

JIBU M-LEARNING APP

Common challenges faced by nurses in Africa include acute shortages, retention, motivation and limited access to education and training. Amref, an African-led NGO based in Kenya, is using innovative approaches to build the capacity of health workers through e- and mLearning. In 2013, Amref piloted Jibu, a mobile learning app to support the professional development of nurses and midwives, in partnership with the Kenyan Ministry of Health, Rutgers University, the Nursing Council of Kenya and several training institutions. Jibu is Swahili for “answer” and is primarily aimed at capacity building, offering a cost-effective way to make continuous education and collaboration available to nurses through their mobile phones. In 2016, Jibu was able to ramp up to a full-scale East African program with multi-year support from the Elsevier Foundation. During phase 1, over 10,000 nurses and midwives in 3 countries enrolled in the application, signalling a strong desire to access credible, up-to-date learning materials.

To achieve scale and quality in training, Amref upgraded its learning management system into an integrated e-Campus platform serving as a one-stop shop with coordinated learning solutions to enable the scaling of health training and information to health workers across Sub Saharan Africa.



Beneficiary group

Nurses, clinicians, healthcare students

Budget

\$240,000 (2016-2018, no cost extension through April 2020)

Location

The majority of the Jibu users are from Kenya, Rwanda, Tanzania, Uganda, South Sudan and Zambia

Primary outcome

Improve the skills and knowledge of health workers by providing a sustainable and scalable mLearning application.

Goals

- Develop additional pedagogically sound and accredited CDP content to ensure continuity.
- Further enhance the learner experience in collaboration with trainers, ministries of health and nursing regulators.

Milestones

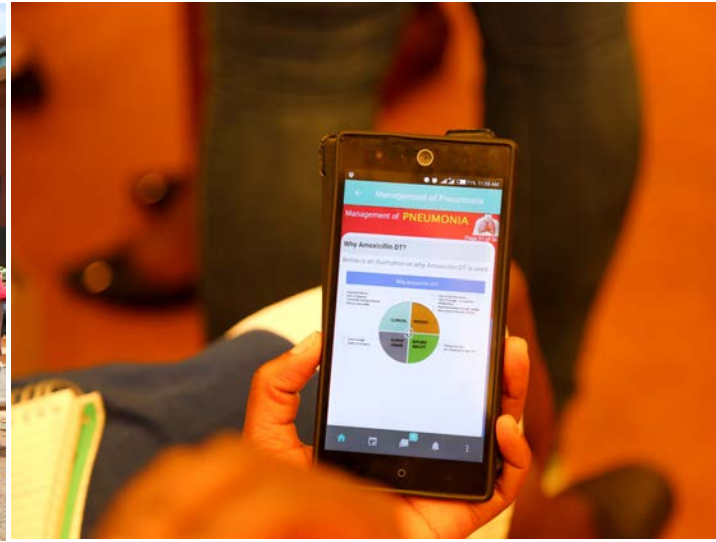
- **Pedagogically Sound and Accredited Content**
 1. More than 30 courses are available via Jibu. 50% of them have been accredited by at least one regulatory authority, while the rest are undergoing review for accreditation.
 2. Popular courses in both English and French cover pneumonia, diarrhea, leadership management and governance.
 3. Downloads have reached ~2,400 unique users.
- **Adaptation of the CPD Framework and Guidelines:** Amref and the Nursing Council of Kenya (NCK), a professional regulator of nurses and midwives, reviewed their CPD guidelines as part of Jibu. Jibu also supported the development of an accreditation tool aligned to the NCK guidelines to facilitate dissemination for increased awareness and uptake
- **Business model and sustainability of Jibu:** The project has identified promising viable products and services and has begun engaging potential clients to gauge their suitability for revenue generation.
- **Jibu launch:** A 2-day learning event was organized in March 2020 to officially launch Jibu and its next phase of engagement. It attracted stakeholders, policy makers, universities and health professionals for a discussion on the priorities in digital learning. A field visit to a healthcare clinic and a medical hospital in Kenya’s Nyeri County was also organized to enable Jibu users to share their experience.

Level of evidence

Level 1	Quasi-experimental
Level 2	Pre-post or cross-sectional
Level 3	Point-in-time study
Level 4	Performance metrics/stats
Level 5	Anecdotal evidence

Challenges

- **Internet connectivity:** The cost of data needed to download Jibu content remains prohibitive for some users.
- Jibu needs to be further developed to improve self-enrollment, the quality of data being collected, single sign on for popular platforms (Google, Facebook etc.) and further reduction of Jibu’s 42mbs app size.



“The Jibu app came to us at the right time when we needed it. The entire college as well as the hospital fraternity staff have also been using it, especially for getting updates in child diseases management. We plan to have it installed in our computer lab for easier accessibility by the students.”

— CAROLINE KIBARA, Deputy Principal, Methodist College of Health Sciences-Maua, Kenya.

Clockwise from top right: the Amref team visits a clinic in Nyeri County (150km from Nairobi) where Jibu is used by nurses and doctors to continue their education; a nurse in Nyeri shows how she uses Jibu on her phone to stay updated on pneumonia treatment; participants at the Jibu launch share their perspective on health education; the launch ceremony; the Elsevier Program Officer Domiziana Francescon with Diana Mukami, Director of Digital Learning at Amref. “Resolving the shortage of health workers requires a multi-pronged approach, including concerted efforts through public-private partnerships” said Mukami during the event. (All photos © Amref).

