

GENEVA CHALLENGE 2019

JULY 2019

RAPIDCARE: STRENGTHENING HEALTH SYSTEMS IN AN URBANIZING WORLD

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ABSTRACT

Today, rapid urbanization in Africa and Asia outpaces the development of essential urban infrastructures, resulting in the expansion of informal settlements. These crowded areas of entrenched poverty are particularly prone to infectious diseases, such as cholera, malaria, and Ebola. Furthermore, such populations are highly mobile and often out of reach of formal health systems, making infectious disease management remarkably challenging. This not only puts local residents at great risk, but also entire cities, countries, and regions given the interconnectedness of populations across rural and urban spaces and international borders. To address this global health challenge, our innovation RapidCare leverages the existing capacity of informal healthcare providers to better treat and monitor infectious disease in informal settlements. First, RapidCare improves malaria care in informal settlements by increasing the rate at which malaria is correctly confirmed with diagnostic testing. Second, this innovation makes data from the informal sector discoverable through improved data collection to better plan and allocate resources in these communities. Lastly, RapidCare enhances disease surveillance to enable the early identification of disease outbreaks in informal settlements. Overall, this diagnostic and disease surveillance solution will strengthen urban health systems and contribute to making cities more livable and healthy for those who reside in them.

THE TEAM



Hillary Birch, Implementation & Scale-Up Lead

Hillary is a graduate student at Sciences Po in the Master of Governing the Large Metropolis. She holds an H.BA in Peace and Conflict Studies from the University of Toronto and an MA in Political Science from McGill University, specializing in international development, African politics, and global health. Hillary is experienced in knowledge translation and program development, with a focus on sexual and reproductive health and early child development. Hillary is Canadian.



Natalie Boychuk, Global Health & Gender Lead

Natalie is pursuing an MPH at Columbia University with a specialization in Public Health Research Methods and completed an H.BA in Peace, Conflict, and Justice studies from the University of Toronto. She is experienced in developing evidence-based recommendations for global health and humanitarian aid funding, with a specific focus on gender equality and sexual and reproductive health. Natalie is Canadian.



Anna Fechter, Partnerships & Finance Lead

Anna is a graduate student at Sciences Po in the Governing the Large Metropolis program and completed her H.BA in Peace, Justice, and Conflict Studies at DePaul University. Previously, she developed e-learning interventions for incarcerated individuals in the United States and has worked on a number of federally-funded grant projects to improve healthcare access for at-risk populations. Anna is experienced in product development and cross-sector partnerships. Anna is American, from the U.S.



Maria Giorda, Technology & Data Security Lead

Maria completed a BSc in Business Management at King's College London and is currently completing her Master's degree in Governing the Large Metropolis program at Sciences Po. She has a specialization in Marketing and Product Innovation. Maria was previously the lead in launching and troubleshooting a web-based startup and is experienced in the application and analysis of geolocation data solutions. Maria is Italian.