



RETHINKING TECHNOLOGY TO BRIDGE THE DIGITAL DIVIDE

VIDEO TRANSCRIPT

In many lower middle-income countries, health workers are still relying on paper-based solutions to collect information and report on health data. These systems are outdated, time consuming and can be unreliable, prone to mistakes or loss.

The Covid-19 pandemic has really highlighted the need to be able to track and monitor health data in real time.

Switching to digital healthcare isn't an option for all because broadly speaking consumer tech is designed in and for developed countries.

Currently there's no off-the-shelf device that exists to meet the needs of health workers in rural and disadvantaged communities.

As part of Arm's sustainability strategy we want to help to close the digital divides so bringing benefits to the 3.7 billion people who don't have access to digital technology.

We worked with Accenture Development Partnerships to work on this rugged tablet solution together with a real emphasis on functionality.

This is our prototype tablet and you can probably see from there that it's quite a rugged device which is one of the key features and really important in some of the communities where this will be used.

We tested the prototype in Bangladesh and Tanzania by hearing from real world potential users at an early stage we knew then that we needed a device that would last three-to-four working days. The three-to four-day battery life that we'd included worked brilliantly

One of the other differentiating features is that you can use the screen in high sunlight which is obviously an important issue in some of the countries where this device is being used.

Sustainability was another key consideration. This product will have a longer life expectancy than cheaper off-the-shelf products because it's essentially designed for the conditions it will be used in.

Additionally, when a tablet replaces paper-based solutions it reduces waste and it reduces cost Tanzania of printing and cost of transporting paper. We've heard some estimates that the cost of printing records in a community can be \$200 a time in some locations.

If mass-produced this product could contribute to delivering more robust healthcare to marginalized communities. It could also be used in agriculture education, with staff in refugee camps. census enumerators and even commercial field workers.

The rugged tablet is a digital solution to a physical problem it makes delivering robust healthcare quicker, easier, more sustainable and more reliable .

There's a huge opportunity here to close the digital divide and to help everybody everywhere access digital technologies.

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