

Applied Research Partnerships with Developing and Transition Countries

Swiss Universities of Applied Sciences and Universities of Teacher Education

Project title

Improving Education of Health Workers in disadvantaged areas of South Africa by means of Social and Mobile Media

Thematic focus

Health & nursing education, social mobile media

Year

2012

Project location

KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa and Basel, Switzerland

Swiss Institution

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Partner Institution

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Description

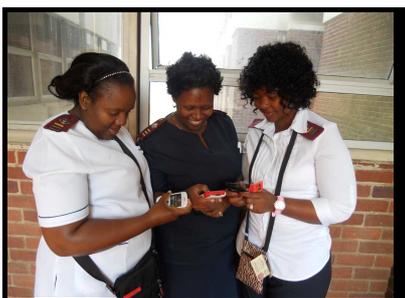
On a global level more than one billion people who live in low resource settings do not receive adequate healthcare. In these contexts, caregivers and healthcare professionals often work in isolation and have poor access to post-basic education, to continuing education and to up-to-date evidence-based information. This is particularly true for South Africa, a nation which is dramatically affected by the spread of HIV/Aids: 63'000 children get infected yearly, child-mortality and maternal mortality have risen, and life expectancy has fallen from 62 to 52 years in the last fifteen years. The lack of adequate healthcare leads to severe societal and economic problems. This research intends to

gain new insights and provide guidance on how social & mobile media can facilitate information access and education of healthcare workers in low resource settings. The project aims at exploring and improving the access to information and education of nurses and midwives, who work in disadvantaged communities in South Africa. The three Millennium Development Goals centred on "child-health", "maternal health" as well as "HIV" stand in the focus of this project. It is planned to research how the potential of 26 million mobile phone users and of the increasing number of social network accounts in SA can contribute to achieving these goals and improving the situation.

Development relevance

South Africa's socio-economic development is dramatically affected by the spread of HIV/Aids with high rates of child and maternal mortality. While effective health care would be needed to improve the situation, health workers and in particular nurses and midwives in rural areas lack access to health information and education. The increasing number of mobile phones and the rising popularity of social

networking sites and tools can be harnessed to improve access to evidence-based information and education. In developing and researching new educational approaches, South Africa can act as a role model and facilitator for Africa and beyond.



Mobile phone usage among health professionals and students



Benedictine Hospital, Nongoma

KFH

Rektorenkonferenz der Fachhochschulen der Schweiz
Conférence des Recteurs des Hautes Ecoles Spécialisées Suisses
Conferenza dei Rettori delle Scuole Universitarie Professionali Svizzere
Rectors' Conference of the Swiss Universities of Applied Sciences

 Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
Confédération suisse
Confederazione Svizzera
Confederaziun svizra

Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation SDC

Main features of the project

Practice-deliverables

- Intervention training program on the use of mobile phones and social media for nurses/midwives and nurse educators
- learning and teaching concepts enhanced by social and mobile media
- New and validated courses to support Advanced Midwifery education of rural nurses
- Best practices based on the educational use of social and mobile media from the province KwaZulu-Natal
- Guidelines including success factors of how to develop, implement and use mobile and social media for health education
- Website to disseminate findings

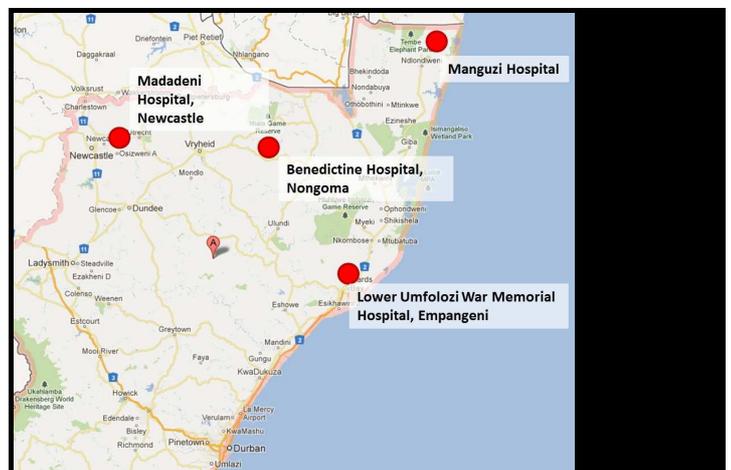
Research deliverables

- Conceptual models and frameworks including learning processes, influencing factors and outcomes
- Manuscripts for 2-3 international peer-reviewed journals
- Presentations for 2-3 international conferences

The results will be jointly elaborated using a mixed-method approach of qualitative and quantitative methods as well as action-research in order to enhance validity and practical impact. Deliverables will be fed back into practice and academia. An international sounding board that consists of leading experts in the field of mobile learning and health from across European and African universities and UNESCO will help to validate and spread the results on a global level.



Manguzi Hospital



Map with hospital sites in rural areas of Kwazulu-Natal, South Africa