

leDA-maternity

A digital tool to improve the quality of care for mothers and babies



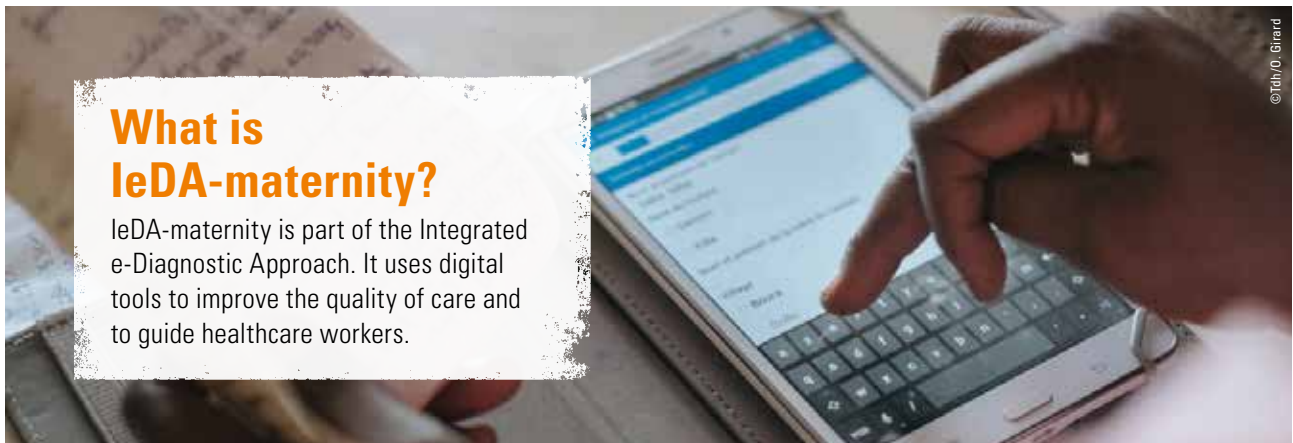
Terre des hommes

Helping children worldwide.

Reducing maternal and neonatal mortality: a challenge for West Africa

For mothers and babies in Africa, birth is a critical and life-threatening moment. «Today, nearly half of all children worldwide die at birth or in the first days of life. We need to focus our efforts on delivery and first aid for the baby, but also work on the health of the mothers, because it is very much linked to the health of the baby,» says Riccardo Lampariello, head of the health programme at Terre des hommes.

Thanks to a solid experience in digital health, our teams, in collaboration with the Ministry of Health in Burkina Faso, have developed a mobile application that helps healthcare workers during medical consultations. The aim is to improve the quality of diagnosis, care and follow-up of women and newborns during pregnancy, delivery and after birth. «The tool guides the healthcare worker through the medical protocols during consultations and gives an alert when a risk is detected, when the patient has high blood pressure for example», explains Luc Kaboré, coordinator of the health programme in Burkina Faso.



What is leDA-maternity?

leDA-maternity is part of the Integrated e-Diagnostic Approach. It uses digital tools to improve the quality of care and to guide healthcare workers.

leDA-maternity consists of four main components:



The improvement of medical monitoring through **digital monitoring and decision support** reinforces complete consultations and good practice. leDA-maternity is comprised of a digital record in which patient data is collected throughout the patient's follow-up and care pathway. The tool also provides support for producing reports.



The strengthening of the health system through the **analysis of data** that detects recurring errors and malfunctions. It also helps to improve data quality. The data can be used, analysed in the form of a dashboard and can be transferred to the DHIS2 (digital solution for feeding the national health information system).



The improvement of healthcare workers' skills thanks to a **continuous training strategy** through coaching. This also enhances the quality of care.



The enhancement of theoretical and practical knowledge of healthcare workers at a low cost thanks to **e-learning**.



The aim of leDA-maternity is to contribute to the reduction of maternal and neonatal mortality. This is achieved through the digitalisation of clinical protocols for the women's and newborn's health component (antenatal care, labour and delivery monitoring, postnatal care) for post-abortion care and for family planning.

Tablets are provided to healthcare workers to conduct digital consultations. They are available in the maternity units and are used mainly by healthcare workers involved in perinatal health.

leDA-maternity is designed as a consultation guide (administrative file - interview - clinical examination - advice and guidance for action). It makes information available from registers and protocols, standards and national reproductive health policies in a digital form.

It contains five forms:

- 1. Antenatal care;
- 2. Birth and delivery;
- 3. Postnatal care for mothers and newborns;
- 4. Family planning;
- 5. Post-abortion care.

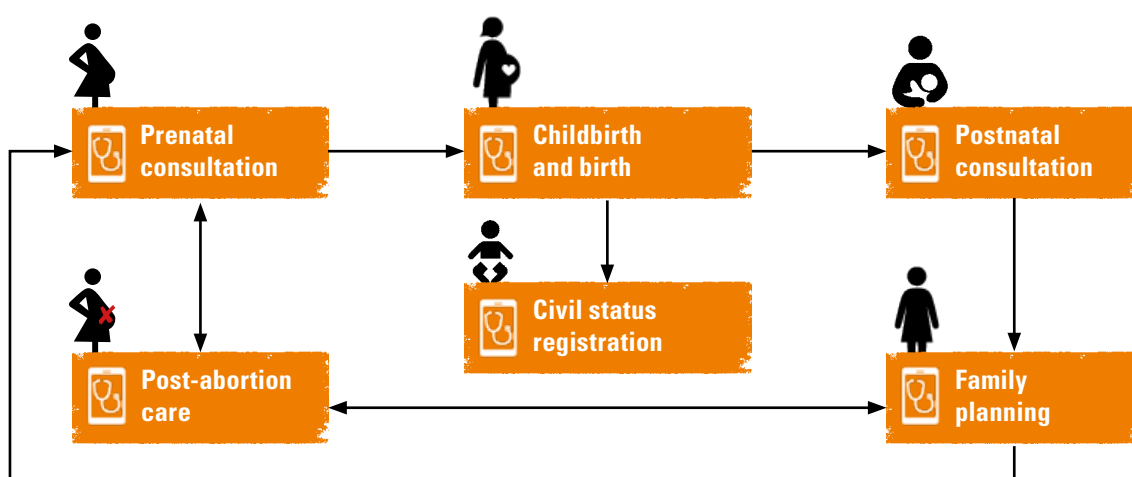
Thanks to its partnership with the NGO Enfants du Monde and Terre Innovative Healthcare Srl, the prenatal care form has been enriched by an application already implemented in Burkina Faso.

A tool for improving the quality of care

The application provides advice to healthcare workers during the consultation, guiding them in the care and messages to be given to each woman according to her situation. It helps the healthcare workers to prepare for birth, to react in case of problems at birth and in consultations for babies during their first weeks of life.

To improve the quality of care, healthcare workers are provided with updated training courses on the application. «Before, it took several months or even years for a new health directive to be known in rural areas. Now, the information arrives immediately in the application,» says Luc Kaboré.

It also incorporates the WHO 'safe delivery checklist' and messages for respectful care along the continuum of care.





Better monitoring of health centre indicators

Dashboards are produced and help visualise in real time the level of performance indicators and the monitoring of maternal, neonatal and child quality care. They are designed in two stages, an Excel production version and an online operating version with tables. The indicators to be displayed are defined during a workshop with the actors involved in the project. The dashboard is accessible online and connected to the database for an automatic update for indicators' visualisation.



Implementation in West Africa

In Burkina Faso, the first version of leDA-maternity is currently available with three forms implemented in four health regions, covering over 500 health centres. Its full version with the five forms is being deployed in the health district of Toma, in the Boucle du Mouhoun, and will be evaluated by John Hopkins University in 2021.



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