

2025 ANNUAL NEWSLETTER



RWANDA'S DIGITAL HEALTH REVOLUTION - BUILDING TRUST, TALENT, & CONNECTED CARE

HOW RHIA SUPPORTED TURN RWANDA NATIONAL
AMBITION INTO SYSTEMS THAT IMPROVE LIVES

OUR VISION & MISSION



OUR VISION

“

Building the future of healthcare
with digital Health

”



OUR MISSION

“

To lead the integration of workforce
development, universal health
coverage, and health informatics
into a resilient health system

”

OUR PARTNERS



OPENING NOTE

In 2025, Rwanda's digital health journey moved beyond ambition and into visible, people-centered transformation. Across hospitals, policy rooms, innovation hubs, and frontline communities, the Rwanda Health Informatics Alliance (RHIA) helped shape the systems, standards, and leadership needed to build a more connected, trusted, and equitable health future.

This was a year defined not only by frameworks and technical milestones, but by real progress in how health information can serve people better; protecting patient data, empowering professionals, enabling safer technologies, and strengthening continuity of care across the country. From national data governance to leadership development, interoperability, and ecosystem partnerships, RHIA's work helped create the foundation for smarter decisions, stronger institutions, and healthier communities.

Most importantly, these achievements are about people: the health professional who accesses the right patient information faster, the engineer building safer interoperable systems, the woman leader shaping policy, and the community champion helping citizens trust digital tools.

As Rwanda advances toward Vision 2050, RHIA remains committed to ensuring that digital health innovation is not only advanced, but also inclusive, ethical, and transformative.





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HEALTH DATA GOVERNANCE: INSIGHTS FROM KIGALI'S CONSULTATION

In the digital age, health data is both a powerful engine for innovation and a deeply personal asset requiring committed protection. From 2024, RHIA stepped to the forefront of this balance, championing a transformative approach to health data governance that prioritizes human dignity alongside technological progress.

On March 26, 2024, RHIA collaborated with HELINA and Transform Health to convene a landmark cross-sectoral assembly of policymakers, technologists, legal experts, and clinicians. The goal was to refine the Model Health Data Governance Law, moving beyond abstract theory to anchor our digital health ecosystem in trust, equity, and accountability. Over intense, collaborative sessions, stakeholders navigated the complexities of data sovereignty, cross-border sharing, and the ethical deployment of emerging tools like AI and blockchain.

We didn't just discuss policy; we challenged ourselves to design a framework that is practical, compliant with global standards like GDPR and HIPAA, and most importantly protective of the vulnerable. As Dr. Tom Oluoch poignantly reminded us, a governance framework is only as effective as its ability to mitigate inequalities and shield underrepresented populations.

This consultation was more than a workshop; it was a defining moment for Rwanda's digital trajectory. By fostering this regional dialogue, we have helped lay the bedrock for a legal architecture that safeguards patient rights while accelerating the promise of modern medicine.



HEALTH DATA GOVERNANCE AWARENESS AT THE BREAST CANCER SYMPOSIUM



Improving cancer care in Rwanda requires more than clinical expertise; it demands a robust, ethical information backbone. At the Second Edition of the Breast Cancer Symposium, co-hosted with the Rwanda College of Physicians (RCP), we explored this critical intersection. While the event focused on advancing breast cancer diagnostics and treatment, the core dialogue centered on a vital, often overlooked imperative: Health Data Governance (HDG).

Through a dedicated session, we demonstrated that secure, interoperable data is not merely a technical requirement; it is a patient care priority.

From ensuring data sovereignty and patient privacy to fostering collaborative research through ethical sharing, these governance principles form the bedrock of sustainable cancer programs.

The engagement from the Ministry of Health (MoH), Rwanda Biomedical Centre (RBC), and our clinical partners was energizing. Participants recognized that moving from siloed information to a unified, trusted ecosystem is the key to faster diagnosis and improved outcomes.

We left the symposium with a shared commitment: to weave HDG principles into every cancer strategy, ensuring that Rwanda's health data works as hard to save lives as our physicians do.

THE ENGINE ROOM OF CHANGE: THE HEALTH DATA GOVERNANCE TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP



Policies are only as effective as the hands that guide them into practice. Recognizing this, we officially launched the Health Data Governance Technical Working Group to serve as the vital bridge between national policy and day-to-day healthcare delivery. This is not a committee for abstract discussion; it is our operational engine.

By bringing together a diverse circle of experts from government leaders and hospital administrators to legal advisors and technology specialists, we have created a space where complex data challenges meet practical, real-world solutions.

The group's mandate is clear: to translate high-level governance goals into concrete actions that protect patient privacy, ensure data security, and foster innovation.

It is here that we work through the details of how systems connect, ensuring that our digital tools are not only secure but truly responsive to the needs of Rwandans. This collaborative effort ensures that as our digital landscape grows, it remains firmly anchored in the principles of safety and accountability, keeping the patient at the center of every decision.

RHIA'S INTERNATIONAL ENGAGEMENT: ALIGNING WITH GLOBAL STANDARDS

During 2025, RHIA expanded its collaborative efforts on international platforms, focusing on the development of global health data standards and governance frameworks.

At the 2025 Global Digital Health Forum (GDHF), RHIA participated in discussions regarding the impact of emerging technologies, such as artificial intelligence, on current health systems. A primary focus of the forum was the Africa CDC Continental Framework for Health Data Governance, a project co-chaired by Transform Health and HELINA. During this panel, representatives examined the framework's utility as a diagnostic tool for national policies, providing a structured approach to assessing transparency, accountability, and data protection measures.

Concurrently, RHIA continued its active involvement with the Open Health Information Exchange (OpenHIE) community. Engagement with these global networks serves two objectives: it allows RHIA to share findings from the Rwandan context while ensuring that domestic health informatics initiatives remain consistent with established international interoperability standards. These ongoing contributions to global forums facilitate the exchange of technical insights and support the development of a coherent approach to health data management, balancing the facilitation of data use with the necessary protections for individual and community rights.



A group of people are seated at a table in a meeting. In the foreground, a man with glasses and a dark blue shirt is looking towards the right. Behind him, a woman with braids and a white lab coat is also looking right. Another person is partially visible on the far right. The table has water bottles and papers on it. A large green circle is overlaid on the top left of the image, partially covering the text.

1.

ADVANCING RWANDA'S HEALTH DATA GOVERNANCE (HDG)



In 2025, RHIA led a transformative effort to establish a comprehensive and balanced framework for health data governance.

Recognizing the rapid growth of digital health data and the need to protect individual rights while fostering innovation, RHIA facilitated a collaborative, country-driven process to develop the Rwanda National Health Data Governance Implementation Roadmap (2025–2028).

This roadmap, endorsed at the National Validation Workshop in October 2025, integrates legislation, interoperability standards, ethical AI guidelines, and regional harmonization with the East African Community.

The adoption of HL7 FHIR as the unified interoperability standard and public trust initiatives through data literacy underscore Rwanda’s commitment to responsible, people-centered digital health governance.

By the Numbers:

- National Validation Workshop with 50+ stakeholders
- HL7 FHIR adopted as interoperability standard
- Data literacy campaigns reaching 10,000+ health workers

Through this work, RHIA positions Rwanda as a continental leader, advancing systems that safeguard data while fostering sustainable innovation.

2.

DHALP: Building the Leaders Driving Digital Health Transformation

OUR VISION



OUR MISSION

“To lead the integration of workforce development, universal health coverage, and health informatics into a resilient health system”

The Digital Health Academy Leadership Program (DHALP) is a globally recognized six-month executive training initiative designed to enhance the capacity of mid-level health leaders to lead and sustain national digital health transformation. Launched in 2021 with support from USAID, PEPFAR, BACKUP Health, and partners such as the World Health Organization and the World Bank, the pilot program trained 42 leaders across four countries and demonstrated significant improvements in participants' knowledge, confidence, and practical application of digital health principles.

Building on this success, the program is now expanding its reach. Through executive coursework, leadership coaching, peer learning, technical mentorship, and applied projects, DHALP empowers health leaders to implement scalable, sustainable, and interoperable digital health solutions at the national level.

AS RWANDA CONTINUES TO ADVANCE ITS DIGITAL HEALTH AGENDA, ONE TRUTH REMAINS CLEAR: TECHNOLOGY ALONE DOES NOT TRANSFORM HEALTH SYSTEMS - PEOPLE DO.



In 2025, the Rwanda Health Informatics Alliance (RHIA), in collaboration with regional and global partners, implemented the Digital Health Applied Leadership Program (DHALP) to strengthen the country's capacity to lead, govern, and sustain digital health transformation. Over six months, the program brought together 20 professionals from key national institutions, including the Ministry of Health (MoH), Rwanda Biomedical Centre (RBC), Rwanda Information Society Authority (RISA), Rwanda Food and Drugs Authority (RFDA), and Rwanda Medical Supply (RMS).

IMPACT AND KEY OUTCOMES

DHALP 2025 delivered tangible results at both individual and system levels. Participants reported enhanced leadership capacity, particularly in advocacy, stakeholder coordination, and strategic decision-making.

At the same time, the program strengthened technical competencies required to design and manage integrated, interoperable digital health systems. A defining feature of the program was its emphasis on applied learning. Participants worked in multidisciplinary teams to develop projects aligned with national priorities, including strengthening data governance, advancing interoperability frameworks, enhancing digital health workforce capacity, and improving visibility of digital health solutions. These projects generated practical, context-driven outputs with strong potential for integration into Rwanda's health system. The program also fostered cross-country peer learning and collaboration, enabling participants to exchange experiences, broaden perspectives, and adopt best practices from across the region.

Through a blend of **face-to-face learning, virtual engagement, leadership coaching, cross-country exchange, and applied learning projects, participants** explored topics ranging from digital health governance and enterprise architecture to interoperability, cybersecurity, and change leadership. However, the true value of DHALP extended far beyond the classroom.

Participants were challenged to examine Rwanda's digital health ecosystem critically; identifying bottlenecks, questioning assumptions, and designing solutions rooted in national realities. Working in multidisciplinary teams, they developed projects addressing priority areas such as **Data governance and security, interoperability for health systems, digital health workforce development, and the establishment of a national registry of digital health solutions.**

One of DHALP's most significant achievements was fostering collaboration across institutions that often operate independently. Participants learned alongside colleagues from different sectors, gaining a deeper appreciation of the interconnected roles required to build resilient and interoperable health systems. The cross-country learning component further enriched these experiences, exposing participants to diverse approaches and reinforcing the value of regional cooperation in addressing shared challenges. For many participants, DHALP represented a shift in perspective from viewing digital health as a collection of technologies to understanding it as a process of systems transformation requiring strategic leadership, stakeholder engagement, and continuous learning.

"The applied projects helped us move from theory to action. We were not just learning concepts, we were designing solutions to real challenges within our health system." – DHALP Participant

"DHALP changed how I view leadership. It is not about position or authority; it is about influence, collaboration, and creating an environment where innovation can thrive." – DHALP Participant

DRIVING SYSTEM-LEVEL IMPACT

As RHIA reflects on the achievements of 2025, DHALP stands out as an investment in the people who will shape the future of digital health in Rwanda. The relationships built, the projects initiated, and the leadership capacities strengthened through the program will continue to contribute to a more connected, equitable, and responsive health system. Because digital transformation is not only about systems and standards, it is about empowering leaders with the vision and skills to drive meaningful change.

Beyond individual capacity building, DHALP contributed to broader health system strengthening by developing a cadre of leaders equipped to influence policy, guide implementation, and champion interoperable and sustainable digital health solutions. By bringing together stakeholders from across institutions, the program reinforced a shared vision for Rwanda's digital transformation agenda and strengthened coordination across the ecosystem. DHALP Graduation

3.

Africa on FHIR: Advancing Rwanda's Interoperability Landscape



RHIA is driving Rwanda's leadership in digital health through the Africa on FHIR initiative advancing nationwide interoperability and transforming how health data is shared and used.

FHIR (Fast Healthcare Interoperability Resources), the global standard for secure and seamless health information exchange, is at the core of this transformation.

October 17, 2025, RHIA working in partnership with HELINA successfully certified 65 Digital Health Engineers in FHIR fundamentals and implementation guide. This investment is building a skilled workforce capable of designing interoperable systems and dismantling longstanding data silos across the health sector.

Rwanda is already leveraging FHIR across key national digital health systems. Platforms such as OpenMRS (used nationwide in hospitals and health centers), DHIS2 (the national HMIS), and national registries (client and facility registries built on FHIR architecture) are being integrated through interoperability layers.

Additionally, middleware solutions like the FHIR Bridge are enabling real-time data exchange between EMRs and DHIS2 using standardized FHIR resources.

The October launch of the Africa on FHIR Rwanda Community marked a major milestone, bringing together government institutions, academia, private sector leaders, and healthcare professionals into a unified, collaborative ecosystem. This platform is accelerating innovation, knowledge exchange, and practical implementation of interoperability solutions.

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS:

- **65 professionals certified on HL7 FHIR**, driving national interoperability initiatives
- **Launch of the Rwanda FHIR Community of Practice Rwanda**, fostering collaboration and knowledge sharing
- **A rapidly growing Rwanda FHIR ecosystem, with 100+ active member organizations** engaged in implementation and innovation
- **FHIR-enabled interoperability across key systems**, including OpenMRS, DHIS2, and national health registries

Through strategic capacity building and cross-sector collaboration, RHIA is not only strengthening Rwanda's digital health ecosystem but also positioning the country as a continental benchmark for interoperable, resilient, and patient-centered health systems.



4.

Uniting the Ecosystem from Community to National Movement





RHIA's inaugural HealthTech Community Forum, in partnership with Rwanda ICT Chamber, convened healthcare professionals, innovators, policymakers, academia, and private sector leaders for the first time on a unified platform.

5.

HealthTech Trust Seal Building Trust in Innovation



The HealthTech Trust Seal, managed by RHIA as Trustee Manager, sets rigorous standards for safety, quality, compliance, and accountability in digital health solutions. This national certification builds trust, protects users, and empowers local innovators.

6.

Women's Chapter



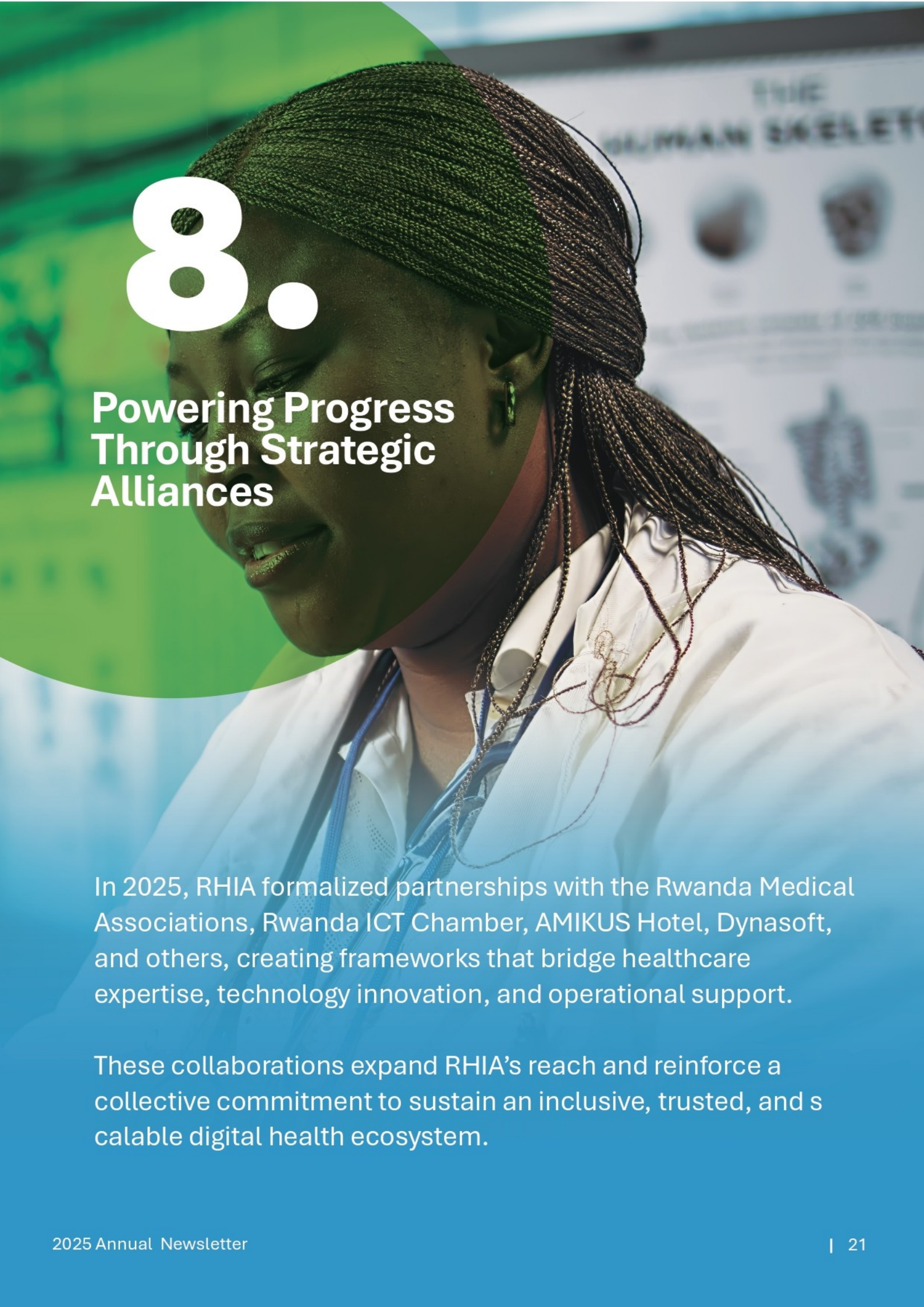
Dr Alice NSENGIYUMVA,
Leader of the Women's Chapter launched this year,
fosters gender equity by mentoring women to lead
digital health governance and innovation.

7.

Digital Health Champions

The Digital Health Champions Program trains frontline health workers and community advocates, enhancing digital literacy and bridging technology with users.

Together, these initiatives support Rwanda's goal to train 1,000 digital health professionals over five years, advancing an inclusive, trusted, and digitally empowered health ecosystem aligned with Vision 2050.



8.

Powering Progress Through Strategic Alliances

In 2025, RHIA formalized partnerships with the Rwanda Medical Associations, Rwanda ICT Chamber, AMIKUS Hotel, Dynasoft, and others, creating frameworks that bridge healthcare expertise, technology innovation, and operational support.

These collaborations expand RHIA's reach and reinforce a collective commitment to sustain an inclusive, trusted, and scalable digital health ecosystem.

9.

VISIT
OUR WEBSITE

www.allyassistgbv.org

AllyAssist



Toll-Free 8018

About AllyAssist

AllyAssist is a digital platform that connects and supports survivors of Gender-Based Violence (GBV), helping them find nearby health facilities offering post-GBV medical care nationwide.

What we offer



Find help to a nearby health facility.

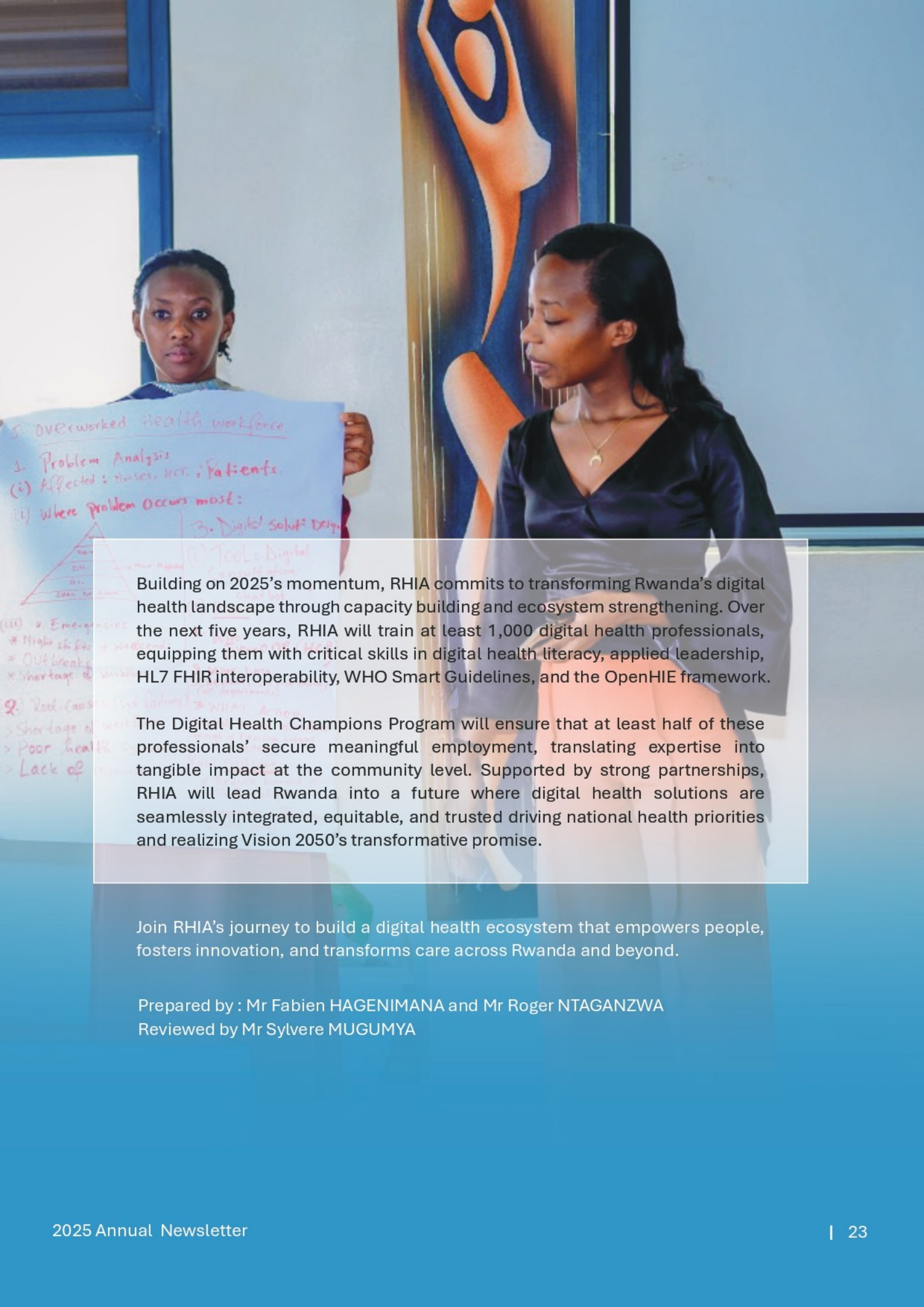


24/7 Toll-Free Support.

Safe & Trusted
Information on GBV.

www.allyassist.org/





Building on 2025's momentum, RHIA commits to transforming Rwanda's digital health landscape through capacity building and ecosystem strengthening. Over the next five years, RHIA will train at least 1,000 digital health professionals, equipping them with critical skills in digital health literacy, applied leadership, HL7 FHIR interoperability, WHO Smart Guidelines, and the OpenHIE framework.

The Digital Health Champions Program will ensure that at least half of these professionals' secure meaningful employment, translating expertise into tangible impact at the community level. Supported by strong partnerships, RHIA will lead Rwanda into a future where digital health solutions are seamlessly integrated, equitable, and trusted driving national health priorities and realizing Vision 2050's transformative promise.

Join RHIA's journey to build a digital health ecosystem that empowers people, fosters innovation, and transforms care across Rwanda and beyond.

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