

New Maternity Ward Project Mugonero Adventist Hospital, Rwanda



Global Health Initiatives (GHI), a department of Centura Health in Colorado & western Kansas, was established in 2006 with the goal to partner and support international hospitals in developing countries around the world. The first partnerships included hospitals in Nepal, the Amazon Basin of Peru, and in Rwanda. During these past 15 years, our activities have all focused on strengthening our international partners to better serve their own community, doing so through teaching, sharing of material resources, and mentoring both clinical and non-clinical providers and administrators.

Our partner hospital in Rwanda, Mugonero Adventist Hospital, is a 104-bed facility which serves as a referral hospital in western Rwanda. This hospital oversees seven outlying health centers throughout the region. These facilities serve the local population of over 70,000 within the Karongi District, one of the poorest areas of the country. Services include, internal medicine, surgery, emergency medicine, obstetrics, gynecology, pediatrics, infectious diseases, dentistry, ophthalmology, and mental health. Maternity is the busiest service line at the hospital. The current facilities are extremely crowded and no longer meet national requirements.



View of Mugonero Adventist Hospital from center campus

Upgrading facilities has been an area of focus for GHI at Mugonero Adventist Hospital. The hospital was established in 1931 so many of the existing buildings are outdated and need to be replaced to meet modern standards. The hospital also suffered considerable damage during and following the genocide in 1994. Thousands of Rwandans were killed on the hospital ground by militias who entered and massacred people who gathered for protection yet had no means of defense.



Memorial to victims of the genocide at Mugonero Adventist Hospital

GHI has been working over the last two years to finalize plans for a new maternity ward, combining the needs of the hospital with local professionals in Colorado who are willing to volunteer their services. The facility will be housed in a 14,500 square foot existing structure which will be gutted and repurposed to house the new maternity facilities.



View of the building which will be repurposed to house the new maternity ward

GHI in partnership with AdventHealth (one of Centura Health's sponsors) has agreed to support this project with professional expertise, equipment, and funding.

The hospital itself does not have the resources necessary to undertake this type of project. Rwanda overall has an average GDP of \$845 per person (just over \$2 per day). Patient revenue is minimal and cannot support the capital needs of the hospital.



Reviewing the new maternity ward plans with local hospital administrators

Generous donors have contributed to this project via GHI, however several key items are still needed. One area of need is the vinyl flooring for clinical areas within the building. This material is not available in Rwanda, nor does the expertise for installation. Commercial Flooring Services Inc. of Denver has generously volunteered to provide installation of the flooring for this project. With this proposal, we also request that Shaw Industries donate the materials for this project.

Thank you for considering this request and look forward to providing any additional information that is needed.



Pediatric patient at Mugonero Adventist Hospital