Rwanda

Digital Health Case Study January 2026

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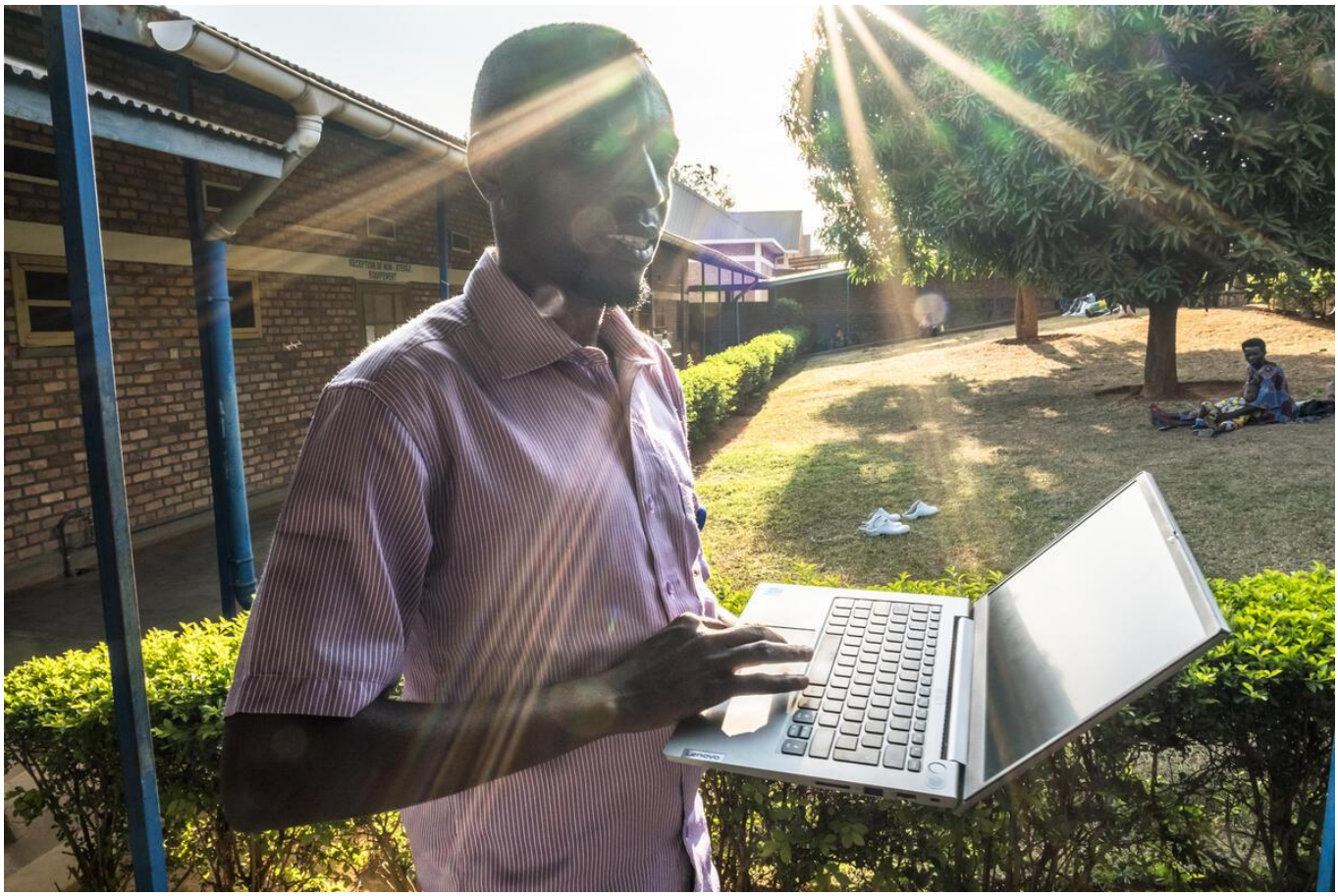


Digital health in Rwanda

Since 2003, the Global Fund has invested US$1.9 billion in Rwanda's response to HIV, tuberculosis (TB) and malaria as well as in health and community systems. In 2024, Rwanda partnered with the Global Fund to place over 222,000 people on antiretroviral treatment (ART) for HIV, treat 8,464 cases of TB and 249,006 cases of malaria. The availability of this data is largely made possible through investments in digital health investments.

While digital health investments are a fraction of Global Fund financing to Rwanda, so many of the systems helping deliver these results are enabled through digital health investments – from providing health facilities with electrical power to disease surveillance databases to community health workers linking patients to care through mobile devices. Digital health investments can offer special impact for the patients who rely on facilities at the "last mile" and who are often disadvantaged by the lack of power, internet and health system linkages.

Rwanda's status as a leader in the digital shift is prominent, with Ministry of Health digital officers feeding data into national systems for rapid response, mobile vans screening for TB using artificial intelligence (AI) software and community health workers using app-enabled tablets to screen for disease risks, even in the most rural areas.

Rwanda uses a particular payment-for-results mechanism called National Strategy Financing rather than a traditional Global Fund grant. Global Fund investments align to costed national strategies, and disbursements are tied to performance against agreed targets. Program performance increasingly depends on data that is fast, granular and linked across community, facility and national levels. This funding mechanism demonstrates that Rwanda's investments in health management information systems are delivering measurable results.

For the Global Fund's 2023-2025 grant cycle, Rwanda is a priority country in the Digital Health Impact Accelerator (DHIA), a Catalytic Fund that runs parallel to the country's dedicated HIV/TB and malaria grants.[1] Through its 2023-2025 Global Fund grants and DHIA, Rwanda is focusing its digital health investments on:

- Interoperability across all health investments.
- Patient-centered digital data systems, including the development of a national Health Portal that enables patients to securely access their health information by drawing on data from the existing health facility electronic medical record (EMR) system and the new community EMR system as interoperability expands.
- Capacity building on the facility EMR, the Rwanda Health Analytics Platform, and the laboratory information system.

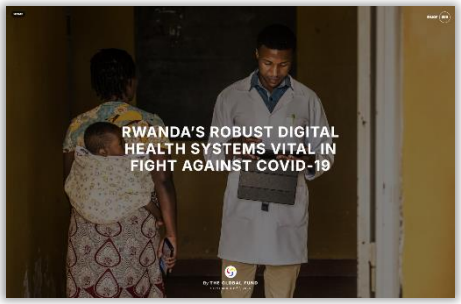
Interoperability is a key pillar of digital health transformation that enables different health systems to exchange information securely, reliably and in real time.

[1] The Digital Health Impact Accelerator is supported by the Global Fund through donations from Anglo American, the Patrick J. McGovern Foundation, Medtronic LABS, Dimagi, Medic, Orange and Zenysis.

Improving digital infrastructure and efficiency while generating savings

According to the World Bank, as of 2023, 63.9% of Rwandans had access to electricity and 34.2% were internet users, with urban areas having more uptake and access than rural counterparts. Mobile networks are the dominant technology for internet access, and network coverage exceeds 99%. Expanding access across all areas and the health facilities that serve them falls under the Center for Digital Public Infrastructure, which is dedicated to accelerating the design, deployment and scaling of inclusive, open and interoperable digital systems, in collaboration with Rwanda Information Society Authority. This coordination ensures that existing and future digital investments will be able to exchange data and communicate seamlessly, building upon a digital identification system that is currently being rolled out.

Rwandan public health facilities report that digital health investments have already reduced workload and saved time for health workers, particularly by cutting down manual reporting and administrative tasks. The quality of care for patients has also improved. Interoperable data systems and the health information exchange at facility level increasingly allow clinicians to make more informed clinical decisions, drawing on patients' past medical history and prior encounters. Over time, these efficiency and quality gains are expected to translate into better use of resources and longer-term cost savings as systems continue to scale and mature.



Read more about how Rwanda's digital health systems protected the country during COVID-19 here.

Monitoring outbreaks

Rwanda has used Global Fund financing to support digitized surveillance systems, including through the electronic community health information system (eCHIS) and its linkage to the national health management information system (HMIS). These investments have expanded real-time, pandemic-ready surveillance and analytics to detect malaria hotspots, monitor TB case finding and sustain HIV viral suppression before national-level aggregation. Additionally, vector control intelligence for malaria has been strengthened by the financing of therapeutic efficacy, entomological monitoring and granular malaria surveillance.

Digitized surveillance flows directly into Rwanda's National Health Intelligence Center, which integrates analytics and evidence-based insights to harness real-time health data for informed policy decisions and system optimization.

Laboratories

Rwanda's Ministry of Health has prioritized complete interoperability between the laboratory information systems, HMIS and the Reagent Management System™ for enterprise resource planning. This has led to end-to-end visibility across testing, results and stock management.

Global Fund financing contributes to ongoing maintenance of laboratory information systems and a web-based laboratory information management system (LMIS) for viral load and early infant diagnosis sites, as well as to user training and testing capacity enhancements at the National Reference Laboratory. These investments have reduced turnaround times and improved data completeness in the HMIS.

CASE STUDY

HEALTH TECH HUB AFRICA

Supporting the health tech ecosystem across the continent

The HealthTech Hub Africa (HTHA) is a pan-African health tech accelerator based in Kigali, Rwanda, co-funded by the Global Fund, Novartis Foundation, Patrick J. McGovern Foundation, Endless Network and Norrsken. HTHA **supports scaling technology solutions in public health systems** to address pressing health challenges.

DHIA support to HTHA focuses on the ecosystem enablers for uptake and scaling digital technologies within the public health sector, including the Standards and Interoperability Lab (SIL) at HTHA. The SIL supports capacity building on digital health interoperability across countries and companies in Africa. DHIA priority countries, including Rwanda, are utilizing the SIL as a sandbox for testing and certifying that national and private sector software solutions conform to national and regional standards for interoperable data exchange.

People work at Norrsken House in Kigali, Rwanda where the Health Tech Hub is located.

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Patient-centered longitudinal care

Electronic medical records (EMRs) strengthen patient-centered, longitudinal care by consolidating data into a single record, giving clinicians a complete view across time and settings. Rwanda's health facility EMR – called eBuzima (*buzima* means "healthy" in Kinyarwanda) – and Health Portal enable patients to securely access their health information. The Portal relies on data from the community EMR, eBuzima and other EMRs.

As part of scale-up:

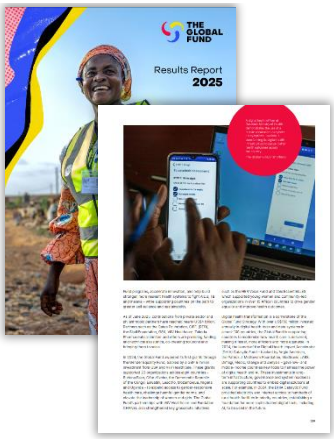
- National-level staff continue to be trained on various digital tools and on the use of the Rwanda Health Analytics Platform to improve evidence base decision making, especially at subnational levels.
- eBuzima has been deployed in an estimated 60% of Health Facilities in the country and continues to be expanded.
- Similarly, a community based EMR has been deployed with more than 20,000 community health workers using the platform through digital devices, enabling the scale up digitalization of community service delivery and improving timely data collection and reporting.

Governance, standards and interoperability

Digital strategy, policy and governance establish and maintain the vision, platforms, interoperability and linkage across systems and applications. Rwanda's digital health progress is underpinned by strong leadership and clear governance led by the Ministry of Health. Dedicated coordination

structures bring together health and information, communications and technology government institutions; development partners; and implementers to align digital investments with national health priorities and avoid fragmentation. Through the Global Fund DHIA, the Rwanda Digital Health Strategy is undergoing an update, and a Digital Health Architecture Blueprint is being developed, both planned for completion in 2026.

Read more about Rwanda's use of AI for health in the Global Fund's 2025 Results Report here.



AI and future directions

Rwanda is already a leader in the use of AI for health in Africa through use cases such as:

- Computer-aided diagnostics (CAD) through the use of digital chest X-rays to detect TB.
- AI-assisted triage for TB case finding.
- An AI-powered mobile app allows community health workers to identify mpox skin lesions using smartphones.

Future investments in digital health are aimed at advancing the national digital health strategy's objectives including through:

- Interoperable digital health systems, including the national rollout of eBuzima, the health information exchange and the community EMR to support continuity of care across community and facility levels.
- Digital service delivery to expand access to care, particularly through telehealth, digitized referral and transfer processes, and the rollout of e-prescription to improve prescribing, dispensing and continuity of care
- Public health surveillance and health intelligence, including predictive analytics and machine learning to support faster, data-informed responses to public health threats.
- Responsible adoption of innovation, including applied use of AI and emerging technologies for clinical decision support, analytics and system intelligence, as well as exploration of virtual hospital models to extend access to specialist care and support service delivery, guided by national governance frameworks.
- Empowering patients through digital engagement, including the Health Portal to support access to personal health information, health education and feedback mechanisms.
- Strengthening digital foundations, with investments in connectivity, hardware, Health Cloud hosting, interoperability and cybersecurity for secure, reliable and scalable systems.
- Building a digitally capable health workforce, through continuous professional development, integration of digital health into education and development of dedicated digital health roles.