

Eliminating Hepatitis C in Rwanda

Together, We Can End an Epidemic

A Silent Epidemic

Hepatitis C is a silent and deadly virus. When left untreated, it can lead to debilitating liver disease, cancer, and death.

More than 71 million people around the world have hepatitis C and nearly half a million people lose their lives to the virus each year. In Rwanda, it is estimated that close to half a million people (of a 12.5 million population) are currently living with hepatitis C.

An Unprecedented Opportunity

In 2013, a game-changing new class of drugs was discovered that can cure hepatitis C. While previous treatments involved painful injections, had many side effects, and worked only some of the time, the new drugs are simple to take, safe, and can cure 90 percent of people with hepatitis C. Just one pill a day for 12 weeks can restore a person's health.

To take advantage of this historic achievement, Rwanda has set the ambitious goal of becoming the first country in the world to eliminate hepatitis C.



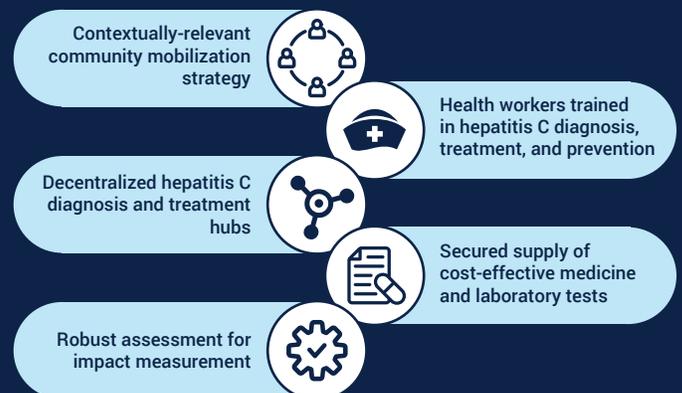
The Plan

ICAP at Columbia University will build on its longstanding partnership with the Rwanda Ministry of Health and, with support from the Clinton Health Access Initiative (CHAI), make this goal a reality.

Together, we will develop and implement a comprehensive, national hepatitis C elimination plan (see Figure 1).

The impact of this effort will be historic: the unprecedented elimination of hepatitis C across an entire nation, preventing tens of thousands of hospitalizations, averting tremendous suffering, and saving numerous lives. Millions of dollars in health costs will be saved and a blueprint for hepatitis C elimination will be set that other countries can adapt and replicate.

Figure 1
The Strategy



Strategic Funding Levels

1

\$1 million

can fund phase 1, which includes:

- Establishing a Hepatitis C Elimination Taskforce in Rwanda to guide and support essential planning
- Conducting a situational analysis and resource-mapping
- Developing a detailed implementation and scale-up plan
- Creating a monitoring and evaluation framework and related tools
- Training key health workers and laboratory staff
- Putting in place the system to secure needed medications and laboratory tests
- Developing a robust communications and community engagement strategy, in partnership with community stakeholders

1

\$5 million

can fund phase 1 *plus* phase 2, which includes:

- Procuring hepatitis C medicines and laboratory supplies
- Launching the implementation plan in one district with a population of approximately 350,000 people
- Piloting all project components, including initiating community engagement, utilizing mobilization tools, training health workers, establishing diagnostic and treatment hubs, and monitoring key project elements
- Harvesting key lessons learned

1

\$10 million

can fund phases 1 and 2 *plus* phase 3, which includes:

- Implementing the elimination plan in all districts of one of Rwanda's five provinces, with a population of approximately 2.5 million people
- Evaluating all project process measures and outcomes
- Distilling comprehensive lessons learned to inform the Ministry of Health's national scale-up plan

An Unrivaled Team

ICAP at Columbia University has decades of experience delivering transformative solutions to strengthen health systems in more than 30 countries around the world, including in support of Rwanda's deep commitment to the health of its population.

ICAP will bring its vast experience scaling up and evaluating large-scale health programs, which will be matched by the Government of Rwanda's steadfast political will and strong record of investing in its health sector, and by CHAT's remarkable experience negotiating commodity prices and strengthening supply chains.



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This project maps perfectly to the ethos of the proposed partners—achieving what many believed impossible to achieve. Our government's deep political will, matched with a strong policy framework, our collective mobilization and implementation expertise and experience, and our evaluation know-how position us for success.

Dr. Diane Gashumba
Rwanda Minister of Health

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