

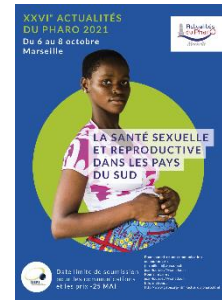
Actualités du Pharo 2021 – Session 5

Interest of mobile medical teams in mother and child health

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Landlocked populations in Africa have the worst health indicators. The vastness of the territories, the dispersion of the habitat and the absence of a road network make access to healthcare difficult. Beyond 15 km from a health post (2 hours by cart), the demand for care drops by 50% (source: Santé Sud).

Some very remote areas are veritable health deserts.

To meet this challenge, in addition to its traditional mobile medical teams, the Kaïcedrat association set up a light mobile medical team in eastern Senegal in 2015, attached to a public health post.

A midwife with a driver in a 4X4 vehicle leaves every morning to consult in 20 villages 15 to 60 km away from the health post. Each village has a health post, built free of charge by the population and run by a health worker. The health worker diagnoses and treats malaria, prepares midwife consultations and provides health education sessions. This facility was evaluated at two-year intervals, in 2015 when it started and in 2017, after two years of operation.

The study population represented 5,000 inhabitants, 1,300 women of reproductive age and 1,000 children under 5 years of age.

The results were as follows:

- the number of pregnant women medically monitored increased by 100
- Infant mortality dropped by 60% to 30/1000, below the national rate
- the number of fully vaccinated children increased from 31% to 66
- the number of children being exclusively breastfed has increased by 170%.
- the number of children registered with the civil registry increased from 16% to 32
- the number of women enrolled in family planning has increased from 15 to 42 (+ 180%); in 2021 it is currently 101 women (+ 500%)
- no maternal deaths were recorded during these two years

On the other hand, little improvement has been achieved in the maternity delivery rate. 80% of deliveries continued to be carried out in the village by matrons.

This system has an operating cost of €20,000 per year, i.e. €4 per year per inhabitant.

Our presentation describes how the study was carried out and what we learned from it.