



Wireless Access for Health

The Philippine Field Health Service Information System (FHSIS) is the government's major resource for managing public health data. Data from the system is used for policy analysis and planning at all levels of the public health system. Most of the data originates during patient care at barangay health stations, city health centers, rural health units (RHUs) and hospitals. It is up to the doctors, nurses and other health care providers at these facilities to treat patients, record their information and assemble clinic-wide reports. An electronic medical record (EMR) system has the potential to improve access to quality patient records for clinicians and data to the FHSIS.

Challenge

- RHUs provide critical health care services to families and communities throughout the Philippines.
- Patient-level information enables health care workers to provide individuals with more effective, efficient and comprehensive care.
- Clinic-level information is critical for maintaining the appropriate amount of life-saving drug supplies and identifying human resource needs. Municipal-, provincial- and regional-level information can help identify disease outbreaks and inform decision makers on the most efficient allocation of resources.
- RHU-level information is critical for public health-related decision and policy making.
- Traditionally, this information has been manually recorded on paper — a process that is not only time consuming, but also error prone. Accessing and managing information in this manner is labor intensive and the data can often be outdated or incorrect.
- The inability to easily access and trust the accuracy of the patient information also makes it difficult for RHUs to feel a sense of ownership of the data and the FHSIS system.

PHILIPPINES

2018 Statistics*

Population (2017 est.)  **104.2 million**

Life Expectancy (2017 est.)  **69.4 years**

GDP Per Capita (2017 est.)  **US\$8,300**

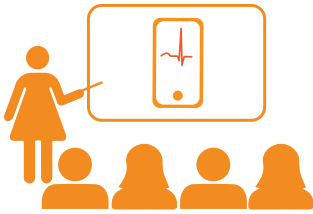
Mobile Penetration (est.)  **131.38%**

Solution

- Supported by Qualcomm Wireless Reach, in collaboration with various stakeholders through a multi-sector collaboration, Wireless Access for Health (WAH) is designed to improve health care in the Philippines by reducing the time required to record and report health data while also improving access to accurate and relevant patient information for clinicians and decision makers.
 - Low cost hardware: Mobile devices including netbooks, tablets and smartphones on an advanced wireless network are now available enough to become a standard tool for health care providers.
 - Open source software: WAH makes its code available online in conjunction with principles of open source programming and sharing. The platform runs on Ubuntu Linux, MySQL, and PHP. It is a completely free and community supported system.
- WAH leverages new and innovative technologies to improve the quality and timeliness of data at health clinics in the Philippines. Specific technologies include:
 - 3G wireless technology: A high-speed 3G wireless data network brings fast and reliable Internet services to health clinics. Reports that used to be delivered by people using motorcycles or jeepneys (a local mode of transportation) can now be sent instantly via 3G directly to the people who need them most.
- In addition to the technology, WAH unites a diverse group of stakeholders with a common vision. Their combined expertise, influence and resources have been critical to the project's achievements.

*Sources: CIA World Factbook (<https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/>); Mobile penetration data provided by Ovum World Cellular Information Service and based on market intelligence.

Impact



Capacity Building, Scale-Up

As of December 2017, the WAH Initiative has:

- ° Successfully scaled-up its digital platform in 160 clinics located in 26 provinces – five are committed to province-wide scale-up – in the Philippines, serving more than 9,000 patients a day.
- ° Helped record over 6.3 million patient consultations (morbidty diseases, maternal care, child care, and family planning) and helped manage more than 2 million patient records.
- ° Trained more than 3,000 clinicians and many have confirmed improvements in their ability to record, report, generate, and analyze health data and reports.
- ° Paved the way for faster and better delivery of health care services; cutting in half the average patient waiting time to see the doctor in a primary health care facility.



Government Support

Over 120 partner local government units have committed to sustaining the WAH Initiative, signed legal agreements with the organization and have incorporated expenses and funds for training in their budgets, including allocations for mobile devices, personnel and system maintenance.



Improved Care and Capacity

Patient care has improved and patient visits have increased as they are handled more efficiently:

- The four to five minutes needed to search paper records is reduced to just seconds.
 - The average waiting time for consultation is reduced by half.
- Clinics receive more capitation funds as they now have the capability to submit Philippine Health Insurance electronic claims for primary care benefit and case-rate packages.



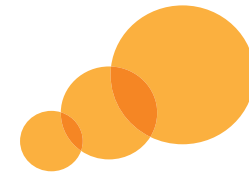
Improved Record Keeping

The ability to easily view, record and share patient information across multiple computers within a health clinic allows clinicians to complete patient consultations earlier in the day in order to provide more support to community health workers.



Stakeholder Collaboration

Various stakeholders are collaborating to make the WAH platform a stand-alone, open-source, communal health information system across the Philippines that complies with the standards of and inter-operates with the health information platform of the Department of Health (DOH) and the Philippine Health Insurance Corporation (PhilHealth).



Platform Expansion

WAH has expanded its groundbreaking EMR system that supported medical data collection and reporting at the clinic level to a full-fledged digital health platform for local governments. The platform features recording and reporting of health data at various points of care – barangays/villages, primary clinics, and primary hospitals and allows for aggregation and dis-aggregation of data online up to the provincial and barangay level, respectively. It also allows clinicians using the platform to send health alerts and reminders to patients via SMS.

Program Stakeholders



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Qualcomm® Wireless Reach™

Qualcomm believes access to advanced wireless technologies can improve people's lives. Qualcomm Wireless Reach is a strategic initiative that brings wireless technology to underserved communities globally. For the last ten years, Wireless Reach has invested in programs that foster entrepreneurship, aid in public safety, enhance the delivery of health care, enrich teaching and learning and improve environmental sustainability, impacting over 15 million beneficiaries.

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