

Brigham & Women's receives grant to develop clinics in Rwanda

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The **Doris Duke Charitable Foundation's African Health Initiative** has awarded an \$8 million research grant to **Brigham and Women's Hospital** to strengthen and study community-based, integrated primary health care systems in rural Rwanda.

In partnership with **Harvard University** and Partners In Health, Brigham and Women's is working with the **Rwandan Ministry of Health** to implement and study a model of community-based health care in two of Rwanda's rural districts.

The grant will help expand a community-based model to additional health centers and strengthen the medical and social services they provide beyond HIV and tuberculosis. An electronic medical record developed initially for HIV/AIDS and TB patients will be expanded to use for all health services. Research will evaluate improvements in health outcomes at the district and local levels, as well as the costs and cost-effectiveness of the model.

The grant awarded to Brigham and Women's is one of four research grants, totaling \$44 million, awarded by the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation. The African Health Initiative's Advisory Council selected Brigham and Women's and other experts in epidemiology, health economics and statistics.

The African Health Initiative was launched in 2007 to fund partnerships between teams of researchers, practitioners and local governments to strengthen health systems and address inefficiencies that prevent health agencies from providing higher quality care.

The close collaboration between the research teams and government health systems is a unique feature of these partnerships. In addition, government involvement will ensure that the programs are aligned with national plans and policies, which is expected to improve their sustainability when the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation funding ends.