Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

Health and nutrition

QR code contact tracing system (Cook Islands)

Problem addressed

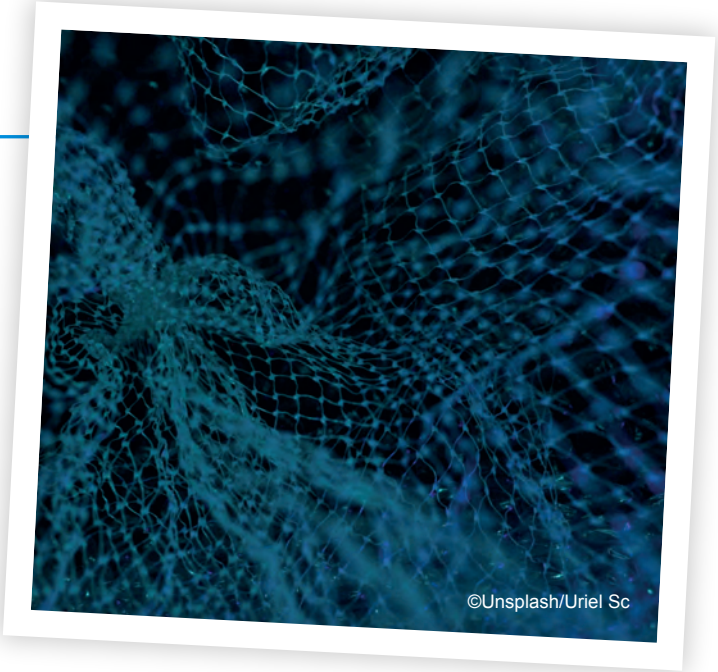
One of the most effective ways to slow down the spread of COVID-19 is to practice contact tracing. Once somebody has tested positive, everybody who has been in contact with the person is informed to take precautionary steps such as health monitoring, tests, self-isolation, and self-quarantine. However, implementing such a system is complex when considering that many people do not have internet connection and smart phones.

Solution

Cook Safe+ is the contact tracing system developed by Cook Islands based on a QR code to ensure that all visitors and residents participate in contact tracing without requiring a smart device. The QR code is used to tag in at participating Cook Safe locations such as the Tourism Visitor Information Centre and other partner locations.

Innovations and features

The Cook Safe+ app is free and uses smartphone Bluetooth technology to register other Cook Safe+ app users and trace people. In case of COVID-19 contamination, the app can be used to quickly alert people who were exposed. The app is compatible with the New Zealand Bluetooth app contact tracing system, and disseminates relevant health advice and contact details. The data collected is confidential and only accessible by selected individuals within the Ministry of Health.



Evidence and viability

- Over 1 000 downloads.
- Replicability study for Nauru island.
- QR code addresses challenges related to low coverage in terms of internet connectivity and access to mobile phones.
- 700 businesses registered.
- MOU with the Ministry of Health to fund the provision of mobile phones and staff for training. Cook Safe+ system fills up the contact tracing database and the authority takes necessary actions.

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Bangkok, Thailand

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CB6182EN/1/08.21