



NEWSLETTER

Executive director's note

My mother died bringing her ninth child into the world.

She died from postpartum hemorrhage, a complication that, with the right care, is survivable.

The baby died too. I grew up carrying that loss quietly, not fully understanding it as a child, but feeling its weight in everything I chose to do afterward. It is why I became a clinician. It is why I spent years working in maternal and newborn health. And it is, ultimately, why We for Health exists.

When the international organization where I had built my career closed its Rwanda programme, my colleagues and I faced a moment of decision. We had spent years building something: trust with communities, systems that worked, teams that cared deeply.

We did not want to see it end simply because a global organization had moved on. So we did what felt both obvious and audacious: we created a local NGO to continue the work ourselves.

That decision is We for Health.

This newsletter is our first, and I wanted to use it to be honest about where we come from, not just as an organization, but as people who chose this work because it is personal.

Every mother who reaches a health centre in time, every newborn who survives a complication, every health worker who now knows what to do, these are not programme outputs to me.

They are the answer to a loss I have carried my whole life.

Fiscal year 2025–2026 showed us what is possible. Antenatal care coverage rose from 44% to 56% in our supported districts. Neonatal mortality fell. Postpartum family planning uptake climbed.

Through the R3 Initiative, we transformed how Rwanda's cold chain infrastructure is maintained, nationally, sustainably, at a fraction of previous costs. And at our strategic retreat in Rubavu, we reaffirmed who we are and where we are going.

None of this happens without the people who believed in us: our staff, our Board, our partners, and our donors. We are a local organization, rooted in Rwanda, accountable to Rwanda. That is our greatest strength.

With gratitude and renewed purpose,



Dr. Assumpta Kayinamura Mwali
Executive Director, We for Health
(W4H)





PROGRAMME HIGHLIGHTS



RAPID RESPONSE AND REPAIR (R3) INITIATIVE RESULTS WORKSHOP

KIGALI: On 18–19 June 2026, national and international stakeholders gathered in Kigali for the R3 Results dissemination and sustainability Planning Workshop, organised by We for Health (W4H), Vanguard Economics, Rwanda Biomedical Centre(RBC), and Nexleaf Analytics, with support from Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance.

The workshop marked the official launch of the R3 Playbook, a practical guide covering the cold-chain equipment lifecycle from procurement to decommissioning. The R3 Initiative, a 14-month project, addressed systemic barriers to effective cold-chain maintenance and strengthened systems nationwide.

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

30
DISTRICTS &
237

HEALTH CENTRES
REACHED NATIONWIDE

617

HEALTHCARE
WORKERS TRAINED
ACROSS ALL 30
DISTRICTS

QR

NATIONAL COLD
CHAIN INVENTORY
DIGITISED INTO
COLDTRACE WITH QR
CODE TAGGING

R3

PLAYBOOK LAUNCHED:
FULL EQUIPMENT
LIFECYCLE GUIDE

“One pillar cannot hold the house alone. What we celebrate here is the harvest of collective effort.”

Dr. Mwali reminded participants of the collective nature of this success.

A key cultural shift was achieved, transitioning from reactive maintenance to proactive inspection and servicing. Workshop working groups developed a sustainability roadmap focused on four pillars: workforce capacity, institutional ownership, sustainable financing for spare parts, and data-driven decision-making through institutionalised monthly RTMD data reviews.

The R3 model now offers a replicable approach for strengthening immunisation infrastructure while building local technical capacity.



Faustin Gasaza in the R3 dissemination meeting

BEHIND THE R3 INITIATIVE

Working closely with the Rwanda Biomedical Centre, Nexleaf Analytics and district hospitals, Faustin ensured successful implementation and quality delivery. Driven by the belief that strong health systems save lives, He is motivated by practical solutions that improve service delivery, whether restoring critical cold-chain equipment or helping health workers use data for better decisions.

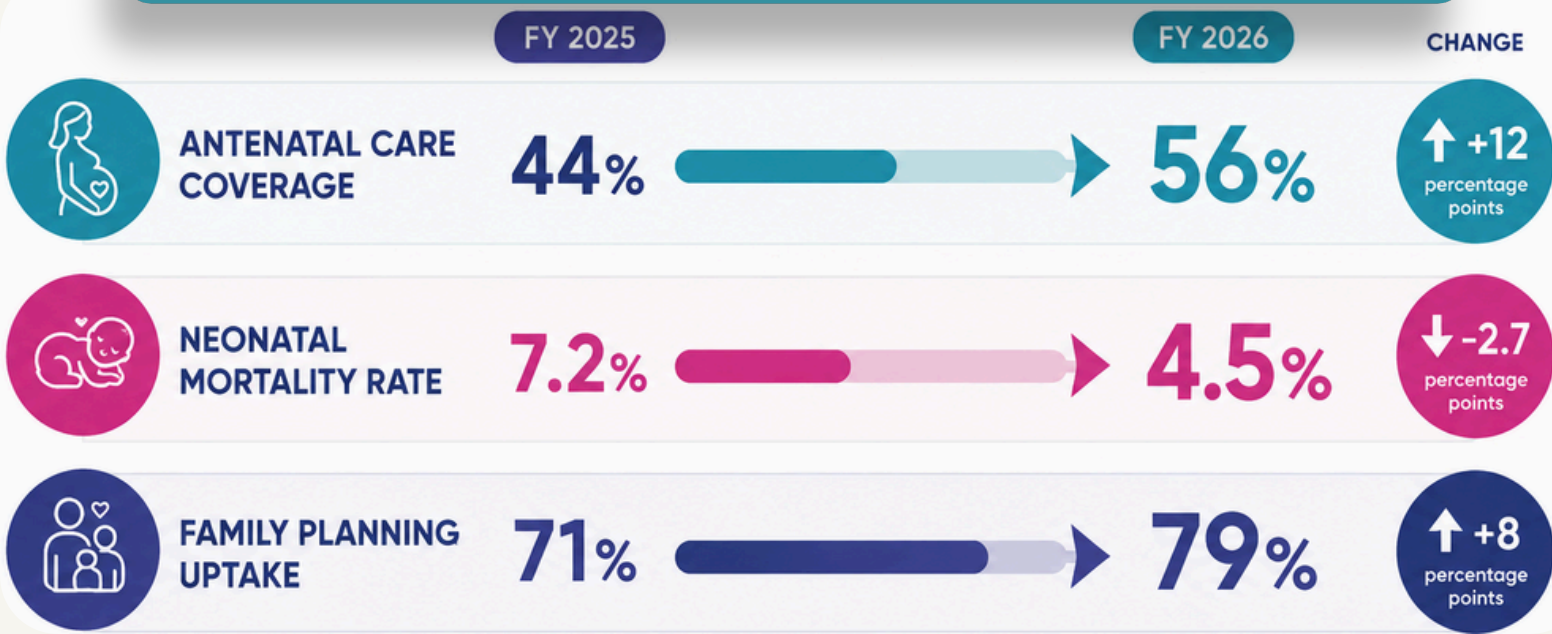


Neonatal mentorship in Nyarugenge District

THE TARGETED CLINICAL MENTORSHIP

Implemented in Nyarugenge District, the targeted clinical mentorship programme equips health workers with practical skills and ongoing support, ensuring mentorship responds to the real needs of providers and facilities. Building on this success, W4H expanded the model to Nyamata District Hospital, covering neonatology and infection prevention and control. Lessons from these pilots are informing a broader strategy to improve RMNCAH service quality.

In Fiscal Year 2025–2026, W4H used this flagship programme to address persistent gaps in
antenatal care coverage, high neonatal mortality, and limited postpartum family planning uptake. Thanks to structured mentorship, hands-on training and continuous follow-up, supported districts achieved tangible improvements in maternal and child health outcomes.





STRATEGIC PLANNING



Strategic planning Retreat, Rubavu

From 7–10 July 2026, W4H's Board and staff met at Kigufi Hotel, Rubavu, for a four-day strategic planning retreat under the theme *Strengthening Governance, Strategy, Impact, and Resilience for Sustainable Growth*.

The retreat combined work-plan reviews, team building, and technical planning aligned with national and district priorities.

Participants consolidated 11 priority areas to guide W4H's work: strategic planning; resource mobilization; monitoring and evaluation; advocacy and health-systems strengthening; digitalisation and mentorship; research; human resources; safeguarding; communication and knowledge management; and organisational learning.

Practical sessions translated situational analysis into concrete recommendations and project milestones.

Employee of the month: Benjamin Kulaaza recognised for outstanding professionalism and contributions to programme delivery.



Benjamin Kulaaza being recognised as Employee of the Month.

Key Outcomes of the retreat included:

- Continue positioning RMNCAH as W4H's core area of expertise while remaining flexible integrated approaches;
- Co-create RMNCAH e-learning resources to support continuous professional development;
- Prioritise operational and implementation research addressing organisational and national health priorities
- Digitise mentorship and supervision systems and pilot QR-enabled inventory in RMNCAH and supervision workflows.
- Strengthen communication, partnership and resource mobilisation.



COMMUNITY

A MESSAGE TO OUR COMMUNITY

If you are receiving this newsletter, you have been part of the **We for Health** journey in one way or another. Whether through your support, your time, your expertise, your generosity, or by helping spread the word, **you have contributed to the work we are able to accomplish.** Every step forward is made possible by a community that believes in better maternal and newborn health. **Thank you for being part of that community.** The journey continues.

If you would like to help us reach even more mothers, newborns, and families, consider making a donation today. Every contribution, whatever its size, helps us continue this vital work.

YOUR SUPPORT CAN HELP SAVE LIVES.

Donate today and help us make every second count.

DONATE

ABOUT US

We for Health (W4H) is a locally led Rwandan NGO focused on Reproductive, Maternal, Newborn, Child, and Adolescent Health (RMNCAH) and sustainable health-systems strengthening. Our core work includes capacity building through training and mentorship, improving quality of care, leveraging innovation and digitalisation, and fostering public-private partnerships.



VISION

Empower Rwandan communities to thrive by fostering improved health and wellbeing for men, women, newborns, children, adolescents, and young people for generations to come.



MISSION

Reinforce universal access to RMNCAH and youth health services through the implementation of innovative, evidence-based interventions, ensuring the inclusion of vulnerable populations.



GOAL

Reduce maternal, newborn, and child morbidity and mortality, improve reproductive health, and strengthen the wellbeing of adolescents and young people.