

ROTARY HEALTHY COMMUNITIES CHALLENGE



FUNDER: Rotary International, Gates Foundation

LOCATION: Kasai Province (DRC), Manica & Tete provinces (Mozambique), Central & Northern provinces (Zambia)

TIME FRAME: September 2024–December 2027

PARTNERS: Local in-country Rotarians, PATH

Overview

The Rotary Healthy Communities Challenge (RHCC) is a three-year, \$30 million initiative to fight disease in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), Mozambique, Nigeria, and Zambia. World Vision will implement activities in the DRC, Mozambique, and Zambia, contributing \$7 million to the overall effort.

Led by Rotary International, in partnership with the Gates Foundation and World Vision, the program targets malaria, pneumonia, and diarrheal diseases—three of the leading causes of death among young children and vulnerable populations. Despite progress over the past two decades, these illnesses continue to claim many lives, with an estimated 1 million children under 5 years of age dying from them in sub-Saharan Africa in 2017, according to a 2021 study.

The initiative builds on the proven model of Partners for a Malaria-Free Zambia, Rotary's first [Programs of Scale award](#) recipient in 2021. The success of that earlier collaboration directly informed the design and expansion of RHCC, enabling scale-up across additional countries and partners.

RHCC prioritizes community health strengthening and integrated community case management (iCCM)—an approach that trains, equips, and supports community health workers to diagnose and treat these three diseases. By strengthening health systems and deploying thousands of community health workers, the program aims to deliver lifesaving care directly to children where they live.

Objectives

The project's primary strategic goal is to reduce severe disease and mortality among children under 5 years of age from malaria, pneumonia, and diarrhea. This goal will be achieved through interconnected interventions that strengthen community health systems, build the capacity of healthcare providers, and engage communities in health promotion. Importantly, this project creates an opportunity for robust Rotarian engagement in addressing child mortality in their home country, including through advocacy.

BY THE NUMBERS

BUDGET: \$18,585,000
(World Vision managed programs)

REACH:

- **DRC:** 2,000 community health workers trained; 896K people reached
- **Mozambique:** 280 community health workers + 4,300 community health volunteers trained; 280K people reached
- **Zambia:** 2,086 community health workers trained; 1.04M people reached



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Key interventions

Democratic Republic of the Congo: Train and equip 2,000 paid community health workers (CHWs) in Kasai Province to identify, test, and treat malaria, pneumonia, and diarrhea.

Mozambique: Strengthen community-level health service delivery through multiple cadres of community-based health providers, including Agente Polivalente de Saúde (APS), Agente Polivalente Elementar de Saúde (APEs), and Community Health Volunteers (CHVs).

- Train 160 APS through a six-month, Ministry of Health–led program to identify and treat malaria, pneumonia, and diarrhea.
- Equip 120 APEs through a three-month training to reach APS competency in diagnosing and treating malaria, pneumonia, and diarrhea.
- Train 4,300 CHVs (an average of 100 per health facility through 3 to 5 day trainings to conduct health education, raise awareness, and facilitate community access to healthcare services.

Zambia: Train 2,086 volunteer CHWs to identify, test, and treat malaria, pneumonia, and diarrhea at the community level.

Results (as of December 2025)

Democratic Republic of the Congo:

- 1,182 CHWs trained to identify, test, and treat malaria, pneumonia, and diarrhea.
- 179 CHW supervisors trained.
- All trained personnel are ready to deliver community-based services.



Mozambique:

- 3,073 CHVs trained to support health education and community engagement.
- 36 journalists trained to produce and disseminate information, education, and communication materials.
- 54 CHW supervisors trained.
- 121 new APS (community health workers) trained.

Zambia:

- 1,043 CHWs trained to identify, test, and treat malaria, pneumonia, and diarrhea.
- 179 CHW supervisors trained.
- All trained personnel are actively delivering community-based services.

