Rwanda and Morocco have strengthened their cooperation in specialised healthcare with the opening of a hearing diagnosis and rehabilitation centre at the Rwanda Military Referral and Teaching Hospital in Kanombe, aimed at improving treatment for people with hearing impairments, particularly children.

First Lady Jeannette Kagame and Morocco's Princess Lalla Asmaa officially inaugurated the centre on Monday. The facility is designed to provide hearing assessments, treatment and rehabilitation, expanding access to specialised services in Rwanda.

The opening coincided with a medical programme under which 50 patients are receiving cochlear implants and another 56 are being fitted with hearing aids. Moroccan specialists are working alongside Rwandan medical teams to provide the procedures.

Brig. Gen. Dr. Eugène Ngoga, director of the hospital, said hearing problems in children can have different causes and require specialised medical care and modern equipment.

He said cooperation with Morocco had helped Rwanda access the expertise and equipment needed to treat children with hearing impairments. He also acknowledged the contribution of Imbuto Foundation, which has worked with Morocco's Lalla Asmaa Foundation to support the initiative.

The partnership is also intended to strengthen the capacity of Rwandan healthcare professionals to provide specialised hearing services.

Dr. Menelas Nkeshimana, who oversees health workforce training and development, told Rwanda Broadcasting Agency that the Ministry of Health was working to increase the number of specialists treating ear diseases through the government's 4×4 health workforce programme.

He said enrolment in training related to ear care had doubled, with students spending between four and five years in training. The increase is expected to expand the number of professionals able to diagnose and treat hearing disorders.

Launched in July 2023, the 4×4 programme aims to quadruple Rwanda's health workforce over four years to improve access to healthcare and the quality of

medical services.

The new centre is expected to strengthen Rwanda’s specialised hearing services while supporting continued treatment and rehabilitation for children and other patients with hearing impairments.