

Sonic Healthcare Foundation Update

A message from Dr Colin Goldschmidt
CEO, Sonic Healthcare

Dear Sonic Colleague,

Following the establishment of the [Sonic Healthcare Foundation](#) last year, I'm pleased to provide you with information about the Foundation's mission and activities, and how it is relevant to all of us at Sonic Healthcare because of the important work we are doing around the world.

In essence, the Foundation is the charitable arm of Sonic Healthcare, with a principal mission to promote and deliver improved health outcomes through the prevention, treatment, and control of disease, particularly in under-privileged and under-resourced communities of the world.

The Foundation is an entirely independent entity, registered as a charitable organisation and governed by stringent legal and compliance regulations specific to charitable entities. While Sonic Healthcare – our *company* – represents the Foundation's main source of funding (and will make its resources, healthcare experience, expertise, and staff talents available to assist the Foundation with its mission), there is no other linkage or converse association. So, for example, the Foundation cannot, under any circumstance, provide financial or other support to Sonic Healthcare.

The Foundation is governed by a board of directors which, by statutory regulation, requires a majority of independent (non-Sonic Healthcare) directors. To this end, Dr Alice Killen, and Ms Jillian Stevens (both independent/non-Sonic) and myself (non-independent/Sonic) were appointed as the three (non-paid) directors of the Foundation. At management level, Mr Lindsay Thitchener, a long-standing senior Sonic Healthcare executive with deep experience of Sonic's Catalyst Program, was appointed as Executive Manager and Public Officer of the Foundation.

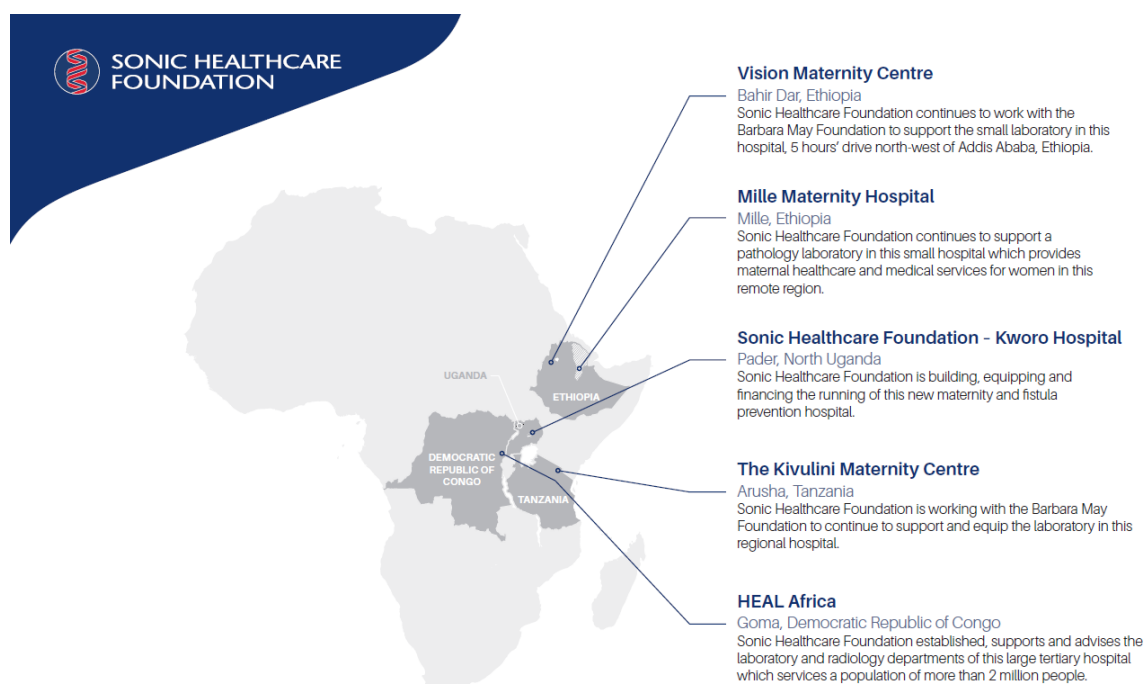
Sonic Healthcare has made an initial donation to the Foundation of A\$40 million. The investment returns from this donation – plus potential additional donations from Sonic Healthcare, its staff and/or outside parties – will enable the Foundation to pursue a material and meaningful charitable mission. Following numerous enquiries from Sonic Healthcare's staff, we are working to facilitate pre-tax staff donations through our various payroll systems, but in the meanwhile, donations may be made online via the recently established Sonic Healthcare Foundation website (www.sonichealthcarefoundation.com). I would make the point here that almost all the funds donated to the Foundation are applied directly to its activities on the ground, with small amounts donated to partner charities which are aligned with the Foundation's mission and to cover annual audit and compliance expenses.

In its first, almost complete fiscal year (ending 30 June 2023), the Foundation spent close to A\$1 million on its charitable activities. The Foundation's near-term plan from here on is to spend at least A\$2 million per annum on its causes.

At the present time, the Foundation's activities centre around dire healthcare needs in Africa, with a specific focus on the widespread and life-destroying problem of obstetric fistula, a condition almost non-existent in our first-world countries. The Foundation has taken over all projects previously under Sonic's Catalyst Program and has also expanded further into other areas of need.

It is particularly exciting that the Foundation has committed the funds to build and run a new 42-bed obstetric and fistula hospital in a remote area of northern Uganda. This hospital will be named the '[Sonic Healthcare Foundation – Kworo Hospital](#)' and will be the only hospital servicing a regional population of over 800,000. The incidence of maternal mortality in this region is around 600 per 100,000 births, while in Sonic Healthcare's countries of operation, the rate is less than 10 per 100,000 births. The new hospital will have immediate impact and is expected to save the lives of thousands of Ugandan women and babies in four remote and impoverished districts in northern Uganda.

For your interest, the map below outlines the locations where the Foundation is currently providing funding, equipment and on-site resources in laboratory medicine and radiology – it is active in four central African countries, in communities where there is desperate need of assistance. The Foundation is now also providing small supporting donations to [Radiology Across Borders](#) and the [Clontarf Foundation](#) (Australia), both of which are aligned with the Foundation's mission.



Finally, a word about the positioning of the Foundation. Despite its strict financial and corporate independence, the Foundation is integral to Sonic Healthcare and all 42,000 staff members globally. The Foundation is *funded* thanks to the financial strength of our company, plus potential additional giving contributions from Sonic Healthcare's staff and others. The Foundation's *activities*, at laboratory, radiology, and primary care levels, are only made possible by virtue of the dedication and expertise of Sonic Healthcare's staff. Therefore, I encourage you to view the Foundation as our Foundation – Sonic Healthcare's – and to take inspiration from it as a force for good and a natural extension of Sonic's Core Values, Medical Leadership culture, sustainability commitment and what we stand for as a company.

With my best wishes,

Colin

Dr Colin Goldschmidt
CEO, Sonic Healthcare