

Dear readers,

As Rwanda marks the commemoration of the 1994 Genocide against the Tutsi, this issue of the Rwanda Public Health Bulletin is released during a period of reflection, unity, and renewed commitment to national healing. The commemoration reminds us not only of the profound loss endured but also of the strength, resilience, and collective responsibility that continue to shape Rwanda's recovery and progress, including in the health sector.

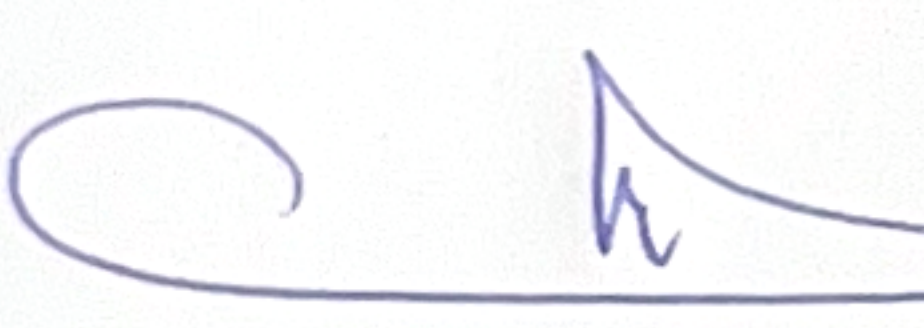
The studies in this issue highlight a persistent and important challenge: the gap between awareness of health services and their actual utilization. Evidence from adolescents and caregivers shows that, despite growing knowledge of available services, access remains constrained by stigma, financial barriers, and health system limitations. These findings underscore that improving health outcomes requires more than availability—it demands equity, trust, and responsiveness to the lived realities of communities.

At the same time, this issue reflects the resilience that defines Rwanda today. Young people navigating mental health challenges and families caring for children with disabilities demonstrate strength, adaptability, and hope in the face of adversity. Their experiences echo the broader national journey, from recovery to rebuilding systems that are inclusive, people-centered, and grounded in dignity.

In this commemorative period, we are reminded that promoting health is inseparable from fostering social cohesion, reducing stigma, and ensuring that no one is left behind. Strengthening community-based services, improving accessibility, and addressing attitudinal barriers are essential steps toward a more equitable health system.

This publication calls us to action, transforming evidence into policies and practices that advance healing, resilience, and health for all Rwandans. It will also inform evidence-based decision-making, inspire innovation, and contribute to building a more inclusive, responsive and resilient health system for all.

Yours sincerely,


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