



Sustainability Report

2024



The Rwandan government has recently been at the forefront of implementing innovative measures to enhance both environmental sustainability and public health.

Recognising the severe impact of plastic pollution, Rwanda was among the first countries in the world to ban plastic bags in 2008, a move that significantly reduced environmental degradation and promoted the use of eco-friendly alternatives. This bold step was part of a broader strategy to foster a cleaner, greener country.

The Rwandan government has a progressive vision for health care development, allocating land for a health care city in Masaka, Kigali.

Here the Rwanda Heart Care and Research Foundation is under construction with the final stages of completion of the critical care unit.

Next door will be the relocation of the University Hospital of Kigali, IRCAD surgical Training Institute and the University of Global Health Equity.



To further engage its citizens in environmental stewardship, the government introduced a monthly initiative known as Umuganda, or community cleanup day.

On the last Saturday of each month, Rwandans across the country participate in local clean-up activities, fostering a sense of communal responsibility and unity while improving the cleanliness and aesthetics of their neighborhoods.

Additionally, Rwanda has instituted Car-Free Sundays every fortnight, dedicating Sunday mornings to mass sports and health education. This initiative encourages physical activity, reduces vehicular emissions, and promotes a healthier lifestyle among its citizens.

These events transform city streets into safe havens for walking, running, and cycling, creating a vibrant and health-conscious community atmosphere.

The Rwanda Heart Care and Research Foundation is in alignment with the government's vision for health promotion and preventative health care and has as one of its four pillars the promotion of healthy hearts and heart disease prevention.





In a groundbreaking move to enhance healthcare delivery while minimising environmental impact, Rwanda has adopted drone technology for delivering medical supplies to rural health facilities (Zipline).

This innovative approach not only speeds up the delivery of essential medicines and supplies but also reduces the carbon footprint associated with traditional transportation methods. By leveraging drones, Rwanda is able to provide timely medical care to remote areas, thereby improving health outcomes and reducing emissions simultaneously.

Together, these measures illustrate Rwanda's commitment to sustainability and public health, setting a global example of how proactive governance and community involvement can drive positive change.

The Rwanda Heart Care and Research Foundation is committed to reaching the rural poor suffering from neglected heart diseases, by collaborating with existing governmental and non-governmental health care organisations.



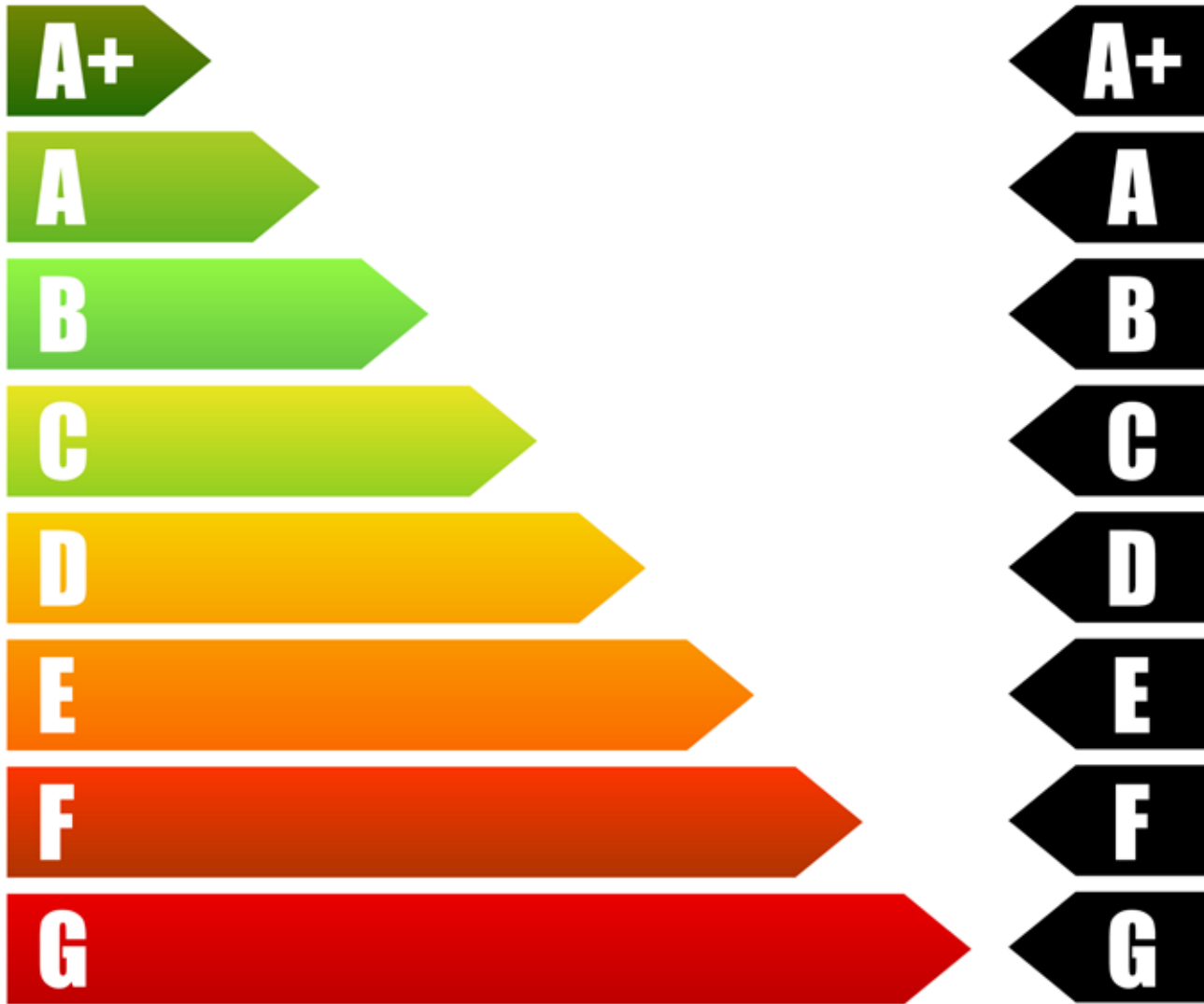
The Heart Foundation is committed to minimise its carbon and environmental footprint as climate change is already deleteriously impacting the health of the world's population.

Health care accounts for 5.2% of carbon emissions, being globally the fifth largest carbon emitter. To protect the health of the population and alleviate the burden of climate change aggravated respiratory diseases, the Heart Foundation has incorporated emission reducing elements in Scope 1 and Scope 2 emissions and has focused on environmental sustainability in constructing the hospital with the hospital contractor Orascom.

Scope 3 emissions will be evaluated through the supply chain to select providers who adhere to sustainability standards incorporated in the EU Supply Chain Act.

The terminology of scope 1, 2, and 3 was introduced in the Greenhouse Gas Protocol (GHG Protocol), which sets the standards for calculating GHG emissions all around the world. Virtually every corporate sustainability reporting programme in the world is based on the GHG Protocol.

Scope 1 covers direct emissions that a company generates while performing its activities, scope 2 covers indirect emissions from purchased energy, and scope 3 covers indirect emissions in the value chain.



Green Building Certification:

The Heart Foundation has met the national green building compliance and is working towards certification from LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design), which provides frameworks for assessing and recognising environmentally friendly building design and construction practices.



Monitoring and Performance Evaluation:

The hospital CEO has developed environmental and carbon emission performance indicators, including energy and water usage, energy efficiency, and waste generation by applying a green dashboard approach (can be provided on request).

This data is used to identify opportunities for improvement and optimisation of the building.



Energy efficiency:

The Rwanda Heart Care and Research Foundation is working with Flux Architects to incorporate energy efficiency by design features such as efficient HVAC systems, motion sensor LED-lighting, and renewable energy sources like solar panels with vigorous evaluation programmes. The hospital has incorporated into its design innovative passive ventilation systems to optimise building performance and reduce energy consumption. Measures have been taken to implement green operating theatres according to international accredited sustainability standards.



Water conservation:

Together with the construction company Orascom, the hospital has implemented water-saving measures on the building site including low-flow fixtures, rainwater harvesting systems, stormwater drainages, and water efficient landscaping to minimise water usage and promote conservation.



Waste management:

The Rwanda Heart Foundation has developed a comprehensive waste management plan to minimise waste, maximise recycling and reuse of materials. According to the green hospital monitoring and evaluation dashboard, regular waste audits will be incorporated into its programmatic approach. Prioritisation is given to recycled, reclaimed and local materials where possible.



Indoor air quality:

The design of the hospital incorporates ventilation systems that promote good indoor air quality by minimising pollutants and maximizing passive fresh air circulation. They have chosen high thermal mass materials to absorb excess heat and building materials and finishes with low volatile organic compound (VOC) emissions to enhance occupant health and comfort.



Healthcare specific considerations:

The hospital uses healthcare-specific sustainability measures such as designing for infection control, optimising patient flow to minimise energy usage, and incorporating features that support healing and wellness, such as access to natural light and outdoor views. The hospital is creating healthy spaces through a series of landscaped courtyards including herb and kitchen gardens, and a sheltered environment for patients and staff.



The use of green spaces, water features and landscaping aims to mitigate mental stress and speed up patient's recovery time after open heart surgery.



Materials:

The design of the hospital promotes the use of locally available materials in innovative ways. The construction company, Orascom empowers the local subcontractors through knowledge sharing and skills transfer.



Sustainable delivery:

The hospital collaborates with Zipline, Rwanda & CA, USA, and has earmarked a landing site to establish on-demand blood and medical supplies by drones in an environmentally friendly way.





Rendered design of Rwanda Heart Care and Research Foundation



The Rwanda Heart Care and Research Foundation is committed to the implementation of low carbon initiatives and compliance with the new environmental care quality standards for health care.

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The Rwanda Heart Care and Research Foundation is governed by the present Constitution and the Law no 04/2012 of 17/02/2012 governing the organisation and the functioning of national non-governmental organisations in Rwanda.