

Obstetric fistula

The story in Somaliland

**It is still a major challenge in
developing countries**

Sado's story

- **Sado is fifteen years old. She lives in a rural area (where her parents take care of livestock) in Ethiopia. She has never been to school.**
- **She got married when she was fourteen, and then had her first pregnancy. She never attended an ANC during her pregnancy.**
- **One day she started to have labor at home, an old woman from the village was called and stayed with her for 2 days.**

- **Late evening of the 2nd day, the head of the fetus came out but the rest of the body stayed inside; they decided to take her to Hargeisa, which is 2 days of travel away from them, with the head hanging out.**
- **She finally reached the hospital where the fetus was removed.**
- **Soon after delivery, she started both urine and stool incontinence.**

How did this happen?

- **Sado's family are very poor, uneducated and live very far from medical help.**



Obstetric Fistula

- **Obstetric fistulas usually develop from prolonged obstructed labour that occurs as the result of fetomaternal disproportion during the course of delivery.**
- **In Somaliland most women deliver at home without a qualified midwife.**

Background

- **Parts of sub-Saharan Africa and Asia, it is conservatively estimated that more than 2 million young women live with untreated OF (obstetric fistula).**
- **It has also been estimated by WHO that between 50 000 and 100 000 new women are affected each year.**

Other Studies done in parts of Africa

- ***In some parts of Africa the estimated incidence of fistula is 1–10 per 1 000 births.***
- ***In Ethiopia it is estimated that 9 000 women annually develop a fistula, of which only 1 200 are treated.***

Obstetric fistula

- **This is the average age that women get fistula.**
 - **15-23yrs.**
 - **But they delay to attend health care facilities.**
 - **They lack transportation, money and education**



Healed fistula patients, the youngest from right and oldest (>30yrs old fistula)

Can Obstetric Fistula Be Repaired?

- **Where surgical repair services are available and financially accessible, 80-95% of vaginal fistula can be closed surgically.**



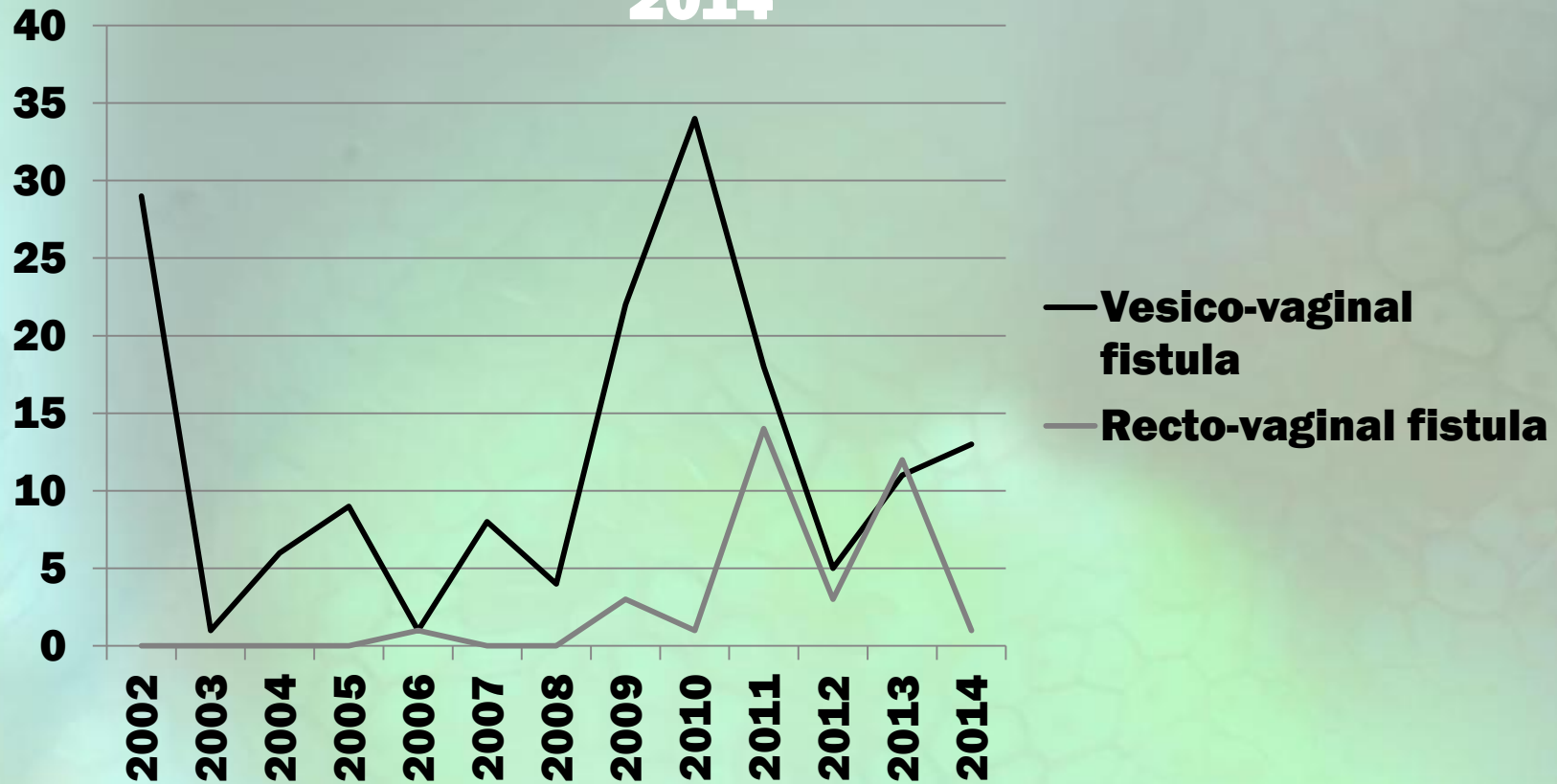
What Is Being I

- **EAUH started to train midwives to E as well as fistula**



- **Our hospital started to help many women with pelvic floor problems due to child birth trauma.**

The number of fistula (urine/stool incontinence) cases in EAUH from 2002 to 2014



Since 2002, a lot of women got help and hopefully most of them went back to their families.

Perineal body and rectal sphincter reconstruction cases



Total cases: 73

Fistula repairs

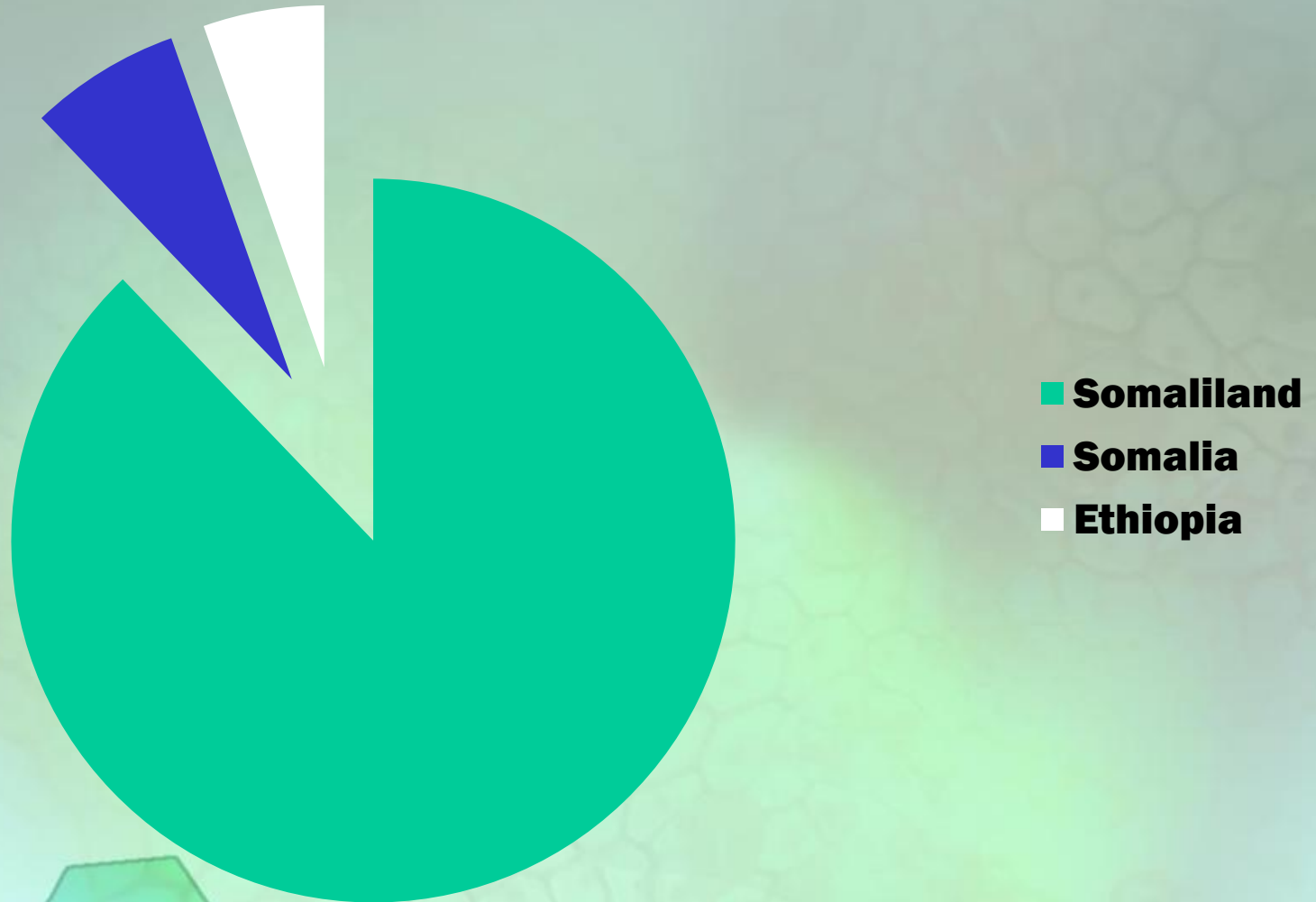
- **The most of this care is given by visitor surgeons from around the world.**
 - **Dr. Lauri Romanzi**
 - **Dr. Andy Norman**
- **They train the local doctors because we don't have surgery post graduate programme.**



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Places patients are from

The distribution of cases



- Under 50,000
- 50,000–250,000
- 250,000–1,000,000
- 1,000,000–5,000,000

National capitals are underlined

— Railroad — Road

OROMO Major ethnic group

0 200 400 Kilometers
0 100 200 Miles



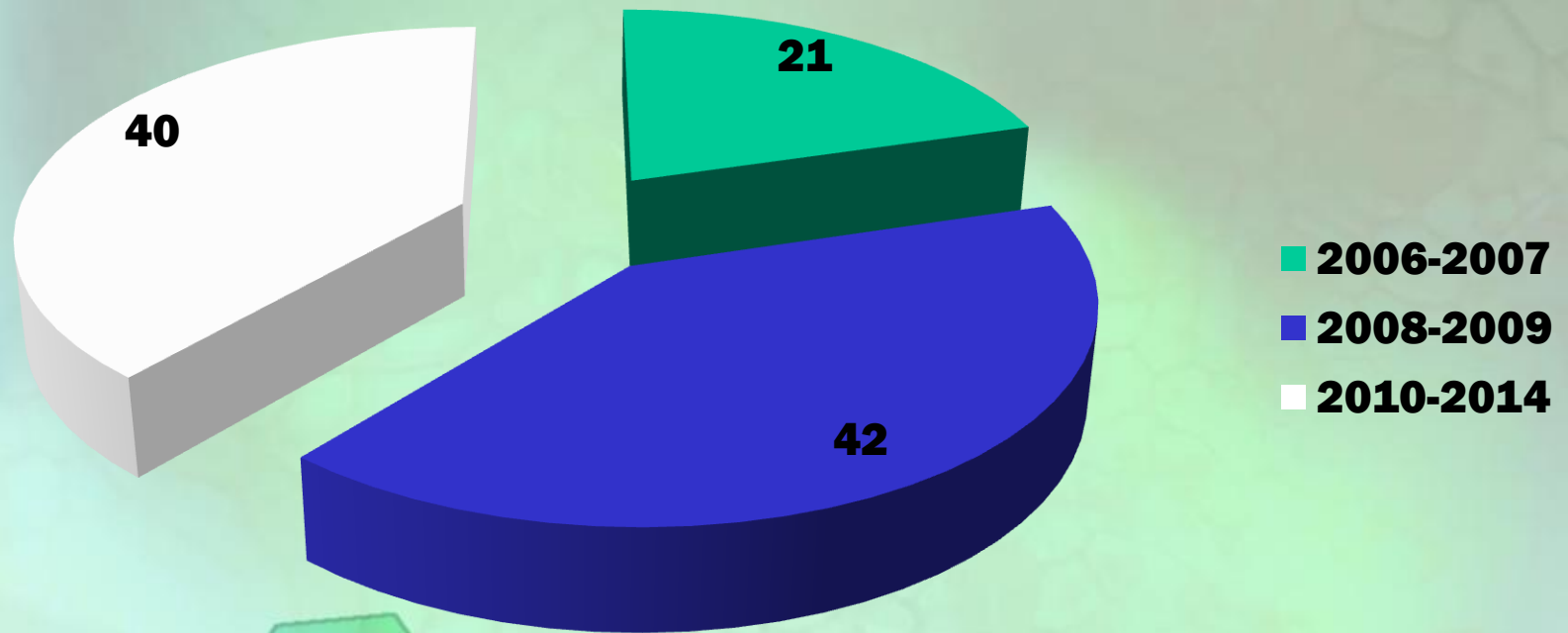
What is the preventive plan in Somaliland?

The UNFPA and EAUH are working together to end obstetric fistula.

- **The community midwife program**
 - **The number of graduated midwives is 103**
- **Every graduated midwife receives emergency kit for her practice.**

This training was started from 2006 initially in the capital (Hargeisa) and then moved to regions.

The number of trained community midwives



Midwifery teaching departments

- **Two new Midwifery Training Schools were opened in two regions of Somaliland (east and west).**
 - **Gabiley**
 - **Berbera**
- **Each unit has about 20 students**

Training of enough midwives will reduce and finally end the incidence of obstetric fistula.



The goal is to reach 1000 skilled midwives, who cover the needs of the entire country (Somaliland).

Things for the future

- **Physiotherapist**
 - **Esp. pelvic floor physiotherapist**
- **Counseling to help the women re-enter the community.**
- **Monitor long term success.**

Thanks to



Thanks



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