Oxygen systems in Rwanda are not sufficient to ensure oxygen is available to all hypoxemic patients. Existing needs across the health system—from policy to infrastructure to healthcare worker capacity—have only been exacerbated by COVID-19.

As of 2020, the Rwanda Ministry of Health, with support from Clinton Health Access Initiative (CHAI) and other partners, carried out multiple initiatives to improve oxygen access, including:

- Conducted a national assessment in September 2020 and 2021 to evaluate oxygen availability and gaps.
- Currently establishing a technical working group for oxygen to guide the implementation of the national strategy on increasing oxygen in public hospitals.
- Provided medical oxygen and medical air piping systems at 11 public hospitals—expanding oxygen access to critical wards.
- Trained 683 nurses and midwives and 99 medical doctors across 15 hospitals on hypoxemia screening and oxygen therapy and the use of related equipment.
- Conducted a post-training mentorship session at seven of those hospitals.
- Trained biomedical equipment technicians at 55 hospitals on the use and maintenance of respiratory care equipment.
- Developed clinical guidelines on hypoxemia management.

CHAI and the Ministry of Health are working to address critical gaps in oxygen access to ensure facilities treating patients across the country are well positioned to diagnose and treat hypoxemic patients with COVID-19 and other respiratory conditions.