

Report for the Global South eHealth Observatory of the



FONDATION PIERRE FABRE



Left: Dr Yé, MOS@N Project Leader.

MOSAN

Interactive platform for text messages and voice calls as
a prevention tool in rural Burkina Faso

Perrine Legoullon, Samir Abdelkrim



February 2016, Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso

Origins

During our trip to Burkina Faso, we had the pleasure of meeting the MOS@N (MOSAN) team. Created in September 2013, MOSAN is a fusion of the words 'mobile' and 'sant ' ('health'). This research project on mobile health (e-health) was developed in response to the critical situation of maternal and child health, as well as the health of PLHIV (People Living with HIV) in Burkina Faso. As described by the team, the current situation is "characterised by the persistence of a high rate of maternal and infant mortality, the persistence of the HIV epidemic, and above all high rates of people who are lost track of, despite efforts at national level."

If we take the example of the Nouna health district (where the initiative is based), many mothers and children die due to insufficient healthcare. Recent statistics reveal the criticality of the situation: there are 341 maternal deaths per 100,000 births, a figure well above that of 'northern' countries (where there are about five maternal deaths per 100,000 births).

For these reasons, MOSAN is a mobile-health project that targets the most vulnerable people (pregnant women, children, people with HIV). The project is described as an "improvement of governance and health through the use of ICT," because it is largely based on a context that is favourable to adapting ICT (Information and Communication Technologies) to health.

"The overall objective of the MOS@N project, as approved by our partner, is to contribute to the improvement of maternal and child care coverage, and that of PLHIV, through the use of mobile phones in rural areas so as to ensure better governance and equity of access to care in the health district of Nouna, Burkina Faso. MOS@N is an intervention research project led by the Nouna Health Research Centre."

Economic model and operation

The project is based in Nouna for obvious reasons of context, as it is a district of Burkina Faso that is disadvantaged in terms of the health services available. Many people are isolated and do not have easy access to existing health centres.

"In the context of expanding and increasing the use of ICT in healthcare systems, mobile telephony is emerging as an effective alternative," the team explains. A partnership has already been set up with a local telephone operator, Onatel.

The project aims to use mobile phones to send text and voice messages, reminders and/or alerts to community members. This is particularly the case for community and association relays involved in health promotion, prevention, care and emergency management activities. These messages are currently available in five local languages (of Burkina Faso, including Mooré or Dioula) and in French.

The project therefore has two main strategic axes: 1) use e-health to strengthen and improve the health information system; 2) integrate e-health into the overall service of healthcare facilities.



The project is implemented in various ways. Reminders and/or alerts are sent to patients, and MOSAN also has 'godmothers' (there are currently 62), who visit patients. **The MOSAN network also has 10 facilitators, 50 health workers and 38 contact persons. To date, 1,360 pregnant women have been monitored through the platform, 505 people with HIV have also registered, and the platform has recorded 2,300 accesses to awareness content.**

Current needs

The main challenges currently facing MOSAN are mostly technical: ensuring secure data transfer, improving connectivity of the coverage area, ensuring data synchronisation, coping with phone renewals, covering project costs, and considering scaling up the project.

The main needs of MOSAN, as defined by the team, are to establish a secure interconnection of remote sites, to better adapt to the work environment and to sustain the project.

The project is therefore in great need of expertise, particularly in the field of health, to develop appropriate technologies. MOSAN also needs a technical and financial partnership.

Expertise in the field of e-health is rare in Burkina Faso and external support would be an important asset to address the challenges of technology design. Financial support is also important as technology is not free, nor is contracting e-health experts.

Expansion prospects

The project could also cover other areas, such as the electronic payment of long-term contributions, as part of Nouna's community-based health insurance, as well as universal health insurance. Geographical expansion (outside Burkina Faso) is not planned for the moment, the project is focusing primarily on strengthening existing structures.



Mr Bagagnan, Dr Yé (MOS@N Project Leader) and Samir Abdelkrim (StartupBRICS)