HEPATITIS C, A DEADLY DISEASE

- Hepatitis C (HCV) is a blood-borne virus, known as the ‘silent killer’ due to the long period before people experience symptoms.
- HCV is spread through blood-to-blood contact; people are at risk through unscreened blood transfusions, non-sterile injections and other unsafe practices involving blood-to-blood contact.
- Left untreated, HCV infections can lead to liver cirrhosis, cancer and death.
- 71 million people are living with HCV globally – twice as many as those living with HIV.
- 80% of the global burden of HCV falls within low- and middle-income countries (LMICs).
- The World Health Organization has set a target for HCV elimination by 2030.
- Once-daily oral medication is available and can cure an HCV infection in 12 weeks – at a cost of less than $80 per person.

CHAI VISION FOR HCV ELIMINATION

- CHAI is committed to saving lives and reducing the burden of disease in LMICs by working hand-in-hand with governments to launch, scale and strengthen public health programs.
- CHAI has nearly 20 years of demonstrated success of this approach across HIV, Malaria and other disease areas and is now leveraging this expertise to eliminate hepatitis by 2030.
- For more information on CHAI, please visit our website.
- CHAI approach to public viral hepatitis programs
  - CHAI is working with governments in 7 high HCV burden LMICs in Africa and Asia to launch and scale-up HCV diagnosis, treatment and prevention programs – curing >115,000 people since 2015.
  - CHAI market shaping efforts have yielded significant price reductions for HCV commodities – bringing commodity prices down from >$2,500/per person to <$80/per person – enabling programs to scale with less.
  - CHAI’s success is grounded in public health system strengthening including budgeting and planning, clinical training for healthcare workers, monitoring and evaluation, and procurement strategy.
Rwanda has successfully overcome the devastation wreaked upon the country during the 1994 genocide. The rebirth of this nation has been remarkable, particularly in the health sector. In 2018, the Government of Rwanda became the first country in Sub-Saharan Africa to commit to HCV elimination and has achieved strong results thus far:

- 15,000 cured, including prisoners and people living with HIV
- HCV care has rapidly been decentralised
- Over 1,000 health care workers including specialists, general practitioners and nurses have been trained to manage hepatitis across the country
- $700 reduction has been negotiated per treatment course of HCV drugs - now available for $60 per person, enabling 11 people to be cured for the price of 1

For more information on Rwanda’s journey to HCV elimination, please visit Rwanda’s web-story.

To date, the HCV elimination effort has been supported by domestic and international funding, however, resource gaps remain.

To cure the remaining 112,000 HCV cases, Rwanda estimates that approximately $44M USD will be required. The government of Rwanda has committed to cover half of the required budget and the country has initiated local fundraising efforts, which have already resulted in more than $5M raised thus far.

With a $10 million investment, CHAI will provide commodity support and technical assistance directly to the Government of Rwanda to help it become the first country in Sub-Saharan Africa to eliminate HCV.