

Description

The Impact of COVID-19 on Rwanda's student midwives

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Since the 2nd of January 2020, the World Health Organisation (WHO) has been working to respond to the worldwide

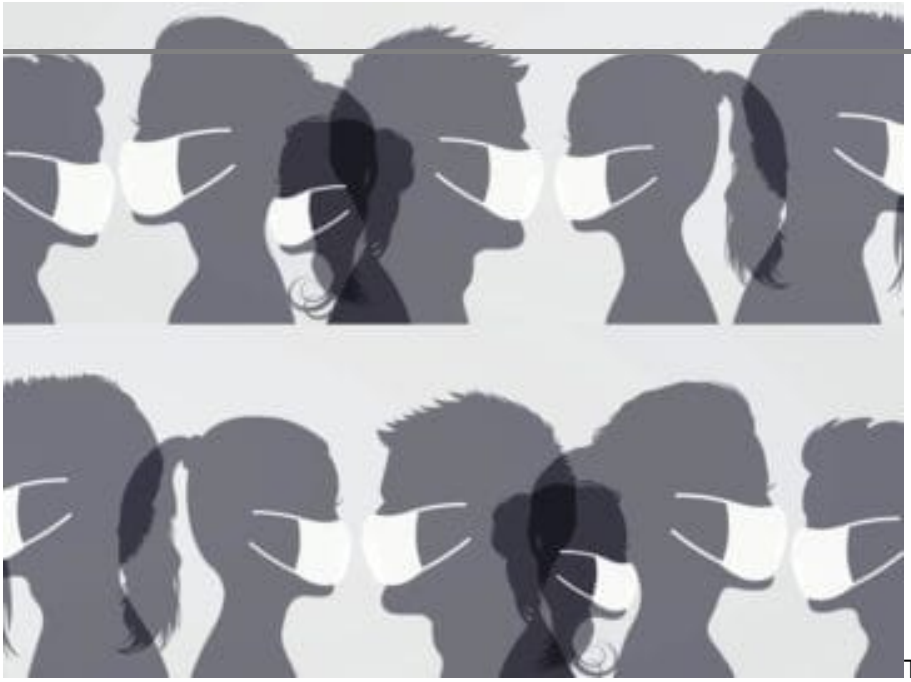
outbreak of COVID-19, and on the 30th of January, WHO declared the outbreak a Public Health Emergency of International Concern (PHEIC). On the 11th of March, the WHO Director General characterised COVID-19 as a pandemic.



On the 14th of March 2020 the Ministry of Health of Rwanda reported the country's first case of COVID-19. President Paul Kagame of the Republic of Rwanda advised Rwandans to remain calm and focus on simple but effective measures that were and remain key to keeping each other safe: "As the world faces the COVID19 pandemic, our thoughts and prayers are with the victims, families and their loved ones. We wish strength to the health workers on the frontlines and quick recovery to all patients".

The Rwandan President said: "As always, we will overcome these difficult times through solidarity and working together. This will require the discipline Rwandans have always shown in confronting challenges and getting good results", and the Head of State thanked the Director General of the World Health Organization and his team for their leadership in these trying times. In that context, all schools and universities closed and students midwives returned to their homes and discontinued their studies. This period was particularly disruptive because most student midwives had been ready to start clinical placements in hospitals and the community.

Raising Awareness

The Rwanda Midwifery Students

Association (RMSA) had planned different activities and events to bring the community together, all of which had to be postponed because of the pandemic. These activities included celebrating the International Day of the Midwife 2020 and other planned events. Although it was not easy to adapt to these changes in such a short period of time, our university put a huge amount of effort into helping students to convert to studying online, so that we could re-commence teaching and learning. RMSA has begun undertaking activities such as raising awareness in the community about the signs and symptoms of COVID-19 and we are choosing to stay positive and continue our virtual learning.

Category

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