



Mobile phones for maternal health in a rural health district. What contribution? Case of the Health District of Mutaho (Burundi).

Adelin Mudonzi,MD,MPH, Linka Benova, PhD, Jan Kennis, PhD



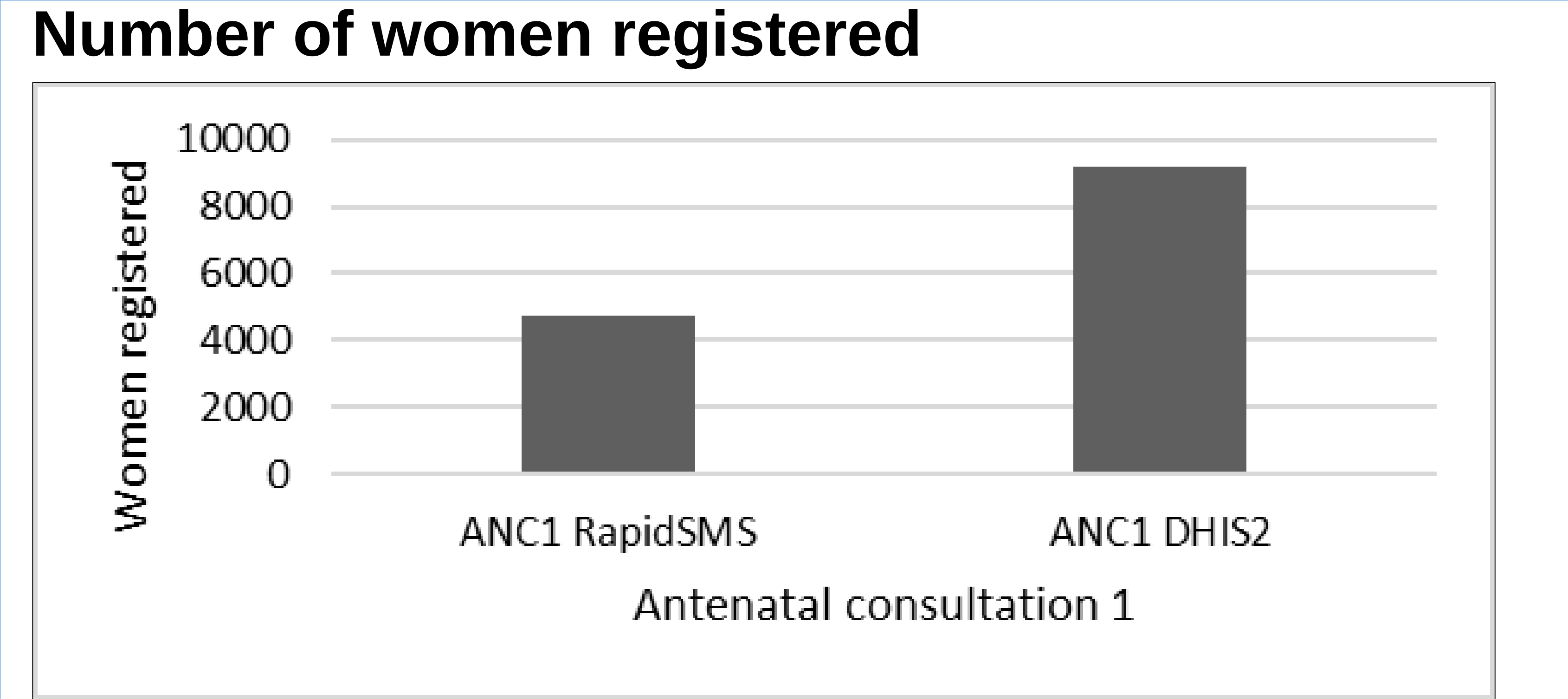
Background

- ❖ The use of mobile health (mHealth) is recognized as being able to contribute to universal health coverage improvement
- ❖ However, few mHealth programs have been evaluated and there is a lack of evidence on the impact of mHealth interventions
- ❖ The pilot was done in 2015 in Mutaho Health District
- ❖ This study aims to assess the effect of appointment reminder by short signal messages (SMS) on the use of antenatal (ANC and postnatal consultation (PNC) services

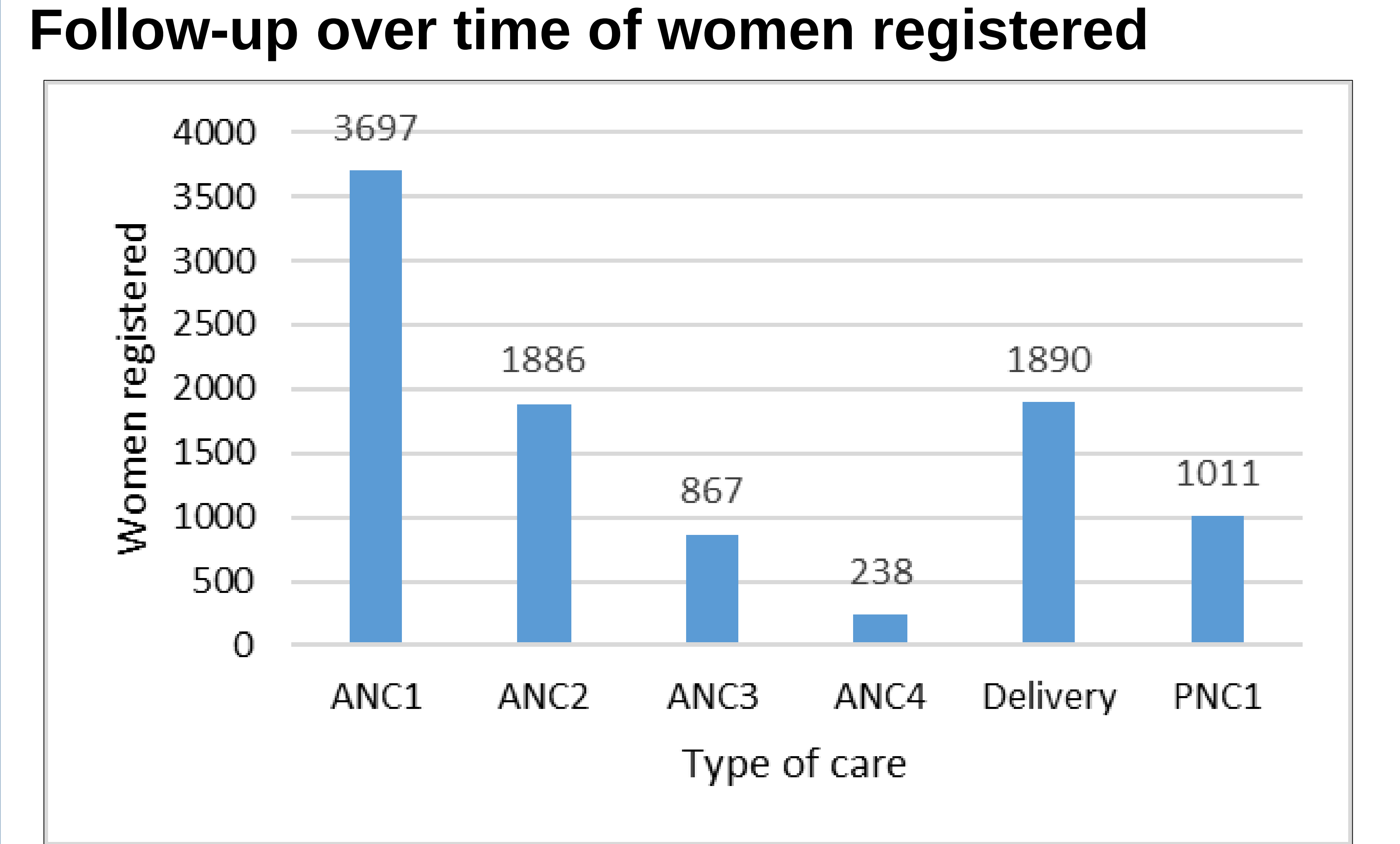
Methods

- **Type of study:** A quantitative comparative study between an area with intervention and without intervention before and after.
- **Data collection:** Data from 2015 to 2018 were collected from DHIS2 database, the RapidSMS database and list of community health workers (CHWs).
- **Area of study:** District Health of Mutaho
- **Data Analysis:**
 - First,we compared first the women registered by RapidSMS and DHIS2.
 - We after analyzed the effect of RapidSMS on the use of ANC and PNC, the follow-up of women.
 - Finally, we analyzed the effect of the sociodemographic data of CHWs on the follow-up over time

Results



The proportion of women registered in RapidSMS compared to women reported in DHIS2 for ANC1 is low (48.3%).



There is a weak follow-up of the women registered (0.7 ANC/ woman instead of 3, ANC4: 6%, PNC1: 28%).

Effect of RapidSMS intervention on the ANC and PNC

- RapidSMS did not increase ANC's coverage.
- PNC1 coverage increased and this indicator had an increasing trend even before the RapidSMS implementation

Effect of socio-demographic data of community health workers (CHWs) on the follow-up of women

- Younger and female CHWs have better follow-up of pregnant women registered

Relation between the level of risk linked to pregnancy at ANC1 and the number of ANC and delivery in a health center

- The average number of ANC attended is 0.7 (95% CI: 0.5 to 1.1). Risk is not statistically significantly associated with the number of ANC (p=0.29).
- The proportion of women who have a delivery visit is 51% (95% CI: 35% to 75%). Risk is not statistically significantly associated with having a delivery visit (p=0.83).

Conclusion

The results do not show any effect of the use of appointment reminders by RapidSMS on the use of ANC and PNC services. We suggest carrying out further studies to explain the results found.