



Date 26 May 2020

To whom it may concern,

**Fabrication of Face Shields for Healthcare Workers in Rwanda  
A Knowledge-based support by JICA With FabLab**

As Rwanda fights to stop the spreads of COVID-19, Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) has supported FabLab Kigali to produce and distribute Face Shields to the front-line Medical staffs.

JICA has been supporting Rwanda's resolve to create knowledge-based economy to advance its socio-economic development for the past 10 years. FabLab Kigali and, its parent organization, ICT Chamber are both part of its support, which have contributed to the growth of ICT, and ICT enabled industries and innovations in Rwanda.

FabLab is a digital fabrication laboratory conceived by Dr. Neil Gershenfeld of MIT with a motto of "provide access to the environment, the skills, the materials and the advanced technology to allow anyone anywhere to make (almost) anything." It provides variety of digitally enhanced tools to the local creators to fabricate innovative solutions and products.

When the COVID-19 Pandemic threatens the health of Rwandan people and when the Government enacted contingency measures, FabLab Kigali saw an acute need of various Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for the medical professionals to mitigate the Pandemic. To meet this acute need in time, FabLab contacted JICA for its support. In partnership with ICT Chamber, JICA has supported production of 3,000 Face-Shields using locally available skills and material for the medical professionals who are fighting courageously to safeguard the health and well-being of Rwandan people. JICA has supported financing and coordination required to procure raw materials used in the manufacturing of 3,000 Face shields by the FabLab, hire the needed manpower and expertise, and provide associated transport required to procure and distribute the Face-shields.

The single piece Face shield to protect medical professionals was designed and fabricated using a laser cutter. The laser cuts the design from thousands of flat transparent plastic sheets, which were then assembled into Face shields by FabLab personnel. The Face shields must be made rapidly and at low cost because they need to be disposable to avoid contamination and further spreading of the virus. FabLab Kigali manufactured approximately 400 Face shields per day with 3,000 pieces to meet the demands of the Medical Professionals. The completed Face-shields were distributed to hospitals and medical centers.

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Face Shields fabricated by all locally available materials



Young Innovators and RBC staff fight against COVID-19 together