The WHO strategy for eHealth

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Overview

1. Introduction
2. The eHealth strategy
3. Priority action areas
4. eHealth in WHO KM strategy
5. Conclusion
SAM processing steps

1. Questionnaire programmed on Palm Pilot
2. Data collection with handheld unit
3. Palm synchronized with PC for data transfer
4. Data analysis and production of maps with HealthMapper
Transforming health systems

- **Governance**: Policies, performance benchmarking
- **Financing**: eBilling, smart cards, eInsurance
- **Resource generation**: Education, Knowledge-sharing
- **Delivery**: eHR, e-referrals, e-pharmacy

**eHealth** can intervene in any function, and at any level of the health system.

- Health related improvement
- Responsiveness
The third pillar of the health industry

Chemistry – 19th century  ➔  Pharmaceuticals  
Physics – 20th century  ➔  Imaging systems  
ICTs – 21st century  ➔  Knowledge systems for health  

Fuelling a paradigm shift  
From health systems focused on curing disease in patients by health professionals in health care facilities, to a focus on the citizen – empowering him with information to maintain his health wherever he may be.
WHO eHealth strategy

Directions

• Strengthen health systems in countries
• Support capacity building
• Promote the use of norms, standards
• Foster public-private partnerships
• Promote better understanding of eHealth
WHA eHealth resolution - countries

• draw up long-term strategic plans for developing and implementing eHealth services
• develop infrastructure for ICT
• closer collaboration with the private and non-profit sectors in ICT
• reach communities, including vulnerable groups, with eHealth services appropriate to their needs
• Provide technical support to Member States in relation to eHealth products and services by disseminating widely experiences and best practices, ..
• Devise assessment methodologies
• Promote research and development
• Furthering standards through diffusion of guidelines

www.who.int/gb/wha58
Priority action areas

1. WHO legal and ethics commission
2. Public-private partnerships
3. ICT for Human Resources for Health
4. ICT for health promotion
5. Supporting health care delivery
6. Global Observatory for eHealth
ICT and Health: a symbiotic relationship

Health needs drive developments in ICT

ICT

Bioinformatics
Artificial Intelligence
Miniaturization
Improved access
Wider coverage

Health

Disease prevention
Diagnosis & treatment
Rehabilitative care
Education & training
HS performance

Developments in ICT help shape health systems and service delivery
The human resources crisis

More than 1,000,000 New Health Workers are needed in next 6 years for the countries in the Sub-Saharan Africa to deliver the basic services.

More information on: http://www.globalhealthtrust.org

JLI Report: November 2004
PATIENT EDUCATION

Chronic Asthma: Becoming Adherent

Are you thinking of stopping your inhalers now that you’re better?

No way! I made a promise to Phil and to myself: no further hospital admissions, at least not due to lack of treatment!

GENERAL PUBLIC

Health Academy Intro
Boosting HRH performance

**Decision Support Systems**

- Increasingly clinical interaction instrumented with ICT as mediator
- Coping with growth in information and knowledge

"Current practice depends upon the clinical decision making capacity and reliability of autonomous individual practitioners for classes of problems that routinely exceed the bounds of unaided human cognition."

Robert Masys, 2001
“Without computers and the Internet, we are fighting 21st century health problems with 19th century tools”
Tuberculosis field officer, Orissa, India
Telemedicine in the Maldives, 2004
A century of unprecedented health gains

The value of knowledge in health

Life Expectancy at Birth over the Centuries

"The extension to all peoples of the benefits of medical, psychological and related knowledge is essential to the fullest attainment of health"

WHO Constitution 1946
18

11 million children under-5 yrs old die every year-90% of them in the developing world

\[
\frac{2}{3} \text{ of these deaths (7 m) can be prevented by available, effective and cheap interventions}
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BRIDGING THE KNOW-DO GAP IN GLOBAL HEALTH

- Improving Access to Health Information
- Translating Knowledge into policy and action
- Sharing and reapplying Experiential Knowledge
- Leveraging E-health in countries

- Agenda Setting in Global Health and culture change in WHO
- Capacity Building in WHO and in Countries
- KMS Research and evaluation of strategy implementation
- Communications and resource mobilization
Access to health information

HINARI
- 80+ partners
- 3200 journals
- 2000 institutions
- 100+ countries

The Global Health Library

www.who.int/ghl

A one-stop interface for reliable health information in different formats for various audiences

- World Medical Library Directory
- Global Index Medicus
Drowning in data

• Too much of it and not always what you need
• Collapse of average value of individual pieces
• Tools to sift through
• Increased value of tacit knowledge
Exponential growth in information

Estimated Growth Rate

New Information

UC Berkeley, 2003
The mission of the Global Observatory for eHealth (GOe) is to improve health by providing Member States with strategic information and guidance on best practice, policies and standards in eHealth.

In God we trust -

everyone else needs data
The global eHealth survey

• Seven domains
  – Enabling environment
  – Infrastructure
  – Content
  – Cultural and linguistic diversity
  – Capacity
  – National centres for eHealth
  – eHealth systems and services

• 109 countries participating countries

• Country profiles – including sample
Tanzania Essential Health Interventions Project (TEHIP)

Reversing the Trend in Child Mortality
Impact of District Health System Interventions in Rufiji District Tanzania

- Official MDG Target Trajectory for Tanzania
- DHS Estimates for Rural Coastal Zone, Tanzania
- DSS Data for Rufiji District, Tanzania

52% decline from 1990-2003

MDG Target for Tanzania - 48.4
THANK YOU!

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