

The use of Mobile Technology in enhancing Health Services for Mothers and Infants in the Early Diagnosis of HIV and Postnatal Care as a way of Promoting their Human Rights in Zambia

An Abstract of the Project by Agwu, Ugochukwu

In the face of high prevalence of HIV and AIDS in Zambia, management of the pandemic through the access to adequate and acceptable quality health services has remained the main stay of the Ministry of Health as a requirement and is one of the basic human rights for every infected person in society. Statistics indicate that women in Zambia are among vulnerable groups most affected by HIV epidemic compared to men.

To protect women and children against HIV and AIDS vices, the Ministry of Health partnered with Family Health International (FHI 360) and initiated a project *Program Mwana: A Zambia mHealth Initiative*, aimed at improving early infant diagnosis of HIV using mobile technology. The main objective of this study was to assess the extent to which the project *Program Mwana* had assisted in early diagnosis of HIV and timely response in infants and mothers, to establish the extent to which the project has enhanced the human rights of women and babies in accessing acceptable quality healthcare facilities, and in creating a future HIV and AIDS environment where women and other infected people would not be subjected to stigma and discrimination by society. The outcomes of the study have indicated that *Program Mwana* project has improved the time for transmitting test results by over 50 per cent. Results have also revealed that the project has contributed positively to the promotion of human rights for mothers and infants in the sense that they have access to acceptable quality health facilities. Finally, results showed that this project also served as a long-term project in terms of creating an HIV and AIDS free environment, hence eradicating issues of stigma and discrimination against women and babies.

Key words: Postnatal, Quality Health Services, Mobile Health Services, Human Rights, Inequalities, and Inequities.