The Global Humanitarian Lab’s Mobile Health Program

Ground breaking collaboration between ICRC, MSF and Tdh to design common innovative solutions of Mobile health e-diagnostic

Context

Digital health is the single most promising innovation area with the potential to transform the delivery of healthcare in developing countries. Numerous initiatives in the digital space have emerged in the last years, most of which remain at the pilot level. Many challenges undermine efforts to design and scale the use of digital tools in those settings.

Mobile Health Diagnostic technology

ICRC, MSF and Terre des hommes each developed a mobile technology to guide health care workers diagnosing children. These innovative online supports bring significant improvements to diagnostic in medical care across Nigeria, Burkina Faso, DR Congo, and Afghanistan.
Collaboration

In view of these challenges, Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF), Terre des Hommes (Tdh) and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) recognized the need to increase the sharing of expertise and work towards stronger collaboration.

The aforementioned organisations provide input on their areas of expertise as follows:

- MSF (Switzerland): medical algorithms
- Terre des Hommes (Suisse): implementation and scale-up
- ICRC: data protection
- Swiss TPH: operation research

Innovative solutions

This growing partnership enables leading humanitarian organisations to find innovative solutions, enhance their health e-diagnostic tools, identify common factors of risks, mitigating measures and guidelines for humanitarian organisations.

Collaboration also establishes common platforms for implementation, thereby
increasing the capacity for global scale-up.

By the end of 2017, more than 1 million children will have benefited from these new Mobile Health e-Diagnostic tools. With a critical mass and the maturation of a solid pilot, we could avoid the barriers a lot of humanitarian pilots face, and we currently have the capacity to have a successful scale up of a humanitarian project.

Key Drivers

The target of this project is to:

1. Facilitate co-ordination between humanitarian agencies to reduce duplication, share lessons learned and good practice
2. Disseminate good practice & common guidelines beneficial to other humanitarian actors
3. Increase the capacity to scale humanitarian innovations as well as common pilots.
4. Increase the probability of sustainable, empowering and effective solutions
GHL’s Role

- Offer a risk outsourcing neutral platform in order for collaborative discussions to take place
- Facilitate the conversation and bring non traditional actors around the table
- Coordination of the organisation and facilitation of workshops
- Search for new funding streams for comparative impact studies that will help identify good practice and guidelines
- Identify, map and disseminate good practices and common guidelines that could benefit to the humanitarian sector
- Scale up of existing products or potential common pilots
Workshops

A first series of thematic workshops on Mobile Health Initiatives were launched in order to increase the sharing of experiences and expertise. The 3 organisations are now collaborating more actively on specific topics and design common guidelines for innovative M Health solutions.

February 2017 M Health and Data Protection with ICRC
April 2017 Coaching and Implementation with Tdh
May 2017 Common Data Protection Impact Assessment
June 2017 Technical collaboration on the Algorithm architecture and the evaluation of Health Worker Performance with MSF

September 2017 Technical collaboration on technological platform

DPIA

GHL is now coordinating a Data Protection Impact Assessment (DPIA) in common with ICRC, Tdh and MSF on the use of Mobile Health Technologies for humanitarian organisations, with a specific focus on the three organisations tools.
It will help to enhance each organisation’s programs, identify common factors of risks, mitigating measures and guidelines for humanitarian organisations.

**IeDA Scaling**

Terre des hommes developed an innovative online technology for children’s health care: IeDA which stands for Integrated e-Diagnostic Approach. The technology uses an online form to guide nurses diagnosing children and records the medical data in the application.

IeDA is an advanced mHealth intervention to improve quality of care deployed in rural primary healthcare centers in sub-Saharan Africa. The program originated from a longstanding collaboration between Terre des Hommes and the Ministry of Health in Burkina Faso to improve quality of care for children under-five, rationalize the use of drugs and support health information systems. Since 2015, the program has gained significant scale reaching more than 280 primary healthcare centers in 8 districts, where the tool has been used in more than 800,000 consultations benefiting over 530,000 children.

In partnership with the Global Humanitarian Lab Tdh plan to adapt and extend the intervention to other Sahelian countries, starting with North Mali (in partnership with the ICRC) and Mauritania, in context of chronic humanitarian crises.