



# East African Community e-Health Workshop

November 8 – 10, 2010 | The Serena Hotel | Kigali, Rwanda

## RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY E-HEALTH WORKSHOP

**This document is a compilation of the recommendations expressed by the delegates at the conclusion of the workshop.**

### Creation of an EAC e-Health Working Group

- \* An EAC e-Health Working Group should be created to:
  - Coordinate e-health activities, facilitate interoperability and promote synergy.
  - Develop a work plan to facilitate interoperability across various EAC programs.
  - Create a regional e-Health database and network in East Africa.
  - Outline and maintain a framework of interoperability policies, standards and guidelines for the region.
- \* Private sector involvement in the Working Group is essential for the development of an enterprise architecture that is adoptable throughout all EAC countries.

### Establishment of an Inter-Agency e-Health Working Group

- \* An Inter-Agency e-Health Working Group should be created to:
  - Establish standards for e-health organizations within each EAC country.
  - Close the communication and information gap, ensuring that no country is left behind in terms of implementing e-health activities.
  - Share information with the regional working groups.
- \* Under the Inter-Agency Working Group, a sub group between each country's private and public sector should be created.
- \* Challenges: Each EAC country is at its own stage implementing e-health. Reconciling these differences in terms of terrestrial infrastructure need to be addressed.

### Development of legal and regulatory frameworks

- \* ICT regulators and policy-makers must create an enabling ICT environment for innovation, adoption and adaptation of technologies for e-Health services.
- \* Guidelines, policies, and procedures need to be in place in order for e-health to develop.
- \* "Technologies are not waiting for policies and regulations."-Regulators should implement policies quickly to keep up with new technologies.
- \* The EAC needs to establish a network for decision makers specifically to pursue harmonizing standards.
- \* The EAC should develop guidelines that would enable different states to develop policies based upon their varying developmental stages.

### Regionalization and Health Diplomacy: East African Integrated Telemedicine and e-Health Program

- \* Create a multinational telemedicine network with the human capacity to run a telemedicine program independently in each EAC country.
- \* Establish national medicine and e-health programs with clinical, educational, business development, and technical components. Once the national program is developed, the focus should then shift to regional realization and health diplomacy through the creation of an East African Integrated Telemedicine and e-Health Program.
- \* Create an international network that will foster medical/health diplomacy using telemedicine, advanced technologies and other medical resources.



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### Technology and Infrastructure Improvements for e-Health Systems

- \* ICT infrastructure should support quality high-speed networks.
- \* An enabling environment must be established with built in review mechanisms to allow for new technologies and needs.
- \* Technology implementation should allow for services to remote areas and virtual consultations.

### Financing Models

- \* EAC countries should establish stable financial models for e-Health implementation. Special attention should be placed on reviewing examples of successful financial strategies to increase adoption of health information technology and e-Health data exchange.
- \* EAC countries should utilize and promote Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs) to improve efficiency, effectiveness and equity in the provision of e-Healthcare services.
- \* EAC countries should establish partnerships between academic and government institutions for the development of health informatics programs.