



International

Building a Better World

> Rwanda

Championing Sustainable HIV/AIDS Services

Among the poorest countries in the world, with over 51% 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 **Johns Hopkins University Center for Communications Programs**. The program also draws up on the expertise of numerous Rwandan partners, including the **Government of Rwanda and local authorities, Caritas-Rwanda, the Rwanda Network of People Living with HIV/AIDS**, and others.

CHF International is directly sub-granting nearly 70% of CHAMP's funding to local Rwandan organizations, which will empower them with the resources they need to fight the

Africa



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

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 **170,000 Rwandans** have been reached through HIV/AIDS prevention messages;
- > Nearly **40,000 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 **26,500 individuals** have received **palliative care services**, including psycho-social support, meal support, hospital and home support, etc.;
- > Over **3,000 men and women** have been trained in providing HIV and AIDS-related palliative care services
- > **Vocational training** and in-kind donations are being provided to over **1,000 child-headed households**.

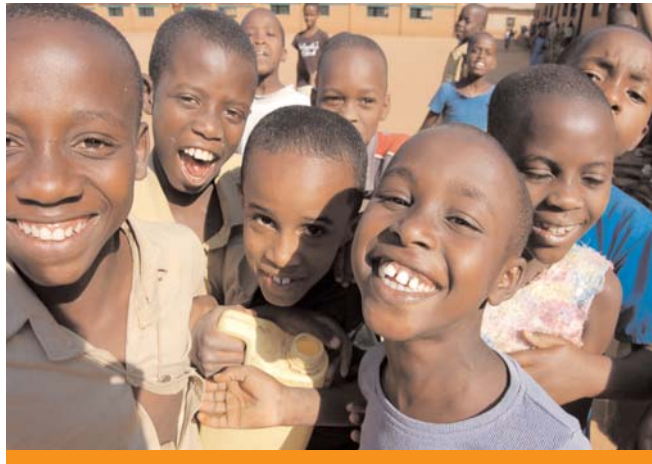
> Rwanda

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.



CHF is helping to strengthen economic options for Rwandans affected by HIV/AIDS



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

Expanding Economic Opportunities

CHAMP is now also focusing on **expanding economic opportunities** for our beneficiaries, in response to a new Rwandan law that requires all associations – including those representing people with HIV/AIDS – transition into for-profit cooperatives. This cooperative development effort is meant to ensure **income-generating activities can become financially sustainable**. CHAMP is working with cooperatives of People Living with HIV and AIDS to develop their businesses and establish market linkages. We are also linking them to microlending institutions so that they can access capital to expand their businesses and facilitate partnerships with the private sector.

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 1 international and 12 local non-governmental and community-based organizations for implementation. We have already phased out several international partners in an effort to increase the size and scope of the programs led by 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.