EpiSurveyor/Magpi

Brief Overview

EpiSurveyor is a mobile data collection system used in more than 170 countries across the full spectrum of international development sectors, including health. Designed to be user-friendly, it has more than 10,000 users worldwide. An updated version will be launched in January 2013 under the name, Magpi. This version will have greater speed and over 40 new features: mapping and improved analysis, data collection, sharing, and form design.

Programmed and supported by DataDyne, EpiSurveyor is available free. It is funded entirely through premium subscriptions paid by less than one percent of its users.

- **Geographic Coverage:**
  170 countries across sub-Saharan Africa, Latin America, and the United States.
- **Implementation Partners:**
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EpiSurveyor/Magpi

About EpiSurveyor/Magpi

EpiSurveyor is a free mobile phone and web-based data collection system used by the health, agriculture, education, conservation, and commerce sectors. The application can be used for clinical patient data, public health and epidemiology information, to track supplies and medicines, for household surveys, as well as for non-health-related information.

Within the health sector it is used to collect information for clinic supervision, vaccination coverage, or outbreak response. It is also used to collect data that helps to identify and manage public health threats such as HIV/AIDS, malaria, and measles.

EpiSurveyor incorporates web-based software for designing forms and viewing data, and a mobile phone application for data collection (even without internetconnectivity) on Symbian phones, Blackberries, iPhones, Android phones, or via the use of SMS for basic data collection on *any* phone.

Forms are designed online, and then wirelessly downloaded to phones. Data is collected on the phones (even when there is no network connectivity). Data is sent via the internet to a remote server where it can be viewed and downloaded from any computer with internet access.

Mobile data collection with EpiSurveyor decreases costs compared to the use of paper forms and eliminates the time required to transfer data from paper forms to computers. It also increases data quality with data quality controls that can be easily implemented within the data entry forms.

Evaluation and Results

Since launching the current online version of EpiSurveyor in June 2009, more than 10,000 users in 170 countries have collected over a million data records. Evaluations of EpiSurveyor have demonstrated reduced time and costs and increased data quality. The World Bank conducted an evaluation of EpiSurveyor in Guatemala that found a 71 percent decrease in costs compared with paper.

Lessons Learned

EpiSurveyor has demonstrated that the major obstacle to adoption of useful ICT in development is the cost associated with using programmers and technology consultants when applications are not designed to be user friendly or for limited resource settings. By carefully designing the software to obviate the need for technical support and basing the application in the cloud, DataDyne has reduced the cost of gathering and storing data electronically and made it accessible to a wide range of users.

Conclusion

EpiSurveyor is an effective tool for reducing the cost and time inefficiencies associated with collecting data on paper, while enabling greater quality control. It is highly suited for settings with limited internet connectivity and for use in remote areas.

Information was excerpted from:

Global Polio Eradication Initiative http://healthmarketinnovations.org/program/global-polio-eradication-initiative-gpei
EpiSurveyor Mobile Health Data Collection http://mhealthinfo.org/project/episurveyor-mobile-health-data-collection
Mobiles combat Kenyan polio outbreak http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/technology/7619473.stm
EpiSurveyor Brief http://bit.ly/esbriefpdf ; www.datadyne.org
Case Studies https://datadyne.zendesk.com/entries/21282536-case-studies-who-uses-episurveyor
http://siteresources.worldbank.org/INTLAC/Resources/257803-1269390034020/EnBreve_166_Web.pdf
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