

FOREWORD

The Rwanda Health Sector Performance Report 2017-2019 summarizes the Rwanda Health Sector achievements at the end of the Health Sector Strategic Plan 2012-2018 (HSSP III) and touches on the first year of the new Health Sector Strategic Plan 2018-2024(HSS IV).

In fact, since the emergency and recovery period that followed the Genocide against Tutsi in 1994, Rwanda has implemented three Health Sector Strategic Plans, and tremendous achievements have been registered on almost all health indicators. Important investments that were put in the reorganization of the Health System have largely contributed to the impressive improvement of the Universal Health Coverage of the primary healthcare in Rwanda. Life expectancy has increased from 49 in 2000 to 67 years in 2018. Maternal and child health has improved significantly over the last two decades and exceeded Millennium Development Goals ambitions. Maternal mortality reduced by 80% between 2000 and 2014 while infant and child mortality decreased by over 70% in the same period.

The key drivers of these achievements include a visionary leadership, community participation and self-belief, hard work of citizens, and support of development partners. Rwanda's recent experience in the socioeconomic development in many sectors shows that the Country can no longer afford to be ranked among undeveloped and low income countries. This aspiration is well expressed in the Rwanda Vision 2050 which sets the roads to taking Rwandans to high living standards and high quality livelihoods by the middle of the 21st century.

For aspirations of the Rwanda Vision 2050 to materialize, important transformations will need to be implemented across all sectors and areas. To this effect, a National Strategy for Transformation (NST1) has been designed to inspire and drive all sectors till 2024, as well as to provide the foundation and vehicle towards Vision 2050 Goals. Drawing on lessons learnt from the implementation of HSSP III, the Ministry of Health developed the Health Sector Strategic Plan 2018-2024, in full alignment with the Vision 2050 aspirations and the NST1 Pillars. HSSP IV has been informed by global and regional development agendas Rwanda has committed to, especially the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The development of HSSP IV also considered the overall objective of the Rwanda Health Sector Policy and lays down priority areas that will be key to ensuring universal access to equitable and affordable quality health services. All proposed interventions stress the importance of people-centred, integrated and sustainable services. For the implementation of HSSP 4 and its sub-strategies to be successful, combined efforts from different stakeholders will be needed. I once again call upon all stakeholders from both Government and non-state actors involved to also align their interventions to the HSSP IV and its sub-strategies.

On this note, I would like to reiterate my special thanks to all health sector development partners and stakeholders for their support and contribution to the advancements welfare and wellbeing.

Dr. NGAMIJE M. Daniel
Minister of Health

