



Infopoverity Community of Expertise e-services for development

E-HEALTH: PRIMARY ULTRASOUND

WINFOCUS, in partnership with OCCAM is designing and implementing pilot projects to incorporate Primary Ultrasound into Primary Health Care remote access-points, with integration with other technologies, to secure minimal appropriate, sustainable and effective technology packages for striking poverty, disease and isolation. Such pilot projects could become virtuous paradigms to be replied worldwide, with the involvement and the investment of International institutions and agencies, in order to secure health for all.

The first initiative is ongoing



in Sambaina, Madagascar, where OCCAM is leading the ICT Village initiative, where the community has been provided with satellite connectivity, used to promote distance learning of ultrasound techniques, as well as other telemedicine applications, following the training of more than 80 medical doctors, midwives and nurses carried out in 2008.

WINFOCUS (World Interactive Network Focused on Critical UltraSound) is a six year old no-profit International scientific society with the institutional scope to promote and spread "point-of-care" ultrasound into clinical practice, in order to

improve primary, emergency and critical care provided in all in-hospital and extra-hospital scenarios.

A worldwide community of health professionals, experts, investigators,



institutions, key-decision makers, gathered within WINFOCUS network, is aiming to accomplish such mission by developing and fostering, on a global and multi-disciplinary basis, ultrasound education, technological innovation, evidence-based research, clinical best practice standards, together with strong networking actions.

PRIMARY HEALTH CARE, abbreviated as PHC, was a new approach to health care that came into existence



following an international conference in Alma Ata in 1978 organized by the World Health Organisation and the UNICEF. Nowadays, PHC is broadly accepted as the key to achieve the goal of Health for all and is founded on essential components, such

as: equitable distribution, community participation, sustainability, appropriate technology, intersectorial coordination.

PRIMARY ULTRASOUND is intended, in the spirit of the declaration of Alma Ata, as a worldwide "appropriate" technology for PHC development, as acceptable, achievable, sustainable, effective tool in improving the health status of the communities, impacting the morbidity and mortality of highly sensitive targets as mothers and children, particularly in poorly developed and scarce-resource scenarios.



As recognized by major International institutions, such as UN and WHO, the mortality and morbidity of mothers and children are sentinel events to assess the quality of health care systems; unfortunately they are still nowadays the most dramatic and emergent challenges for large sectors of the world population. Among the several arising applications of point-of-care ultrasound in critical scenarios, "Primary ultrasound" promises to be an extraordinary tool in order to impact the huge death toll of mothers and children affecting largest communities, throughout the poorly developed rural and suburban areas.