Abstract:

Digital health landscape in low-income countries is characterised by a broad fragmentation, small scale and poor adoption. To address that, the international community has recently taken multiple actions to define good practices and standards with results still lagging behind. The case of Burkina Faso represents an exception where the Ministry of Health (MoH) and the international NGO Terre des hommes Foundation (Tdh) have partnered to design and deploy a digital strategy to support primary healthcare: Integrated e-Diagnostic Approach (IeDA). Each month, IeDA supports an average of 250,000 clinical consultations helping frontline healthcare workers to diagnose and treat sick children under five years of age. Since the very beginning, the MoH and Tdh have strived to improve the digital solution and address the needs and interests of all stakeholders: from user's friendly and user-centric, to automatic monthly reports, to epidemiological dashboards, to performance analytics and to connection to district health information systems. It has taken 11 years of a continuous improvements and fine-turning, and 12 different versions to reach national scale (83% of the country) and a high level of adoption (90% of adherence). The initiative has been recently extended to include additional health services to ensure a minimum essential digital health package. As a good example of bottom-up good practice, today IeDA is also deployed at smaller scale in Mali, India and Niger.