The Russian Federation announced the donation of a mobile laboratory complex for indication and monitoring of infectious diseases to Burundi at the Economic and Humanitarian Forum in St. Petersburg on Thursday.

Footage shows the handover ceremony with the participation of President of Burundi, Evariste Ndayishimiye, Head of the Federal Service for Surveillance on Consumer Rights Protection and Human Wellbeing (Rospotrebnadzor) Anna Popova and Burundi Director General of Public Health Joseph Nyandwi.

Speaking at the ceremony, President Ndayishimiye described the relations between Russia and Burundi as ‘historical in many sectors, especially in health, education, defence and security’, adding that the transfer of the mobile laboratory will greatly contribute to the health of the Burundian people.

Having inspected the laboratory, Director General of Public Health Joseph Nyandwi said that an important advantage of the mobile complex is that it ‘can be relocated to remote points where there are foci of infectious diseases’.

In a meeting with President of Burundi Evariste Ndayishimiye on Thursday, Russian President Vladimir Putin had lauded the bilateral cooperation in the field of healthcare, saying that in October 2023 the first joint scientific research programme on fighting dangerous infections would be launched.

The mobile laboratory for express diagnostics was built on the Russian GAZ minivan platform, and would be manufactured and delivered in early 2024, said Putin.