

Report for the Global South eHealth
Observatory of the



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DomoSat

A French-made technology and its
Cameroonian “success story”



The CICAT-LR team, Dr Romain Soumélé and the staff at Baleveng Hospital.

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Origins

DomoSat is a project of the CICAT-LR association (network of experts in wounds and scarring which operates using telemedicine) based in Languedoc-Roussillon. As part of this project, a mission was conducted at the end of 2015 in Cameroon, at the Baleveng Wound Hospital. Romain Soumélé, a Cameroonian doctor based in Perpignan, is behind this initiative. In 2009, he created the Baleveng Wounds Clinic, the first in the country dedicated exclusively to wounds. In this context, Dr Soumélé called on CICAT-LR and its technology.

The mission revealed a very strong expectation among Cameroonian health professionals, as well as the local population, and a real desire to create sustainable cooperation with France in the management of chronic and complex wounds. During the campaign he initiated, Dr Soumélé called on the expertise of several global references in terms of complex wound treatment, including that of Luc Téot (president of the CICAT-LR network).

Economic model and operation

The speciality of this project lies in the fact that the part concerning developing countries in the south (i.e. the mission in Cameroon) is not part of a commercial or business approach, but rather a Franco-African cooperation for an experimentation in telemedicine. This is why we must make the separation between CICAT-LR and DomoSat (which is only a one-off mission in which CICAT-LR participated). "Today this is an experiment in the context of a call for projects with a well-targeted budget. If we are asked for advice tomorrow on the other side of the world, without resources, we will have to find adequate funding by targeting the relevance of the use of satellite links."

However, the technology developed by CICAT-LR is a real technological innovation that could improve the lives of patients living in medical deserts. CICAT-LR has developed DomoPlaie, a patient record management software (which could be initially marketed in France).

The innovative speciality of CICAT-LR is the use of satellites for implementing telemedicine activity. The mission in Cameroon was carried out using a satellite database loaned by CNES, DomoPlaie and a telemedicine platform. This approach is particularly relevant for countries such as Cameroon, where Wi-Fi is difficult to access.

Current needs

The technologies needed for the types of intervention that have taken place in Cameroon have already been developed and successfully tested, so it is difficult to talk about "current needs". However, it is interesting to note that while the technology has been "tested and approved", the same type of mission could easily be conducted in other developing countries. In order to do this, all that would be required is a satellite tag (at a cost of about 15,000 euros), a telemedicine platform, and DomoPlaie. The CICAT-LR team insisted on the need for a real local dynamism and a pre-existing structure (ideally a hospital or clinic specialising in wounds).

Expansion prospects

The CICAT-LR could be a partner of Dr Romain Soumélé's association to implement an experiment in 2016 which could last several months and would have a triple objective: 1) train health professionals to give them independence; 2) provide experts (remote expertise) for complex cases; and 3) create favourable conditions for the sustainability and extension of this project at national level.

However, it would appear that CICAT-LR professionals have not planned to repeat this experience. They would nevertheless be open to other cross-border cooperation missions if they were contacted by hospitals in the same situation as Baleveng (with a pre-existing structure and a strong commitment on site).



The CICAT-LR team and Dr Romain Soumélé.



Baleveng Hospital.