



# Status Report COVID-19 Report

Exchange Rwanda

## Abstract

Report on the effects of COVID-19 in Rwanda

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The information in this volume is destined to provide a description of the COVID-19 status and its impact on social and economic life in the 5 Sub-Saharan African countries with cooperation programmes of Exchange vzw. The ambition is to give insights, based on information gathered by Exchange’s business development managers based in these countries. Exchange vzw. can not be held responsible for errors, omissions or lack of accuracy and disclaims any liability in connection with the use of this information. Feedback is welcome at [info@exchangevzw.be](mailto:info@exchangevzw.be)

Stella Kalisa

Gaston Niyonzima



# 1. Summary of the situation in Rwanda

## Vaccines' acquisition

Rwanda continues to ramp up efforts to acquire sufficient doses, through purchases and other arrangements to ensure all Rwandans are protected from COVID-19.

## Vaccination rate

Over 7,3 million of the population living in Rwanda have received their first dose and 4.9 millions their second dose as of December 20<sup>th</sup>, 2021.

Regarding the booster dose, 55,161 persons have received their booster dose as of December 20<sup>th</sup> 2021.

Source : <https://www.rbc.gov.rw/index.php?id=188>



## 2. General overview and statistics

### Situation 20<sup>th</sup> of December 2021 (most recent figures available)

1. New cases : 307
2. In the last 7 days : 1 176
3. Tested : 17 390 (on 20<sup>th</sup> Dec.21 )
4. Deaths : 1 (on 20<sup>th</sup> Dec.21)
5. Test positivity rate : 1.8 %





Event organisers, the communiqué said, are liable to being penalised once the measures are not implemented efficiently.

### **b. Public transport**

Public buses will operate at full capacity with seated passengers only, while all windows must be open for proper ventilation, but travellers to and from Kigali must present vaccination certificates, as per the new guidelines.

### **c. Public places to decrease work occupancy**

All bars in the city of Kigali will close at 8 pm while all clients are required to be fully vaccinated.

Places of worship will also operate at 30 and 50 per cent capacity in the city of Kigali and other provinces respectively.

### **d. Business owners urged to vaccinate employees**

All business operators have been urged to vaccinate their employees, with a note that the Ministry of Health is liable to close any businesses with clusters of people infected with Covid-19.

### **e. Mandatory vaccination**

Particularly in the City of Kigali, attendants of public gatherings have been urged to fully vaccinate.

For attendants of civil, religious and traditional weddings, all attendants should be fully vaccinated and test negative and this measure will be implemented nationwide.

Believers in the city of Kigali and secondary cities must also attend the religious services if they are fully vaccinated, same as those traveling to and from the city of Kigali.

The new measures will last for three weeks, upon a health assessment, read a statement from the Prime Minister's office.

Link : <https://twitter.com/NewTimesRwanda/status/1472760119020634112?s=20>

The new guidelines that will be reviewed after two weeks are marked with stringent protocols against the highly contagious respiratory disease. They



include mandatory Covid-19 health certificates for people to access some public places and sanctions for people who fault guidelines.

Details in the attached pdf document : [Cabinet communiqué of 1<sup>st</sup> Sept. 2021](#)

## **4. Info Note for passengers arriving or departing From Rwanda**

As part of Rwanda's Response to the Covid-19 Omicron variant, which has been designated a Variant of Concern by World Health Organization, the following is mandatory upon entry into Rwanda as of 16th December 2021:

Direct flights between Rwanda and Southern Africa are reinstated.

All travelers arriving in Rwanda must present a negative COVID-19 certificate. The only accepted test is a SARS-CoV 2 Real Time Polymerase Chain Reaction (RT-PCR) performed within 72 hours prior to departure (meaning travelers must be tested and get results within 3 days of their first flight). Other tests, such as Rapid Diagnostics Tests (RDTs), are not accepted. Please note that COVID-19 test is not mandatory for accompanied children under 5 years.

All arriving passengers must quarantine for 3 days at a designated hotel at their own cost. A Covid-19 PCR test will be taken upon arrival and an additional test taken on day 3 at a designated hotel and on day 7 at own cost from the arrival date at a designated testing site.

At the airport, the payment for Covid-19 test taken on arrival of 60 USD (50USD for covid-19 test and 10USD for specific logistics to the airport) will be done as per the indications of the passenger locator form. For passengers who opt for a cash payment at arrival, the balance will be given in Local currency (FRW). The passenger who wouldn't use the payment methods on the passenger locator form may be required to pay again at arrival and claim for refund for any previous payment made.

All travelers arriving or transiting in Rwanda must complete the passenger locator form and upload the Covid-19 PCR test certificate before heading to the airport. Please see passenger locator form and list of designated transit hotels on [www.rbc.gov.rw](http://www.rbc.gov.rw)

All travelers transiting for more than 12 hours through Rwanda will be screened upon entry and take a second Covid-19 PCR test on arrival. Sample collection will be conducted at the airport upon arrival and passenger will



wait for the results at the designated transit hotel. The Covid-19 Test Results for transiting passengers for more than 12 hours will be fast-tracked so that passengers can get the results before their next flight.

All travelers transiting/connecting who are not leaving the airport and are in transit for less than 12 hours will be screened upon entry and not required to take a second test . This is not applicable for passengers transiting by land border. In this case, passengers will be tested using RT-PCR Test and wait for the results at the designated transit hotels before proceeding.

The Government of Rwanda has negotiated special rates at designated transit hotels for the 24 hour waiting period. Should a guest wish to remain in the hotel after receiving negative test results, they are welcome to extend their stay at the hotel's applicable rates.

## 5. Impact on the economy

### S&P AFFIRMS RWANDA'S 'B+/B' RATINGS; OUTLOOK REMAINS NEGATIVE

Standard & Poors' Global Rating yesterday affirmed Rwanda's long and short term sovereign rating at 'B+/B' while the outlook remained Negative

In a statement released , S&P noted that the negative outlook indicate that Rwanda's large current account deficits could weaken the balance of payment, particularly if the COVID-19 pandemic puts a deeper strain on exports, tourism, and inward remittances

It added that the outlook also reflects that large fiscal deficits could make financing more complicated, crowding out banks' credit to the private sector, despite the currently still favorable funding structure dominated by cheap concessional debt.

“We could lower the ratings over the next six-to twelve months if Rwanda's external position weakened further compared with our base-case forecasts. This could happen, for example, if exports, tourism inflows, or inward remittances remain below expectations,” the S&P statement reads in part.

Amid the negative economic fallout of the global pandemic, S&P expects Rwanda's economy to gradually rebound in 2021; It projects GDP will expand by 3.9% in 2021 and by an average 7.1% between 2022-2024.

Link : <https://www.minecofin.gov.rw/news-detail/sp-affirms-rwandas-b-b-ratings-outlook-remains-negative>



## 6. Rwanda economy outlook and support initiatives to local economy

### **After a deep recession in 2020, Rwanda's economy is projected to grow by 10.2%**

The Minister of Finance and Economic Planning Dr. Uzziel Ndagijimana has assured members of parliament that despite the negative impact of COVID-19 pandemic, Rwanda's Economy is on a strong rebound.

Presenting the state of National Economy and Budget, Minister Ndagijimana noted that as a result of strategic measures employed to contain the impact and manage COVID-19 pandemic, the Rwandan economy recovery is strong.

"In November 2021, GDP was revised upward from initial 5.1% to 10.2% to reflect the stronger performance in the first half of 2021. This strong recovery will continue in the medium term where growth is projected at 7.2% in 2022, 7.9% in 2023, 7.5% in 2024, and 7.5% in 2025," Minister Ndagijimana said.

He pointed out that growth will be driven by good performance in agriculture, continued recovery in industry sector supported by mining sector and resumption of construction activities, as well as the services sector, which he said, has started to recover as a result of gradual removal of health restrictions.



## Economic Recovery outlook

Minister Ndagijimana cautioned parliamentarians that any economic performance in Rwanda and globally will depend on the COVID-19 situation. He assured that Government will continue to monitor the evolution of the pandemic and to respond adequately.

“Acceleration of the vaccination campaign, domestic manufacturing of vaccines, building the resilience of our health sector will continue to be the top priorities, to create conditions for economic activities,” Ndagijimana added.

**Link :** <https://www.minecofin.gov.rw/news-detail/after-a-deep-recession-in-2020-rwandas-economy-is-projected-to-grow-by-102>

## Financing initiatives complement government's efforts to support private businesses affected by covid-19

New investments by Rwandan companies will benefit from business financing initiative backed by the European Investment Bank, latest of which is a line of credit with the Development Bank of Rwanda launched in Kigali earlier today.

Under this arrangement, the European Investment Bank will provide EUR 15 million new long-term financing under its East Africa COVID-19 Rapid Response facility, which will be complemented by EUR 15 million counter financing from the Development Bank of Rwanda thus unlocking EUR 30 million to Rwandan business investments. Businesses will be able to access long-term loans in Frw, USD, and EUR, with tenors of up to 10 years.

**Link :** <https://www.minecofin.gov.rw/news-detail/financing-initiatives-complement-governments-efforts-to-support-private-businesses-affected-by-covid-19>



## **Vulnerable families and sme's affected by the impact of covid-19 benefit from € 45 million grant**

At the start of the intergovernmental consultations between Rwanda and Germany, the Minister of Finance and Economic Planning Dr. Uzziel Ndagijimana and the Regional Manager of KfW, Ms. Bettina Tewinkel, today signed a number of grant agreements in the presence of the Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany to Rwanda Dr. Thomas Kurz and a delegation from the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development. The signing of the agreements is a result of the successful intergovernmental negotiations between the two Countries that were concluded in November last year.

A sector budget support for Social Protection of € 36.0 million will support the Government of Rwanda in the implementation of significant sector reforms around Rwanda's Vision Umurenge Program (VUP). The program aims at improving the coverage and effectiveness of Rwanda's social protection system through expansion of VUP Programme and to respond to the Covid-19 pandemic effects on Rwanda's population.

Additionally, support to Small and Medium-sized Enterprises through a COVID 19 Emergency Program at BRD was also agreed upon. Rwandan SMEs in the exporting sector will benefit from additional € 8.66 million in the Export Growth Fund managed by BRD. Germany had previously supported the fund with € 13.5 million.