



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



1. Summary of the situation in Rwanda

Rwanda was in the middle of an economic boom prior to the COVID-19 (coronavirus) pandemic. Economic growth exceeded 10% in 2019, driven mostly by large public investments for implementation of the National Strategy of Transformation. Strong growth was expected to continue in 2020.

The pandemic has disrupted international flows of goods and services with significant spillovers to the broader global economy. Exports and tourism are taking a strong hit amid disruption in international trade and travel. Rwanda is already feeling mounting balance of payment and fiscal pressures. This could negatively impact the provision of public health services with respect to COVID-19 response and preparedness capacity, as well as adversely affect the provision of other essential health service delivery in Rwanda, as healthcare workers and fiscal resources are redirected to the emergency response.

To help the government prevent, detect and respond to the threat posed by the pandemic, and strengthen national systems for public health preparedness, the World Bank Group provided \$14.25 million International Development Association credit in immediate funding to a new operation, the Rwanda COVID-19 Emergency Response Project.

Source : <https://www.worldbank.org/en/country/rwanda/overview>

Govt looks forward to phase 2 of Covid-19 vaccination

Rwanda received its first vaccine doses in March and has since rolled out a vaccination campaign, targeting priority groups like frontline medics, teachers and people with underlying health conditions among others.

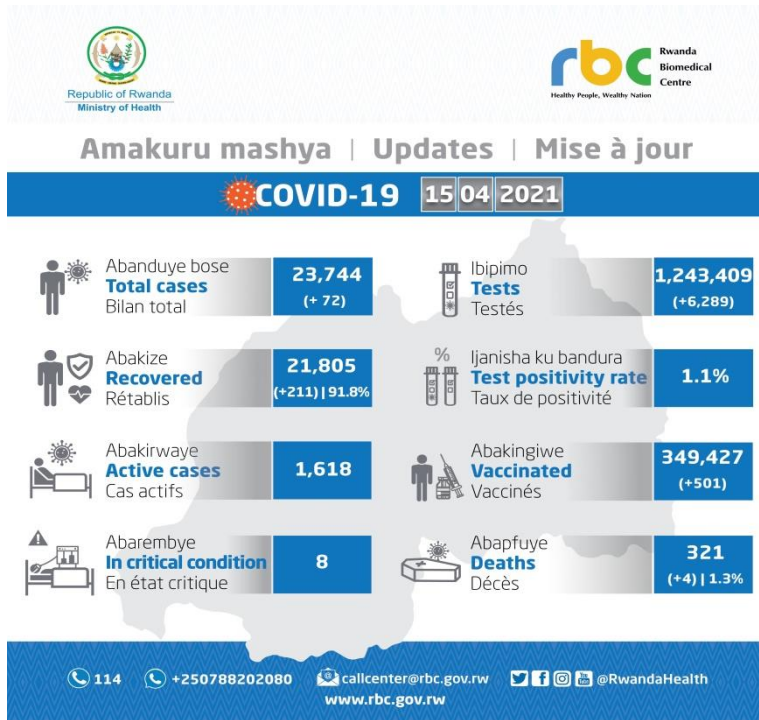
By Wednesday, March 23, a total of 348,629 people had been inoculated at least once, as the country wound up the first phase of the campaign.

Going forward, according to Dr Sabin Nsanzimana, the Director-General of RBC, the date for getting another consignment of vaccines is not yet known, though he hopes it could be soon. "The biggest challenge now in this vaccination campaign is access to enough doses that are needed and on time. As I said before, all the doses we received both AstraZeneca and Pfizer have been utilized, and we are expecting the next doses," he said while speaking during a virtual press briefing organised by the World Health Organisation (WHO)

Source : <https://www.newtimes.co.rw/news/govt-looks-forward-phase-2-covid-19-vaccination>

2. General overview and statistics

Situation 15th of April 2021 (most recent figures available)



Source : <https://www.rbc.gov.rw/index.php?id=717>

New cases and vaccination per district





3. Current measures

Guidelines and Frequently Asked Questions shared on the Rwanda biomedical center website.

Source : <https://www.rbc.gov.rw/index.php?id=760>

<https://rw.usembassy.gov/health-alert-covid-19-information/>

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

Info Note For Passengers Arriving Or Departing From Rwanda

As part of Government measures to prevent the spread of COVID-19, the following is mandatory upon entry into Rwanda as of 19th February 2021:

- All travelers arriving in Rwanda must have 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. **COVID-19 Test is not mandatory for accompanied children under 5 years.**
- All travelers arriving in Rwanda must complete the passenger locator form and upload the COVID-19 test certificate before heading to the airport. Please see passenger locator form and list of designated transit hotels on www.rbc.gov.rw.
- All travelers arriving or transiting for up to 24 hours through Rwanda will be screened upon entry and take a second RT-PCR test on arrival. Sample collection will be conducted at the airport upon arrival and waiting for the results will be at designated transit hotels.
- Travelers will be tested for COVID-19 upon arrival at the airport. This is subject to the payment of 60 USD (50USD for covid-19 test and 10USD for specific logistics at the airport). For travelers who opt for a cash payment at arrival, the balance will be given in local currency (FRW). Travelers who do not use the payment methods provided on the passenger



locator form may be required to pay again at arrival and claim for refund for any previous payment made.

- All travelers transiting/connecting who are not leaving the airport and those who will leave the airport to go to the designated transit hotels for less than 24 hours will be screened upon entry and are not required to take a second test. This is not applicable for transiting travelers by land borders, in that case, travelers will be tested using RT-PCR Test and wait for the results at the designated transit hotels before proceeding.
- All travelers are required to wait 24 hours for the results of their COVID-19 test taken upon arrival in a designated transit hotel. All COVID-19 prevention measures announced by the Ministry of Health must be respected during waiting the period. **Please note that this is mandatory for all incoming travelers, including those who have received COVID-19 vaccine.**

Source : <https://www.rbc.gov.rw/index.php?id=745>

4. Impact

Economic impact

In March 2021, the Rwandan urban consumer price index increased by 1.4% month-on-month from 0.4% increase achieved in the previous month. Year-on-year, inflation stood at 2.0% higher than 1.6% reached in February 2021. Compared to the previous month, prices of local goods and services increased by 0.8% y-o-y which is higher than an increase of 0.3% y-o-y reached in February 2021 and prices for imported goods increased by 5.9 % y-o-y slightly higher than 5.8% y-o-y in February 2021.

On monthly basis the inflation increased by 1.4% due to Food and non-alcoholic beverages whose prices increased by 2.9 % in March 2021 from an increase of 0.4% of the previous month and Education whose prices increased by 10.6% higher than 0.1% increase of the previous month.

Year-on-year, consumer price index rose by 2.0% in March 2021 higher than an increase of 1.6% in February 2021 due to inflationary pressures of Alcoholic beverages tobacco and narcotics which increased by 11.9% higher than an increase of 11.0% of February 2021, Education with increase of 10.7 % higher than 0.1% increase of February 2021 and transport which increased by 4.5% higher than 3.5% of February 2021.

Excluding fresh food products and energy, consumer price index increased by 3.3% in March 2021 slightly higher than an increase of 3.0% achieved in February 2021. Fresh products decreased by 2.5 % in March compared to a



decrease of 3.4% in February 2021. Energy prices increased by 0.8% in March 2021, which is higher than a decrease of 0.5% in February 2021.

Source : <https://www.bnr.rw/browse-in/statistics/consumer-price-index-march-2021/>

5. Support to local economy

5.1 Government support to local economy

The Economic Recovery Fund (ERF) was established by the Government of Rwanda to support the recovery of businesses hardest hit by COVID19 so that they can survive, resume operations and safeguard employment, thereby cushioning the economic effects of the pandemic. National Bank of Rwanda was appointed as the Fund Manager.

To ensure that funds are used appropriately to achieve the impact expected, the Economic Recovery Fund Technical Steering Committee will govern the fund. It will review the performance of the Fund on a monthly basis and report to the Economic Recovery Fund High Level Steering Committee of Ministers, NBR Governor and CEOs (RDB and PSF).

The technical steering committee is composed of Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning, Ministry of Trade and Industry, Rwanda Development Board, National Bank of Rwanda, Private Sector Federation, Rwanda Bankers' Association, Association of Microfinance Institutions of Rwanda and Business Development Fund.

Main objective:

support businesses in the sectors hit hardest by the pandemic so they can survive, resume work/production and safeguard employment. To expand domestic production of essential goods during the COVID-19 and post-COVID-19 period (e.g. medical equipment like masks, gloves, sanitizers, disinfectants, and others that may be deemed necessary during this period).

Sectors eligible for this support include;

All businesses highly impacted by the restrictions put in place to prevent the spread of the virus, and exposed to consumer discretionary spending, and those with global supply chains that have been disrupted. These include but not limited to Tourism, Manufacturing (including Agri-processing), Transport and Logistics and SMEs linked to domestic and global supply chain.



Micro and Small Enterprises (MSEs)/Informal sector: COVID-19 fiscal and monetary responses in place don't reach the informal economy while the strain on incomes resulting from the lockdown and decline in activities/consumption will devastate informal workers (and their families) close to the poverty line. To protect those business/jobs and stimulate consumption of households, the Fund will create a window to support MSEs via MFIs and provide credit guarantee through BDF.

For any questions or concerns please contact: erf@minecofin.gov.rw

Source : <https://www.bnr.rw/index.php?id=287>

5.2 International support

Rwanda to benefit from fresh #TeamEurope support to low-income countries in response to the Covid-19 crisis

Rwanda is among 28 low-income countries to benefit from the third tranche of Covid debt relief on IMF loans. This follows a European Union contribution of €170 million (over RWF 200 billion) announced on Monday, 5 April under the IMF's Catastrophe Containment and Relief Trust (CCRT).

This EU contribution enabling the IMF to disburse the third tranche of the CCRT will help the poorest countries to reduce their debt service on IMF loans, due for payment in the period April 14, 2021 through October 15, 2021.

Rwanda will benefit with EUR 16, 905,666 (over RWF 19 billion) which will create fiscal space for the Government to implement its Covid-19 programmes on economic recovery, social protection and health.

With this contribution, the EU becomes the largest donor to the CCRT with a share of 28%. Total #TeamEurope contributions and pledges stand at € 335.9 million, corresponding to 51% of the CCRT (funded with USD 781.1 million).

The EU is supporting partner countries in maintaining their commitment to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals despite the pandemic and resulting tensions on public finances, in line with European Commission President's Global Recovery Initiative.

Debt levels were already high before the crisis, and are becoming unsustainable in many countries, due to costs involved in fighting the Covid-19 pandemic. More than half of low-income countries are in high risk or already in debt distress, while the IMF's assessment for Rwanda evolved from "low" to "moderate" distress levels.



Background

Why should the EU contribute to CCRT?

The established CCRT framework enables the EU to channel funds with the requirement that the freed-up resources are used for COVID-19 crisis response.

By simultaneously contributing to countries' macroeconomic stability and priority, spending there is also a reduction of transaction costs.

The EU's contribution also brings an added value to the CCRT. The majority of CCRT-eligible low-income countries (21 out of 29) have ongoing EU budget support programmes. The EU has been closely engaging with partner countries on macroeconomic issues (incl. debt) public finance management reforms, budget transparency and public policies.

In the current COVID-19 crisis context, the EU places particularly strong emphasis on the dialogue on COVID-19-related expenditures, their proper accounting, monitoring and control. The ongoing EU's dialogue with partner countries, especially in the framework of budget support programmes, reinforces the CCRT framework and its monitoring capacities.

What is the CCRT?

IMF's Catastrophe Containment and Relief Trust (CCRT) allows the repayment of debts owed to the IMF for eligible low-income member countries that are hit by the most catastrophic natural disasters or battling public health disasters—such as epidemics or global pandemics.

CCRT enables the Fund to provide immediate debt service relief for its poorest and most vulnerable members affected by the current COVID-19 pandemic for a period of up to 2 years subject to the availability of CCRT resources.

This allows countries to free up resources to meet exceptional balance of payments needs created by the disaster.

Source : https://eeas.europa.eu/delegations/rwanda/96236/rwanda-benefit-fresh-teameurope-support-low-income-countries-response-covid-19-crisis_en



6. GLOBAL LAUNCH EVENT: 2021 GLOBAL FOOD POLICY REPORT

Rwanda Discussion of IFPRI's 2021 Global Food Policy Report: Transforming Food Systems After COVID-19

APR 28, 2021 - 09:00 AM TO 10:30 AM EDT

KIGALI, RWANDA

RWANDA STRATEGY SUPPORT PROGRAM (RWANDA SSP)

Overview:

The 2021 Global Food Policy Report (2021 GFPR) examines the lessons learned from the pandemic and public and private sector responses. IFPRI researchers and colleagues consider not just how to rebuild post-COVID but, more importantly, how this growing knowledge can shape our path to truly transforming food systems. Chapters in the report look at balancing health and economic policies, trade's importance to food security, promoting healthy diets and nutrition, the role of social protection policies and greater inclusion, natural resource policies for food security and sustainability, the contribution of private sector innovation, and how to finance food system transformation. 2021 offers a crucial opportunity to rethink and renew efforts to transform the world's food systems, and the 2021 GFPR lays out an evidenced-based framework for successfully doing so.

The Kigali discussion will provide an overview of the report, as well as lessons learned from the pandemic as they pertain to Rwanda's agriculture and nutrition sectors

Link to Registration: <https://gfpr.ifpri.info/2021/04/12/2021-gfpr-rwanda-launch/>