



Status Report COVID-19 Report

Exchange Rwanda

[Abstract](#)

Report on the effects of COVID-19 in Rwanda

Version 6.0

17th March 2021



Table of Contents

1.	Summary of the situation in Rwanda	3
2.	General overview and statistics	4
3.	Current measures	5
4.	Impact	6
4.1.	International travel	6
4.2.	Economic impact	7
5.	Government support to local economy	8
5.1.	African ministers to discuss Covid-19 recovery strategies	8
5.2.	Govt makes U-turn on property tax	8
6.	CHOGM set for Kigali in June 2021	9

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

Stella Kalisa

Gaston Niyonzima



1. Summary of the situation in Rwanda

On 3rd March 2021, Rwanda received the first shipment of COVID-19 vaccines through the COVAX initiative. The first batch of 240,000 doses of the AstraZeneca-Oxford vaccine arrived in Kigali on Wednesday morning. A second shipment of 102,960 doses of the Pfizer vaccine, also from the COVAX facility is expected to arrive on Wednesday evening.

With each recipient receiving two doses for full protection, the AstraZeneca-Oxford and Pfizer vaccines will be used to vaccinate a total of 171,480 people identified as priority risk groups, including health personnel, those above 65 years old or with underlying health conditions, and other frontline workers.

Dr Kasonde Mwinga, WHO Rwanda Country Representative said:

“Rwanda has responded to the COVID-19 outbreak with determination to suppress circulation of the virus and save lives. These doses of COVID-19 vaccine from the COVAX Facility represent an unprecedented global effort to have equitable access to COVID-19 vaccines.”

On Thursday, the vaccines will be dispatched from the Rwanda Biomedical Center warehouse to District Hospitals and then on to all 508 health centres across Rwanda. Vaccination exercises will take place on Friday in hospitals and health centres, and vaccine recipients will be invited through their respective Districts.

The two consignments are part of the 1.2 million doses the country ordered from Covax which will be key to the country's ambition of vaccinating at least 30 per cent of its population by the end of 2021.

The health minister also pointed out that the Government of Rwanda continues negotiations with multiple partners, including international organizations and other governments, to acquire additional vaccines that will cover more people in subsequent phases.

Priority risk groups to be vaccinated include:

- Health care providers involved in the day-to-day management of COVID-19 patients in treatment centres and other key frontliners;
- People aged 65 and above
- People living with underlying chronic health conditions such as diabetes, heart disease and respiratory diseases
- People with disabilities



2. General overview and statistics

Situation 16th of March 2021 (most recent figures available)

1. Infections : total cases is 20.412 persons
2. Active Cases : 1,326
3. Recovered : 18.804
4. Tested : 1.070.010
5. Deaths : 282
6. Test positivity rate : 2.6%

Source : https://www.rbc.gov.rw/fileadmin/user_upload/annoucement/Update-on-COVID-19-16-03-2021-eng.jpg

New cases and vaccination per district




COVID-19

16
03
2021

Abakingiwe Vaccinated Vacciné(e)s			Abarwayi bashya mu turere New cases per district Nouveaux cas par district				
Kigali City	3.693	Bugesera	-	Kigali City	21	Kayonza	2
Burera	-	Gatsibo	-	Nyanza	16	Kamonyi	1
Gakenke	-	Kayonza	-	Gicumbi	14	Muhanga	1
Gicumbi	-	Kirehe	-	Nyamagabe	9	Burera	0
Musanze	-	Ngoma	-	Nyaruguru	9	Gakenke	0
Rulindo	-	Nyagatare	-	Rubavu	6	Musanze	0
Gisagara	-	Rwamagana	-	Gisagara	5	Bugesera	0
Huye	-	Karongi	-	Ruhango	5	Gatsibo	0
Kamonyi	-	Ngororero	-	Rulindo	4	Kirehe	0
Muhanga	-	Nyabihu	-	Huye	4	Ngoma	0
Nyamagabe	-	Nyamasheke	-	Rusizi	4	Nyagatare	0
Nyanza	-	Rubavu	-	Karongi	3	Ngororero	0
Nyaruguru	-	Rusizi	-	Rwamagana	3	Nyabihu	0
Ruhango	-	Rutsiro	-	Rutsiro	3	Nyamasheke	0

☎ 114
☎ +250788202080
✉ callcenter@rbc.gov.rw
📱 @RwandaHealth



3. Current measures

On February 2, 2021, the Government of Rwanda announced updated COVID-19 prevention measures, extending existing measures countrywide including the current lockdown of Kigali from February 3 through February 7, 2021.

From February 8 through February 22, 2021, the following measures will be in effect in the city of Kigali General preventive measures that still remain in place:

- Masks must be worn in public at all times.
- All resumed services must continue adhering to health guidelines from health authorities (hand hygiene, mask wearing and social distancing).
- All traders are required to accept digital payments as an alternative form of payment

Specific measures that still remain in place:

- The following nationwide measures will be in effect from March 16 – March 30, 2021:
- Movements are prohibited between 9:00 PM and 4:00 AM.
- All businesses must close by 8:00 PM.
- Restaurants and cafés shall resume with 30 percent occupancy limit and shall receive clients until 8:00 PM.
- Bars will remain closed.
- Places of worship will resume with no more than 30 percent maximum capacity.
- Private businesses will continue with essential staff at no more than 30 percent capacity. Markets and malls will continue for essential vendors and must not exceed 50 percent of registered traders. All businesses must close by 8:00 PM.
- All schools (public and private), including universities, will resume.
- Public transport (buses) should not exceed 75 percent capacity. Motorcycle taxis are permitted to carry passengers and must observe strict hygiene.
- Physical meetings may resume but must not exceed 30 percent of venue capacity. COVID-19 testing is required for meetings of more than 20 people.
- Individual and non-contact sports are permitted.
- Gyms and recreational centers will remain closed. Swimming pools and spas are closed except for those at hotels hosting tested guests.
- Are there restrictions on intercity or interstate travel? Yes
- Travel between Kigali and other provinces and districts shall resume, except for Bugesera, Nyanza, and Gisagara
- Travelers, including drivers, traveling to tourism entities within Kigali and other provinces and districts are required to complete and submit movement requests through the Tourism Movement



Updated Procedures for Arrival to Rwanda from February 8, 2021:

- Kigali International Airport will remain open.
- Arriving passengers must present a negative PCR COVID-19 test result taken within 72 hours of first departure to Rwanda.
- All arriving passengers must self-quarantine for 7 days and take a PCR COVID-19 test at the end of this period.

Fines for Non-Compliance:

- Violations of COVID-19 restrictions may face punishments ranging from fines of up to 50,000 RWF and/or to up to five days in police custody depending on the violation.

4. Impact

4.1. International travel

Kigali International Airport will remain open. Arriving passengers must present a negative PCR COVID-19 test taken within 120 hours prior to their first departure. Departing passengers must present a negative PCR COVID-19 test before departure. Designated hotels for arriving passengers will remain open under strict COVID-19 prevention measures.

- a. Entry to Rwanda: Kigali International Airport reopened on 1 August 2020. All arrivals must present a negative COVID-19 PCR test result taken within 120 hours of departure. Negative test certificates must include the term 'PCR'. The government of Rwanda have published guidance for passengers arriving into Rwanda. Land borders remain closed, except to returning Rwandan citizens and legal residents.
- b. Screening on arrival: Screening procedures are in place for coronavirus at all entry points.
- c. Quarantine requirements: After providing proof of a negative COVID-19 PCR test (as outlined above), all arriving passengers must then enter quarantine at a designated hotel whilst awaiting the results of a second COVID-19 test, taken on arrival, which can be up to 24 hours. Designated hotels can be found in the Government of Rwanda guidance. The test will cost 60USD. If the results are negative you are free to leave quarantine. If the results are positive and you have severe symptoms, you will be required to enter a government treatment facility. If the results are positive and you do not have severe symptoms, you will be moved from the hotel in which you were quarantining to your own choice of accommodation. Once there the Rwanda Biomedical Centre will send a medical team to assess whether you can remain there.
- d. Testing on departure: Exit screening is in place for all departing travellers. Any travellers exhibiting a symptom associated with coronavirus will be prevented from leaving the country and will be moved to isolation for testing. If an individual



tests positive, they will be treated in a Government of Rwanda healthcare facility.

- e. All tourists are required to take a COVID-19 test 72 hours prior to visiting Rwanda's National Parks, at their own cost. Tests can be booked by appointment via reservations@rdb.rw +250 (0)788313800. Tourists without a negative test result will not be admitted to the national parks.
- f. Accommodation: Accommodation is open and available for bookings.
- g. Public places and services: Facemasks must be worn in public. Penalties will be issued for non-compliance with health measures, including, wearing facemasks. You should check the latest cabinet communiqué published on the website of the Prime Minister's office for more details on measures in place.

Source : <https://travelbans.org/africa/rwanda/>

4.2. Economic impact

COVID-19 Pandemic Pushes Rwanda into Recession, Severely Impacts Human Capital

The Rwandan economy has fallen into its first recession due to the COVID-19 (coronavirus) pandemic and could potentially compromise years of gains in poverty reduction.

Released on 8th February 2021, the 16th edition of the World Bank Rwanda Economic Update, Protect and Promote Human Capital in a post-COVID-19 World, says the country's gross domestic product (GDP) is estimated to have dropped by 0.2 percent in 2020, compared to a projected expansion of 8 percent before the COVID-19 outbreak.

This dire economic effect has severely adverse implications for households, as thousands are facing unemployment, revenue losses and increased consumption prices are pushed into poverty. The Economic Update estimates that, because of the lockdown, social distancing, and increased costs associated with the pandemic, the poverty headcount is likely to rise by 5.1 percentage points (more than 550,000 people) in 2021, with more than 80 percent of the new poor in rural areas.

Source : <https://www.worldbank.org/en/news/press-release/2021/02/08/covid-19-pandemic-pushes-rwanda-into-recession-severely-impacts-human-capital>



5. Government support to local economy

The government has adopted an economic recovery plan estimated at 900 million USD - whose implementation will span the two fiscal years 2019/20 and 2020/21.

"Tourism has been the top foreign exchange earner, and when the pandemic kicked in, this sector was heavily affected. If you look into the growth that we experienced in 2019, you are talking about where the economy grew by 9.4 percent, but if you go into the numbers from 2020, we are projecting to receive a growth rate that is going to be even less than 2 percent", Zephania Niyonkuru, Deputy CEO, Rwanda Development Board tells Ignatius Annor.

Source : <https://www.africanews.com/2021/03/04/rwanda-s-economy-in-recession-business-africa/>

5.1 African ministers to discuss Covid-19 recovery strategies

African Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development are this week set to, among others, explore and consolidate strategies the continent can use in mapping the way forward following the Covid-19 pandemic.

The discussions are slated during the 53rd session of the Economic Commission for Africa, Conference of African Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development (COM2021). The annual conference started on Wednesday, March 17, with a session of experts.

Source : <https://www.newtimes.co.rw/news/african-ministers-discuss-covid-19-recovery-strategies>

5.2 Govt makes U-turn on property tax

The government has suspended the increase of land taxes (immovable properties) until further assessment, according to the Minister of Finance and Economic Planning, Dr. Uzziel Ndagijimana.

The decision is one of the March 15, cabinet resolutions in which the government also eased Covid-19 restrictions as new infections drop and more Rwandans get vaccinated.

The government had raised land taxes from Rwf80 per square meter to Rwf300 per square meter— an increase of approximately 257 per cent.

Source : <https://www.newtimes.co.rw/news/govt-makes-u-turn-property-tax>



6. CHOGM set for Kigali in June 2021

On 11 and 12 March, Minister Vincent Biruta met with the Rt Hon Patricia Scotland, Secretary-General of the Commonwealth who was in Rwanda to discuss CHOGM2021 preparations.

Rwanda will, starting June 21, host the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) attracting thousands of high-ranking delegates from the 54 member states of the Commonwealth.

Source : <https://thecommonwealth.org/chogm>

Ahead of the high-level summit, Commonwealth Secretary-General Patricia Scotland was last week in the country on a three-day visit to review preparatory activities. The New Times Collins Mwai spoke to her about the summit, preparatory activities as well as risk factors in the way the preparations. She also spoke on challenges in vaccine access, health care systems and lessons from the pandemic.

Link : <https://www.newtimes.co.rw/news/rwanda-absolutely-ready-chogm-commonwealth-boss>