



Championing Sustainable HIV/AIDS Services

Among the poorest countries in the world, with over 60% of the population living below the poverty line, Rwanda is fighting to make headway against the HIV/AIDS epidemic and the social consequences of the epidemic, while grappling with other public health crises, chronic food insecurity, and the psychological impact of the 1994 genocide that left hundreds of thousands dead and many more displaced.

Despite the challenges facing this small, central African nation, Rwanda benefits from an engaged government and a dense and active network of grassroots associations, community-based (CBOs), faith-based (FBOs), and non-governmental organizations (NGOs).

In the fall of 2005, the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) selected a consortium, led by CHF International, to implement the USAID-funded **Community HIV/AIDS Mobilization Program (CHAMP)** in Rwanda. Through this program, CHF International works side-by-side with the country's grassroots organizations to build their capacity to support, treat and care for tens of thousands of Rwandans living with HIV/AIDS and hundreds of thousands of others affected by the epidemic.

In addition to **CHF International**, which is widely recognized for its community-based approach and management expertise, the CHAMP consortium also includes **Catholic Relief Services and Johns Hopkins University Center for Communications Programs**. The program also draws up on the expertise of numerous Rwandan partners, including **Caritas-Rwanda**, the **Rwanda Women's Network**, and the **Rwanda Network of People Living with HIV/AIDS**, among others.

CHF International is directly sub-granting nearly 70% of CHAMP's funding to local Rwandan organizations, which will



CHAMP's OVC Coordinator works with a community served by Rwandan Partner Organization Icyuzuzo.

empower them with the resources they need to fight the epidemic and to support their communities. At the same time, CHF is providing its partners with extensive skills-building assistance that is strengthening their capacity to mobilize communities, to manage volunteers, to administer programs and to grow institutionally. As part of its strategy to increase the role of Rwandan NGOs, CHAMP is working to transfer beneficiaries currently being served by international organizations to local Rwandan partners.

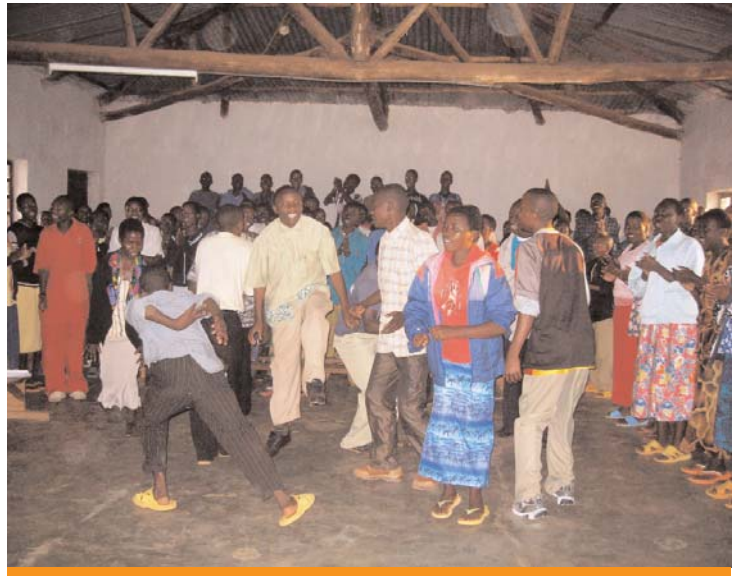
Impact in Rwanda:

- > More than **160,000 Rwandans** have been reached through HIV/AIDS prevention messages;
- > More than **23,000 orphans and vulnerable children** have received health and nutrition education, clinical services, and school supplies and uniforms so that they can continue their education;
- > More than **25,000 individuals** have received **palliative care services**, including psycho-social support, meal support, hospital and home support, etc.;
- > **3,298 men and women** have been trained in providing HIV and AIDS-related palliative care services
- > **Vocational training** and in-kind donations are being provided for members of child-headed households.

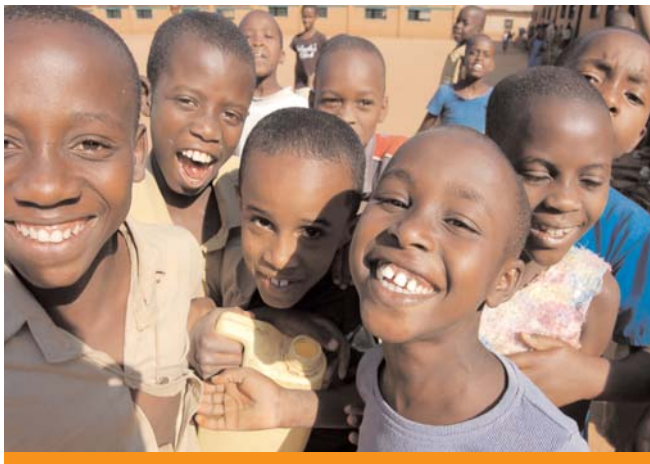
> Rwanda

The **CHAMP strategy** is three-pronged:

- > to **increase the quality and availability** of community-based prevention, non-clinical treatment and support services for orphans and other vulnerable children, people living with HIV/AIDS, and other affected populations;
- > to **increase linkages between communities and clinical services** and strengthen networking among service providers, government institutions and other entities, including public and private clinics; and
- > to **increase the capacity** of our Rwandan partner NGOs, CBOs, FBOs, as well as of the Government of Rwanda and its decentralized local government structures, to provide critical community-based HIV/AIDS support services.



OVC and their caregivers celebrate at one of CHAMP's holiday camps.



At Kikukiro School in Kigali, CHAMP and local partner Caritas are providing uniforms, school fees and materials to vulnerable children.

Holiday camps for secondary-school Orphans and Vulnerable children (OVC) are organized by many CHAMP partners. At holiday camps, children participate in discussions about reproductive health, HIV/AIDS, personal hygiene, conflict management, child rights and responsibilities and life skills. Sensitization to HIV (VCT) services is also provided, along with an opportunity to be tested. Role-playing and small group debates help ensure active participation, often calling for a mix of self-reflection and public expression, and. Finally, camps also sensitize OVC caregivers in parenting and counseling skills.

CHAMP Program Highlights

Activities of the four-year CHAMP program include:

- > Conducting **community outreach and sensitization** to reduce stigma for orphans and vulnerable children living with HIV/AIDS and to provide skills training, educational, nutritional, psychosocial, legal and economic support for OVCs, especially child-headed households;
- > Partnering with 2 international and 13 local non-governmental and community-based organizations for implementation, with a gradual phasing out of some of the international partners and increase in program size and scope of local implementing partners;
- > **Building capacity** at all levels: assisting the government in creating national policy, working with local organizations to improve their management and financial systems, and training individual volunteers to care for and support their fellow community members;
- > Improving the **monitoring and evaluation** methods of local partners to be able to track services provided to beneficiaries, as well as to refine programs to better serve communities;
- > **Mobilizing communities and volunteer health workers** through a Compassionate Communities model, to identify, treat and support those living with HIV/AIDS and other illnesses and to provide a variety of home-based care services;
- > Encouraging **voluntary counseling and testing** for HIV and championing behavior change through media campaigns, literature, group sessions and one-on-one discussions;
- > **Working with stakeholders** from national to local levels to develop strategies for increasing linkages and networks to identify, refer, treat, and follow-up with those who are ill.