



SDI Review Form 1.6

Journal Name:	<u>International Journal of TROPICAL DISEASE & Health</u>
Manuscript Number:	Ms_IJTDH_31584
Title of the Manuscript:	Implementing Novel IT tools for public health in West Africa- Lessons learned from piloting the Surveillance, Outbreak Response Management and analysis System (SORMAS)
Type of the Article	Method Article

General guideline for Peer Review process:

This journal's peer review policy states that **NO** manuscript should be rejected only on the basis of '**lack of Novelty**', provided the manuscript is scientifically robust and technically sound.

To know the complete guideline for Peer Review process, reviewers are requested to visit this link:

(<http://www.sciencedomain.org/page.php?id=sdi-general-editorial-policy#Peer-Review-Guideline>)



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PART 1: Review Comments

	Reviewer's comment	Author's comment (if agreed with reviewer, correct the manuscript and highlight that part in the manuscript. It is mandatory that authors should write his/her feedback here)
Compulsory REVISION comments	i. Sticking to one title vs "MATERIAL AND METHODS / EXPERIMENTAL DETAILS / METHODOLOGY". I suggest "Methodology" ii. Splitting of certain sections into 2/3 sections. The Background section could be extracted from "MATERIAL AND METHODS / EXPERIMENTAL DETAILS / METHODOLOGY" section. That way, it's easy to follow. The "Discussion" sections could also have other sections extracted from it as highlighted in the comments section of the manuscript. iii. Still missing something on the Pilot Project Workflow. How was the pilot project conducted? A description of the workflow of events for the audience to fully understand how the system works. iv. Is the screenshot provided the only one worth presenting? Is it the only screen shot from the application? I would suggest showing other important app features and explaining a bit on the important/novel features of the app. v. Say something about table 1, e.g. what advised the choice of personnel and number of personnel engaged? It is not mentioned anywhere on the paragraph above	This section has been changed to "Methodology" A background section has been extracted from the Methodology section (the first 2 paragraphs) A summary of the workflow of the project has been added Other screenshots of the contact tracing application have been included What advised the choice of personnel has been included in the paragraph and the number of personnel engaged is in table 2 Yes, end users were involved in the choice (see Methodology section 2.4[the last statement)). No user acceptance document was shared and signed This has been elaborated on in the result section 3.8 and also in table 7 The way this was addressed is in Result



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	the table. vi. Were end-users involved in the choice of hardware and data plans? Any user acceptance documents shared and signed? The same applies to system interface designs/dev and post training evaluations. vii. It is not clear how some IT challenges were addressed/overcome. Any work-arounds adopted to address the IT challenge below? <i>“IT developers had no field experiences and also no prior expertise in medical issues or epidemiology, and again, IT developers were located in the USA and Germany and were not able to travel to Nigeria for conducting their work in proximity to the future field of application.”</i> How about sustainability plans? viii. What is the bottom-line after conducting the pilot? Any plans by the Ministry of Health or the states involved to scale-out to other sites in addition to the initial 4? This has to be clear on the manuscript.	section 3.4 The plan for sustainability has been mentioned in the conclusion This has been mentioned in the conclusion
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<u>Minor</u> REVISION comments	ix. Missing reference and unclear statements on some sentences/paragraphs as highlighted on the reviewed word document attached. x. Multiple use of words such as "our" and "we" instead of "The author/authors ..." xi. Figure heading vs table headings. Cross check which ones appears on top and which ones should appear at the bottom of the table/figure. xii. Use of numeric values verses words when mentioning numbers in sentences/paragraphs	References have been included Our and we have all been changed to the authors Figure heading now appears below and table heading at the top All numbers have been changed to numeric
<u>Optional/General</u> comments	xiii. Can we shorten the title somehow? <i>"IMPLEMENTING SORMAS FOR PUBLIC HEALTH IN WEST AFRICA - LESSONS LEARNT AND FUTURE DIRECTION."</i> xiv. Another recommendation on Table 6 - use of tracking software in case phone is stolen.	The title has been changed This recommendation has been included