

MSH IN RWANDA

MANAGEMENT SCIENCES FOR HEALTH (MSH) is a global nonprofit advisory organization that provides governments, health organizations, and the private sector with the strategies, tools, and management support to effectively and efficiently deliver high-functioning health systems.

Photo Credit: USAID Ireme

In 2005, MSH began partnering with the Government of Rwanda to help create a sustainable health system that has the capacity and resources to provide equitable, high-quality care to all. With a strong focus on health care financing, our work has helped bring health insurance to more than 80% of Rwanda's population. We have held successive health systems projects and helped to institutionalize many of the programs and health institutions that have contributed to the country's extraordinary progress. We helped the country improve the safety monitoring of medicines, expand COVID testing and vaccination coverage, and promote gender equity and social inclusion to ensure all Rwandans have access to comprehensive, quality services.

OUR APPROACH

MSH works closely with the Government of Rwanda and local partners to support effective pharmaceutical management, strengthen leadership and governance, and improve health information systems that promote evidence-based decision making. Our programmatic work has allowed Rwanda to enhance its emergency preparedness and outbreak response as well as build the capacity of its pharmacovigilance system. Through these efforts, we have helped strengthen health care financing, combat challenges brought on by health worker shortages, and advance equitable health outcomes.



IMPROVING HEALTH OUTCOMES

Through USAID Ireme (2023-2028), MSH is helping to improve cost efficiency, build management and governance skills, and strengthen workforce optimization across Rwanda's health system.

The Rwandan Ministry of Health (MOH), in partnership with USAID Rwanda through USAID Ireme, launched a midwifery scholarship program in March 2024 to train and empower 500 midwives, aligning with the Ministry's strategy to quadruple the number of healthcare workers in the next four years. Recognizing the pivotal role of strengthening and addressing gaps in human resources for health as a cornerstone of strong health systems, USAID Ireme pledged to contribute to the increase of midwives to boost healthcare workforce capacity and improve health outcomes, particularly in maternal and newborn health.

Students at East African Christian College (EACC), one of USAID Ireme's partner institutions, participate in a training demonstration. Photo credit: USAID Ireme

The MOH spearheaded the effort, collaborating with USAID Ireme, the Higher Education Council, and the National Nursing and Midwifery regulatory body to ensure seamless planning and execution. The midwifery scholarship program's support includes tuition and a monthly living allowance for the future healthcare professionals.

OUR WORK

Rwanda Health Systems Strengthening (RHSS) Project

From 2014 to 2019, the USAID-funded RHSS Project supported the Ministry of Health in improving population health outcomes and increasing the resilience of Rwanda's health sector. MSH and its partners provided technical support across five strategic areas: effective leadership and governance; sustainable health financing and private-sector engagement; improved quality of care; evidence-based decision making; and a mobilized, skilled workforce.

Medicines, Technologies, and Pharmaceutical Services (MTaPS) Program

Through the USAID-funded MTaPS Program in Rwanda, MSH has provided technical support to improve the capacity, efficiency, and governance of the country's pharmaceutical sector. In collaboration with the Ministry of Health and local organizations, MTaPS Rwanda (2018-2024) developed standards and an accreditation system for pharmaceutical services in the country and is working to fully establish a pharmacy unit. Our work aims to encourage the consistent use of regulatory systems to track the quality and efficacy of pharmaceutical products. Working with partners and public health programs, the program is helping to build the capacity of the Rwanda FDA's pharmacovigilance system through the development of electronic tools and protocols to better monitor the safety of medicines.

Building Capacity for National Public Health Institutes

With funding from the CDC, MSH partnered with global research and development nonprofit Battelle to implement the Building Capacity for National Public Health Institutes (NPHI) program (2020-2025), which aims to help NPHIs in several countries operate more effectively and efficiently. In Rwanda, MSH helped establish a network of emergency operations centers and define standard operating procedures to ensure a response team is in place and well prepared for when an emergency occurs.

Primary Health Care (PHC) Performance Management Activity

Funded by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, the PHC Performance Management Activity (2023-2025) promotes locally driven and sustainable PHC performance to ensure better health outcomes across Rwanda. The activity aims to empower district health management teams to enhance leadership and management practices, identify and tackle challenges within the health system, and achieve measurable results through increased PHC system performance. The activity's approach consists of four main components: data dashboards; PHC-LDP and Challenge Model; catalytic grant funding; and continuous inter- and intra-district learning.

USAID Ireme

USAID Ireme (2023-2028) delivers a comprehensive approach across three key areas: health financing; leadership, management, and governance; and health workforce management. In collaboration with Rwandan partners—the Centre for Impact, Innovation, and Capacity Building for Health Information System and Nutrition (CIIC-HIN) and the Health Information Systems Program (HISP) Rwanda—and an international partner PharmAccess Foundation, our work will optimize health financing to enable equitable access to health services without financial hardship, strengthen local leadership and ownership to improve quality and efficiency, and enhance management of the health workforce, including by championing a gender and social inclusion strategy, and improving digital health systems.

SOURCES OF SUPPORT

In addition to the Government of Rwanda, our partners have included the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Battelle, PharmAccess Foundation, and Rwandan partner organizations HISP Rwanda and CIIC-HIN.

May 2024

 MSHHealthImpact

 Management Sciences for Health

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For more information on our work in Rwanda, please visit www.msh.org or contact us at communications@msh.org.