

Simba – Lions Medical AI App



Executive Summary

Simba is a proposed Lions-led initiative to deliver a life-saving offline medical AI app to underserved communities worldwide. Leveraging state-of-the-art AI capable of medical dialogue and image interpretation, Simba will bring reliable health guidance to regions where doctors and connectivity are scarce.

Unlike traditional telemedicine, **Simba works entirely offline after a one-time download, making it usable in rural villages, disaster zones, or conflict areas.** It will empower communities, support local health workers, and advance Lions International's global humanitarian mission by directly addressing healthcare inequity.

The project can deliver a functional minimum viable product (MVP) within 3 weeks and scale to multilingual, mobile-ready deployment within 9 months, at a modest development budget compared to the scale of its impact.

The Global Challenge

- **Healthcare shortages:** Africa averages just 2.6 doctors per 10,000 people, far below the WHO recommendation of 10. In India, 65% of the population lives rurally while 75% of health infrastructure is concentrated in cities.
- **Connectivity gaps:** Traditional telemedicine cannot reach areas with poor or no internet. Millions are left with no medical guidance when illness strikes.
- **Consequences:** Rural populations face higher disease burdens and maternal mortality rates 2.5x those in cities. Families must often travel hours or days to access care.

This inequity aligns directly with UN Sustainable Development Goal 3 (Good Health and Well-being), and provides Lions with a powerful opportunity to lead a global humanitarian response.

The Simba Solution

Simba is a multi-modal medical AI assistant packaged as desktop and mobile software that works entirely offline:

- **Text + Image Diagnosis:** Users can ask health questions in plain language, or upload a photo/X-ray/scan for AI-assisted interpretation.
- **Offline Operation:** All processing happens locally on the device – no internet required. Ensures privacy, eliminates data costs, and makes the app usable anywhere.
- **Scalable & Cost-Effective:** Once developed, Simba can be distributed at negligible cost across laptops, tablets, or smartphones.
- **Trusted Support:** Designed as a “virtual doctor,” Simba advises but also reinforces seeking professional care where possible.

Key Benefits

1. **Bridging Healthcare Gaps** – Delivers instant medical guidance where no doctors are present, potentially increasing healthcare access by 300% in rural regions.

2. **Early Diagnosis & Triage** – AI can identify conditions such as pneumonia, TB, or skin cancer from images, helping prioritise urgent cases and optimising scarce resources.
3. **Patient Education** – Provides culturally sensitive health education on prevention, hygiene, nutrition, and myths.
4. **Empowering Health Workers** – Acts as a “senior doctor on call” for community nurses/volunteers.
5. **Resilient in Emergencies** – Functions during disasters, conflict, or outages, ensuring medical guidance is always available.
6. **Low-Cost Scalability** – For less than USD \$200,000, Simba could reach millions, at a fraction of the cost of building clinics.

Development Roadmap

- Stage 1 (3 weeks, ~USD \$16k): **Windows MVP – offline chatbot + image analysis in English.**
- Stage 2 (4.5 months, ~USD \$98k): **iOS & macOS apps** – mobile deployment, wider reach.
- Stage 3 (4 months, ~USD \$79k): **Multilingual rollout** (Spanish, French, Hindi, Portuguese) + **regional medical content.**

Total Investment: ~USD \$193k – comparable to the annual cost of staffing a single small clinic, yet scalable to entire nations.

Why Lions International Should Lead

- **Global Reach:** Lions already operate in the very communities Simba is designed to serve – Africa, South America, India, rural Asia.
- **Brand & Trust:** Simba would carry the Lions name, building on Lions’ reputation for health initiatives like SightFirst.
- **Strategic Impact:** Positions Lions as an innovator in humanitarian AI, attracting global attention, partnerships, and funding.
- **Scalable Legacy:** A Lions-built AI tool could later be adapted to other humanitarian areas (education, agriculture, disaster relief).

Conclusion

Simba represents a bold, high-impact, and achievable Lions International initiative to combat healthcare inequality with innovation. By approving and promoting Simba, Lions can:

- **Deliver medical guidance where none exists today.**
- **Empower rural communities with life-saving knowledge.**
- **Strengthen Lions’ role as a leader in humanitarian innovation.**

With a modest investment and phased rollout, Simba can become a global Lions flagship project – a digital medical companion that embodies our mission: where there is a need, there is a Lion.

Recommendation: Endorse Simba as a Lions International pilot initiative, with support for Stage 1 development and exploration of strategic funding partnerships for full rollout.

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