

Master's Programme in Public Health

Leadership and Professional Perspectives on Public Health MPHP28

Case 1

Focus topic: E-health project in Oaxaca, Mexico

Background

Low- and middle-income countries around the world are urbanizing rapidly. The disease profile among urban populations is shifting from predominantly communicable diseases (NCD) to predominantly noncommunicable diseases. Existing health infrastructure in low- and middle-income countries was created primarily to deal with infectious diseases, while NCDs like diabetes, cardiovascular diseases and cancer requires a very different type of health infrastructure. The result is an unprecedented strain on public healthcare systems in terms of skills, equipment and management.

The Secretariat of Health in Oaxaca has, in collaboration with Health Kiosks for All, the intention to install health kiosks in major commercial centres throughout the state, within close vicinity to the most populated areas. Previous studies suggest that high-tech innovations in primary healthcare can be applied in underprivileged urban communities benefitting the poor and at the same time saving money. In communities where primary healthcare clinics have not yet been set up, a mobile e-health solution like a health kiosk would be especially useful. The addition of more sophisticated technological capabilities could further amplify the impact of this e-healthcare model in neglected urban communities.

The assignment

The Secretariat of Health in Oaxaca has established a Taskforce for eHealth with the aim of expanding eHealth services into the existing health services. The Taskforce has been assigned to develop a plan for how this should be done. The plan should build on the results from similar Health Kiosk projects around the world, with a focus on how to ensure the services are reaching rural communities in a sustainable way.

The Taskforce should propose a plan with the aim of making Health Kiosks available. The plan should include a set of interventions, and an RBM framework to track and assess progress. The plan should also make references to relevant analyses such as stakeholder analysis, risk analysis, and how to ensure sustainability. The plan should be a 2-year plan that can be carried out within the limits of a 3 MUSD budget, ready to be launched in 2024.

Expected outcome

A plan of action to implement Health Kiosks in urban communities around the Oaxaca state in southwestern Mexico that support screening for NCDs among less affluent Mexicans in a cost-effective and sustainable way, and present the project to the Chief of Health in the state of Oaxaca on November 24, 2023.

Resources