



Giving Circle Movie Selection Guide

The following suggested films are available from One By One free of charge for your gathering. They each tell a slightly different story about obstetric fistula, from the perspective of several different organizations who are involved in the fistula work. Please see "Giving Circle Host Guide" for suggested discussion questions. We ask that you return the film after your circle, unless you would like to purchase it, in which case we ask you to contact our office at 206-297-1418.

A Walk to Beautiful:

running time: approx. 10 minutes

synopsis: This film takes place in Ethiopia and profiles several women, ages 17-39 who have obstetric fistula. They make the difficult journey to the Addis Ababa Fistula Hospital, where they are repaired. This ten minute trailer is actually part of a longer NOVA documentary. If you are interested, you may also request the full length (85 minute) version of this movie from One By One.

strengths: It is beautiful and moving, and particularly appropriate for youth audiences.

limitations: This movie centers exclusively on Ethiopia, on the most well known fistula hospital, so it is important that viewers understand that this is just a very small part of the fistula story in Africa. One By One is currently working in the remote Afar region of Ethiopia to fund midwifery training for women there. These women will attend the Addis Ababa Midwifery School, which is affiliated with the Addis Ababa Fistula Hospital featured in the movie.

Hidden Epidemic:

running time: approx. 10 minutes

synopsis: This film was done by Engel Entertainment, who also completed "A Walk to Beautiful". It features footage of women in Bangladesh, Nigeria, and Niger. It is not as poignant as their first film, but is perhaps more balanced as it gives a more global view and touches on both treatment and prevention of this condition. One By One is currently helping to sponsor a comprehensive prevention program in Niger, which is eliminating fistula by increasing the number of trained community health workers and midwives, offering prenatal and postnatal care for pregnant women and providing reliable transportation to a hospital for women who have an obstructed labor.

strengths: This is a good choice for mixed audiences of men and women, and it begins to discuss the root causes of obstetric fistula for those with some background knowledge.

limitations: This movie does not directly define obstetric fistula, so some introduction is necessary for new audiences.

Love, Labor, Loss:

running time: approx. 15 minutes

synopsis: This film centers on obstetric fistula in Niger. It follows the stories of women at the Niamey National Hospital who are awaiting fistula surgeries or living there in community because their fistulas are not able to be repaired. It highlights some of the causes of fistula: poverty, lack of education, lack of resources, no access to contraception and talks about specific ways that a network of concerned people and organizations in Niger are working to eradicate fistula.

strengths: Good introduction to the condition of fistula, how it is treated, and some of the challenges that the government of Niger faces in trying to overcome this problem.

limitations: This has a few slightly more graphic images than the other two selections and contains outdated information about the cost of a fistula repair surgery, which is currently \$420.