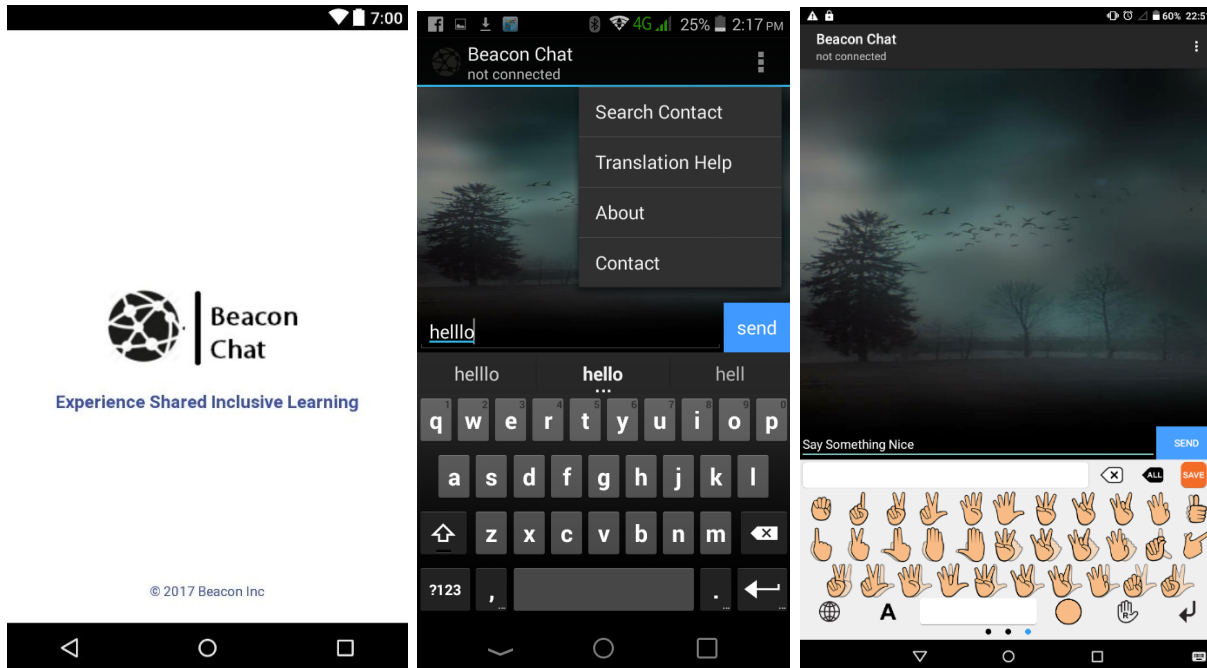Lower understanding of Sign Language has left the deaf community marginalized and unable to access basic Health Care contributing to increasing loss of deaf lives in hospitals around the world. This has been attributed to the fact there is Global Inadequacy of Sign Language Interpreters and Hearing Aid production only reaching 10% of the Deaf population.

Alfred Weinrib, an 83 Cancer Stricken Deaf man died without even knowing his diagnosis after 3 Long Hospitals failed to provide a Sign Language Interpreter for 7 months. There are a lot of people like Alfred, his story is a testament to the problems more than 446 Million Deaf individuals around the world go through on their daily lives.

Beacon chat is the solution, a Mobile Application that combines Bluetooth Internet of Things technology to provide an inclusive communication platform for deaf and hearing individuals, operating at no cost regardless of Network or WIFI coverage. This way individuals like Alfred can access health care without the need of a Sign Language Interpreter. What sets our innovation apart from what is there in the market like SignAll, Sign Language Interpreters, is that Beacon Chat is universally designed, making it inclusive, cheap and available where working regardless of Network coverage allows it to be widely even in places rural Africa, marred by lack of pervasive connectivity.

Factors that have contributed to inadequate sign language experts around the world is that, it takes long and a lot of resources to train a single Translator and surging up their demand having a direct impact on their consultancy charges. Sign Interpreters charge $150/hour a fee that many hospitals cannot afford when needed for a longer period.

My team implemented a B2B Freemium Model, where our clients (Hospitals and Health Organizations) pay for the premium package and the fact that they already have a userbase means we do not have to cater for customer acquisition costs of end users (Deaf Community) who get the basic application for free. By charging $4 hourly fee, we are set for the sustainability of the project and even looking on the prospects of setting up a Social Enterprise: BEACON INCLUSIVE in the UK where we can attend to the 11 Million Deaf Community through People Powered Health.

During our pilot in Nairobi, Kenya we impacted over 1600 deaf individuals by facilitating access to health care with one of our success stories being Atieno, a deaf girl who works at a NGO Sponsored VCT Center in the city center. In her daily role she interacts with more than 50 youths seeking consultation on sexual and reproductive health. Through Beacon Chat, she is able to attend to her patients without the need of sign language interpreter. Beacon Chat not only facilitated her to sustain her career as a counsellor but also to participate in achieving Universal Health Coverage as well as other SDGs.

I got into this field after a life changing event happened to me. In early 2017, Highly influenced by the likes of Avicii I had found my purpose in life through House Music Djing, Unfortunately, I was later diagnosed with partial hearing loss out of playing loud music, a moment that was distressing and lonely as I would miss a lot from the world around me, Favorite Music and even communication with close friends. Not to be defined by my disability, I developed the 1st version of Beacon Chat to help address some of the challenges I was going through.

I later then graduated from university, ready and eager to jump onto my next career role, only to find the job market saturated and no jobs for newbies like me. I got lucky to find an Internship for which I worked for 6 months until I was fired for focusing a lot on Beacon Chat. By then, I had seen the light about the entrepreneurship journey and that was the day I fully commit to Beacon Chat. It was difficult leaving house music Djing, but Beacon Chat gave me something more, it gave me fulfilment and reassurance that there is more to life in serving other people's needs. At the moment we are a team of three (I: Allan Okoth possessing a background in Computer Science, Pauline Gitau, who also assist in development, possessing a background in Computer Science and Lincoln Njogu, our advisor, possessing more than 5year worth of experience in the Kenyan Startup Techspace) all believing in the mission of fostering inclusion through connectivity and vision of being Global Citizens.