



access.mobile Launches Mobile App to Improve Healthcare Access in Africa

Founded in 2011, access.mobile International™ is a digital health company committed to improving access to healthcare in emerging markets through mobile and cloud-based technology. The company was built on the belief that “no matter where you are in the world, you should be able to access a certain standard of care.” Its aim is to develop software that strengthens the patient-provider relationship through practical, affordable, and usable technology solutions. Their focus on emerging markets drives the company’s development of tailored software to meet local needs in any setting.

Case Study



THE CHALLENGE

In emerging markets like Uganda, the ability for patients to access care and search for health facilities in their local area was very limited. access.mobile envisioned a web app called Gozee that would solve this challenge and enable patients to search for local health facilities based on different filters, request appointment bookings online, and get health information and promotions based on their interests. Gozee would also allow healthcare providers to book appointments directly from their mobile phones.

However, the challenge was finding the right development talent to help make this vision a reality. access.mobile already sourced engineers locally in Uganda and had added a team in Denver, Colorado. The local teams produce solid results for the company, but in order to hit milestones and successfully launch Gozee on time, access.mobile needed to extend their current team with additional software developers

“We’ve always wanted to cultivate additional talent from Africa and promote African developers, but we needed somebody that could find the talent for us, somebody that could do some of the management and training that was needed,” shared Sara Yelapaala, Global Operations and Special Projects Manager for access.mobile. “While we have stellar resources here locally, it’s always a challenge to find talent, especially at the caliber that you need for an international platform.”



THE TECHNOLOGY STACK

- JavaScript-based Ember frontend
- Node-based Express backend
- DocumentDB and Azure Search databases
- Hosted on Azure



THE ANDELA DIFFERENCE

access.mobile found Andela's model intriguing—particularly the level and quality of their training and development practices. "Speaking specifically about the Andela developers, it was very clear that their training provides a lot of value when it comes to good and modern software development practices," said Yelapaala. Yelapaala quickly onboarded two Andela developers to join the team. Mike Pack, Director of Engineering, outlined how he put the Andela developers' skills to work quickly. When we initially engaged, the idea was for them to work very closely with me on a regular basis, getting trained up in Ember, ' he explained.

"We also leveraged their JavaScript experience to bring them into the amHealth codebase—our core platform. We walked them through pre-existing stories in Pivotal Tracker to provide an understanding of our goals, and I paired them with myself for the first month or so."

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THE RESULTS

Gozee was launched on-time within a 2-3 month window, and the Andela development team built it within 2 different working environments (Ember and Note). **"Pretty much everything that you see on GozeeApp.com, was produced by the Andela team," said Pack. "I was impressed by their curiosity and their eagerness to get into an environment that challenged them with new technologies and new ideas. They were really open and malleable in that way."**

The Gozee API is designed to stretch across multiple services, including Facebook's Free Basics. Free Basics is an SMS-based service enabling anytime, anywhere access to consumers, particularly helpful in emerging markets such as Africa. "Gozee, in

essence, is a miniature platform in and of itself in the sense that external products pull data from this implementation," stated Pack. "I want to emphasize the fact that other services are relying on the work that the Andela team did for Gozee."

The Gozee app currently targets consumers in Uganda, and plans to expand to Kenya, Nigeria and other nations around the African continent. Andela developers continue to work on new features for the product.