

Social Media and novel data sources: Opportunities for digital public health

Prof Patty Kostkova

Professor in Digital Health

Director, UCL Centre for Digital Public Health in Emergencies
(UCL dPHE)

University College London, UK

UCL dPHE Centre Vision



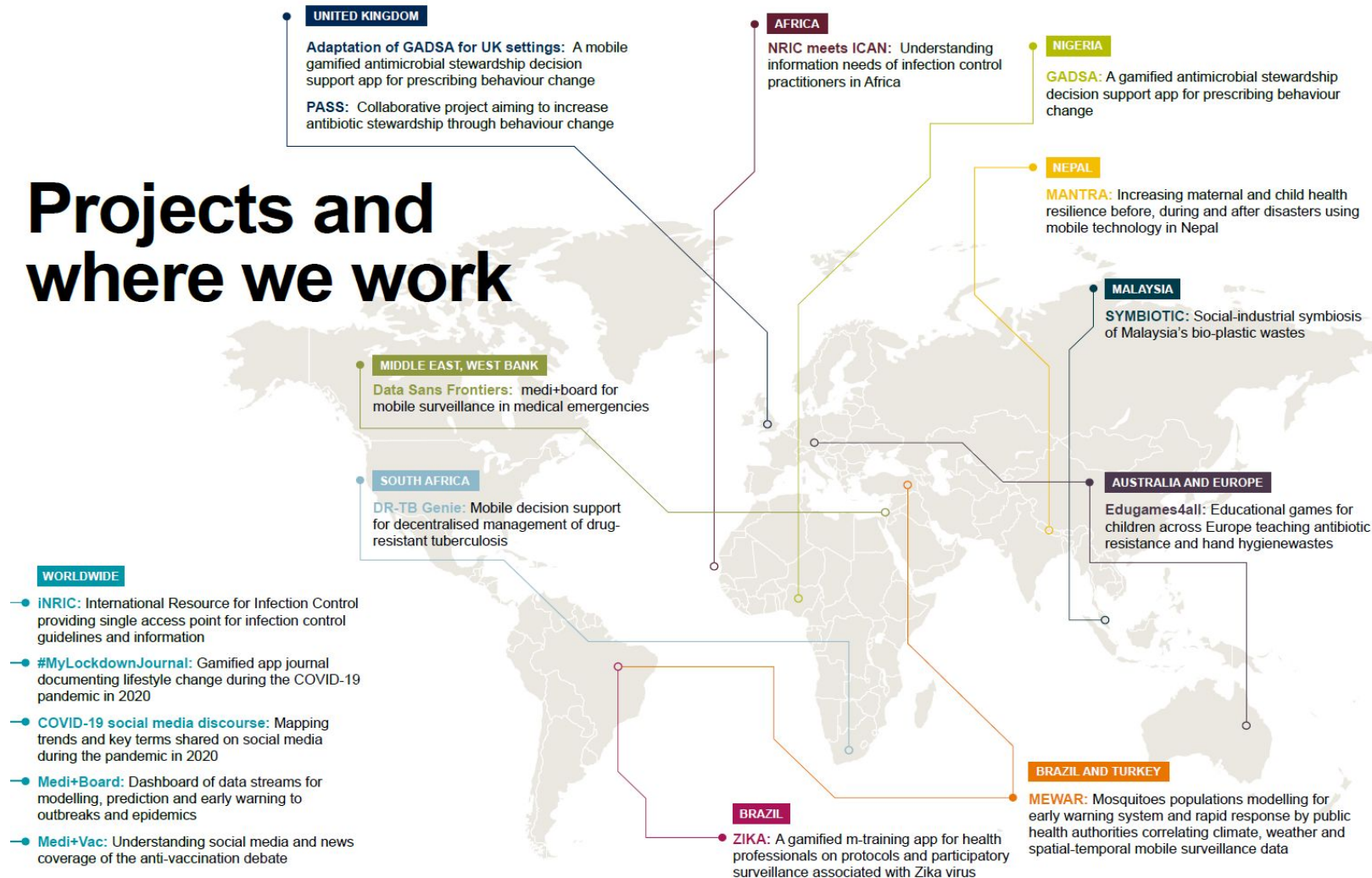
OUR MISSION

- Cutting Edge Digital Innovations
- Strengthening global capacity, preparedness
- Responding to public health emergencies

UCL dPHE International Network



Projects and where we work



UCL dPHE Awards



**Congratulations
UCL Centre
for Digital Public
Health in
Emergencies –
University College London**

**“The overall impression is a team that enjoys and
takes great pride in what it does.”**

Awards and Prize



COMPUTING RISING STAR AWARD 2020

- ◆ **Won - Team of the Year 2020** - UCL dPHE
- ◆ **Highly Commended:** Georgiana Birjovanu

DPH 2019 -INNOVATION PRIZES

- ◆ **Runner-up:** Caroline Wood for GADSA & Georgiana Birjovanu for Zika

COMPUTING WOMEN IN IT EXCELLENCE

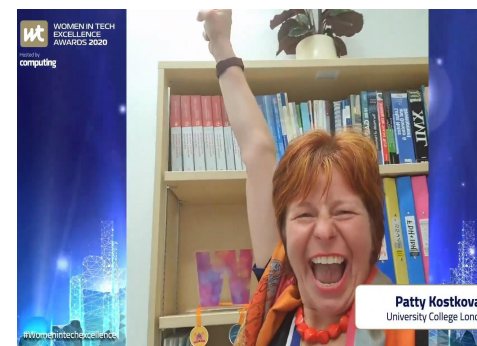
- ◆ **Innovator of the Year** (Winner 2019 and 2020 Prof. Patty Kostkova)
- ◆ 5 Finalist nominations 2017-20

DPH 2018 INNOVATION PRIZES

- ◆ Nomination for **Best Partnership:** Patty Kostkova on behalf of the MANTRA project team

UK IT INDUSTRY AWARDS 2020

- ◆ **'Highly Commended 2020'** in the category of 'Healthcare project of year' – GADSA

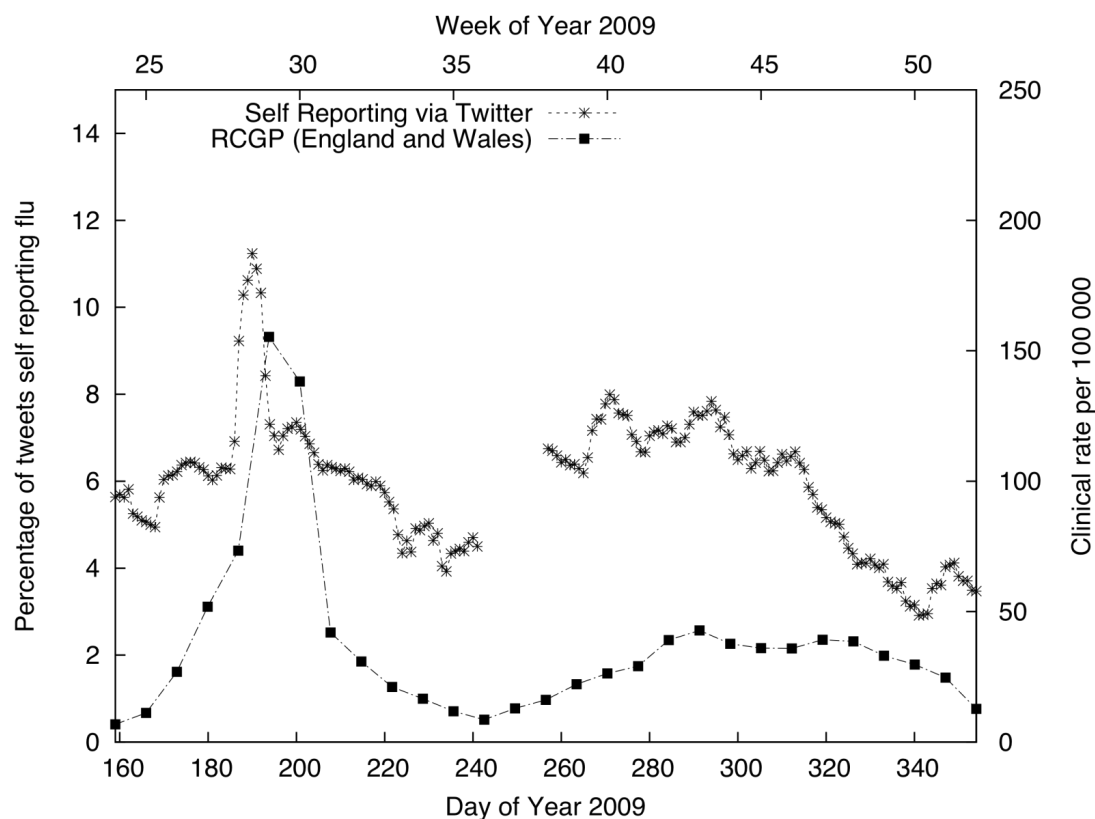


Theme 1: Social Media Predicts Pandemics

- 2009 Twitter Epidemics finalist: BMJ 'Idea to Change healthcare by 2020' (2011 BMJ)
- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_JNogEk-pnM

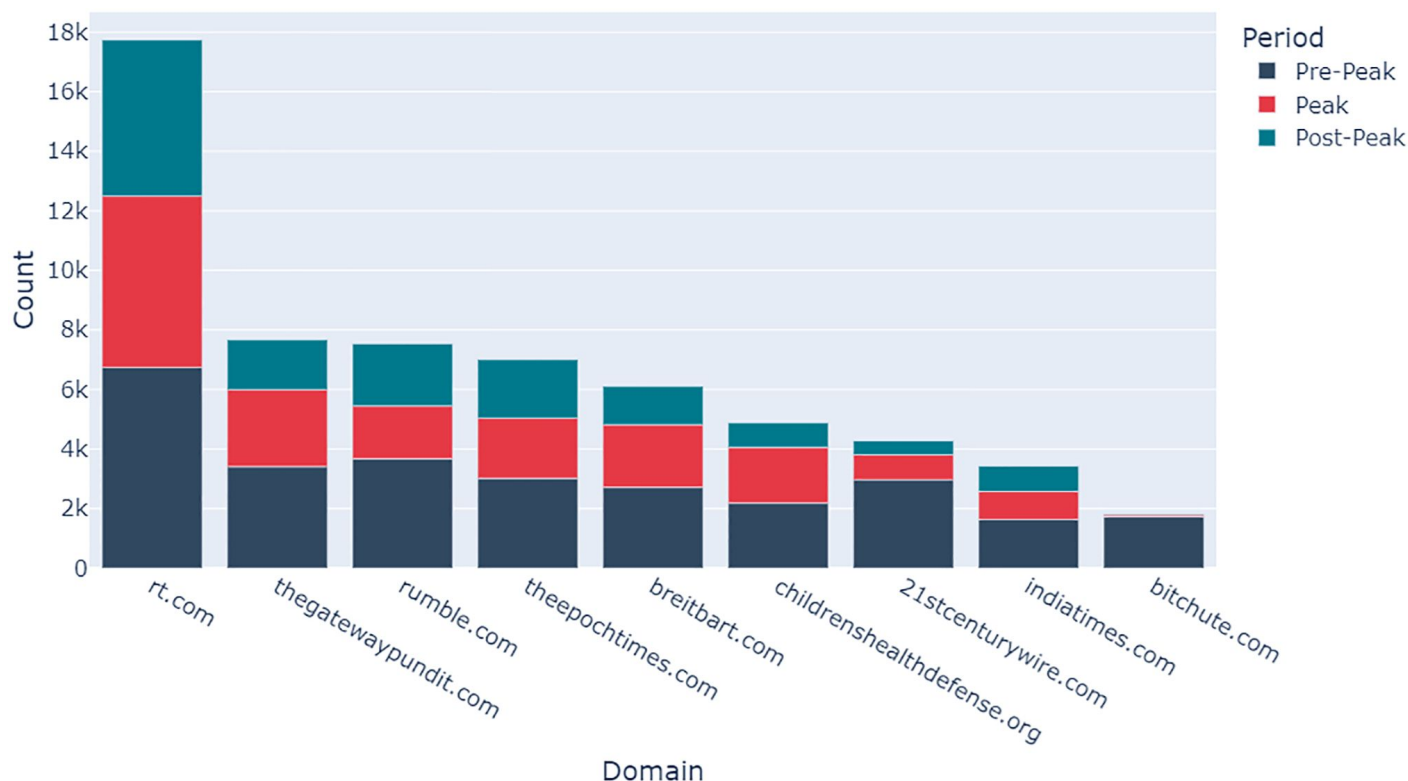


Twitter 2009: Early Warning and Outbreak Prediction



Analysis of low credibility tweets

- media coverage linking the AZ vaccine to blood clots peaked in the UK (11th– 17th March 2021)



PEARL SM challenges

Regulatory and Legal

- Lack of regulatory frameworks for SM tech giants
- Little enforcement of transparency and removal of harmful content
- access to datastreams could be switched off with no warning (as we saw with X)

Theme 2: Participatory Surveillance Zika Virus in Brazil and Madeira

- **Gamified mobile APP** for mosquito surveillance in Northeast Brazil (Madeira coming soon 😊)
- **Early warning model** using heterogeneous big data, Internet of Things (IoT) to predict mosquito population dynamics for better control of Zika virus

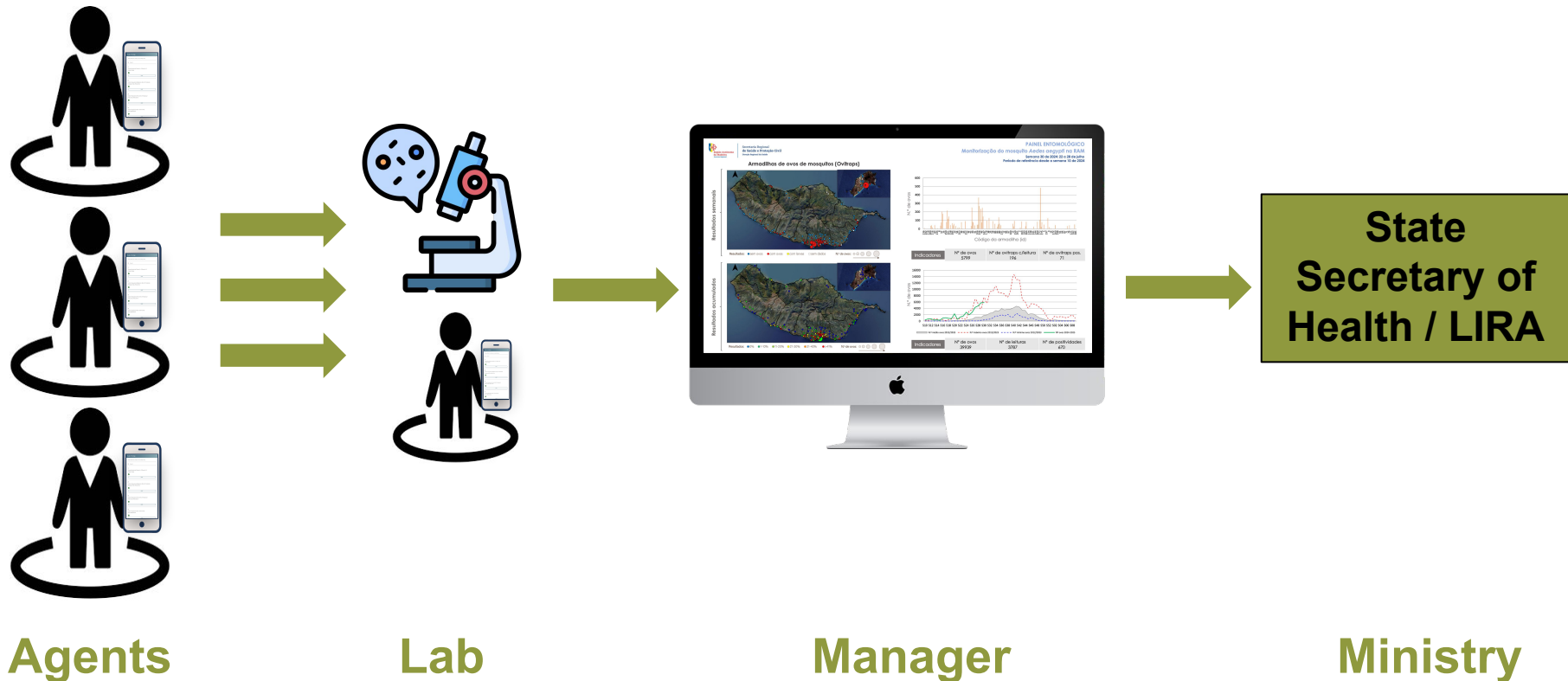


Joint MEWAR & Madeira & Brazil meeting in London

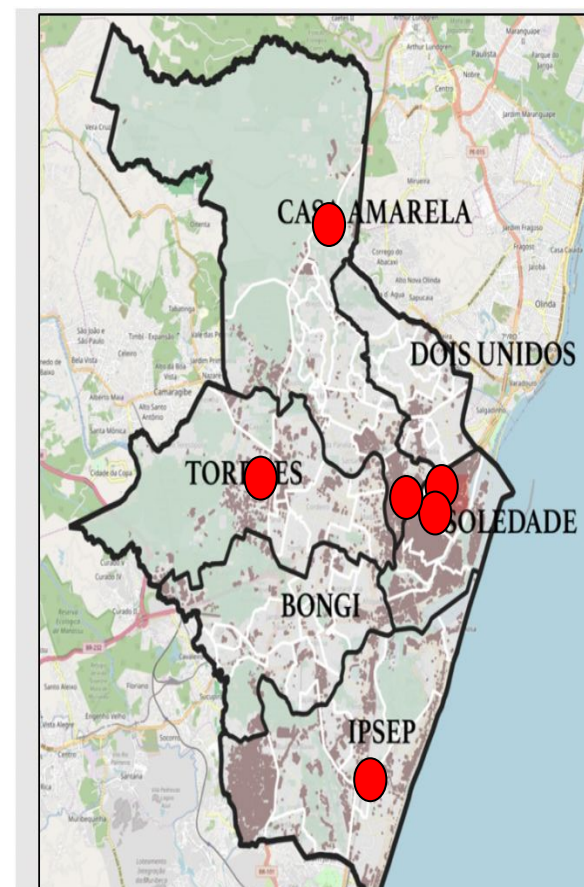
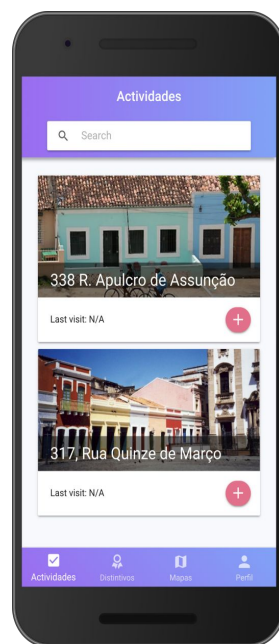


App & Platform - Future Vision

Automated mobile data collection for health agents and managers



ZIKA app for mosquito surveillance for health agents

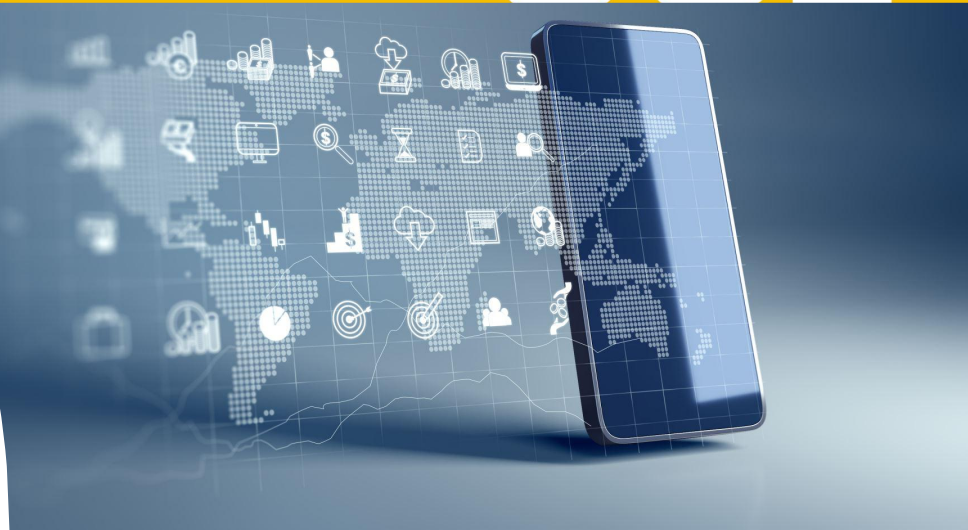


Mosquito Alert in Brazil - video

Internet of Things (IoT) Prediction of High-risk Mosquito Infestation



UCL



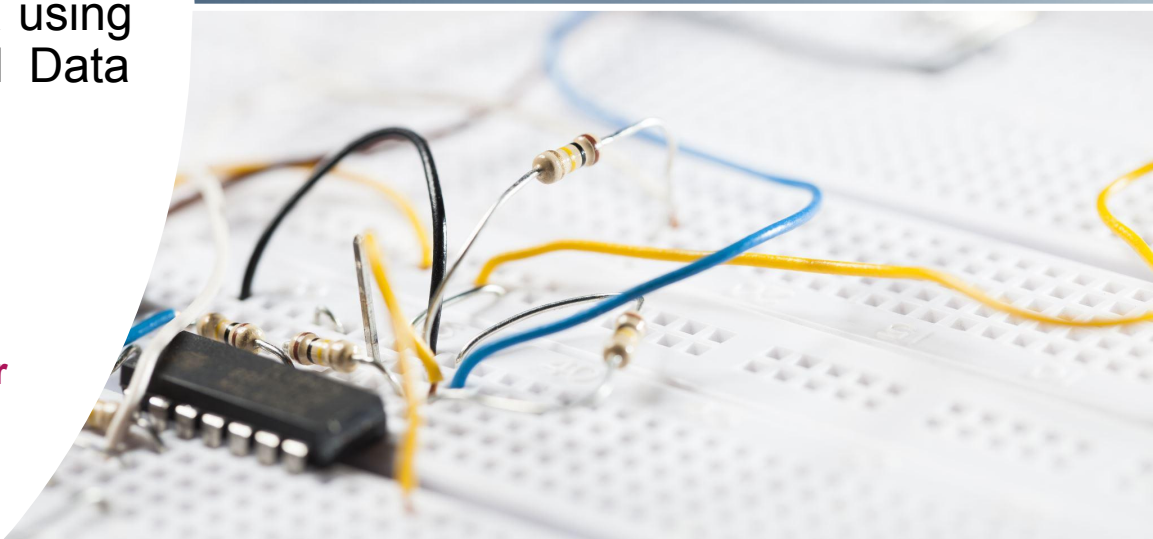
- In addition to Surveillance Data using Mobile App - > Environmental Data using IoT Sensor Devices

Meteorological Data

- Air Temperature, Humidity and Pressure

Physicochemical Parameters of Water

- PH, dissolved Oxygen and Temperature



PEARL mobile and IoT surveillance challenges

Political and Administrative

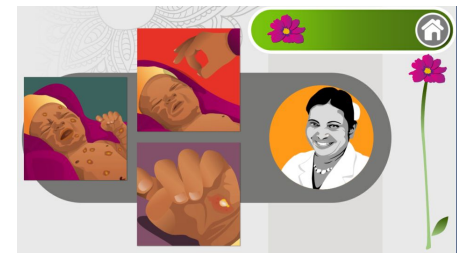
- Lack of harmonisation of processes
- Changes in political priorities and administrative obstacles to access data
- Challenges with using mobile phones and IoT in real settings
- Limited policy making informed by RT data

Theme 3: Serious Games For MANTRA: Maternal and Newborn Technology for increasing maternal and child health in Nepal

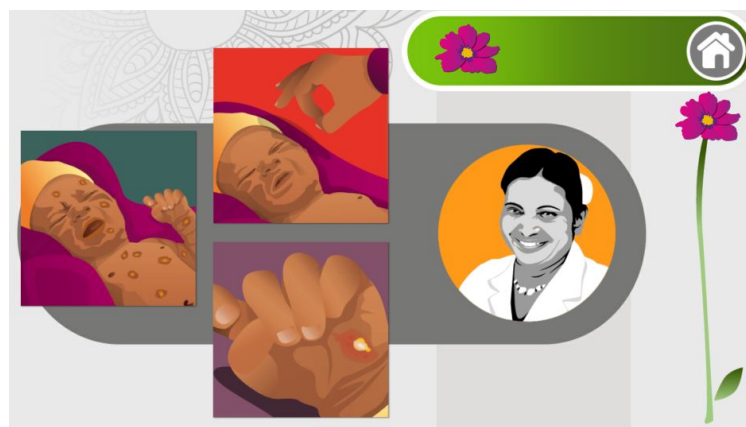
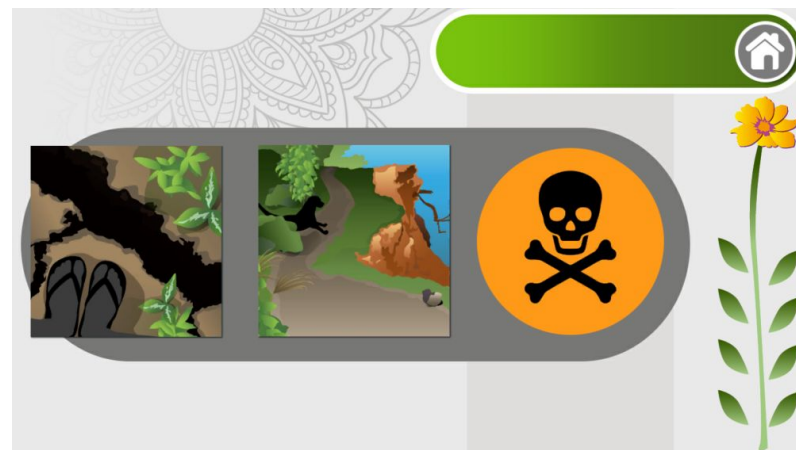
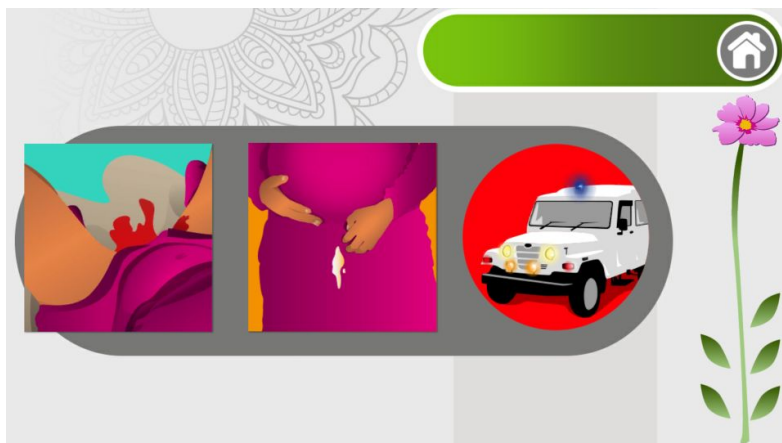


MANTRA game development and results

- Educational content – learning through gaming
- Engagement and Immersion
- Pictograms, no text to cater for illiterate audience, with no experience with smartphones
- Statistically significant knowledge gain and qualitative feedback:
 - **Facilitator:** *What made you feel like playing?*
 - **Woman:** *The thing that [we] need to understand about health. The thing that is necessary for mother to understand about child, if [we] understand that, it will be useful for all. Therefore, the more we play that "game", the more it will be beneficial.*



MANTRA game development and results



PEARL digital intervention challenges in LMIC

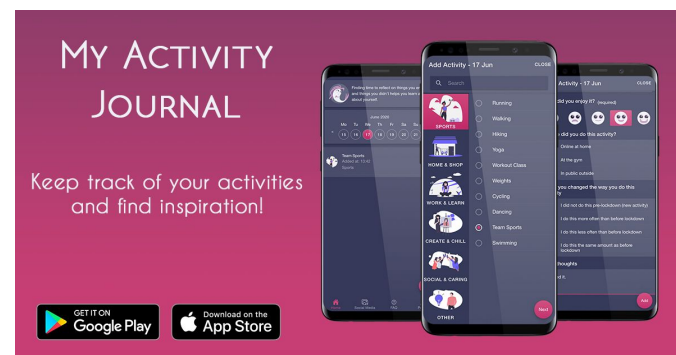
Ethical

- Access to mobile phones and data limited in Global South
- Digital divide and equity
- Gender digital access inequality

Theme 4: COVID-19

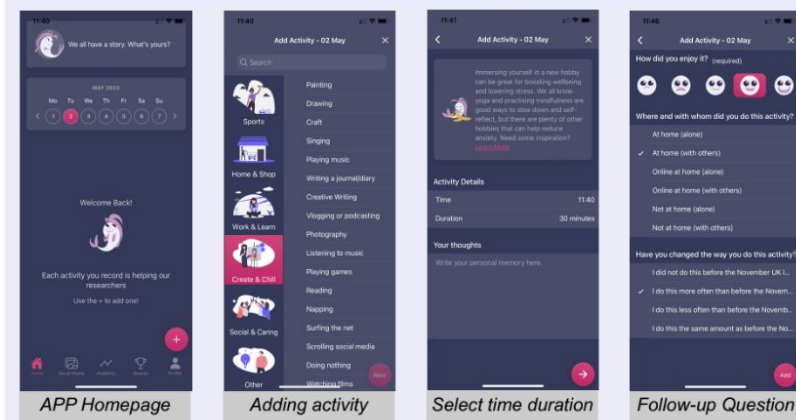
My Lockdown / Activity Journal APP:

- helping people adapt to lockdown since April 2020, **1100+ users**
- **Zoom or Not to Zoom: online survey** to understand lifestyle change during lockdowns since March 2020, **8000+ participants**
- **Social Media Instagram competition** – weekly winners
- Initial Results: During the 1st lockdown: majority of citizens did sports at least once a day and reported practising yoga, prayer or meditation



App design

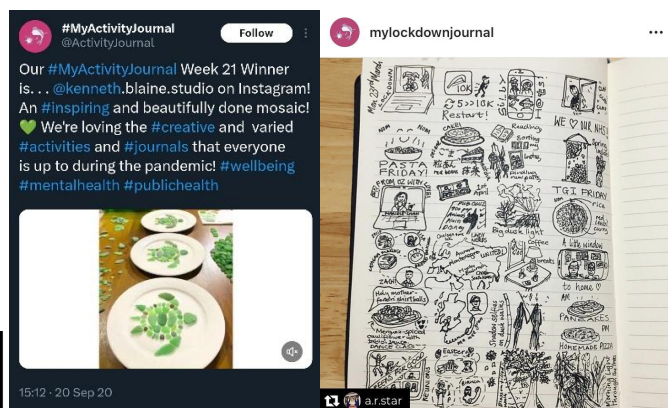
App Design and Implementation



An **MoSCow** method is used to determine the function needed for JournalApp.

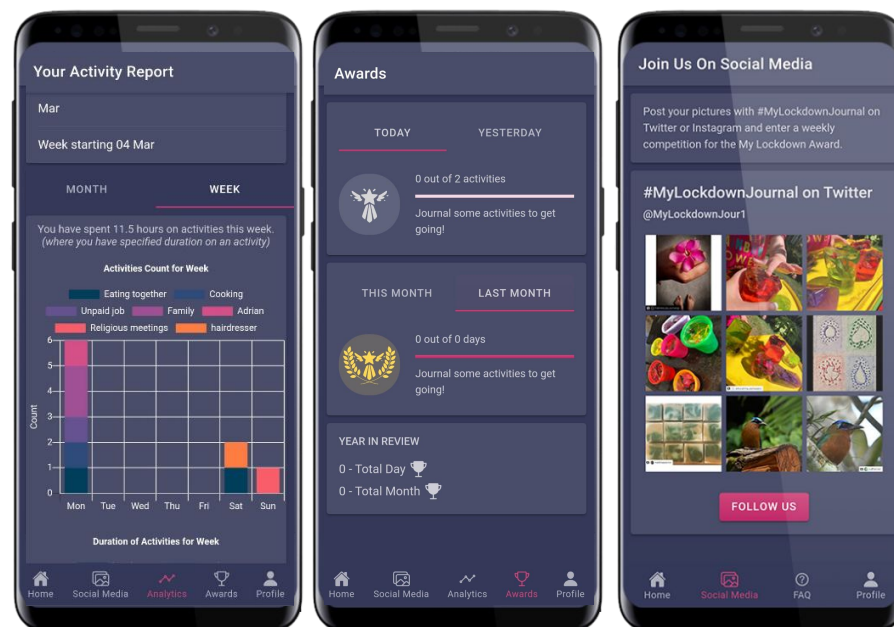
To support this main user flow, the app supports the main functionalities: Recording users' details, recording a new activity, editing an activity, and generating visualization of activity.

- Rapid development using components of previous dPHE work
- Android app only
- 1422 Users registered
- 11900 Activities reported
- Popular social media campaign



Activity tracker, badges and social media

1. Self-analytics
(gamification via self-evaluation)
2. Badges (gamification via awards)
3. Social Media Challenges
(gamification via community)



PEARL digital intervention opportunities

Societal

- Opportunities to engage public through a well designed digital intervention while
- Seamlessly collect data about behaviour
- Enable behaviour change