

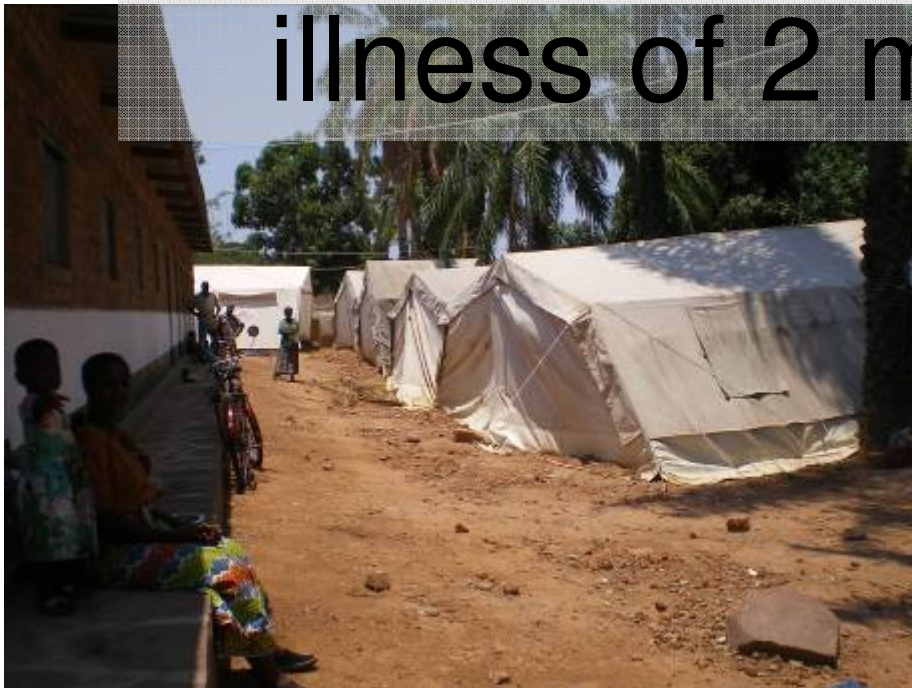
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Obstetric Fistula – forgotten illness of 2 million women



Obstetric fistula (OF), what is it, what are the causes

abnormal, acquired communication between:

- **vagina and bladder, and/or urethra, and/or rectum,**
- **uterus and bladder**

as a consequence of:

- **prolonged obstructed labour, about 90%**
- **CS/hysterectomy, +/- 5%**
- **forceps/traditional treatments +/- 5%**

Different types of Obstetric Fistulas

- **VVF** **vesico- vaginal Fistula**
- **RVF** **recto- vaginal Fistula**
- **UVF** **urethro- vaginal Fistula**









3-1

Prevalence

Scanty, scattered data, rather 'guesstimates':

- **India: 100,000 patients**
- **Nigeria: estimated backlog of 250-500,000 cases**

Worldwide prevalence





Obstetric labour injury complex (OLIC)

- chronic UTIs, bladder stones
- nerve injury, "dropfoot"
- musculoskeletal injury
- vaginal scarring, stenosis, shortening
- secondary infertility
- skin changes



Social injury

- **prejudice, stigma**
- **abandonment, no longer part of a social system**
- **poverty**
- **malnutrition, anaemia; STI/HIV**



(Some) actors in the field of OF, output/yr

- **Kees Waaldijk, N Nigeria** > 1000 cases – training – policymaking
- **Hamlin Clinic, Addis Abeba** > 1000 cases – training – resocialization – income generating activities
- **Ann Ward, Nigeria** ? 500 cases
- **UNFPA + partners** policymaking – training – awareness campaigns in many countries – few to several hundreds of cases operated in each country by trainees
- **EngenderHealth + partners** idem
- **AMREF + partners** training – awareness campaigns in 6 countries – 1777 case operated by trainers and trainees (2006)
- **MoH (university) hospitals in various countries,** unknown
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Prof. Dr. Waaldijk In Nigeria



My education in fistula surgery with Dr Kees Waaldijk in Nigeria





Thank you...