



Infectious Diseases Institute
College of Health Sciences, Makerere University
Investing In the Future: Impacting Real Lives

PROGRESSIVE REPORT Week 1-4 2024

PROJECT	: Integration of Health Services into Abavubi Fishers App
PROJECT MANAGER	: Federation of Fisheries Organisations Uganda (FFOU)
DONATOR/Funder	: Infectious Diseases Institute (IDI)
PROJECT PERIOD	: June To September 2024 (4 months)

Introduction

Having successfully developed, implemented, and rolled out the above Abavubi App in 2022, the App was useful to the fishing folks in;

- ✓ Marketing their products
- ✓ Identifying the markets
- ✓ Record keeping.
- ✓ and making payments

It also has ecological information such as gazetted areas across Lake Victoria for breeding and weather forecasts.

However, due to the increased prevalence of contagious diseases such as HIV/AIDS, TB, diarrhea, and cholera, it became utmost urgent to have health services integrated into the App to help the fishing community; seek treatment and other health services, get information about their health and primarily health care to avoid outbreak of contagious diseases such as diarrhea and Cholera.

Summary

Based on this background, FFOU partnered with IDI to integrate health services into the Abavubi app.

The major objective of this is to adapt the already existing Abavubi digital application to health services delivery and tracking and integrate educational content on HIV prevention methods, risk reduction strategies, supportive content on living with HIV, stigma reduction, and mental health



This compelled us to carry out stakeholders’ engagement and mapping of health services and facilities across the Great Lakes of Uganda that would help the developing team develop a prototype of health service information that will be incorporated into the App.

The scope

This was done on Lake Victoria (Kalangala Kyotera, Kalungu, Masaka, Mukono, Buikwe, Buvuma, Mayuge, and Namayingo) Lake Kyoga (Nakasongola, Lira, Serere, Soroti) Lake Albert (Nebi, Masindi, Hoima, Buliisa, and Kikuube) Lake Edward & George (Rubirizi and Kasese)

Methodology

We had meetings with District Health office members, the Village Health Trainers (VHTs), and leaders of member associations in various Islands and landing sites across the great lakes of Uganda.

Objectives were;

- ❖ To identify Health centers available to the Fishing communities in various locations across the Great Lakes of Uganda
- ❖ To identify the health services available to fisherfolks
- ❖ Average distance for fisherfolk to access the health facilities
- ❖ What information fisherfolks would like to provide by the App
- ❖ Availability of network especially on distant Islands
- ❖ Other services that have a direct or indirect effect on health services (Access to Financial Services & Insurance)

Expected Out

This information would help the FFOU development team to come up with a prototype of how the Health Services Module will look on the App

Findings

District	Landing sites Visited	No. of Health Centers for Fisherfolks	Average Distance to Health Centers
Kalangala	Lutoboka Mwena	H/C IV – 2 III – 6 II - 7	6.6 km
Kyotera	Kasensero Kasambya	H/C IV – 1 III – 3 II - 1	3 km
Masaka	Lambu Ddimo	H/C IV – 2 III – 4	3.8KM

		II – 6 Hospital - 1	
Kalungu	Lwera Lukaya Bajja	H/C IV – 3 III – 4 II -	2.9 km
Buikwe	Kiyindi	H/C IV – 1 III – 3 II - 5	5 km
Mukono	Kooma Katosi	H/C IV – 3 III – 4 II – 3 Hospital - 2	4.35 km
Buvuma	Lwazi Karongo	H/C IV – 1 III – 3 II - 8	5.5 km but distant Islands 10 to 80km
Mayuge	Walumbe	H/C IV – 1 III – 1 II - 1	2.2 km
Namayingo	Sigulu	H/C IV – 1 III – 7 II - 25	5 km
Soroti	Apai	H/C IV – 7 III – 31 II – 23 Hospital - 2	3.2 km
Lira	Namasale	H/C IV – 3 III – 13 II -	1.9 km
Serere	Kagwara	H/C IV – 1 III – 3 II - 0	5.4 km
Nakasongola	Kikaraganya Lwampanga	H/C IV – 2 III – 10 II – 21 Hospital - 1	12 km
Buliisa	Wansek	H/C IV – 2 III – 3 II – 6 Hospital - 1	
Kikuube	Bugoma	H/C IV – 1 III – 4 II – 2	5 km
Nebi	Abok Dei	H/C IV – 1 III – 8 II – 3	4.1 km



		Hospital - 1	
Rubirizi	Kasaka Katunguru	H/C IV – 1 III – 3 II – 11	1.2 km
Kasese	Katwe Kayanja	H/C IV – 3 III – 13 II – Hospital - 4	3.3 km

Health Services offered to Fisherfolks which most are Health Center II are;

- Treatment of outpatient and inpatient
- Antenatal and delivery
- Immunization services
- HIV/AIDS testing, counseling and treatment
- Laboratory services, however, some Health centers do have these services

The average distance to the nearest Health Center IV or Hospital in these districts is 41 km

Most financial services are offered by

- I. Mobile Money Agents
- II. SOCCOs/ Associations
- III. Money Lenders most of them are boat owners

Bottleneck

There is poor network on most landing sites and almost no network on Islands in Lake Victoria apart from the main Island of Buvuma and Kalangala.

Most fishermen do have a smartphone as spend most of their time in no-network areas.

All these will affect the usage of the Abavubi App in the effort to digitization of the fishing activities across the great lakes of Uganda.

Recommended Information for the Abavubi App

The following information was requested by the stakeholder’s engagement activities that they think would be useful to them as App end Users;

- Nearest Health facilities and specify whether Government or Private
- Services offered by these Health facilities with prices if any



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- Nearest Drug shops/ Pharmacies
- Where to get specific health services upon User’s request
- Where to get specific Drugs upon User’s request
- Primary Health Care Educational Materials/ information

Conclusion

The above information gives the basis of the prototype of the Abavubi App, which is already in progress I shall be giving the prototype of the App in the next report as we await your input on the information you want in the App to be integrated into Abavubi App

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Appendix





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