

Case Study:

"EBOTELI" project in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC)



Context

The Democratic Republic of the **Congo (DRC)**, a country with vast natural resources, has faced numerous challenges, including political instability, conflict, and a strained healthcare system. The need for improved healthcare services is particularly acute, with many regions lacking basic health facilities and facing outbreaks of diseases such as Ebola, malaria, and cholera.



Challenge

Access to quality healthcare for pregnant women and newborns has been severely limited due to various factors, including geographic barriers, insufficient healthcare infrastructure, and a lack of trained healthcare professionals. The **COVID-19** pandemic further exacerbated these challenges, posing additional risks to both healthcare providers and patients, as seen in situations like the one at Dolisie General Hospital.

The Initiative

Initiated in 2021, the **EBOTELI** project is a collaborative effort led by the **DRC** government, **UNFPA**, and Royal Philips. This maternal health initiative aims to halve maternal and newborn mortality rates within five years, as stated by the United Nations Population Fund (**UNFPA**) in 2021. It represents a significant commitment to improving maternal and newborn health outcomes in the **DRC**.

1. Strong Partnerships:

The collaboration among the **DRC** government, **UNFPA**, Royal Philips, **WHO**, and the Ministry of Health and Population has enabled the pooling of resources and expertise.

2. Focusing on Critical Needs:

Addressing the availability of healthcare workers and improving the quality of care in hospital facilities.

3. Response to COVID-19 Challenges:

Implementing strategies to safeguard both healthcare workers and patients from the pandemic's impact.

4. Targeted Intervention:

The situation at Dolisie General Hospital served as an early example of the project's focus, where prompt action was required due to the impact of **COVID-19** on the hospital's workforce and the quality of maternal care.

Recognition and Further Initiatives

EBOTELI's approach, especially in the context of the **COVID-19** pandemic, has been recognized for creating synergies in efforts and resources, leading to tangible improvements at both provider and patient levels. This recognition has fuelled further initiatives under the project, aiming to extend its reach and impact.

Key Takeaways



Collaboration is Key:

Strong partnerships are essential for pooling resources and expertise in complex health initiatives.



Pandemic Response:

Adaptability in responding to additional challenges like the **COVID-19** pandemic is crucial.



Focus on Real-World Impact:

The project's success is measured by tangible improvements in healthcare delivery and patient outcomes.



Targeted Healthcare Intervention:

Addressing specific challenges, like those at Dolisie General Hospital, can lead to broader systemic improvements.



Commitment to SDGs:

The project aligns with the Sustainable Development Goals (**SDGs**), particularly **SDG3**, which focuses on good health and well-being.

Through the **EBOTELI** project, the **DRC** demonstrates a strong commitment to improving maternal and newborn health, showcasing how targeted, collaborative initiatives can make a significant impact in challenging healthcare landscapes.