

IBM : Le programme pilote « SMS for life » ou quand la technologie sauve des vies

En décembre dernier, IBM, Novartis, Vodafone et le Roll Black Malaria Partnership s'associaient pour stopper la progression de la malaria en Afrique en proposant la solution « SMS for Life », solution technologique visant à stopper les ruptures de stocks de médicaments dans les hôpitaux.

Paris - 23 avr. 2010: A l'occasion de la journée mondiale contre la malaria le dimanche 25 avril, IBM annonce les résultats de ce projet pilote mis en place en Tanzanie de septembre 2009 à février 2010 et couvrant 129 établissements de santé et plus d'1 million de personnes dans différentes régions du pays. La solution « SMS for Life » a permis de réduire par trois le risque de rupture de stock en médicaments indispensables au traitement de la malaria dans les hôpitaux et dispensaires. Zoom sur cette réussite...

La malaria transmise par les moustiques provoque près d'un million de morts en Afrique chaque année, la plupart concernant les femmes enceintes et les jeunes enfants. L'une des raisons majeures de cette mortalité est le manque d'accès rapide aux médicaments.

La solution « SMS for life », destinée à améliorer la disponibilité des médicaments anti-malaria en Tanzanie, utilise à la fois le téléphone mobile, la technologie SMS et les services collaboratifs Lotus disponible dans le Cloud d'IBM pour suivre et gérer l'approvisionnement des ACT, (Artemisinin-based combination therapy - combinaisons à base d'artémisinine) et des injections de quinine. Ces deux médicaments demeurent indispensables à la baisse de la mortalité due à la malaria.

Une demi-journée de formation des agents de santé a été bénéfique pour obtenir un très fort taux de réponse aux envois de messages SMS hebdomadaires concernant l'état du stock en médicament (95% de réponses). Dans la seule région de Lindi Rural, les ruptures de stock ont complètement disparu dans 48 établissements. D'autres régions comme Kigoma Rural et Ulanga ont vu leur taux de rupture de stock baisser respectivement de 47% et 57%.

Durant sa durée d'implantation, la solution « SMS for Life » a permis de sauver des centaines de vie dans les différentes régions de Tanzanie. Plus de renseignements dans le communiqué ci-dessous.

Rural health facilities in Tanzania use mobile and electronic mapping technology to save lives

"SMS for Life" pilot increases availability of malaria treatments threefold at participating health facilities

Only 29 facilities had all five medicines available at the start of the pilot, and at the end, 96 facilities had all five medicines in stock– a threefold or 300%

improvement. At the start of the pilot, 32 health facilities had no ACT of any dosage form in stock, and at the end, 123 facilities had at least one dosage form in stock, an improvement of 380%.

Geneva/New York, 21 April 2010: In a report presented this week to the Tanzanian Ministry of Health and Social Welfare, the Roll Back Malaria (RBM) Partnership unveiled the results of the “SMS for Life” pilot in Tanzania. The project used mobile and electronic mapping technology to track and manage the delivery and stock levels of antimalarial drugs to health facilities in rural locations. At the start, 25% of all health facilities did not have any artemisinin-based combination therapies (ACTs) in stock, but by the end, 95% had at least one ACT dosage form in stock.ⁱⁱ In addition, 888,000 people in the three pilot districts had access to all malaria treatments at the close of the pilot, versus 264,000 people at the start. This is calculated by applying the percent of health facilities that had all medicines available at the start and the end of the pilot to the 1.2 million pilot population., which helped to reduce the number of deaths from malaria.

Accurately monitoring the amount of medication, such as ACTs and quinine injectables, available in a given location reduces the risk of running out of stock and ensures that treatments are available to malaria patients, even in the most remote areas, where and when they are needed.

The pilot, which is the result of a public-private partnership involving the Roll Back Malaria Partnership, Novartis, Vodafone, IBM and the Tanzanian Ministry of Health and Social Welfare, ran from September 2009 to February 2010. Three districts in Tanzania—Lindi Rural, Kigoma Rural and Ulanga—were involved, covering 129 health facilities and 226 villages, representing 1.2 million people.

“The use of mobile phones to keep everyone informed of the stock position of anti-malarial medicines has prompted the supply chain to replenish those medicines on time and thus avoid stock-outs,” said Professor David Mwakyausa, the Tanzanian Minister of Health and Social Welfare. “The outcome has been hundreds of lives saved in the districts where the pilot was implemented.”

The “SMS for Life” system sends weekly automated SMS messages to staff at participating healthcare facilities, prompting them to check the stock of antimalarial medicines, and reply with an SMS that includes detailed stock levels. These messages are collected in a central web-based system that provides the District Medical Officers and other users with stock level information accessible via the Internet or their mobile phone. This information allows District Medical Officers to re-distribute lifesaving malaria treatments to where they are most needed, as well as coordinate emergency deliveries to health facilities if necessary. A half-day training session for health workers in the participating districts elicited a high response rate, with a measured accuracy of 94%, to weekly SMS request messages.

“In Lindi Rural, stock-outs were completely eliminated in all 48 facilities by week eight of the pilot, a major improvement from 57% of facilities not having all malaria treatments at the beginning. Kigoma Rural increased availability from 7% to 53%, and Ulanga increased availability from 13% to 70%,” said Professor Awa Marie Coll-Seck, Executive Director of the Roll Back Malaria Partnership, and Chair of the “SMS for Life” Steering Committee. “The ‘SMS for Life’ pilot is an outstanding example of the tremendous power of partnerships, and what can be achieved by bringing together the competencies of non-profit and for-profit organizations

committed to the same goal.”

“The pilot has demonstrated that finally we have a solution to the longstanding problem of stock-outs at the health facility level. This solution, which is scalable and available now, can be implemented quickly and at relatively low cost in any country to track any medicines,” said Jim Barrington, “SMS for Life” Program Director and former Chief Information Officer at Novartis. “It’s rewarding to see how a unique partnership and the innovative use of everyday technologies can positively impact the lives of malaria patients and their families.”

“Malaria is a preventable disease but without the right treatment it is life threatening and kills 60,000 to 80,000 people a year in Tanzania because drugs supplies are inadequate. The results of this collaborative program demonstrate that the use of simple technology, such as text messaging, able to reach remote populations via our networks, can stimulate behavioral change, improve efficiencies and quite literally, save lives. I look forward to a time when all clinics will use the system,” said Joaquim Croca, Head of Health at Vodafone Group.

“This is an example of a truly innovative solution helping to solve a humanitarian problem,” said Peter Ward of IBM, “SMS for Life” Project Manager. “IBM has been committed to making this idea a reality, and our cloud computing technology enabled the ‘SMS for Life’ partners to collaborate across geographies and share critical project information. We expect other countries will also be able to benefit in the future.”

The “SMS for Life” report is available online at <http://www.rollbackmalaria.org/>

ABOUT IBM

The Roll Back Malaria (RBM) Partnership is the global framework for coordinated action against malaria. It provides a neutral platform for consensus-building and developing solutions to challenges in the implementation of malaria control interventions and strategies. RBM is a public-private partnership that also facilitates the incubation of new ideas and lends support to innovative approaches.

The Partnership promotes high-level political commitment and keeps malaria high on the global agenda by enabling, harmonizing and amplifying partner-driven advocacy initiatives. Founded by UNICEF, WHO, the World Bank and UNDP and strengthened by the expertise, resources and commitment of more than 500 Partner organizations, the Partnership secures policy guidance and financial and technical support for control efforts in countries and monitors progress towards universal goals.

For more information on “SMS for Life,” please visit the Roll Back Malaria Web site: <http://www.rollbackmalaria.org>
