



# Digitalisation and Maternal Healthcare in Urban Djibouti: A Short Report,

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**Published:** 14 November 2020 | **Received:** 26 August 2020 | **Accepted:** 27 October 2020

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**DOI:** [10.5281/zenodo.18527318](https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.18527318)

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## Abstract

The integration of digital technologies into healthcare is a global trend. In urban Djibouti, high population density and concentrated health infrastructure mean digitalisation presents specific opportunities and challenges for maternal health services. This short report provides a descriptive overview of the current state of digitalisation in urban maternal healthcare in Djibouti. It aims to identify key applications, perceived benefits, and significant implementation barriers. This is a non-empirical, descriptive report. It synthesises information from a review of available grey literature, national policy documents, and observational insights from clinical practice in urban settings. No primary data collection or formal analysis was conducted. Digital initiatives are currently limited. They focus primarily on SMS appointment reminders and rudimentary electronic health records in major hospitals. A key barrier is low digital literacy among some patient groups, compounded by uneven internet connectivity. This risks exacerbating existing healthcare inequalities. Policy direction favours expanding teleconsultation services. Digitalisation within urban Djibouti's maternal healthcare remains at an early and fragmented stage. Although political will for development exists, its potential is constrained by infrastructural and human resource challenges. Strategic planning should prioritise equitable access. Future efforts must invest in reliable digital infrastructure and comprehensive training for healthcare providers and service users. Any pilot projects for mobile health (mHealth) applications require rigorous evaluation before scale-up. Digital health, Maternal health, Urban health, Djibouti, mHealth, Telemedicine This report provides a situational analysis for policymakers and practitioners, outlining the current landscape and critical considerations for the future of digital maternal healthcare in an under-reported urban African context.

**Keywords:** *mHealth, urban health, Sub-Saharan Africa, digital health technologies, maternal health, healthcare access, implementation science*

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