Healthcare starts with people knowing how to look after their & their families’ health

But most citizens in low- and middle-income countries lack information about protecting their health and what to do in a healthcare situation – a lack of reliable, timely, practical healthcare information is a major obstacle to health.

Universal access to healthcare information is a key step towards Universal Health Coverage

“Universal health coverage and sustainable development goals are empty shells without timely access to and availability of health information.”
Dr Najeeb Al-Shorbaji, former Director, Knowledge, Ethics and Research Department at the World Health Organization, Geneva

Universal access to essential healthcare information is now an achievable target

“Mobile technology...will be essential to the achievement of the UN’s Sustainable Development Goals”
Dr Houlin Zhao, Secretary-General, UN International Telecommunications Union

Mobile devices can now provide wide access, even without a network connection, to essential healthcare information when and where it is required. This information can be in formats, such as audio or short video clips, that can be understood by everyone regardless of literacy level. e.g.

First Aid apps from the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement

HealthPhone health and nutrition apps from The Mother and Child Health and Education Trust

Safe Pregnancy and Birth app from Hesperian

But the SDG target (SDG 3.8) on Universal Health Coverage and its associated indicators do not mention healthcare information!

SDG 3.8 “Achieve universal health coverage, including financial risk protection, access to quality essential health-care services and access to safe, effective, quality and affordable essential medicines & vaccines for all”

REFERENCES

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FURTHER DETAILS
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