

Press Release  
Kigali  
Rwanda

10<sup>th</sup> January 2018

**The Rwandan government partners with babyl to deliver the first ever fully digital healthcare service in East Africa using artificial intelligence.**

The Government of Rwanda has made remarkable progress in improving the delivery of quality healthcare to the Nation as it is one of the few pioneering countries globally with Universal Health coverage for all.

babyl is delighted to announce it has partnered with the Rwandan Government to deliver affordable and accessible healthcare to the population of Rwanda.

The Memorandum Of Understanding with the Ministry of Health and the agreement signed with the Rwanda Social Security Board (RSSB) means babyl's digital service will be available across Rwanda.

Rwanda becomes a beacon in East Africa using the most advanced health technology and artificial intelligence and making it available to the population.

babyl launched its digital health service in Rwanda in 2016 and is already delivering accessible healthcare to 750,000 Rwandans. This cutting edge technology can be used anywhere, meaning people don't have to make long trips to their nearest clinic or wait in long queues for doctors. Prescriptions can also be sent to the patient's phone and dispensed at a pharmacy partnering with babyl.

By partnering with babyl, this service gives Rwandan's access to high quality healthcare through their mobile phones, including cutting edge artificial intelligence symptom checking and live telephone consultations with trained nurses and doctors.

babyl's Artificial Intelligence tool "Chatbot" is a way to take the power of a doctor's brain and put it on a mobile phone for medical advice and triage. The possibilities to improve healthcare at every level of the healthcare system become endless.

***Dr Diane Gashumba, Minister of Health for Rwanda said:***

"Thanks to the visionary leadership of His Excellency, President Paul Kagame, Rwanda has been at the forefront of using advancements in ICT to provide better public services for its citizens. Rwanda was the first country in the world to see drones take flight to deliver blood products supplies to health facilities. Now the Government of Rwanda is embracing cutting edge technology by partnering with babyl to ensure that every Rwandan who needs healthcare can access it.

***Tracey McNeil, CEO of babyl said:***

“We live in a world where over 50% of the population has little or no access to healthcare yet increasingly, most of us carry a mobile phone in our pocket. babyl’s mission is to harness technology to put accessible and affordable healthcare in the hands of every Rwandan. Our partnership with the Rwandan Government shows what’s possible. I am proud that this partnership means Rwanda is one of the first countries to offer its entire population accessible healthcare wherever and whenever they need it. It’s a model that I hope can be used to make good healthcare more accessible around the world.”

To register, patients should dial \*811# from their phone and follow the simple instructions to register and book an appointment. The babyl service will call the user back and proceed to take them through the medical consultation process.

Should medicine be required, the babyl doctor will send the prescription to the user who can then use their Mutuelle or RAMA scheme to collect their medicine from the pharmacy.

The babyl service will also include prescribing laboratory tests for Mutuelle and RAMA insurance scheme holders from any approved facility.

babyl doctors are licensed by the Rwanda Medical Council. They have been individually selected and trained to guarantee babyl’s high standards of patient care.

This project is made possible by funding from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. For further information, visit [www.babyl.rw](http://www.babyl.rw).

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NOTE TO JOURNALISTS: The babyl brand is always spelt with lower case ‘b’ even when at the start of a sentence.