



COVID-19 Africa Rapid Grant Fund

Reporting Guidelines, Schedule and Process

INTRODUCTION

With the intention to support Africa's response to COVID-19 and under the auspices of the SGCI, the NRF South Africa, IDRC, Sida, DFID, United Kingdom Research and Innovation (UKRI) through the Newton Fund, South Africa's Department of Science and Innovation (DSI), Fonds de Recherche du Québec (FRQ), SGCI participating councils, and additional partners have collaborated to implement the COVID-19 Africa Rapid Grant Fund (CARGF) to address research questions and implement science engagement activities associated with COVID-19. As a recipient of this Fund, you are required to submit an annual technical and financial report of the progress made against the proposal which was submitted in applying for a grant for this fund. **All reports are to be submitted every year by no later than 31 August.**

TECHNICAL REPORTING GUIDELINES

1. The report should be a maximum of 15 pages
2. The CARGF logo as indicated above and provided should appear on the front page. Additional logos, as appropriate may appear under the CARGF logo.

Part I: General Information

Title of Project: Science and Technology engagement: Supporting public understanding of cutting-edge information surrounding SARS Cov-2 and COVID-19	
Principal Investigator Title, Name and Surname: Dr. Daisy Umufoni PhD	
UID Number: 133588	
Institution: HEALTHEDU LTD	
Country: RWANDA	
Call Strand: Science Journalism	
Reporting Period: 1st June – 31st AUGUST 2021	Date: 31st August 2021

Part II: Technical Report

1. <u>PROJECT EXECUTIVE SUMMARY</u>
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The COVID-19 pandemic period has been paralleled by information overload described by the WHO as an “infodemic”. A big chunk of this information has been unreliable and false, coming from self-appointed experts and quickly shared through various online platforms. This can lead to panic and misinformed decisions that can counter the efforts being made to eradicate COVID-19. Lack of reliable information can also limit public involvement and their role in creating innovative solutions.

HeathEdu is a Rwanda-based but internationally operating company whose mission is to bring cutting edge knowledge to Health Care Providers, and through them to the public. With great support from the National Research Foundation, South Africa (NRF) through funding, HealthEdu is working to support governments in the East African region to bring COVID-19 factual and timely knowledge to their communities through mainly a web-based approach but uses other platforms as the environment allows and as will be discussed in detail in this report.

HealthEdu has used an already existing online platform to provide reliable COVID-19- related facts through a periodic Knowledge digest. A frequently asked questions (FAQS) and answers page have been set up and updated monthly according to COVID-19 knowledge updates and the questions of our audience. HealthEdu experts will take turns in researching relevant factual information, digesting it and summarizing it in a way that is understandable to the layman.

The aims for this project are to engage the public, especially hard-to-reach communities, through live radio and television interviews covering public health specialists, scientists, researchers, activists and other relevant experts. Members of the public will have opportunities to call in and ask questions. These interviews will be accomplished through our local partners namely: A) Rwanda Broadcasting Agency (RBA), hosting the national television and radio and is found on world famous DSTV and Canal+; B) The New Times Rwanda (TNT), a popular national newspaper; and D) The East African, a well-known regional newspaper (partnership under negotiation).

Secondly, HealthEdu is making adjustments of the web-application and build an online collaborative platform where scientists, medical doctors, public health and ICT experts can help to verify information that may be shared with the public by journalists.

Activities including development and dissemination of articles have been done. Healthcare providers have been able to attend COVID-19 Training. Video production has been done and covered the journalists' testimony coverage and Mr. Private Kamanzi has been able to moderate.

There is evidence that information shared with reached the solution about COVID-19 in the East African Community. The organization remains ready to carry out different activities within this project.

2. PROJECT OBJECTIVES

1: HealthEdu, will use an already existing online platform to provide reliable COVID-19- related facts through a weekly Knowledge digest. A frequently asked questions (FAQS) and answers page will be set up and updated monthly according to COVID-19 knowledge updates and the questions of our audience. HealthEdu experts will take turns in researching relevant factual information, digesting it and summarizing it in a way that is understandable to the layman.

Aim 2: Engage the public, especially hard-to-reach communities, through live radio and television interviews covering public health specialists, scientists, researchers, activists and other relevant experts. Members of the public will have opportunities to call in and ask questions. These interviews will be accomplished through our local partners namely: A) Rwanda Broadcasting Agency (RBA), hosting the national television and radio and is found on world famous DSTV and Canal+; B) The New Times Rwanda (TNT), a popular national newspaper; and D) The East African, a well-known regional newspaper (partnership under negotiation).

Aim 3: HealthEdu will build an online collaborative platform where scientists, medical doctors, public health and ICT experts can help to verify information that may be shared with the public by journalists. Due to the race to find treatments or solutions for the COVID-19 pandemic, a lot of articles are published without being peer-reviewed and some have to be retracted within days of being published. These erroneous articles could be read and relayed to the public by science journalists and other communicators before the journal publishers retract them. The journalists (TNT, RBA and the East African) will also provide insights to HealthEdu members on how to better communicate their knowledge to the layman.

3. SPECIFY ANY CHANGES TO THE ABOVE PROJECT OBJECTIVES

In implementing the activities within the project, Challenges were not recorded.

4. Progress and outputs (highlight special achievements aligned to each project objective as indicated in accepted proposal)

The first objectives being that HealthEdu, will use an already existing online platform to provide reliable COVID-19- related facts through a weekly Knowledge digest. HealthEdu has been able to provide training for Healthcare Providers. 4 Course deliverables will be shared with

The second objective was to engage the public, especially hard-to-reach communities, through live radio and television interviews covering public health specialists, scientists, researchers, activists and other relevant experts. The public has been engagement on the activity of Finalizing the EAHF Conference.

Thirdly, HealthEdu will build an online collaborative platform where scientists, medical doctors, public health and ICT experts can help to verify information that may be shared with the public by journalists. The system has been created to make sure the discussion was fixed.

5. ROLE OF FEMALES IN THE FAMILY

Indicate how the project has mainstreamed gender in its implementation

The organization mainstreamed gender in its implementation because HealthEdu's staff is 80% are female and among 100% of the presenters only 20% are male, local committee and consultants.

6. OUTPUTS AND DISSEMINATION

6.1. ACTIVITIES

6.1.1. ARTICLES ON COVID-19: The articles are being produced on a monthly rather than a weekly basis, to allow for quality information production and also time to gauge the public questions and needs in order to adjust what is delivered.

6.1.1.1. ARTICLE 1: COVID-19 VARIANTS DEMYSTIFIED BY DR. DAISY UMUTONI PHD

The article talks about COVID-19 Variants, mutations and their implications, COVID-19 Vaccines. It also elaborated what the public can do to protect themselves against variants. *More about the Article can be found online.*

6.1.1.2. ARTICLE 2: THE RISE OF MISINFORMATION IN THE AGE OF COVID-19 BY JULIUS BIZIMUNGU

Julius Bizimungu is a professional journalist whose article elaborated on how information has been availed during this COVID-19 Pandemic, also, on the proliferation of fake news and its rise in Rwanda following the first case of COVID-19. *More about the Article can be found online.*

6.1.1.3. THE ROLE OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE IN REINFORCING OTHER PREVENTIVE MEASURES FOR COVID-19 IN RWANDA BY JEAN DAMASCENE BIGIRIMANA

The article focuses on the role of artificial intelligence in availing information and resources to prevent the spread of COVID-19. It elaborates how Rwanda used drones, robots to measure body temperatures, the use of Bluetooth technology in contact tracing. *More about the Article can be found online*

6.1.2. WORKSHOPS ON COVID-19

In Keeping with Aim 2 to avail knowledge to hard-to-reach communities, HealthEdu has utilized different specialists in its network and has done 4 main workshops around COVID-19. These workshops were prepared to equip journalists who are public influencers as well as, healthcare providers that have plenty of opportunities to communicate with the public; with the hope that their knowledge will be passed on to hard-to-reach communities. In addition, the workshop led to a television interview between one of the trainee journalists and a HealthEdu expert (detailed later below). In the project future, HealthEdu will pursue opportunities for radio interviews/shows that can also increase knowledge sharing to the hard-to reach communities.

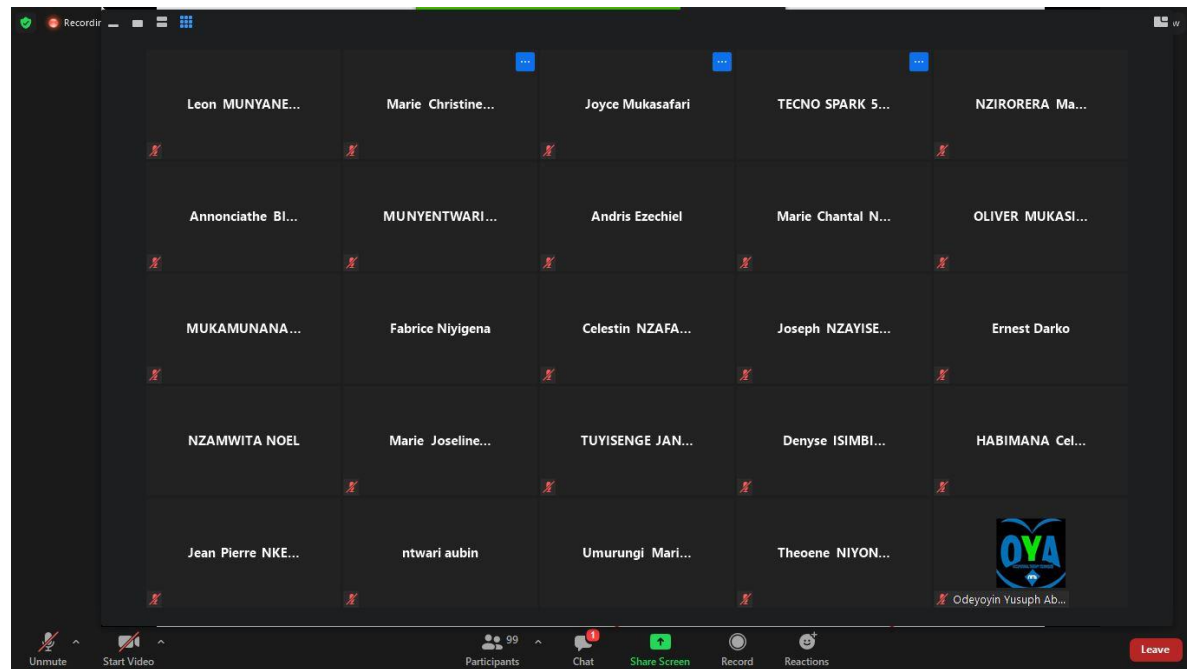
The workshops carried out are described below in detail.

6.1.2.1. OCCUPATIONAL WORKPLACE SAFETY FOR HEALTH PROFESSIONALS IN THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

This workshop was done on 26th June 2021 online using Zoom and the Presenter was Noel Korukire, a PhD Candidate and acting Chairman of Rwanda Allied Health Professions Council (RAHPC), the

moderator for the Workshop was Allen Mutoni Mirembe. The workshop was prepared from 2nd June 2021 where the following were done:

- Design of posters
- Invitation through E-mail, SMS, social media
- Supporting participants via Calls and other social media platforms



This was a very interactive event in which **143 participants** enjoyed the contents and discussions. Thereafter, about **453 viewed** the course on our YouTube channel. The workshop was also live on YouTube through this link: **https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=J_VbxSiAxe8&t=17s**



Noel Korukire PhD Cand.,

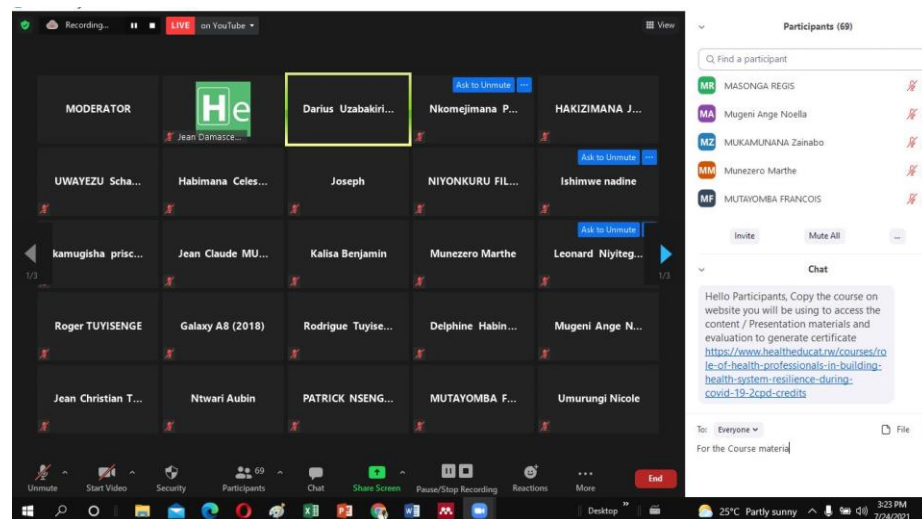
Lecturer at the University of Rwanda

Chairman of Rwanda Allied Health Professions Council.

6.1.2.2. THE ROLE OF HEALTH PROFESSIONALS IN BUILDING RESILIENCE IN THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

This workshop was done on 24th July 2021 online using Zoom and the Presenter was Darius Uzabakiriho, a Ministry of Health Official, and Allen Mutoni Mirembe as the moderator. The workshop was prepared from 7th July 2021 where the following was done:

- Design of posters
- Invitation through E-mail, SMS, social media
- Supporting participants via Calls and other social media platforms



Participants went up to **95 single participants**. The workshop was accredited by the RAHPC and the Rwanda National Pharmacy Council.

The link for the workshop is: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=f40KvjTf6q0>



Darius Uzabakiriho

Pharmacy Expert

Working for the Ministry

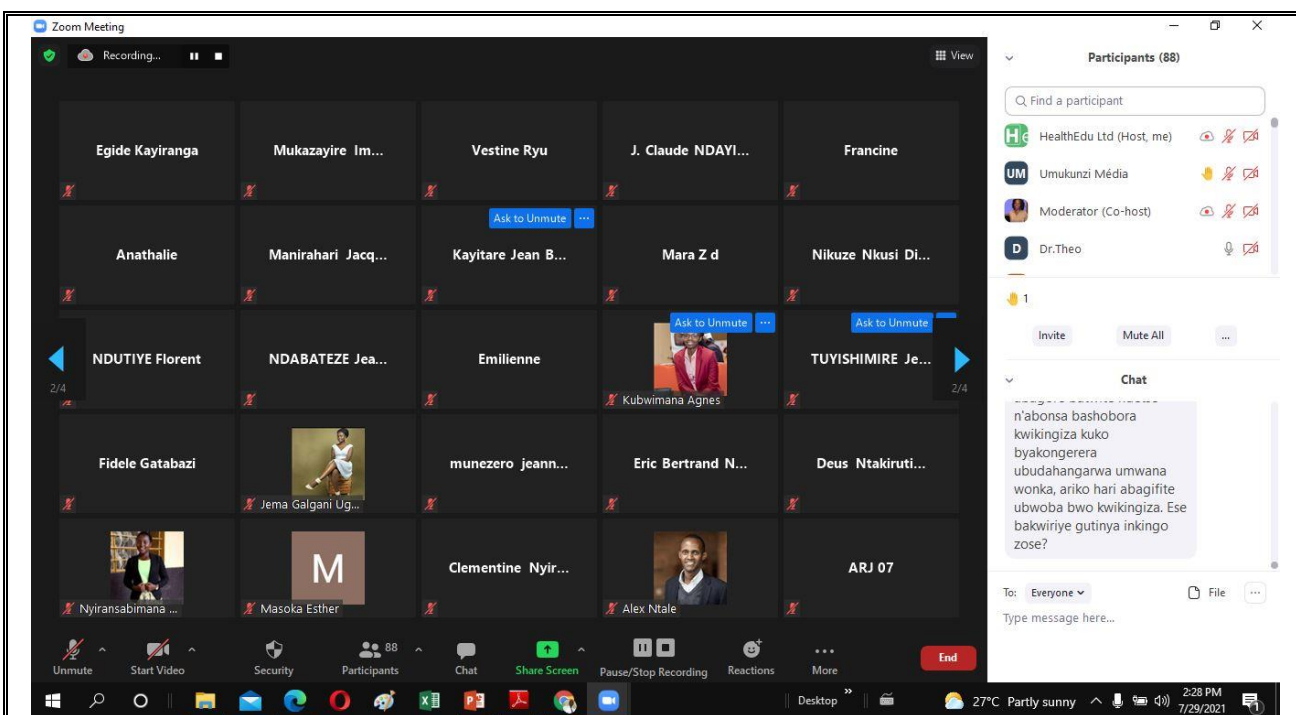
6.1.2.3. WORKSHOP FOR JOURNALIST ON- COVID-19 EVIDENCE-BASED PACKAGES

This event was conducted in collaboration with the Association of Rwandan Journalists (ARJ) and the Association of Rwandan Female Journalists (ARFJ). The collaboration with the ARJ and ARFJ gave HealthEdu access to journalists' contacts. A call was launched asking journalists to register for the event. More than 113 registered but, some were not compliant to participant requirements and were excluded.

Only 79 journalists who were compliant, were facilitated to attend the workshop. The workshop was planned from 28th to 30th July 2021, it lasted for 3 days and 11 topics were presented. The following are the presenters/speakers for each topic from day 1 to day 3.

DAY 1			
S/N	NAME OF SPEAKER	TOPIC PRESENTED	
1	Dr. Uri MBONYE PhD	Up-to-Date info on COVID-19 Worldwide	
2	Dr. Felix MANIRAKIZA	Introduction and background on COVID-19	
3	Dr. SIMBA Calliope AKINTIJE	COVID-19: A to Z of Pathophysiology	Case of COVID-19
DAY 2			

1	Dr. Theoneste MANIRAGABA	Diagnosis & Medical treatment of COVID-19	
2	Dr. Leilla MUKARUZIMA PhD	COVID-19: Physiotherapy Treatment	
3	Mr. MUGABE Christian	Contact tracing for COVID-19	
4	Mr. Alex NTARE	The role of ICT in the management of COVID-19	
DAY 3			
1	Dr. Ivan RUKUNDO	COVID-19 Mutations: Characteristics and Clinics	
2	Dr. Evarist NTAGANDA	COVID-19: The role of Nutrition in prevention and Management	
3	Mr. Private KAMANZI	COVID-19: The role of Nutrition in Prevention and Management	
4	Dr. Daisy UMUTONI	Vaccines, Types and Efficacy	
<p>Attendance: On Day 1, about 126 journalists joined the application and 101 managed to attend full time. On Day 2, 101 joined and 89 attended full time. On the last day (Day 3), 104 joined the application and 84 stayed to the end.</p> <p>Some failed to attend the entire time, because, they had a weak internet connection which was complicated by the lockdown as they could not relocate to access a better connection.</p> <p>HealthEdu was able to certify 89 journalists who attended 75 to 100 per cent of the total duration of the workshop.</p>			



The ARJ's Executive Secretary, has in his remarks highlighted that, the role of this workshop will support journalists reporting on COVID-19 to have evidence-based information for themselves and to in turn share it with the public via radio, newspapers and Television and online platforms. Trainers in this workshop included experienced experts residing in different countries:

1. Rwanda:

Dr. Theonetse Maniragara (Working for Rwanda Cancer Center), **Dr. Leila Mukaruzima PhD** (working for the University of Rwanda), **Dr. Evarist Ntaganda PhD** Candidate (Working for the Division of Non Communicable Diseases of the Rwanda Biomedical Center (RBC)), **Mr. Alex Ntare** (The Chief Executive Officer of Rwanda ICT Chamber), **Mr. Private Kamanzi** (a Professional Nutritionist working to Amazon Nutrition Cabinet), **Mr. Mugabe Christian** (A Clinical Medical Officer who worked for Command Post of COVID-19 Management), **Dr. Daisy Umutohi PhD** (Principal Investigator).

2. Japan

Dr. Calliope Simba AKINTIJE PhD, a Medical Doctor working in Japan, **Dr. Felix Manirakiza a Pathologist and PhD Candidate** based in Japan.

3. United States of America

Dr. Uri Mbonye PhD a seasoned Researcher at Case Western Reserve University in the USA.

4. Tanzania

Dr. Ivan Rukundo an Interventional Radiology Fellow at the Muhimbili University of Health and Allied Sciences in Tanzania.

Below is the poster with all instructors for the above workshop.



This event was successful and the Journalists who attended the workshop wished it to be a periodic event to give them timely evidence-based information on COVID-19. It is evident that the public has and will continue to benefited a lot from this workshop

Link of the Workshop are as follow:

Day 1: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aDk_Equzgxl&t=841s

Day 2: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=X6jrLMH412E&t=243s>

Day 3: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Lbm5tjFJIH4&t=724s>

6.1.2.4. UP-TO-DATE CALL FOR HEALTHCARE PROVIDERS: MUTATIONS, VACCINES AND BURNOUT MANAGEMENT IN COVID-19 PANDEMIC

SARS-CoV-2 the virus that causes COVID-19, has mutated into new variants which complicates stopping the spread and treatment of affected individuals. The devastating impact of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic on public health, the economy, and society has made vaccine development a top priority for global health. Thus, vaccine development is progressing at an unprecedented pace as an urgent response to COVID-19. Several COVID-19 vaccines have been approved and in use globally, 3 of which are being rolled out in Rwanda.

Healthcare Providers (HCPs) have been subjected to working in a stressful environment due to the high risk of getting infected and working many hours to support people affected by COVID-19. This has led to burn out and ill mental health of the (HCPs).

The objectives of the workshop were to equip participants with cutting edge understanding about COVID-19, its variants, vaccines and HCPs' burnout as a result of COVID-19.

169 HCPs including: Medical Doctors, nurses, Allied Health Professionals and Pharmacists attended this workshop. The Presenters were as follow:



HealthEdu NRF National Research Foundation

Healthedultd

"UP-TO-DATE CALL FOR HEALTHCARE PROVIDERS ON COVID-19 MUTATIONS VACCINES & HEALTH PROVIDERS' BURNOUT."

join online

Facilitators>> **Uri MBONYE, PhD** | **Aline UWASE, PhD (cand)** | **Daisy UMUTONI, PhD**

TRAINING SESSION

**Aug 21st, 2021
2h00-4h00 P.M**

PLATFORM: zoom

Moderator:
Allen MUTONI
Coordinator:
J.D BIGIRIMANA

2 CPD CREDITS

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REGISTER NOW

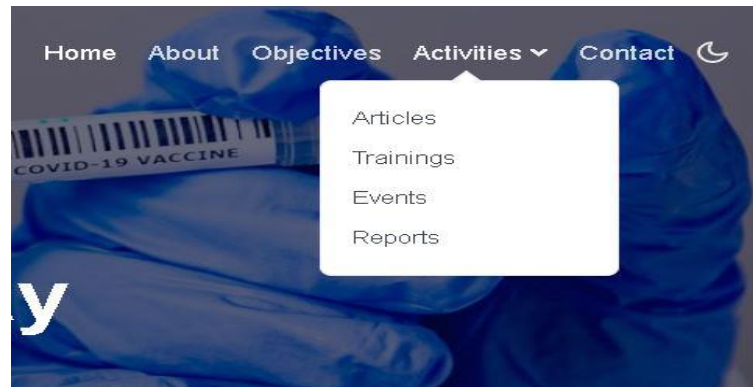
When asked if they gained additional knowledge from this workshop, 100% of the participants responded that they did and about 89.1% reported that the registration process at the workshop was smooth, allowing them to access materials. Finally, 82.8% of HCPs appreciated the support given by the HealthEdu team during and after the workshop. Link to the Workshop: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zxdc_3rmyVs

6.1.3. MAINTENANCE AND WEBSITE UPDATES

To support the activities of Aim 1 and Aim 3; a page for the dissemination of, a well-developed web platform has been set up to accommodate the information being shared with the public and between experts (See image below).



The webpages include options to allow HealthEdu to share articles, training information, summary of reports, and various COVID-19 related activities.



The team of HealthEdu Ltd is working hard to upload all the content onto the application.

Link to the Webpage: <https://healthduhub.com/>

6.1.4. PROJECT VIDEO PRODUCTION

6.1.4.1. JOURNALISTS VIDEO SHOT

HealthEdu Ltd has managed to produce a video on the Workshop done for journalists and the trainings done for HCPs. Three (3) journalists who actively participated in the workshop for journalists have were invited to attend the video shoot whose purpose is to encourage and engage the public in continuing to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

6.1.4.2. FAMILY TV SHOW ON NUTRITIONAL MANAGEMENT FOR COVID-19 AND MANAGEMENT

One of the journalists that attended our workshop and covers health content on Family TV (Rwanda), contacted HealthEdu to request for one of the workshop trainers to participate in an interactive live show on Family TV.



#family

Umurwayi wa covid-19 n'iyihe ndyo ikwiye yafata/Rinda ubuzima

HealthEdu contacted Mr. Private Kamanzi, A Professional Nutritionist who accepted the invitation and delivered insights on 'nutrition prior to COVID-19 and what can be used to boost the immunity after recovering or while having COVID-19. Link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Au7ocHS07S0>

7. INDICATE HOW THE PROJECT HAS CONTRIBUTED TO COVID-19 RESPONSE (PROJECT'S IMPACT, AND SIGNIFICANT CHANGES WITNESSED AS A RESULT OF PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION)

The project had significantly contributed to COVID-19 Response as its supported in availing information on COVID-19, trained Journalists and Healthcare Providers who will in return go and train their colleagues. With the pandemic, people were restricted to conduct face to face training sessions and the online platforms were the choice.

With this project continuing training of Healthcare Providers and journalists and this enabled them to access evidence based information.

8. INDICATE HOW THE PROJECT HAS LEVERAGED OPPORTUNITIES, NETWORKS, OTHER PROJECTS AND PARTNERSHIPS IN ITS IMPLEMENTATION

This project has created a network of healthcare providers from in the region and in partnership with different actors in health, organization of short courses and this was an opportunity for many professionals who were left behind due to COVID-19.

9. REFLECT ON PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION RISKS AND MITIGATION

In implementing this project, we had a serious wave of COVID-19 and in Rwanda, we were forced to all go to the second lockdown. Restriction in movement posed a problem and we have solved

it as with Contacts gathering needs to be done early. The use of communication skills and provided skills as well.

10. THE NRF WOULD APPRECIATE BRIEF COMMENTS ON YOUR VIEW OF HOW THE OVERSIGHT, MANAGEMENT AND ADMINISTRATION OF THIS PROJECT FUNDING HAS FUNCTIONED

We appreciate the RNF Team to have engaged HealthEdu to carrying out this project. The Administration side, it was well done and the funding processes was as agreed. This is to be appreciated.

11. FINANCIAL REPORTING SUMMARY

The funds received were representing the first instalments of the grant (40%) and was \$ 7,767.8 (Seven Thousand, Seven Hundred and Sixty-Seven US Dollars. Running expenses utilized \$ 6,838.54 (Six Thousand, Eight hundred and Thirty-Eight Francs as per 31st August 2021. The balance un-utilised of about Nine Hundred and Twenty-Nine USD Dollars.

12. LIST OF ANNEXURES

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Au7ochS07S0>

Link of the Workshop are as follow:

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Day 2: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=X6jrLMH412E&t=243s>

Day 3: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Lbm5tjFJIH4&t=724s>

Note: Items 1 to 12 should be limited to a maximum of 15 pages. Additional annexures can be provided to augment the technical report.

FINANCIAL REPORTING GUIDELINES

The financial reporting template is attached in Appendix 1. Please ensure that your financial reporting template corresponds with the correct strand i.e. 1) *research*; 2) *science engagement - call to science and health journalists and communicators*; and 2) *science engagement - call to science advisers*.