

SELECTION REPORT FOR DOCTORAL SCHOLARSHIP UNDER THE SHARP PROJECT

Date: 5th July 2025

1. Background

The University of Rwanda, through the College of Medicine and Health Sciences (CMHS), issued a call for applications for a doctoral scholarship under the SHARP (Shaping Health Packages and Researching Priorities) Project. This initiative is funded by the UK's National Institute for Health and Care Research (NIHR) and aims to support Universal Health Coverage (UHC) in low- and middle-income countries by improving the design and implementation of Health Benefit Packages (HBPs).

The SHARP project specifically seeks to address challenges such as limited availability of high-quality local data, insufficient community and stakeholder engagement, and implementation constraints within health and political systems. Rwanda and Kenya were selected as case countries, with the broader aim of influencing HBP design and reform across the African continent. The project involves a consortium of international and regional academic institutions and health agencies, with the University of Rwanda as a key implementing partner.

To support capacity strengthening and ensure the availability of high-level expertise in this field, the SHARP project is funding a doctoral research position in Rwanda. Following the call for applications, a selection process was undertaken to identify a suitable candidate who meets the eligibility and merit criteria.

2. Selection Process

Applications were reviewed based on predefined and weighted criteria as outlined in the call:

1. Relevant experience in health benefit package (HBP) design (more than 2 years) – 40 percent
2. Participation in theoretical training (short courses) or authorship of a publication on HBP – 35 percent
3. Demonstrated experience working with institutions involved in HBP design (such as Rwanda Biomedical Center or Rwanda Social Security Board) – 10 percent
4. Holding a Master's degree in Public Health or a related field – 5 percent
5. Being a Rwandan citizen working in a sector directly collaborating with the University of Rwanda/CMHS/SPH on HBP development – 10 percent

A total of 16 applicants who applied were evaluated. Each candidate was assigned a score based on the criteria above. Only applicants who demonstrated experience and qualifications across all key categories were considered qualified.

3. Evaluation Summary

Below is a general overview of the assessment outcome:

- **Qualified Candidates for interview: 1**
- **Not Qualified Candidates: 15**

The only qualified candidate was **Ndishimye Isabelle de Valois**, who scored 90 percent. She demonstrated over two years of experience in HBP design, had participated in theoretical training and/or published in the area, had worked with key institutions involved in HBP processes, holds a Master's degree, and is a Rwandan citizen engaged in the relevant sector.

All other candidates lacked one or more of the core requirements. The most common reasons for disqualification included:

- Absence of documented experience in HBP design
- Lack of theoretical training or publication in the area
- No experience working with institutions involved in health benefit package development
- Missing academic credentials
- Working in unrelated sectors

| No | Surname | Name | 1. Relevant relevant experience in health benefit design more than 2 (40%) | 2. Having attended theoretical training like short course related to the HBP OR one publication in HBP (35%) | 3. Demonstrated experience with working with relevant stakeholders (health sector, Rwanda Biomedical Center, Rwanda Social Security Board) tasked to design HBP (10%) | 4. Having a Master's degree in public health or related (5%) | 5. Being a Rwandese (see ID) working in sectors that are directly working with UoR/CMHS/SPH on health benefit packages (10%) | Results: % | Comments |
|----|----------------|--------------------|--|--|---|--|--|------------|--|
| 1 | BIGIRIMANA | Stanslas | 0 | 0 | 10 | 5 | 10 | 25 | Not qualified |
| 2 | UWIGICIRO | Angelique | 0 | 0 | 10 | 5 | 10 | 25 | no experience |
| 3 | KABILA | Sandra Elyse | 0 | 0 | 10 | 0 | 10 | 20 | Not qualified |
| 4 | BARIHUTA | ASSIEL | 0 | 0 | 10 | 0 | 10 | 20 | No qualified |
| 5 | MUHIRWA | Samuel | 0 | 0 | 10 | 5 | 10 | 25 | No experience |
| 6 | GASANA | James | 0 | 0 | 10 | 5 | 10 | 25 | no experience |
| 7 | NYIRAMAHIRWE | Diane | 0 | 0 | 10 | 5 | 10 | 25 | No experience |
| 8 | NDISHIMYE | Isabelle de Valois | 35 | 30 | 10 | 5 | 10 | 90 | Qualified |
| 9 | NZAYISENGA | Joselyne | 0 | 0 | 10 | 0 | 10 | 20 | Not qualified |
| 10 | HATANGIMBABAZI | Vincent | 0 | 0 | 10 | 0 | 10 | 20 | Not qualified (Missing documents such as degree) |
| 11 | NDAYAMBAJE | Jean Bosco | 0 | 0 | 10 | 5 | 10 | 25 | Not qualified |
| 12 | HAKIZIMANA | Espoir | 0 | 35 | 10 | 5 | 10 | 60 | Lack of training /publication |
| 13 | DUSHIMIMANA | Sandrine | 0 | 0 | 10 | 0 | 10 | 20 | Not qualified |
| 14 | NEMEYIMANA | Patrick | 0 | 0 | 10 | 0 | 10 | 20 | Not qualified (No experience and in different field) |
| 15 | SINDAMBIWE | Pierre Claver | 0 | 0 | 10 | 0 | 10 | 20 | Not qualified |
| 16 | HATEGEKIMANA | Viateur | 0 | 0 | 10 | 0 | 10 | 20 | Not qualified |

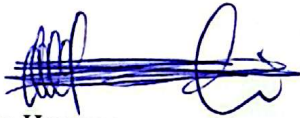
4. Conclusion

The selection process for the SHARP Project Doctoral Scholarship was carried out in a structured and transparent manner, based on clearly defined eligibility and merit criteria aligned with the project's objectives.

Ndishimye Isabelle de Valois is the only applicant who fully met all the criteria at 90%, followed by Dr Hakizimana Espoir, who scored 60%. In conclusion **Ndishimye Isabelle de Valois** background and experience strongly align with the aims of the SHARP project and position her as an ideal candidate.

Team selection team

Chair



Dr James Humuza.

Members:

Yvonne Delphine Nsaba Uwera:



Jean Marie Sindambiwe:



Boniface Nsengiyunva:



Date: 5th July 2025