



mHMtaani: Mobile Health for Our Communities in Kenya

Maternal mortality in Kenya remains a dire challenge. According to Kenya's Demographic and Health Survey 2009, 488 women die per 100,000 live births. Institutional delivery rates are also extremely low, particularly in Coast province, where only 36 percent of women deliver in a facility. This is eight percent below the national average of 44 percent. Other factors for adverse maternal outcomes can be attributed to low levels of literacy, cultural barriers, poor quality of care at the community level, and poor demand for services by women. Compounding these problems, the HIV epidemic has devastated the lives of many Kenyans. According to the World Bank, Kenya is home to more than 2.4 million orphans and vulnerable children (OVC), 160,000 of whom are supported by the Pathfinder-led APHIAplus Nairobi-Coast project. One of the key barriers to ensuring quality care for OVC is the inability of providers to track services they provide. These challenges are urgent and complex. They require innovative solutions at the community level.

Using Mobile Phones to Improve the Quality of Health Care

MORE EFFICIENT AND EFFECTIVE SERVICE DELIVERY

With support from USAID, under the APHIAplus Nairobi-Coast project, Pathfinder launched mHMtaani or "Mobile health for our communities." The project aims to promote healthier communities by using mobile technology to monitor and track the health of pregnant mothers, as well as OVC in Kilifi County in Coast province, Kenya.

mHMtaani works to improve service delivery for children and adults at the community level using CommCare, a recognized mHealth platform provided by Dimagi.

Before mHMtaani, community health workers lacked a system for ensuring pregnant women knew their estimated delivery date and had a delivery plan in place. Therefore, women in rural areas were often unable to plan for

safe delivery. Today, 267 community health workers are using CommCare for decision support and case management, enabling them to monitor key maternal and child health indicators—the use of family planning, breast feeding, pregnancy danger signs—as well as the physical, social, and environmental wellbeing of pregnant mothers.

A second module of the application, and the first of its kind internationally, supports community health workers to record and track the essential services given to OVC.

USING DATA FOR DECISION MAKING

Through mHMtaani, Pathfinder has created an enabling environment for community health workers to provide real-time data to pregnant women and OVC beneficiaries during their home visits.

Community health workers can also report their monthly statistics to the government, using the Ministry of Health Indicator Reporting form. At the click of a button, supervisors and project partners can view real-time data from services provided in extremely remote locations.

PROVIDING INCENTIVE

To motivate community health workers to use the mHealth application, Pathfinder designed a performance-based funding scheme with support from VISA and NetHope. This initiative will make use of performance data collected through CommCare and will utilize mPesa, Kenya's leading money platform. This performance-based funding is poised for launch and will begin immediately once negotiations with the government are complete.



How mHMtaani is improving the quality of care for pregnant women and OVC in rural Kenya:

BUILDING THE CAPACITY OF COMMUNITY HEALTH WORKERS

To date, 267 active community health workers are using CommCare to deliver more efficient and effective services to mothers as well as orphans and vulnerable children in Kilifi county.

+ 267 CHWs

HELPING WOMEN PLAN FOR DELIVERY

Triggered by mHMtaani, community health workers remind pregnant women of their expected date of delivery. This has contributed to a steady increase in hospital deliveries. By mid-March 2014, Mtwapa Health Center recorded 51 deliveries, surpassing the average by 11.

↑ Hospital Deliveries

PUTTING REAL TIME DATA TO USE

As community health workers use their phones to report services they deliver, they can better monitor their work and follow up with households in need of additional support.

Better Monitoring

NO MORE FALLING THROUGH THE CRACKS

Through mHMtaani, community health workers can now easily account for OVC in their area. Using data they collect on their phones, these providers can also determine the best ways to support OVC.

Quality Support for OVC

MOTIVATING LOCAL HEALTH WORKERS TO BECOME MHEALTH CHAMPIONS

The project is poised to launch a new performance-based funding scheme that will utilize data collected by community health workers using CommCare to improve the coverage and consistency of their services.

↑ Incentive



“When registering a mother, if I happen to skip a step, the system reminds me to revisit it. Also, when an issue arises, let’s say the mother has never checked her HIV status, it prompts me...to take my time to talk about the importance of getting tested.” —**Jego Zia, community health worker**

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