Science – Leadership – Community

During COVID-19 preparedness and response in Rwanda

Dr Sabin Nsanzimana
Director General
University Teaching Hospital of Butare, Rwanda
Strategic Pillars and health security agenda

- **Prevent avoidable outbreaks** (Zoonotic diseases, waterborne diseases)
  - Real-time Surveillance
  - Workforce Development
  - Multisectoral Rapid Response

- **Detect threats early**

- **Respond rapidly and effectively**

Global health security agenda

Joint external evaluation

International Health regulation
Components of outbreak preparedness and management

**Public health early warning systems**
- Identify priority diseases that will be tracked
- Define data threshold to trigger and alert

**Ability to get better data**
- Good IT infrastructure with good visualization of data
- Integrates real time data and insights of geographical variabilities

**Ensure coordinated response and**
- Mapping of different stakeholders
- Develop regular meetings to share updates

**Escalate with practice protocol**
- Develop set of protocols to activate interventions
- Liaise with other stakeholders for interventions

**Continuous capacity building**
- Strengthen capacity through simulation and table top exercises
COVID-19 Coordination Structure (Decentralized and Integrated)

National Epidemic Preparedness & Response Coordination Committee (NEPRCC)

Expert Advisory Team
Partners coordination

National Command Post (NCP)
Provincial Command Post (PCP)
Provincial Technical Coordination

Epidemiology & response
- Epi surveillance
- Case Management & Infection Control
- Point of Entry Screening
- Surveillance & response
- Rapid Response Team
- Infection Prevention Control
- Isolation & treatment
- Laboratory
- Sample collection & transport
- Data science
- Data management

Administration, logistics & planning
- Transport
- Equipment & Materials
- Infrastructure
- Finance administration

Communication and public health enforcement
- Awareness & Community Engagement
- Security organs
- Local government

Sample collection & transport
Testing
Trust

Leadership

Science

Community
Science  Leadership  Community

Decisions

Evidence based

Trust

For community wellness
Rwanda Scientific Advisory Group (SAG) Established in February 2020

Meeting every Friday 3-5 pm
We don’t start **building trust** in the middle of the pandemic
Trend of new cases vs critical cases

Trend of new cases

Critical cases
Challenges and lessons learned from COVID19

- Need to leverage existing structures
- Adapt response based on specific challenges
- Rigorous use of data and technologies to guide decisions
- Strengthen decentralized structures to ensure comprehensive response at all levels
- Strengthen health systems as we control pandemics
Lessons Learnt: Investing in a resilient health system

- **Oxygen** production capacity increased 3 times
- Ongoing efforts for local **vaccine** production
Ground breaking of the mRNA manufacturing facility in Kigali.
Thank You