



Saddleback Church: The Western Rwanda HIV/AIDS Healthcare Initiative Project

The Western Rwanda HIV/AIDS Healthcare Initiative is a project of Saddleback Church. It is designed to mobilize the largest volunteer base – the network of millions of local churches around the world best positioned to revolutionize healthcare – making it both accessible and affordable to those who have never had that option. The aim of the Project, which is one component of the PEACE Plan, is to dramatically increase access to quality healthcare in Western Rwanda by forming unique partnerships, thus promoting healthier lives, preserving families, protecting children and building stronger communities. Over the next three years, the Western Rwanda HIV/AIDS Healthcare Initiative Project will work in the Karongi District of the Western Province to:

- Provide access to healthcare to 650,000 of the poorest, most remote people
- Recruit and train 1,000 new community health volunteers
- Link 50 churches with local hospitals and clinics
- Train 500 pastors in the Purpose Driven principles
- Conduct 30,000 church-initiated home and community visits
- Increase access to malaria and tuberculosis prevention and treatment
- Increase the number of patients on HIV medication (ARVs) by 50 percent
- Build and strengthen local hospitals, clinics and laboratories
- Increase the capacity of healthcare providers
- Decrease the HIV prevalence by 30 percent
- Increase HIV testing by 30 percent
- Increase pediatric treatment by 50 percent
- Champion 30 church congregations to operate as satellite care centers to make appropriate health referrals

This will be accomplished by:

- Training local churches in primary healthcare
- Increasing the infrastructure of the community health system
- Increasing the capacity of existing healthcare providers
- Expanding the care delivery to include expert HIV services
- Linking the community health and hospital healthcare systems together
- Developing church-based healthcare solutions and delivery systems
- Maximizing healthcare delivery by using church members

Project partners include:

- Rwanda Steering Committee (cross-denominational church leadership)
- The Government of Rwanda, represented by The Ministry of Health
- The Kibuye District Hospital
- The Karongi District, Rwanda Government
- The University of Maryland Baltimore Foundation
- Saddleback Church