

PRESS RELEASE

Rwanda launches new AI-powered digital platform to support continuous capacity building for Community Health Workers and advance universal health coverage.

Kigali, 29 May 2025 - The Ministry of Health through Rwanda Biomedical Centre (RBC) has launched a transformative project to build an Artificial Intelligence-powered digital platform that will strengthen the capacity of Rwanda's community health workforce and improve the quality of services.

Funded by Expertise France through L'Initiative, this project aims to revolutionize community health workers' (CHW) training by shifting from a cascade in-person training and supervision to a dynamic, online, and flipped classroom training and real-time remote support model. This approach is anticipated to enhance quality service delivery, promote gender equity in healthcare, and accelerate progress toward universal health coverage. Moreover, this approach is anticipated to cut a half of resources used for CHWs capacity building. Led by RBC, in partnership with local actors in community health, Society for Family Health Rwanda, Centre for Impact, Innovation and Capacity building for Health Information Systems and Nutrition (CIIC-HIN), and WelTel Rwanda, the project responds to existing challenges in Rwanda's Community Health Program.

The capacity-building platform developed for this project will incorporate an AI-assisted digital system, facilitating a personalized learning process for individual CHW. This system will include a customized evaluation mechanism that leads to certification for specific health services provided. In alignment with the Government of Rwanda's enhanced community health program, savings generated from this transformative digital transition might be reallocated towards CHW compensation, particularly benefiting women who constitute the majority of CHWs. This strategy highlights the project's commitment to health equity and sustainable workforce development.

Beyond capacity building, this project will enhance the existing community Electronic Medical Record (cEMR) system by incorporating AI tools to improve the early detection and management of health issues, support effective data utilization, and streamline reporting and communication processes. AI will also help monitor CHW performance and suggest additional training when needed, helping to ensure patients receive the best possible care. Prof. Claude Mambo Muvunyi, Director General of the RBC, welcomed the initiative as a transformative step toward strengthening Rwanda's health system through innovation and equity.

“This capacity building platform is a game-changer for Rwanda’s health system. By harnessing AI and digital tools, we’re ensuring CHWs have the support they need to save lives—efficiently, equitably, and on a scale. Investing in CHWs means investing in healthier communities. This project exemplifies Rwanda’s leadership in innovation for universal health coverage”, said Prof. Claude Mambo Muvunyi; RBC Director General

L'Initiative - Expertise France is proud to support RBC and his partners in this innovative project. Our steering committee selected this proposal during our competitive 2024 call for projects, recognizing its significant catalytic potential. We strongly support initiatives that enhance quality community healthcare while simultaneously improving working conditions for community health workers. In today’s challenging landscape of decreasing global health funding, innovations focused on creating efficiencies are more crucial than ever”, explains Mr. Eric Fleutelot; Technical Director of the Health Department, major pandemics unit at Expertise France.

Community Health Program is widely recognized as the backbone of the country’s healthcare system. Rwanda counts 58,567 CHWs, most of whom have transitioned to providing healthcare services—particularly for children under five. CHWs’ role has expanded to delivering 15 essential healthcare services, including diagnosis, treatment, and referral, as well as public health programs such as WASH (Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene), disease surveillance, and health education for the entire population.

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