THERE IS NO APP FOR THIS!

Regulating the Migration of Health Data in Sub-Saharan Africa

PROJECT NEWSLETTER

April 2023

Project Inception Workshop, Nairobi, Kenya

On 1-2 February 2023, project investigators Professor Sharifah Sekalala (University of Warwick) and Professor Pamela Andanda (University of the Witwatersrand) brought together project team members to share ideas and visions, discuss progress and chart a collective path forward. The two-day workshop was hosted by the University of Nairobi and was attended by civil society representatives from the Open Institute, CEHURD and CIPESA, as well as academics from the University of Nairobi, the University of Warwick and the University of Witwatersrand. The collaboration, collective thinking and expertise of our diverse team will guarantee the continued success of this project, ensuring it meets its outcomes in shaping the solutions we need to improve health data collection and use in Sub-Saharan Africa. The workshop was generously funded by the University of Witwatersrand.

Introducing our Civil Society and Research Institute Partners

Center for Health, Human Rights and Development (CEHURD) (Uganda)

CEHURD works in social justice in health, particularly in advancing health rights for vulnerable communities through litigation, advocacy and research. That experience translates to the health apps context, and the digital health aspects of the project align with CEHURD's organisational objectives.

Open Institute (Kenya)

The Open Institute work on access issues due to discrimination and digitalisation. They collaborate with governments, civil society organisations, citizen groups, and the private sector to find innovative ways to achieve sustainable development. They advocate on privacy protection at the national, sub national, and hyperlocal levels influencing policy and guidelines, and have experience in developing health apps.

The Collaboration on International ICT Policy for East and Southern Africa (CIPESA) (Uganda)

CIPESA focuses on decision-making that facilitates the use of ICT in support of good governance, human rights and livelihoods, and addresses barriers to effective and inclusive ICT policy making in Africa.

Ahaki Afya na Haki (Ahaki) (Uganda)

Ahaki uses Africentric approaches within a national, regional, Pan-African and global context to engage Africans on issues of health and human rights and co-create African solutions. Mr Ibrahim Nsereko works for both Ahaki as well as CEHURD, and will lead on project-related work across these two organisations.

Onboarding of new project members

Open Institute

From 30 November to 2 December 2022, Open Institute ran a three-day Hackathon at iLab Africa at Strathmore University in Nairobi with a purpose to identify solutions that sustainably leverage opportunities and mitigate challenges faced in the health sector. Themes included: Encryption to secure patients' private and personal information on m-health platforms; authentication and authorisation of users on m-health platforms; integration of legacy healthcare systems with m-health platforms; and innovations in tele-healthcare to safeguard data privacy in the provision of electronic health services.

On the final day of the Hackathon, each team presented their innovative proposals to external judges and were awarded prizes including a Lenovo laptop and hosting space for their application (1st place), a smartphone (2nd place). All participants received gift hampers and certificates.

In January 2023, Ms Joy Ogembo Kwamboka, Mr Roy Shadrack Waswa, Ms Terry Gichuhi, Mr Kimutai Kiprotich, Daniel Kitheka, and Mr David Abol Ger were recruited by Open Institute (from the pool of developers who took part in the Hackathon) as the six trainee designers to take lead on developing new health applications as part of the project's objectives.

In December 2022, Ms Barbara Anyango Otieno was recruited by Open Institute as the Business Analyst for the project who oversees the work of the trainee designers and contributes the project's broader objectives.

University of Witwatersrand

In February 2023, Dr Johannes Machinya was appointed as Professor Pamela Andanda's postdoctoral research fellow at the University of Witwatersrand.

University of Warwick

Professor Sekalala is delighted to announce her appointment of two postdoctoral research fellows at the University of Warwick, Ms Lyla Latif and Mr Tatenda Chatikobo who, will both formally join the project later in the year.

Project Publications

In March 2023, Professor Sekalala and Professor James Shaw of the University of Toronto published a paper entitled 'Health data justice: building new norms for health data governance' in *Nature: Digital Medicine*. This work explores how the retention and use of health-related data by government, corporate, and health actors risk exacerbating the harms of colonial systems of inequality, and how the concept of health data justice can help to address several issues that require urgent attention.

Next Steps

In September this year, the University of Warwick will host a Summer School and Writing Retreat in the UK in which a number of people across the project will receive further training, development and collaboration opportunities. The important work being undertaken by project members across all work packages will continue.

We will also be updating the project website to include details of the wider team now that new project members have come on board. Please encourage anyone interested in the project to sign up to our project mailing list and follow us on Twitter @HealthAppData.