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## PRESS RELEASE

### CHF International and USAID Launch USAID/Higa Ubeho Program

*Five-Year USAID & PEPFAR-funded Community-based Care and Support Program to Benefit Over 70,000 Vulnerable Rwandan Families*

On March 30, 2010, CHF International and USAID will formally launch the USAID/Higa Ubeho program in cooperation with Government of Rwanda and program consortium partners. The family-focused USAID/Higa Ubeho program will support an estimated 72,000 Rwandan families in 20 districts to develop sustainable ways of coping with the health and economic challenges that often affect the most vulnerable communities in Rwanda.

CHF International signed the agreement with USAID for the \$63,000,000 USAID/Higa Ubeho Program in December 2009. The USAID/Higa Ubeho consortium of 20 organizations includes CHF International, the overall consortium lead, Catholic Relief Services, CARE International and 17 Rwandan Civil Society Organizations: ARCT-Ruhuka, ADEPR, AEE, Caritas, DUHAMIC ADRI, EPR, FAWE, HAGURUKA, ICYUZUZO, IMBUTO Foundation, PAMASOR, RRP+, RWAMREC, SWAA-R, URUNANA DC, WE-ACTx for Hope and WIF. CHF International and its partners will work closely with a number of Rwandan Ministries to implement the USAID/Higa Ubeho program, including the National AIDS Control Commission and the Ministry of Gender and Family Promotion.

Higa Ubeho, which means ‘Be Determined and Live’ in Kinyarwanda, aims to increase families’ access to quality health and social services; improve household response to health and financial obstacles through economic, nutritional and educational support; and strengthen local government and civil society capacity to provide quality health and social services to those in need. The program builds upon the successes of the recently completed USAID/PEPFAR-funded Community HIV/AIDS Mobilization Program (CHAMP), also managed by CHF International; yet includes a broader mandate for promoting sustainable responses to health, economic and social challenges among orphans and vulnerable children (OVCs), people living with HIV/AIDS (PLHAs) and their families.

In support of Government of Rwanda policies, the USAID/Higa Ubeho consortium will provide a range of community-based care and support services to children and their families, such as: counseling (through holiday camps) and school fees to orphans and other vulnerable secondary school students; school



# USAID/HIGA UBEHO *“Be determined and live.”*

materials for primary and secondary school children; social support groups for persons living with HIV and AIDS; assistance to poor families for saving more and for accessing loans when needed; helping local business groups link with appropriate suppliers and markets; creating farmer field schools where farmers and their families learn from one another how to increase their crop yields and to prepare nutritious food; and improving both civil society and district officials abilities to monitor and manage social services.

CHF International and its partners will implement the USAID/Higa Ubeho program across Rwanda’s 5 provinces, in 20 PEPFAR districts: Bugesera, Gakenke, Gasabo, Gatsibo, Gicumbi, Kamonyi, Karongi, Kicukiro, Muhanga, Ngororero, Nyabihu, Nyagatare, Nyamagabe, Nyarugenge, Nyaruguru, Rubavu, Ruhango, Rulindo, Rutsiro, and Rwamagana.

CHF International has been operating in Rwanda since 2005. Its mission is to be a catalyst for long-lasting positive change in low- and moderate-income communities around the world, supporting them to improve their social, economic and environmental conditions. CHF International currently manages multiple projects in Rwanda focused on health, economic development, and capacity building.

The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) is a U.S. Government agency that works with the Government of Rwanda to improve the health and livelihoods of Rwandans and increase economic and political development. USAID programs in the areas of health, economic growth and democracy and governance are made possible by the generous support of the American people.

The President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) is the United States’ initiative to combat the global HIV/AIDS epidemic. In Rwanda, PEPFAR supports voluntary counseling and testing activities, youth intervention programs, provides antiretroviral (ARV) drugs and treatment for opportunistic infections and supports education and life skills training for orphans and vulnerable children in Rwanda. Launched in 2003, PEPFAR is the largest effort by any nation to combat a single disease.

