



Accessible link: <https://www.cdc.gov/global-health/countries/rwanda.html>

CDC Rwanda, established in 2002, works closely with the government of Rwanda and the Ministry of Health (MOH) to build and strengthen the country's core public health capabilities. These include data and surveillance; laboratory capacity; workforce and institutions; and prevention and response to health threats. Key initiatives include the Global Health Security Agenda (GHSA), U.S. President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR), and the U.S. President's Malaria Initiative (PMI). Priority program areas address HIV, tuberculosis (TB), malaria, and global health security.

KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS



Data & Surveillance

- Facilitated the establishment of an innovative and robust electronic health information systems to prevent, detect, treat and report cases of HIV, TB and other diseases. A digital platform for case-based surveillance system was deployed at 150 sites as of 2023.



Laboratory

- Facilitated the National Reference Laboratory in achieving international accreditation (ISO15189) in 2021



Workforce & Institutions

- Supported training for 412 professionals in basic applied epidemiology who graduated from the Field Epidemiology Training Program (FETP) since 2024. FETP residents have led and responded to over 70 outbreaks and authored 40 scientific publications



Prevention & Response

- Support the MOH with strategic planning, national outbreak preparedness, establishment of national and provincial Emergency Operations Centers, and emergency management trainings for MOH staff

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

GLOBAL HEALTH SECURITY

CDC's global health security work in Rwanda focuses on strengthening the country's public health systems.

Workforce Development

CDC supports training scientists through FETP. The program consists of three levels of training: frontline, intermediate, and advanced. Participants learn to gather critical data and turn it into evidence-based action. Many graduates now hold public health leadership positions in their countries. Through FETP, CDC strengthens Rwanda's workforce capacity to identify and stop outbreaks before they spread. CDC's FETP helps Rwanda build critical global health security capabilities by training future disease detectives and public health leaders.

Emergency Response

CDC supports the MOH with strategic planning, national outbreak preparedness, establishment of national and provincial Emergency Operations Centers, and emergency management trainings for MOH staff.

HIV AND TB

Through PEPFAR, CDC works with Rwanda's MOH to strengthen clinical HIV prevention and treatment services. CDC supports counseling and testing at government-run facilities, distribution of self-test kits, index testing, voluntary medical male circumcision, and prevention of mother-to-child transmission. In addition, the agency supports pre-exposure prophylaxis among key populations, including female sex workers, men who have sex with men, and adolescent girls and young women ages 15-24. CDC also assists with:

- Scaling up ART
- Integrating TB and HIV services at MOH testing and treatment facilities
- Improving TB and HIV informatics, surveillance, and monitoring and evaluation
- Improving population-based impact assessment surveys

Public Health Systems

CDC supports the MOH to establish innovative and robust electronic health information systems to prevent, detect, treat, and report cases of HIV, TB, and other diseases. Rwanda used case-based surveillance system (CBS) to identify patients during clinic visits and link health records from multiple visits and across health facilities. A digital platform for CBS has been deployed at 150 sites as of December 2023. Investments in electronic health information systems contribute to:

- Enhanced quality and availability of timely data for clinical decisions and evidence-based programs and policies
- Enhanced data analysis and use of strategic information
- Mentorship and continuous quality improvement that strengthens health services and programs

Laboratory Systems Strengthening

Specific to HIV, CDC works with Rwanda's NRL to coordinate the testing network and strengthen key laboratory functions. CDC supports enhanced laboratory infrastructure and workforce development. CDC also promotes local expertise in continuous quality improvement and helps increase testing capacity to quickly deliver high-quality services. Rwanda's NRL leads local efforts to advance quality management systems throughout the laboratory network. CDC helped strengthen local laboratory capabilities to produce and distribute proficiency testing panels to over 4,000 testers annually for quality assurance of HIV testing services.

MALARIA

Malaria is a leading cause of death and disease in many countries, and young children and pregnant women are among the most affected populations. In 2007, CDC began co-implementing malaria prevention and control activities through the PMI. CDC's PMI activities support the Rwanda MOH's National Malaria Control Program to:

- Provide long-lasting insecticide-treated nets and antimalarial medication
- Support indoor residual spraying in districts with high malaria incidence and prevalence
- Prevent malaria in pregnancy
- Enhance malaria diagnostics, case management, and disease surveillance
- Monitor and evaluate malaria-related activities to inform decision-making

