

RWANDA-EGYPT HEART CENTRE

October 2026

Mission Statement

The Rwandan Heart Care and Research Foundation is the first NGO hospital offering advanced, vital cardiovascular healthcare services free at entry to the people of Rwanda and its regions. Our mission is to offer high quality care to all.

Financial Model

The philanthropic model provides sponsored care, supported by voluntary donations from patients who can afford to contribute and the generosity of other donors. These contributions help cover the costs of surgery for resource poor families.

Drawing on the successful models of Aswan and Cairo Heart Centres, it combines charitable funding with cost-effective care delivery in Africa. The aim is to support long-term sustainability and access to lifesaving treatment, regardless of a patient's ability to pay.

www.rwandaheartcentre.org





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The Rwanda Heart Care and Research Foundation was created as a non-profit organisation in Kigali to build local capacity by providing vital cardiovascular services for the region.

Aims:

- To provide high quality, free of charge treatment for children and adults suffering from heart diseases.
- To enable access to care for all without any form of discrimination.
- To increase the prevention of correctable heart diseases.
- To train a generation of Rwandan cardiac professionals to the highest international standards.
- To expand critical research into neglected cardiac diseases affecting local peoples and to guide urgently needed prevention programmes.

The Rwanda Heart Care and Research Foundation is a Non-Governmental Organisation registered in Kigali

Registration No. 563/RGB/NGO/OC07/2019
Registration date: 22nd July 2019

> *"Medicine has the power to unite people across borders. Through partnership, knowledge sharing, and compassion, the Rwanda–Egypt Heart Centre will offer healing today while building sustainable cardiac care for the future."*
>
> Madame Radegonde Ndejuru
> Chairlady, Rwanda Heart Care and Research Foundation



Executive Summary

Cardiovascular diseases (CVD) are the leading cause of death globally. According to the World Health Organisation, more than 80% of CVD-related deaths occur in low-and middle-income countries, with Sub-Saharan Africa among the most affected regions (WHO Non-Communicable Diseases Data, 2018).

Rwanda, one of the fastest-growing economies in Sub-Saharan Africa, has made significant progress in strengthening its primary healthcare system. However, the country still faces a severe shortage of cardiologists to serve its population of approximately 13 million people.

Inspired by successful models such as the Aswan Heart Centre in southern Egypt and the Cardiac Centre in Addis Ababa, the Rwanda–Egypt Heart Centre will become Rwanda's first dedicated cardiac hospital. The centre will provide a comprehensive range of diagnostic and treatment services for both congenital and acquired heart diseases, offering care free of charge and ensuring equal access for all patients.

This humanitarian initiative involves the design and construction of a 12,000-square-meter cardiac teaching hospital in Kigali. Beyond delivering specialised cardiac care, the centre aims to become a regional hub for biomedical research, innovation, and education. Its mission is to train and empower a new generation of Rwandan doctors, nurses, scientists, and technicians.

The Rwanda–Egypt Heart Centre is developed in close partnership with the Rwandan Ministry of Health and operates under the patronage of Her Excellency the First Lady of Rwanda, Madame Jeanette Kagame.

The centre is owned, operated, and funded by the Heart Care and Research Foundation Rwanda (HCRFR), a registered Rwandan charity. HCRFR collaborates with a strong network of international partners, including the Magdi Yacoub Heart Foundation and Aswan Heart Centre, the Egyptian Agency of Partnership for Development, Chain of Hope UK, the Sawiris Foundation for Social Development, and Flux Architects.

A central guiding principle of the project is sustainable knowledge transfer. Through collaboration with international cardiac specialists, the centre will equip Rwandan healthcare professionals with the skills, expertise, and experience necessary to build long-term capacity and ensure sustainable cardiac care in the region.



"Ending the year with the start of a construction project, of the necessity and scale of MY Heart Centre, is a perfect bridge into the healthy future we want to embrace as a people."

HE Jeannette Kagame, First Lady of Rwanda

Update on the Progress of the Heart Centre - May 2026

Foundation Stone Laid by HE Jeannette Kagame First Lady of Rwanda	**29 December 2021**
Start Up Funds from inception to current date Sawiris Foundation	**10 Million USD**
Land at the Masaka Health City Donated by the Government of Rwanda	**4 hectares / 40,000 sqm**
Cardiac Equipment Donated by the Egyptian Ministry of Foreign Affairs / Egyptian Agency of Partnership for Development	**USD 6 Million**
Mechanico Electric Equipment Mechanical, Electrical and Plumbing (MEP) items. Donated by the Ministry of Health, Rwanda	**USD 6 Million**
Funding Gap (Phase 1) In construction and fit out for Phase 1 Critical Care	**USD 4 Million**
Main Building Structure by Orascom Construction	**Completed**
Projected Opening of the Hospital	**First Quarter of 2027**

Patronage of the First Lady of Rwanda

Rwanda Heart Care and Research Foundation was delighted when the First Lady of Rwanda, Her Excellency Mrs Jeannette Kagame agreed to become the Patron of the Heart charity. The First Lady came to the Laying of the Corner stone of the Hospital on December 29th 2021. Since then, the support of the First Lady has been of great support to the evolution of the hospital.



Aswan Heart Centre, Egypt



Cardiac Centre, Ethiopia



MY Global Heart Centre Cairo



Rwanda-Egypt Heart Centre, Rwanda

"The opening of the Rwanda–Egypt Heart Centre marks an important step toward addressing the growing burden of cardiovascular disease in Africa. By combining advanced treatment with education and research, this centre will help ensure that life-saving cardiac care becomes accessible to all"

Professor Sir Magdi Yacoub OM



For more information click here

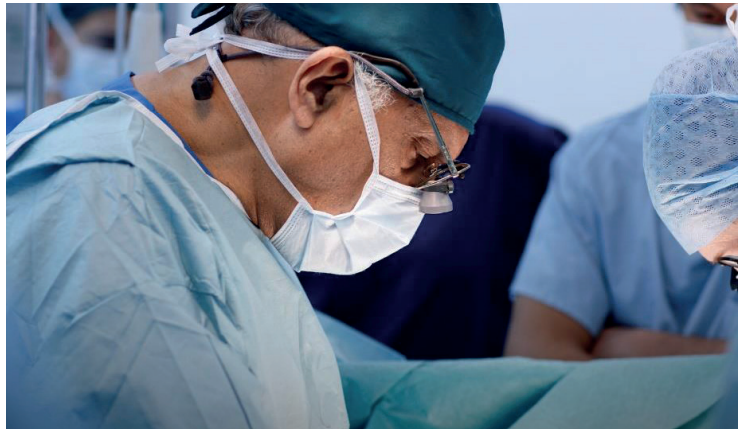
Developing Equitable Access to Cardiac Care

The evolving Heart Centre in Rwanda reflects the vision of Professor Sir Magdi Yacoub to expand high-quality cardiothoracic care to low-income and vulnerable communities across Africa.

This vision has led to the creation of leading cardiac centres across Africa, including the **Aswan Heart Centre** and the **Cardiac Centre Ethiopia** operating since 2009, collectively treating over 40,000 critical heart patients free of charge through the Philanthropy model.

Prof Sir Magdi Yacoub and Chain of Hope were also founding partners with La Chaine de L'Espoir in creating the **Instituto do Coração**, Mozambique's first Heart surgical Centre.

Building on these past successes, the **Magdi Yacoub Global Heart Centre** in Cairo and the new **Rwanda-Egypt Heart Centre** in Kigali will integrate clinical care, research, and training while significantly expanding treatment capacity to tackle the growing burden of cardiovascular disease.



Partners & Stakeholders

The Rwanda Heart Centre is modelled on the Aswan Heart Centre. Start-up funding has been provided by the Sawiris Foundation for Social Development, a key partner in the project. The design was led by Flux Architects, London, in collaboration with the Magdi Yacoub Heart Foundation.

Tender documents were prepared by Egyptian firm ECG, with Orascom Construction appointed as main contractor and Eeacon as local Architect of Record. The Rwandan government donated the land at Masaka Health City for the hospital.

The Rwanda Heart Care and Research Foundation works closely with the Rwandan Ministry of Health and the University of Rwanda to recruit and train staff at the high-volume Aswan Heart Centre, with the Chain of Hope sponsoring nurse and perfusion training programmes.

The Egyptian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, through the EAPD, is providing a large grant supplying the major medical equipment items for the Heart Hospital.

Rwanda Heart Care Research Foundation is grateful for the many partners and stakeholders working together to make the philanthropic heart centre a reality.





20 YEARS

SAWIRIS FOUNDATION

مؤسسة ساويرس

Sawiris Foundation

The Sawiris Foundation for Social Development is a founding partner of the Rwanda Heart Care and Research Foundation, providing start-up funding for Phase One of the hospital's construction. In addition to its financial support, the Sawiris Foundation has helped recruit other funding partners to advance the hospital's development.

The hospital is especially grateful to Mr Samih Sawiris, one of the directors of the Rwanda Heart Care and Research Foundation, for being the motor behind the start-up of this hospital, working in close collaboration with the teams on the ground.



Working in Partnership with the Rwandan Ministry of Health

Rwanda has focused on strengthening primary health care delivery through decentralisation of services, establishing a cadre of community health workers and development of community-based health insurance.

In alignment with the Rwandan Ministry of Health's four by four strategy of quadrupling the health workforce within the next four years, the Heart Centre is training a new generation of physicians, nurses, technicians, engineers, and scientists

The new Heart Centre aims to become a Centre of Excellence, providing hope and improving life chances for critically ill patients whilst reducing the mortality rate from cardiac diseases in the region.

Republic of Rwanda
Ministry of Health





Arab Republic of Egypt
Ministry of Foreign Affairs

EAPD
EGYPTIAN AGENCY
OF PARTNERSHIP
FOR DEVELOPMENT

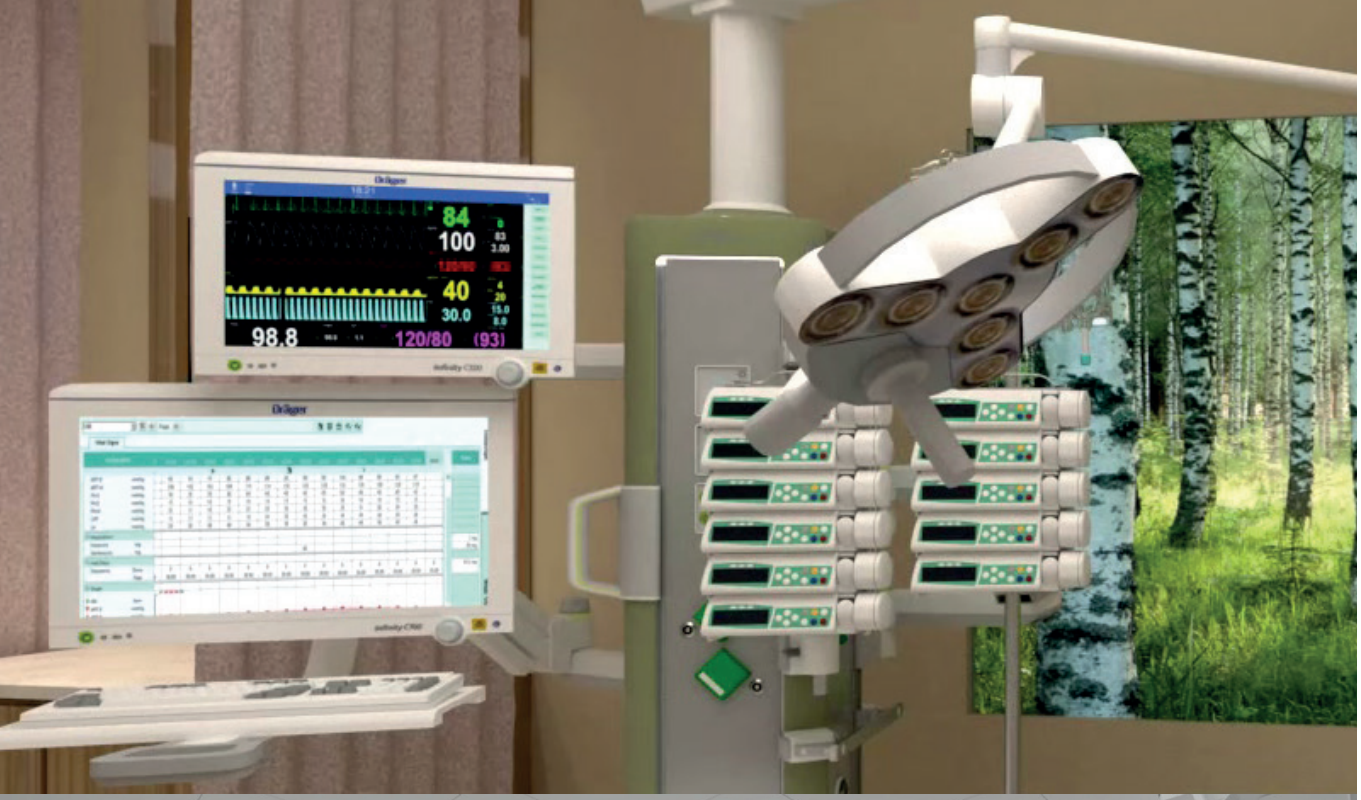
Bilateral aid for vital cardiac equipment donation

The Egyptian Agency of Partnership for Development (EAPD), established in 2014 under Egypt's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, promotes South–South cooperation across Africa through knowledge exchange, capacity building, and development partnerships.

Through a tripartite collaboration with the Rwandan Ministry of Health and the Rwanda Heart Care and Research Foundation, EAPD has provided a significant grant to support the provision of essential cardiac equipment for the Rwanda–Egypt Heart Centre.

Strong support from both governments is creating an enabling environment that fosters sustainable health development and enhances the delivery of vital cardiac services in response to the growing burden of cardiovascular disease.

For more information click here.





LIFE CARE TECHNOLOGY

A grant from the **Egyptian Agency of Partnership for Development (EAPD)**, the development arm of **Egypt's Ministry of Foreign Affairs**, is enabling the **Heart Care and Research Foundation** to equip **operating rooms, ICUs, and wards** with modern medical technology in collaboration with Lifecare Technology.

The equipment — including **patient monitors, ventilators, and critical care systems** from manufacturers such as Dräger — will expand access to high-quality surgical and critical care services for patients across Central and East Africa, supporting the development of healthcare capacity in the region.

SIEMENS Healthineers

Siemens Healthineers is collaborating with the **Egyptian Agency of Partnership for Development (EAPD)** to provide two **cardiac catheterisation laboratories (cath labs)** and a **MRI** for the **Heart Care and Research Foundation** at a philanthropic rate, supporting the opening of a new heart centre in Rwanda.

This builds on the company's earlier partnership with the **Magdi Yacoub Heart Foundation** at the **Aswan Heart Centre** and helps expand access to advanced cardiac diagnostics and treatment in underserved regions.



Flux
ARCHITECTS

Flux Architects

The Concept design of the Rwanda Heart Centre was done by Julia Backhaus, Founder of Flux Architects in the UK on a pro bono basis. Julia is also an Associate Professor and Director of External Engagement at the Bartlett School of Architecture, University College London.

Julia is on the Board of Directors of the Rwanda Heart Care and Research Foundation and represents the Board on construction related matters, working closely with Orascom and EEACON on the daily construction of the hospital.

The hospital design promotes innovative and sustainable building methods, including passive cooling, locally sourced building materials and the integration of renewable energy sources.

Orascom Construction

Rwanda Heart Care and Research Foundation are working with Orascom Construction PLC as the main contractor for the hospital construction.

Orascom Construction as the main contractor for the Rwanda Heart Care and Research Foundation are working at cost (no profit) and on an open-book basis. Orascom started the concrete skeleton works in Jan 2023 and successfully completed it in March 2024, aligning and minimising costs with the nature and vision of the project. Orascom has also played a key role in the re-engineering and design detailing of the project and this lead to having optimised design-saving efforts, time and cost. Orascom has greatly relied on local labor, subcontractors and local materials to enhance the local economy by creating job opportunities and also to make sure that the knowledge and Construction experience is transfered to the local market in Rwanda.

EAACON

EEACON was assigned by the Heart Care and Research Foundation to work as the Local Consultant for the construction of the hospital. EEACON is a registered company in Rwanda since 2011 with a team of experienced teams of consultants, architects, administrators, MEP engineers, structural engineers and quantity surveyors.





The Heart Care and Research Foundation - Rwanda
Rwanda - Egypt Heart Centre

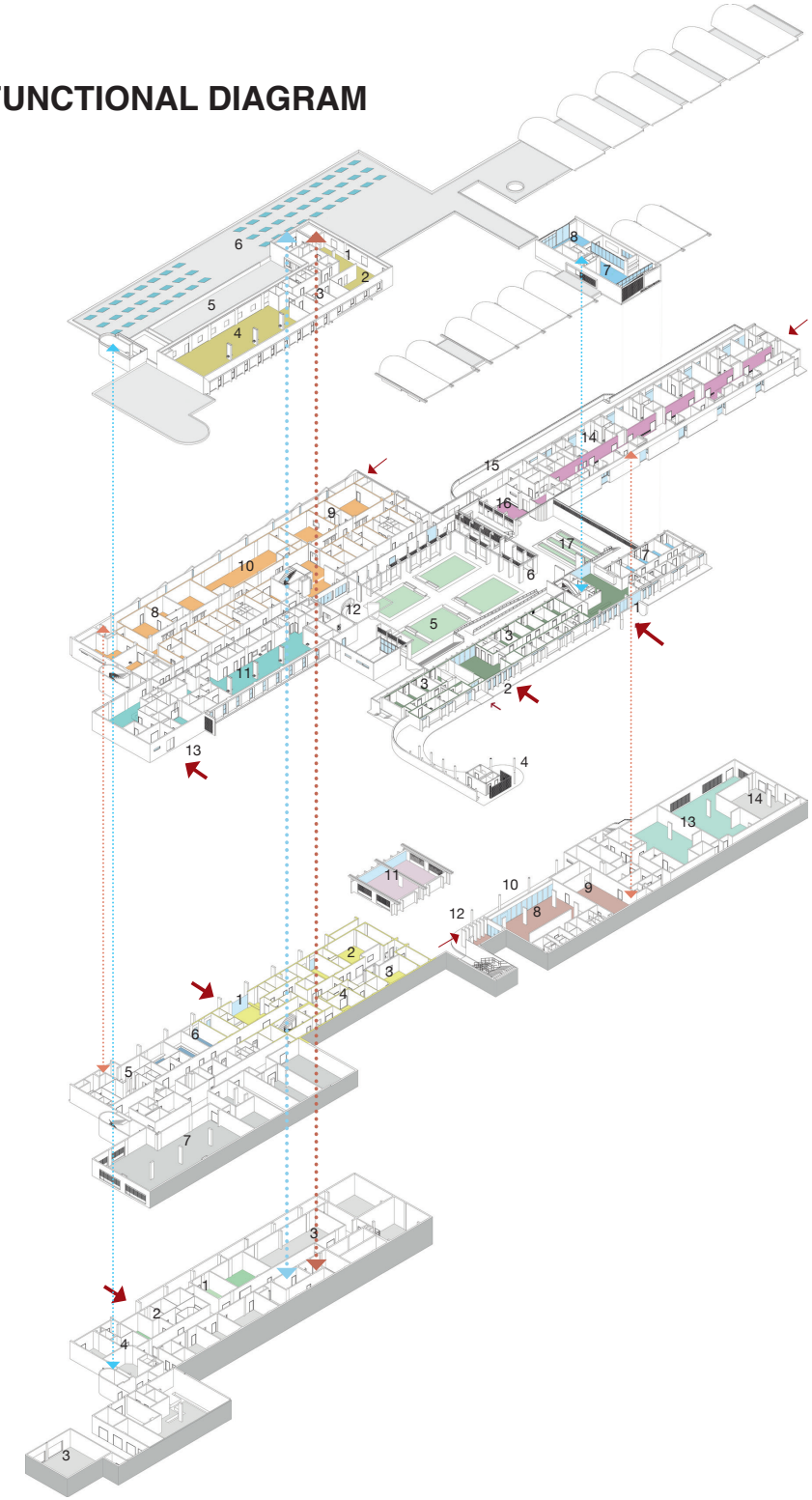
Hospital Facilities:

- Total beds: 61 (Inpatient ward, Critical Care and Progressive care)
- 2 operating theatres and ancillary facilities
- 2 Cardiac catheterisation units
- 1 MRI
- Research Labs
- Outpatient area
- Pharmacy / Laboratory
- Healing Garden

International Cardiac Missions

International medical specialists from the Chain of Hope, Aswan Heart Centre and other international Centres of excellence have committed to sending cardiac teaching missions throughout the year for the Heart Centre to act as a Training hub for the region.

FUNCTIONAL DIAGRAM



First Floor

Research Department

1 Lobby/ Waiting
2 Seminar room
3 Doctor offices/ admin offices
- Kitchenette
4 Research Labs (Phase2)
- Ancillary Facilities
5 Outdoor Terrace
6 Solar Farm

Administration

7 Open plan office
- Kitchenette
8 Seminar room

Ground Floor

Outpatient Department

1 Main Entrance/ Reception
2 Outpatients Entrance/ Reception
3 Outpatient Department
- Consultation
- Offices
- ECG/Holter/ Echo
- Phlebotomist
- X-Ray
- Satellite Pharmacy
- Crèche
- Staff Changing
- Ancillary Facilities
4 Outpatient Cafe
- Outdoor Waiting area
5 Tropical Courtyard
6 Boulevard
7 Administration

Acute Department

8 Operation Theatres x 2
- Anaesthesia
- Offices
- Lab
- Perfusion
- Staff Change
- Equipment Storage
- Ancillary Facilities
9 Cath Labs x 2
- Reception/waiting
- Anaesthesia
- Offices
- Staff Change
- Ancillary Facilities
10 Progressive Care

Acute Department

11 ICU
- Reception
- ICU beds
- Isolation rooms
- Doctor on Call
- Staff Change
- Prof Office
- Ancillary Facilities
12 Outdoor Waiting
13 Entrance Ambulance

Inpatient Department

14 Patient Ward
- Reception/ Waiting
- Nursing Station
- Isolation Rooms x 2
- Patient Rooms
- Offices
- Satellite Kitchen
- Staff Change
- Equipment Storage
- Ancillary Facilities
15 Terrace
16 Outdoor Waiting
17 Kitchen Garden

Lower Ground Floor

Imaging Department

1 Entrance/ Waiting
2 CT Scan (Phase 2)
3 MRI (Phase 2)
4 X-Ray (Phase 2)
- Consultation
- Offices
- Ancillary Facilities

CSSD/Bloodbank

5 CSSD
- Ancillary Facilities
- Soiled & Clean Elevator
6 Blood Bank
- Consultation
- Offices
- Ancillary Facilities
7 Plant room

Staff Canteen

8 Dining Hall
- Ancillary Facilities
9 Main Kitchen
- Ancillary Facilities
10 Outdoor Seating
11 Chapel/ Seminar
12 Staff entrance

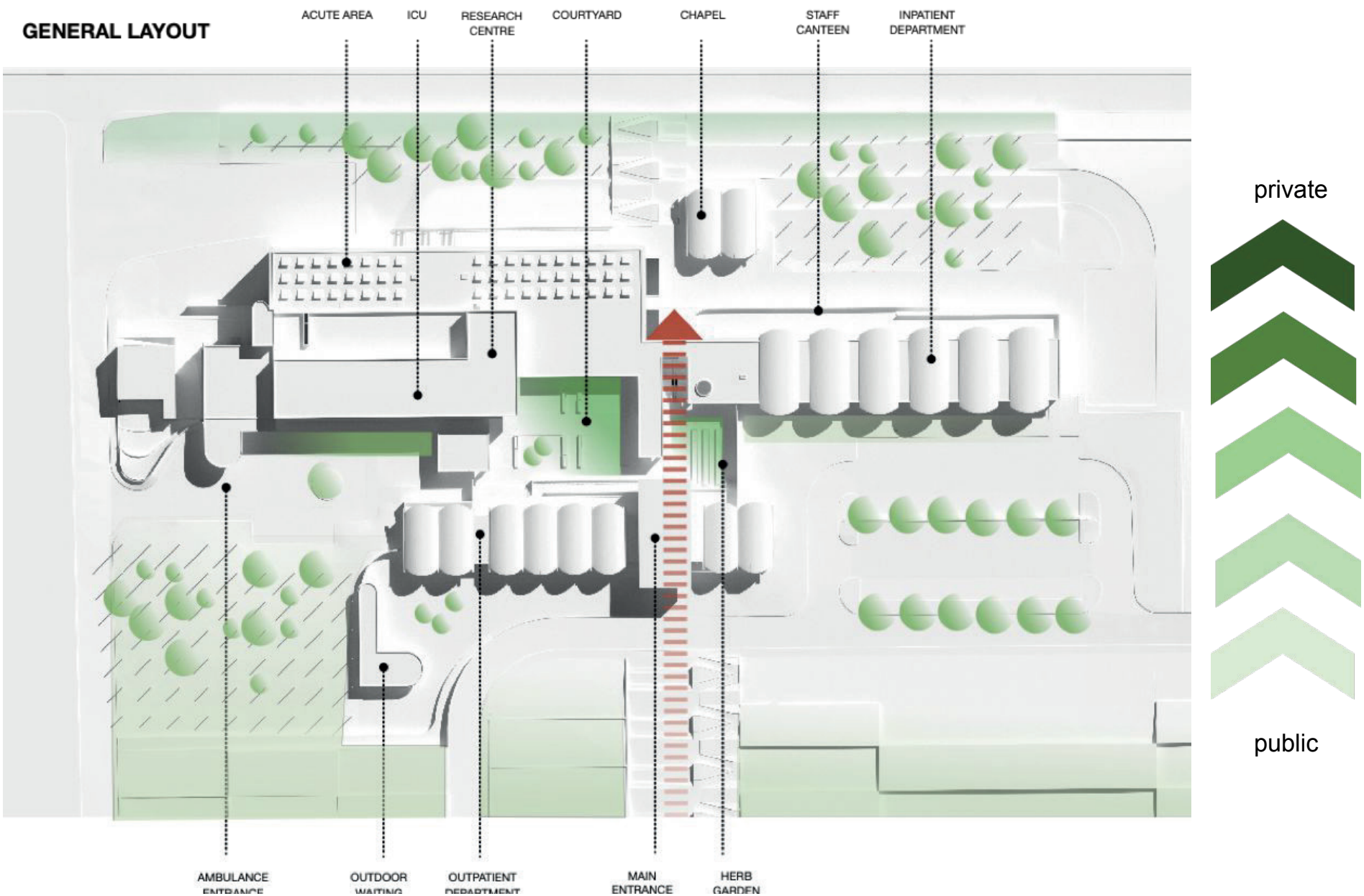
Laundry

13 Laundry
- Ancillary Facilities
14 Plant room

Basement Level

1 Pharmacy
2 Body Keeping
3 Plant Area
4 Waste Department

Rwanda Heart Care and Research Foundation Building Layout





Environmental Sustainability

- The Rwanda Heart Centre is committed to environmental sustainability in its hospital construction, working closely with Orascom Construction.
- The project has met national green building standards and is pursuing **LEED certification** (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) to recognise its environmentally friendly design and construction.
- Water conservation is a key focus, with measures including **low-flow fixtures, rainwater harvesting, stormwater drainage systems, and water-efficient landscaping** to minimise water use and promote long-term sustainability.
- The Rwanda Heart Centre is committed to promoting **sustainable healthcare** through the planned installation of solar energy systems. This initiative forms part of the Centre's long-term **Net Zero strategy** and aims to reduce carbon emissions while improving energy resilience and operational sustainability. The project is being developed in accordance with international **Green Hospital sustainability principles** and in alignment with the environmental priorities of the Government of Rwanda.



Building Healthy, Healing Spaces

The design of the Rwanda Heart Centre prioritises **health, wellbeing, and environmental sustainability**. Passive design features, promote natural ventilation and minimise energy demand.

By integrating **therapeutic gardens and natural vistas**, the hospital fosters calmer, more restorative settings that support patient recovery, improve mood, and enhance wellbeing for patients, staff and visitors alike.

> *"Research shows that patients with views of natural green spaces often experience shorter hospital stays and reduced pain medication use compared with those without nature views, demonstrating the restorative power of the natural environment. "*
>
> Source: Centre for Construction Best Practice



CHAIN OF HOPE
mending little hearts

Chain of Hope is a founding partner

Chain of Hope is supporting the start-up of the Rwanda Heart Centre by providing crucial manpower and mentorship across key areas including medical expertise, biomedical engineering, project management, and fundraising. The organisation is also raising funds to provide essential intensive care equipment, including paediatric ventilators, which are vital to supporting the Centre's critical care programmes.

The medical charity has also sponsored ten nurses and three perfusionists to train at the Aswan Heart Centre.



The BRITISH UNIVERSITY IN EGYPT

Advancing Cardiac Nursing Capacity

In 2026 ten Rwandan nurses successfully completed Master's degree training in Egypt, forming the first cohort trained at the Aswan Heart Centre through the British University in Egypt. The programme combined postgraduate academic study with advanced clinical placements.

The training was supported by Chain of Hope. The organisation provided full sponsorship, covering tuition, clinical training, travel, accommodation, stipends, and professional uniforms,

During the programme, different nurses undertook specialised training in operating room scrub nursing, cardiac catheterisation laboratory nursing, and cardiac ward nursing, with a focus on perioperative care, post-operative recovery, rehabilitation, and continuity of care.

Following the success of this inaugural cohort, a second group of nurses is planned for recruitment in 2026 through collaboration between the Rwandan Ministry of Health and the Rwanda Heart Care and Research Foundation, supporting the continued development of Rwanda's specialist cardiac workforce.



Perfusion Fellowship Training – A Historic First Cohort

In 2024, three Rwandan perfusionists began a two-year Fellowship in Egypt, marking the first time non-Egyptian candidates have been admitted to this highly regarded programme.

This Fellowship is academically equivalent to Master's-level training and provides comprehensive theoretical education, advanced clinical practice, and hands-on experience in cardiopulmonary bypass and extracorporeal life support.

The trainees are undertaking their Fellowship at the Aswan Heart Centre, gaining exposure to complex adult and paediatric cardiac surgery, mechanical circulatory support, and advanced perfusion technologies.

Upon completion, these Fellows will return to the Rwanda–Egypt Heart Centre and contribute to training the next generation of specialists.

This historic first cohort not only represents a milestone for Rwanda's cardiovascular services but also strengthens the regional collaboration between Rwanda and Egypt in developing sustainable, high-quality cardiac care.

Aswan Heart Centre, Egypt

Cardiology Training – University of Rwanda External Rotation at Aswan Heart Centre

Rwanda–Egypt Heart Centre supports cardiology specialisation through the University of Rwanda External Rotation Programme. Through placements at Aswan Heart Centre, Rwandan trainees gain exposure to high-volume, complex cardiovascular cases in a world-class clinical setting, with training aligned to University of Rwanda logbooks and competency standards.

Cardiologists have already begun placements, gaining hands-on experience in advanced diagnostics, interventional cardiology, heart failure management, cardiac imaging, and multidisciplinary case discussions. Additional trainees will begin rotations in 2026 and 2027, reinforcing a long-term commitment to strengthening Rwanda's cardiovascular workforce and expanding access to specialised cardiac care in support of the Ministry of Health's 4x4 programme.



University of Rwanda delegation at the Aswan Heart Centre - 2026

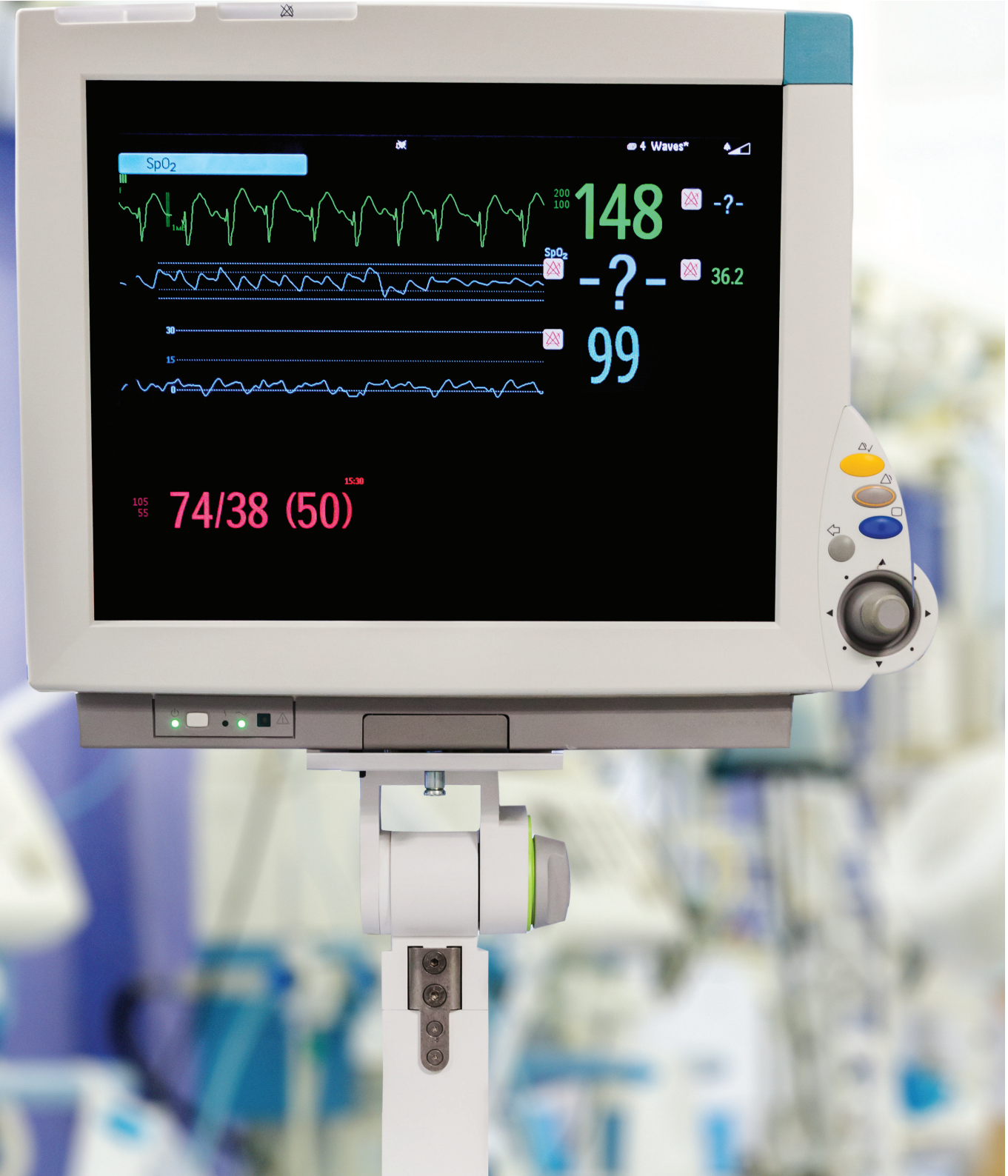
Kigali March 2026











Who We Are

Members Of The Foundation

Madame Radegonde Ndejuru, Chair
Professor Sir Magdi Yacoub OM, Vice Chair
Professor William Wijns, Vice Chair
Ms Christelle Muvunyi, Treasurer
Mr Samih Sawiris
Ms Julia Backhaus
Mr Kamel Saleh
Professor David Bradley
Professor John Deanfield
Mr Hany Azer
Professor Karen Sliwa-Hahne
Dr Emmanuel Rusingiza Kamanzi
Professor Thor Sundt

Executive Team

Mr David Kamanda, COO
Lisa Yacoub, Programme Manager
Mr Anathole Ndikubwimana, Senior Accountant
Dr Gavin Wright (Ex-officio)

Advisors

Ms Zeina Tawakol, Advisor
Ms Helena Beshay, Financial Advisor
Mr Said Hanafi, Legal Advisor
PM Mr Serge Telle, Advisor
Ms Magdalena Gatzinska, Advisor
Fredrick St Goar, Advisor
Reem Abdelhamid-Gazzaz Advisor

Training Board Sub-Committee

Dr Hatem Hosney
Dr Ahmed Afifi
Dr Ahmed El Guindy
Dr Matthias Angres
Mr Mahmoud Abdelhay
Mr Said Hanafi


Rendered
Actual
Flux
ARCHITECTS

“Abantu ni magara.”

“People are what keep us well/alive.”



‘People helping one another can bring an elephant into the house’

Rwandan Proverb

Contact and Further Information:

David Kamanda
COO, Rwanda Heart Care and Research Foundation
Masaka Health City, Kigali, Rwanda
+250 788 354 050
david.kamanda@rwandaheartcentre.org

Lisa Yacoub
Chain of Hope Rwanda Programme Manager
+44 (0)7887 875 614
lisa@chainofhope.org

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