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### **Health Alliance International receives \$10 million grant to improve primary health care management in Mozambique**

Seattle -- July 31, 2009 – In a major effort to strengthen health systems in Mozambique, Seattle-based Health Alliance International (HAI), affiliated with the University of Washington Department of Global Health, received a seven-year \$10 million grant from the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation to work with the Mozambican government in strengthening primary health care in a region hard hit by the AIDS epidemic, poverty and other challenges.

The project aims to improve delivery of health care by giving key health managers the skills to identify and fix problems in the quality and efficiency of services. Just as companies are looking at more efficient ways to develop and deliver products, countries are applying some of the same practices to primary health care. These practices can help answer questions such as, what is the best mix of doctors, nurses and other health staff to provide the best care at a clinic, given patient volume and needs? How can the medication supply be managed to ensure that pharmacies are neither under- nor over-stocked, causing patients to lack medicines, or drugs to go to waste?

“Good management is essential to saving lives,” says Dr. Kenny Sherr, HAI’s Director of Implementation Science and project leader. “Usually people think about the need for clinical staff to treat patients, but this grant is exciting because it will empower managers at the district level on up to see the big picture of how services are being delivered and where resources need to go.”

The project will focus on Sofala Province in central Mozambique, a region with more than 1.6 million people—most living without running water and electricity—and only 40 doctors. Health Alliance International, the Mozambican Ministry of Health and other partner organizations will work with management teams at 140 government-run health facilities throughout the province to increase their ability to collect, manage and use health system data to improve services.

Other partners also include the departments of Global Health and Industrial Engineering at the University of Washington, and Eduardo Mondlane University in Mozambique. The Department of Industrial Engineering is advising on best practices from management in other sectors to improve health care delivery systems.

The project will focus on three main activities to build management capabilities: 1) training and mentoring district-level management staff; 2) improving information management systems to collect clinic data and developing simple tools to improve the use of these data for management purposes; and 3) helping managers to develop and conduct operations research, including program evaluation, to measure how management changes impact health care and improve patients’ health.

HAI is one of four organizations to receive a multimillion-dollar grant from the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation's African Health Initiative, out of more than 100 initial applicants. The DDCF African Health Initiative seeks to strengthen health systems by supporting partnerships that link implementation research and workforce training directly to the large-scale delivery of integrated primary healthcare in sub-Saharan Africa.

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About Health Alliance International:

HAI is a nonprofit that works to strengthen public-sector health systems to ensure equitable health care for all, especially the poor and vulnerable. Founded in 1987, HAI partners with governments in developing countries to incorporate key health services (such as HIV treatment and maternal and child care) into the primary health care system. HAI currently has programs in Mozambique, Timor-Leste, Côte d'Ivoire and Sudan.

[www.healthallianceinternational.org](http://www.healthallianceinternational.org)