ABSTRACT

Background: Health tools have shown promise in providing greater access to health care to populations of both urban and remote areas in developing countries, as well as creating cost efficiencies and improving the capacity of health systems to provide quality health care. This study focused on assessing the implementation and scale up process of Health innovations in health service delivery in Hoima district by assessing the undertakings and operations factors to scale-up, the enabling environmental, and architectural & technological factors that influence the scale-up.

Methods: The assessment adopted and cross section study design that was analytical in nature with use of both primary and secondary data. It focused on the technical respondents for the health intervention, the partners both at national and district, the community health workers and health workers in the facilities. In total 383 CHWs, 43 HWs and 11 KIs were sampled and the institutions were World Vision, Ministry of Health, Hoima District Health officer and 43 health facilities.

Results: The study on the undertakings and operational factors influencing the implementation and scaling up of mHealth innovations established that the overall goal and the endgame for scale up and sustainability of the innovation have been clearly established at 100%. However the strategic partnerships, collaborations and there sustainability considerations were are partially established and scored 36% overall. For the environmental factors influencing the implementation and scaling up process of the mHealth innovation; 95.3% of the community health workers possessed smart phones and had good knowledge of mobile application, 15% of the CHWs had ever heard or used and mHealth application, 55.8 % of the health workers had computers skills and 44% of them were training in DHIS2. For the technological and Architectural factors affecting the implementation and scaling up of mHealth innovations; only 3 facilities of the 43 had presence of 4G network strength the facility and data application features of accessibility, quality adherence to government standards was at 22%, interoperability was at 66.7% and adaptability at 48.1%.

Conclusions & Recommendations: In light of these findings the study made a key conclusion; regarding the implementation and scale up process of mHealth innovations in Hoima district, there are still major gaps in the undertakings and technical operations, the enabling environment and the technological and architectural set up is not yet ready to support the desired implementation and scale up of such innovations. It thus recommends that: the entire approach to implementing and planning for scaling of mHealth innovations in Hoima to be stayed until the gaps identified within this study are addressed for a result bearing mHealth innovation in health service delivery.