

Afya-Tek

Digitizing primary healthcare in Tanzania

The challenge

Key actors in Tanzania's health system at the community level are not sufficiently connected, which results in information leakages and barriers to timely access to care for children and adolescents. This has resulted in more than 600,000 preventable deaths for under-five year olds, 1.2 million unintended pregnancies and 9,000 preventable maternal deaths each year.

A digitally-enabled approach

Afya-Tek is a digitally-enabled, community-based, responsive health system initiative in Tanzania that brings together health actors at the community level and deploys new technologies, such as AI and biometrics, to digitize the flow of information to improve efficiency, lower costs, and strengthen the overall healthcare system.

Afya-Tek will work to link health workers, health facilities, and private drug dispensers, known in Tanzania as Accredited Drug Dispensing Outlets (ADDOs), to improve decision-making and quality of care along the continuum of care, helping to ensure prompt access to care for members of the community and reduce unnecessary referrals.

Objective

The project utilises a digitally-enabled approach that results in better case management by coordinating public and private healthcare providers at the community level. By 2021, it aims to improve the wellbeing of children, adolescents, and their families in the Kibaha district in Pwani Region of Tanzania. Learnings will be evaluated with a view to be scaled across Tanzania and beyond in coming years.

Partners

Fondation Botnar is working with a consortium of partners from across sectors. The initiative is being led by Tanzania-based Apotheker Consultancy (T) Ltd. Supporting the project as key partners are:

- D-tree International who is responsible for the design and deployment of the digital system
- Inspired Ideas - winner of the 2018 Botnar Challenge - is further developing and testing of the Dr. Elsa health assistant tool for use by the ADDOs
- Simprints provides a biometric identification solution
- Institute of Tropical Medicine (ITM) at Antwerp, Belgium will conduct the monitoring and evaluation of the integration of digital tools into the healthcare system.

