

Philips, in partnership with the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, has donated 390 Lumify portable ultrasound devices to the Imbuto Foundation to improve medical diagnostic capabilities across Rwanda, particularly in rural and underserved areas.

The devices, funded by the Gates Foundation, use innovative technology to transform compatible smartphones and tablets into professional-grade ultrasound tools. A standout feature of the Lumify device is its tele-ultrasound function, which allows healthcare workers in the field to collaborate with remote specialists in real-time.

“One of the core goals of our work at the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation is to bring medical technologies to underserved areas of the world to improve health outcomes,” said Joe Harb, Senior Programme Manager for Innovative Product Introduction at the Gates Foundation.

The Imbuto Foundation, a Rwandan NGO focused on health, education, and youth empowerment, will use the devices to strengthen medical imaging capabilities nationwide. “This initiative aims to improve healthcare delivery and ensure better patient outcomes,” said Vugayabagabo Jackson, Deputy General Manager for Programs at the Imbuto Foundation.

To support the rollout, around 20 ultrasound technicians from the Rwanda Biomedical Center (RBC) underwent a train-the-trainer program. They will pass on their knowledge to healthcare professionals in rural areas.

Eddy Rizk, Business Manager Ultrasound at Philips META, noted, “By providing portable point-of-care ultrasound devices and comprehensive training, we are not only supporting Imbuto Foundation’s vision but also building on the remarkable progress made in improving health outcomes in Rwanda over the past two decades.”

The project partners, including the Ministry of Health, will continue working closely to ensure the equipment is optimally used by healthcare workers across the country.