

# FirstSteps: A mHealth tool for Children Registration and Monitoring

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***Abstract*—The right of every child to survive, live healthy, have a voice and be educated begins with being uniquely identified immediately at birth. This paper details the development of a mHealth tool, coined *FirstSteps*, which incorporates an extensive registration platform for children under age five into a functional mobile child healthcare application. Considering diversity and cultural practices, *FirstSteps* adopts features (such as schedule setup for vaccination, doctor’s appointment, recording child growth at various developmental stages) which can be deployed in sub-Saharan Africa and complements them with child registration records, one of the vital need of the region. It is expected that this will aid in achieving significant birth/child registration thereby providing quality data useful for reduction of high mortality rate in sub-Saharan Africa.**

*Keywords*—*Maternal and Child Health; mobile phones; Mobile Health (or mHealth); vaccination; smart and connected communities; child registration*