

Rwanda



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:

ASSESSMENT

- + Conducted a **national assessment** in September 2020 and 2021 to evaluate oxygen availability and gaps.



COORDINATION & STRATEGIC PLANNING

- + Currently establishing a **technical working group for oxygen** to guide the implementation of the national strategy on increasing oxygen in public hospitals.
- + Launched the **Increasing Access to Medical Oxygen in Public Hospitals Across Rwanda** strategy document in May 2021.



EQUIPMENT PROCUREMENT & REPAIR & CAPACITY-BUILDING

- + 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.