Customer Case Study: NGO Plan international
Tuberculosis monitoring in rural areas of Chiang Rai, Thailand

PoiMapper™, developed by Pajat (www.pajatman.com) in Finland, is an enterprise-grade mobile cloud data monitoring solution that enables a cloud strategy for mHealth. PoiMapper™ is suitable for health monitoring that requires patient follow-up over time of illnesses such as tuberculosis (TB) and malaria, with affordable mobile phones.

Plan International is a global NGO working with communities in 68 developing countries to alleviate child poverty. Plan Thailand used PoiMapper™ to successfully map and continuously monitor patients affected by TB in Chiang Rai province. PoiMapper™ is especially suitable for this case as it is designed for harsh offline conditions and work that requires continuous patient follow-up over time.

According to Plan, some of the key benefits in implementing mobile health mapping included: project progress reporting was faster and accurate, more efficient planning (prioritization per prevalence), easy patient follow-up, ability to see program history and immediately share data with donors, better overall visibility of the monitored area.

Mobile technologies also enable a green way of working, as paper is not needed and gasoline-consuming logistics are used to a lesser extent. All of this amounts to significant cost savings in time and money.

The following key sections have been implemented in PoiMapper’s TB platform that aid in locating and monitoring the progress of patients:

i. GPS co-ordinates and location hierarchy information – this allows Plan to pinpoint the exact location of a patient on a map. In addition, PoiMapper™ can store the address, district and sub-district of the patient for record purposes.

ii. Basic patient information – this mainly includes the age, gender, contact information, nationality, identification number and the occupation of the patient.

iii. TB-related information – this involves capturing information about the date of diagnosis, type of TB, hospital visited, laboratory results of X-ray and sputum tests, dates when treatment will start and end, patient supervisor, appointment and follow up dates, current patient weight, drug compliance and any side effects, and persistence of symptoms like cough and fever.
iv. Pictures – this aids the organization as five pictures per patient are allowed. Images may be used for the identification of the patient and also for monitoring any external symptoms or physical changes that the patient may have.