community.

He has seen first-hand the heartbreaking impact of fistula and knows the challenges of getting women to treatment.

**"Many women living with obstetric fistula are uneducated and can't express their needs or medical concerns," Mohammed says. "They are often ostracised from their communities, and have no access to transport, which also prevents them from getting help."**

Thanks to Mohammed's dedication and passion, women like Sekina are now on their way to a new, healthy life, among their family and community - their new beginning.

**Your support makes it possible for Hamlin Patient Identification Officers, like Mohammed, to find women who have been suffering in silence.**

There's still time to support this program at [hamlin.org.au/donate](https://hamlin.org.au/donate)



Hamlin regular giver Sam standing in the library at the Hamlin College of Midwives, Ethiopia, 2019

## Regular givers like Sam make the world go round!

### Here's why Hamlin regular giver Sam supports the work of Hamlin Fistula Ethiopia...

*My name is Sam, I'm a midwife and maternal child health nurse. I first heard about Dr Catherine Hamlin when I was studying midwifery. I felt so passionate to assist in any way I could to see the rates of fistula fall. Not only that, but to support the training of midwives so that fistula wouldn't occur in the first place.*

*Hamlin Fistula Ethiopia gives women back their lives and restores them back to their families and communities with such loving care and kindness. I share Dr Catherine Hamlin's dream to see fistula eradicated in Ethiopia, for fistula to be a thing of the past in the way it is here in Australia. I would love to see Ethiopian women readily able to access midwifery care and safe birth.*

*I became a Hamlin regular giver because I wanted to be a part of this amazing work and to be able to contribute to seeing this dream come true.*

*If you are thinking about giving monthly, I would say go ahead and do it! It's so easy. The biggest benefit for me is knowing that my support gives women their lives back, restoring their dignity and their place in society, giving them a chance to be a mother again and having a second chance at a life that had once felt lost to them. I also love knowing my support is going towards training highly skilled, compassionate midwives. On my trip with Hamlin to Ethiopia in 2019, I saw up close the amazing, heroic work they do.*

### Thank you to all of our regular supporters, YOU are amazing!

You are helping to change lives every day. Your monthly donations provide Hamlin Fistula Ethiopia with a reliable and sustainable income which helps us plan well into the future and that means the world.

You are part of a committed community of people who are all determined to eradicate obstetric fistula and help finish what Catherine started. Your support restores women's lives.

### Your monthly donations help to...



Provide life-changing surgeries, restoring health and dignity



Train skilled Hamlin Midwives to prevent fistula injuries occurring



Provide rehabilitation and reintegration programs to recovering patients



*Join today!*

If you would like to join our wonderful community of committed Hamlin regular givers, go online to [hamlin.org.au/regulargiving](http://hamlin.org.au/regulargiving). A monthly gift of \$60 will fund a standard fistula operation in one year.



Sekina



Adha



Saliati



Zala



Amina



Shifa



“Thank you for giving us back our dignity.”

Mohammed, Hamlin’s Patient Identification Officer, Dr Leta, Hamlin Fistula Surgeon, and the women you have helped have sent you a thank you video to show their gratitude. Scan the QR code to watch it now!



# Record treatment impact at Hamlin fistula hospitals, made possible by you.

The Hamlin clinical team is globally renowned for its treatment technique. Surgeons from all over the world have trained at Hamlin to learn this acclaimed best practice for fistula surgery.

In addition to Hamlin's Addis Ababa Fistula Hospital, Hamlin has five regional fistula hospitals across Ethiopia to ensure access for women in remote areas.

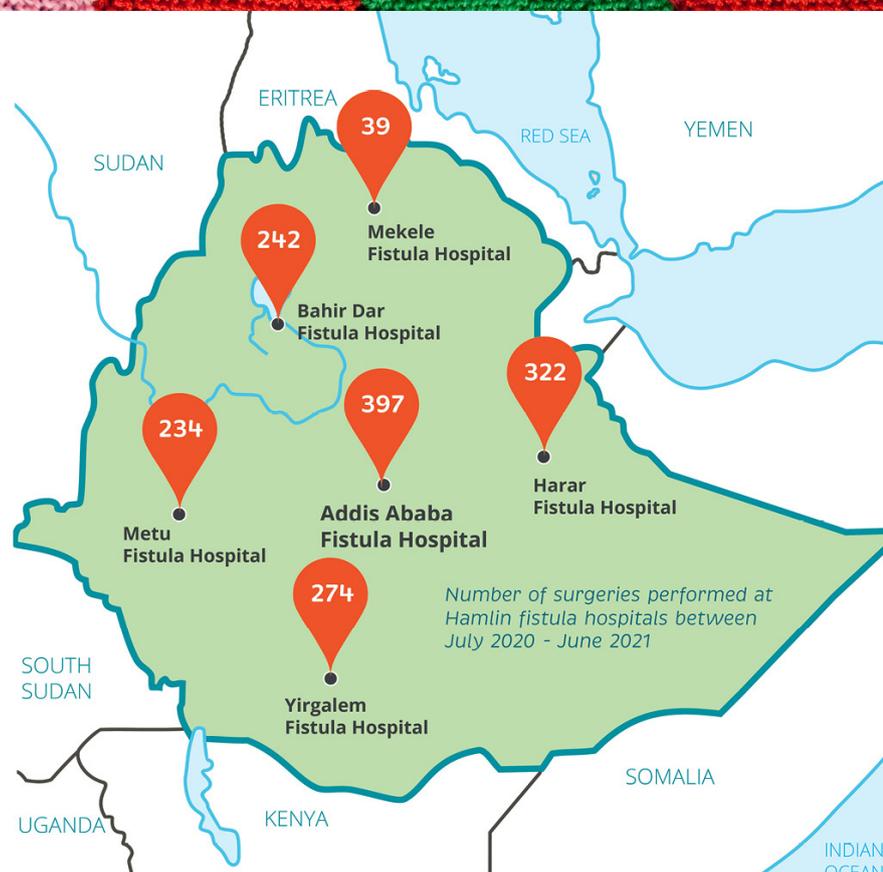
Treatment results so far this year are very encouraging. Hamlin's medical team continues to meet and exceed all treatment targets as momentum to eradicate fistula from Ethiopia once and for all gains pace.

**Hamlin's Patient Identification Program to find women living with historical fistula injuries recommenced at the end of January - as a result, outpatient numbers and surgeries increased. Hamlin's surgical team operated on 1,508 women in the twelve months from July 2020 to June 2021.**

We are extremely proud of the significant progress made this year, especially given the impact of COVID-19 on patient flow. The Hamlin clinical team's unwavering determination to continue Dr Catherine Hamlin's work is an inspiration.

Beyond surgical treatment of fistula injuries, the Hamlin Model of Care ensures the treatment for women with a fistula is also focused on restoring dignity. Patients coming to Hamlin Fistula Ethiopia receive a customised program that includes surgery, counselling, rehabilitation and reintegration.

**Patient treatment at Hamlin Fistula Ethiopia is only possible thanks to you, our supporters. Thank you.**



## Meet our Clinical Team: Matron Konjit

A key member of Hamlin Fistula Ethiopia's clinical team for the past 16 years, Matron Konjit Kassahun is the Head Nurse and Head of the Outpatient Department at Hamlin's Addis Ababa Fistula Hospital. As Matron, she oversees the integration of patients and helps ensure that each patient's needs are met so that they feel at home during their stay at Hamlin.

Having seen first-hand the transformation of women's lives, Matron Konjit is passionate about eradicating fistula: "The work that is being done is more than words can explain, which can be seen in the way the mothers feel towards the hospital and everyone attached to it. It is as if the hospital is giving them back their life, their dignity and their status as a fellow human being. Who would not be happy to restore a woman's health and dignity?"

Committed to using best-practice methods of care, Matron Konjit is currently studying her Master's in Social Psychology at the Addis Ababa University. She remains optimistic about the future for Ethiopian women: "I hope to see women empowered, free of all obstetric and maternity related morbidity and mortality."

Meet more of Hamlin's clinical team at [hamlin.org.au/latest](https://hamlin.org.au/latest)

# Your support is creating change and saving lives!

Our Hamlin Champions are an amazing group of people who care deeply about supporting women in Ethiopia by taking action in their local communities to create lasting change.

From making hair ties, knitting chickens, holding high teas, running marathons, hosting bookclubs or dedicating your birthdays to Hamlin - YOU are all contributing to Dr Catherine Hamlin's vision for a fistula-free Ethiopia and we can't thank you enough for your dedication.



We want to hear from you!



We are in the process of developing some new fundraising initiatives and we would like to hear your thoughts and feedback.

Simply scan the QR code and share your opinions with us via a short survey!



## Handmade ponchos at the Hamlin Shop!

Snuggle up in our stunning, warm and chic ponchos.

Hand woven in Ethiopia on a traditional loom, our ponchos are perfect for a cool winter's day.

Your purchase will support fair trade artisans and Ethiopian women with fistula.

Shop online today at [store.hamlin.org.au](http://store.hamlin.org.au)



Get hands on for Hamlin today at [hamlin.org.au/fundraise](http://hamlin.org.au/fundraise)

### Catherine Hamlin Fistula Foundation

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Photos by Nigel Brennan, Kate Geraghty, Amber Hooper, Joni Kabana, Sabahar and Aschalew Tadesse

Catherine Hamlin  
Fistula Foundation

