

Summary about CIRES and the BornFyne Project

The International Center for Research, Education and Care (CIRES) is a non-profit medical association created in August 2015 to contribute to improving the response to the needs of patients living in tropical environments especially people at risk (pregnant women, elderly people) who are socially or geographically subject to discrimination and marginalization in terms of access to care with a particular focus on Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTDs). The CIRES action strategy is based on a response centered on the needs of patients, a synergy of action between research and innovation such as digital health, training and care, and finally a network effort. In partnership with the Denis and Lenora Foretia Foundation, CIRES is working to implement the BornFyne Prenatal Management System (BornFyne PNMS) project in the health districts of Akonolinga and Ayos in the Central Cameroon region. We would like to thank Grand Challenges Canada for being the sponsor of this project through the University of Ottawa, Canada.

BornFyne-PNMS is an interactive mobile application that is connected to a real-time web portal, the Prenatal Management System (PNMS). The PNMS is designed to use geo-spatial information and establishes a real-time digital connection between the pregnant woman and the health care provider to geo-navigate and geo-locate patients or pregnant women in distress, especially during emergencies. It uses both online and offline functionalities to provide a continuous educational platform for health promotion messages for family planning and other public health emergencies such as COVID19 using local languages, generates highly disaggregated prenatal data that is interopable with the District Health Information System (DHIS).

In addition, to support clinical care throughout pregnancy, the BornFyne-PNMS design has incorporated the standard components recommended by the World Health Organization's Digital Adaptation Kit for Prenatal Care (WHO DAK) for antenatal care. These guidelines constitute a package of business process workflows, core data elements, decision-support algorithms, linkages to indicators, and functional requirements that are more easily translated into digital systems. In addition, the implementation of this project will strengthen the skills of health workers in the use of digital in the provision of care, which aligns with the vision of Cameroon, which launched its digital health platform in 2020 with the objective of digitizing up to 70% of health facilities by 2024. The impact of the BornFyne project in terms of improving access and quality of care and strengthening the health system at the local, regional and national levels in terms of reproductive health is in line with the vision of CIRES and a definite added value of this project in Cameroon. Follow the project website for additional information and project team at www.bornfyne.org