

Uganda Digital Health Information System

Plans and Prospects

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Status

- Positive trend in health institutions
- Health Management Information System (HMIS) 1996 – now emphasis is on use
- HSD being established

Initiatives

- Increased government \$ allocation to health
- Emphasis on prevention
- Decentralization & community involvement
- Increased technical support to districts

Vision

- Attainment of good standard of health by all people of Uganda in order to promote health and productive life.

Justification and Benefits

- Improve health sector
- Decrease poverty
- Provide access to quality health care
- Disease Surveillance
- Local empowerment and decisions
- Continuous learning for health professionals
- Improve HMIS

Strategies

- Rural electrification
- Telecenters
- IT culture
- Political support
- Enabling Policy
- IT infrastructure

Strategies

- Manpower training
- Identify functional needs
- Maintenance plan
- Networking
- Security and ethical concerns
- Sustainability

Weaknesses and Threats

- Power supply
- Telephone cables
- Computer illiteracy
- Lack of trained staff
- Minimal internet connectivity

Weaknesses and Threats

- Financial constraints
- Lack of coordination and synergy
- Low IT awareness
- Fear of change
- Limited communication
- Lack IT policy

Strengths and Opportunities

- Clear HIS policy
- Telecentres
- Resource centres
- Education
- Improved health referral
- Promote HIS with change agents
- Promote private sector initiatives
- IT training
- IT budget

Technological Initiatives

- TeleMedicine
- TeleMatics
- TeleHealth
- TeleEducation

Sustainability

- Phased implementation
- Private sector involvement
- Tax waver on hardware and software
- Soft loans
- Affordable user fees
- Promotion of HIS via change agents
- Target HIS to citizens needs

Policy Initiatives and Funding

- Policy framework for IT in health sector
- Government support for IT
- Coordination for IT
- National funding task force to promote funds for IT development

Current Initiatives – Local Projects

- Nakaseke Multi-purpose Community Telemedicine Project
- Buwama and Nabweru telecenters in Mpigi District
- Canadian Development Initiatives
- TeleInvivo Project
- Telemedicine Project

Current Initiatives – Other Projects

- NGO Projects
 - Teleconnectivity between IPH, MUST, and Lacor Hospital
- Private Projects

Outstanding Policy Changes

- Health Service Infrastructure
- Health Sub-District

Creation of Synergies

- Coordination and integration of stakeholders and developmental partners.

Partnerships

- Communities
- Government
- NGOs
- Private Sector
- Developmental Partners

Methodology

- Bottom Up
- Phased Approach
- Consultative
- Rapid Results
- Accessibility

Prioritization

- Quick win – high impact with rapid implementation and results
- Replicable
- High Visibility

Interest Groups

- * Institute of Public Health (IPH) and the Institute for Statistics and Applied Economics (ISAE) at Makerere University
- * Ugandan Ministry of Health (MOH)
- * Johns Hopkins University School of Public Health (JHSPH)
- * The Rakai Project
- * The US Agency for International Development (USAID)
- * The Ugandan Virus Research Institute
- * The Italian Government Ugandan Cooperative Mission
- * The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation
- * The Mellon Foundation
- * The Rockefeller Foundation
- * George Mason University (ICASIT)
- * Uganda Online
- * The University of Oregon Network Startup Resource Center (NSRC)
- * Regional Center for Quality of Health Care at IPH (RCQHC)
- * The Johns Hopkins Program of International Education in Gynecology and Obstetrics (JHPIEGO)

Functional Needs

- Makerere University (IPH and ISAE) and Ministry of Health (MOH) to have email and Web access including access to JHSPH for online learning;
- To provide email and Web access to specific Health Districts and select sites (Rakai, UVRI) as a pilot test;
- To provide access for IPH, MOH, and researchers at district sites to international centers of excellence such as SPH and the USA National Library of Medicine;

Functional Needs

- To have a digital health library accessible to IPH, MOH, and ISAE;
- To develop Web sites for participating institutions; www.health.go.ug
- To access data stored on local servers

Evaluation

- Functional level efficiency and effectiveness of IT use;
- Impact on health communication;
- Impact on disease burden, morbidity, mortality, incidence, prevalence.