Cell Phones Help Bring Down Infant Mortality

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Here is a new example of how Information Technologies can help improve living conditions in the developing world.

A project that is currently running in Mali has the aim to provide a preventive medical diagnostic for 0-5 years old children thanks to the help of mobile services. The idea is to hire local staff, whose job is to transmit information about infants' weights and symptoms such as fever via a Java application on their cell phones to pediatricians. The objective is to facilitate the quick identification of children that are at risk.

The project called Pesinet and financed by Alcatel-Lucent, Medex, Kafo Yeredeme, Afrique Initiatives and Fondation Orange Mali, also offers medical consultations and access to medicines. In the Senegalese version of the programme, the infant mortality rate fell from 120 per 1000 to 8 per 1000. In 90% of cases, if the disease is quickly reported, the child will survive.

Financially, the programme should become self-financing thanks to small subscription charges, after the installation costs had been supported by the above mentioned donors.

Read more about that on Balancing Act Africa

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