



FAMILY HEALTH INTERNATIONAL / RWANDA

SINCE 1993, FHI/RWANDA HAS BEEN DEEPLY COMMITTED TO BUILDING THE CAPACITY OF THE RWANDAN PEOPLE, THEIR COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS AND THEIR GOVERNMENT TO RESPOND TO HIV AND OTHER THREATS TO PUBLIC HEALTH.

BY PROVIDING CRITICAL EXPERTISE AND SUPPORT TO EXISTING PROGRAMS, ORGANIZATIONS AND STRUCTURES, FHI HELPS STRENGTHEN PRIMARY PREVENTION AND HEALTH PROMOTION ACTIVITIES, IMPROVES CLINICAL CARE, AND EMPOWERS INDIVIDUALS AND COMMUNITIES TO BUILD A BETTER QUALITY OF LIFE.

THROUGHOUT RWANDA, FHI HAS SUPPORTED DEVELOPMENT OF:

- Primary HIV and STI prevention activities and media campaigns reaching millions of people.
- A full continuum of care – including antiretroviral treatment – in HIV and AIDS services.
- STI prevention and treatment services.
- Integrated programming in reproductive health and family planning.
- Improvement of primary health care services, facilities, laboratories and essential health systems.



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Use of a person's image in this brochure does not indicate or imply the person's HIV status.



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EMPOWERING RWANDAN COMMUNITIES TO

Improve Health and Quality of Life



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Photos by Jean de Dieu Munyurangabo



Learning by Doing

FHI/Rwanda does not invent new health programs from the ground up. Instead, we build partnerships with existing programs and organizations in Rwanda to help them strengthen their services and reach an even broader clientele.

We respect the knowledge and commitment of our Rwandan partners, understanding the critical leadership role they play in improving public health throughout the country. Thus our primary strategy is “learning by doing”: providing technical and managerial training and support to help Rwandans successfully plan, implement and scale up innovative, effective and affordable programs. This approach guarantees a deep sense of community ownership and promotes a transparent planning and decision-making process for all stakeholders.

FHI has supported dozens of partnerships in Rwanda, working with a broad array of organizations, health care facilities and agencies:

- **Community-based organizations, including support groups for people living with HIV and AIDS.**
- **Larger nongovernmental organizations.**
- **Self-help and income-generation projects based in towns and villages.**
- **District hospitals and other regional treatment hubs.**
- **Rural health centers that provide first-line care to more isolated communities.**
- **Diocesan youth programs.**



Providing Expertise in Clinical Services

In recent years, Rwanda has made huge strides forward in improving its public health programs and infrastructure. FHI has played an important supporting role, providing critical clinical and technical expertise.

In primary health centers and district hospitals throughout Rwanda, FHI supports lifesaving medical services for HIV infection, providing training and technical assistance. With its clinical and governmental partners, FHI has helped Rwanda develop one of the best and most extensive HIV/AIDS clinical programs in Africa that provide counseling and testing, antiretroviral treatment, preventive therapy for opportunistic infections and prevention of mother-to-child HIV transmission. These programs are integrated into other medical services to ensure extensive coverage and quality of care.

FHI's support for renovating and equipping clinical facilities, including counseling centers, examination and waiting rooms, and laboratories, helps attract more clients and provides permanent infrastructural improvement for all medical services.



Educating and Strengthening Communities

Millions of Rwandans have learned about HIV infection and other health issues through media campaigns and behavior change programs conducted by community-based partners receiving FHI support. Young people throughout the country participate in peer education activities, which train youth to become leaders in promoting safer sexual behaviors among their peers at school and in the community. Other projects reach out to women and girls and to employees in the workplace. These programs use interactive techniques to help individuals identify their personal risk and avoid infection.

All FHI-supported community programs incorporate educational activities to stem stigma and discrimination against people living with HIV and AIDS. Workplace programs work with both employers and employees to create a stigma-free environment for workers with HIV and develop antidiscriminatory workplace policies.

FHI's implementing partners also bring care and support services out of the clinics and into communities to more directly serve those who need them. FHI supports several counseling and testing centers located in urban neighborhoods. Home-based care programs staffed by health workers and trained volunteers go to patients' homes to assess their needs, provide care and treatment, and train and support family members. Many FHI-supported programs also offer income-generation activities to help poor families that struggle financially when a family member is ill.

