

Dear readers,



It is my pleasure to introduce the latest issue of the Rwanda Public Health Bulletin (RPHB), highlighting the trauma and crises experienced during the commemoration period of the 1994 genocide against Tutsi. The 1994 genocide against Tutsi is a stark reminder of the depths of human suffering. Twenty-nine years have passed since those harrowing 100 dark days that forever impacted Rwandans, and the scars are still visible, both physically and psychologically, as survivors grapple with the aftermath of unimaginable violence, loss, and horrors.

In this publication, the RPHB reflects the multidimensional nature of the complex dynamics of trauma and crises that continue to affect individuals, families, and communities during the commemoration period. The articles within this issue offer insights into the emotional crisis and trauma cases in the commemoration period, contributing factors, coping strategies, and interventions for mitigation. They also highlight perceptions toward trauma problems and crises among victims, health service professionals, family, and friends. These articles provide valuable perspectives on the psychological impact of the genocide, the long-term effects on mental health, and the challenges survivors face in rebuilding their lives. The survivors exhibited remarkable resilience and strength through their collective healing journeys and have emerged as beacons of hope, guiding us toward a peaceful future and reconciliation.

Other topics published in this issue also focus on the survival of preterm newborns, antimicrobial resistance, and knowledge and practice toward COVID-19 prevention. This publication serves as a testament to the importance of acknowledging and understanding the long-lasting effects of the 1994 genocide against Tutsi and calls for action to provide the necessary support, resources, and interventions to address the ongoing psychological needs of survivors and their communities. This issue is also a valuable resource for all those working to improve healthcare in Rwanda and inspire new strategies and initiatives to address the public health problems presented in the articles.

I would like to thank all authors for considering the RPHB and our readers for their continued interest in the RPHB. I am confident that the insights and recommendations presented in this issue will significantly impact efforts to promote Rwandans' health now and in the future.

Sincerely,

The seal of the Rwanda Biomedical Center, featuring a circular emblem with a central figure holding a staff and a snake, surrounded by the text 'RWANDA BIOMEDICAL CENTER' and 'Rwanda Biomedical Center'.

Prof. Claude Mambo Muvunyi, MB, PhD
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