



Global Digital Health: The Game Changer for Health Systems and User Involvement

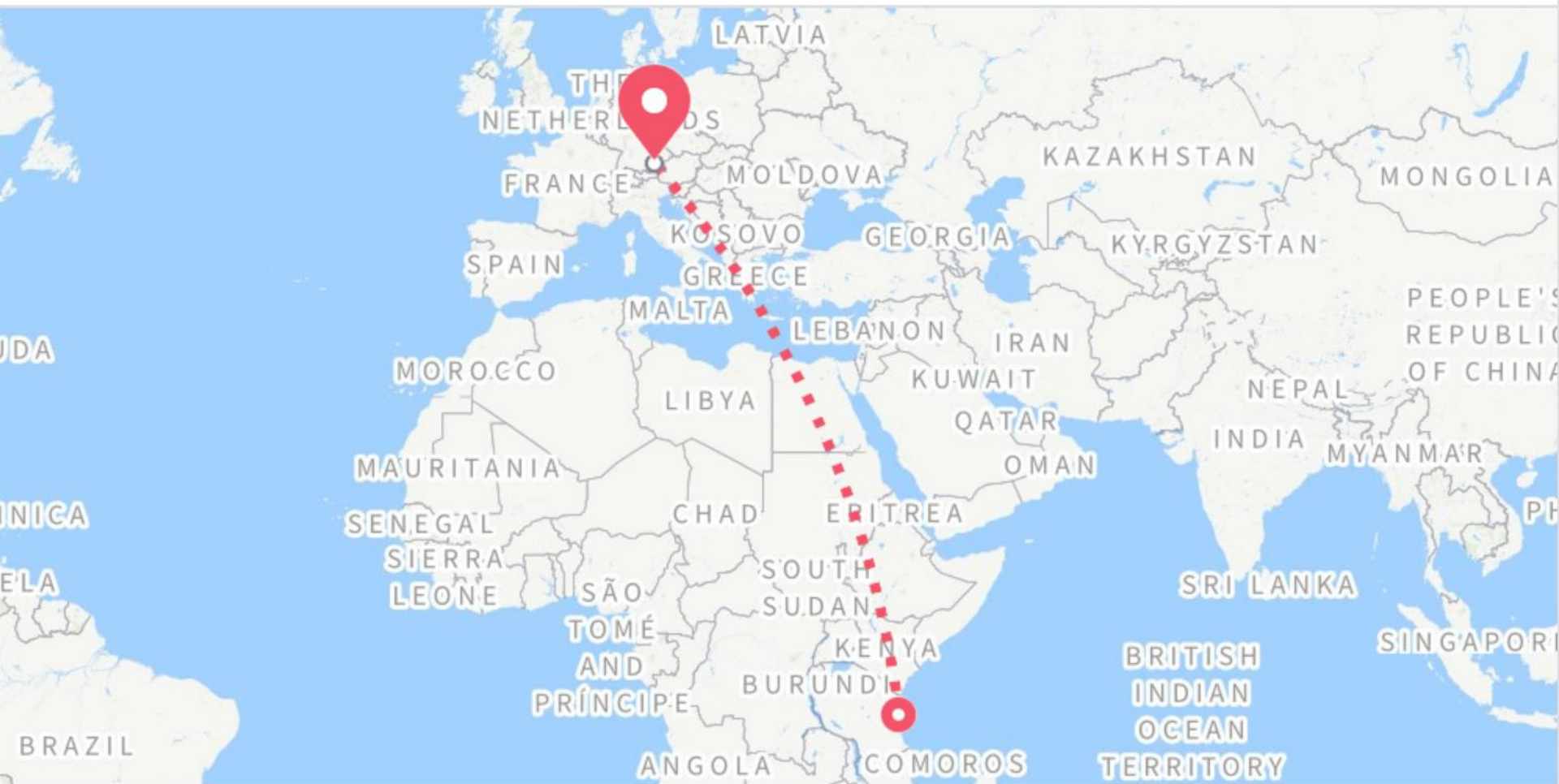
Benefits of Digital Health for Tanzania

Dr. Bernard Ngowi, PhD
Senior Researcher

NIMR

Dr. Felix Sukums, PhD
Director of ICT

MUHAS



Structure of the health system in Tanzania







THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA
MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL WELFARE

Tanzania National eHealth Strategy 2013 – 2018

Tanzania Digital Health - Four Pillars

Tanzania eHealth Strategy - Four Pillars

- eHealth Foundations
- eHealth Solutions
- Change and Adoption
- eHealth Governance

The eHealth Strategy - Strategic Goals

- Improved efficiency in resources management
 - replace paper system for better information management
- More connected system than silos/duplication implementation
- Improved patient safety and effective service delivery
 - correct information to the right people at the right time, at the point of care
- Use ICT for healthcare services in rural/remote and underserved areas
- Improved communication and information sharing among stakeholders
- Improved data use for evidence based policy & decision making in the health sector

Review and Develop DH Strategy

STRATEGY

- GoT formulated an eHealth Strategy covering the period 2013-2018
- The Implementation of the Strategy is being assessed
- The assessment will inform development of a new eHealth Strategy
- MUHAS in collaboration with CBE has been awarded a contract to
 - Assess the current eHealth Strategy
 - Develop a new eHealth Strategy

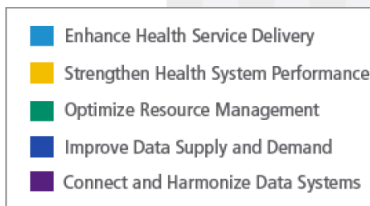
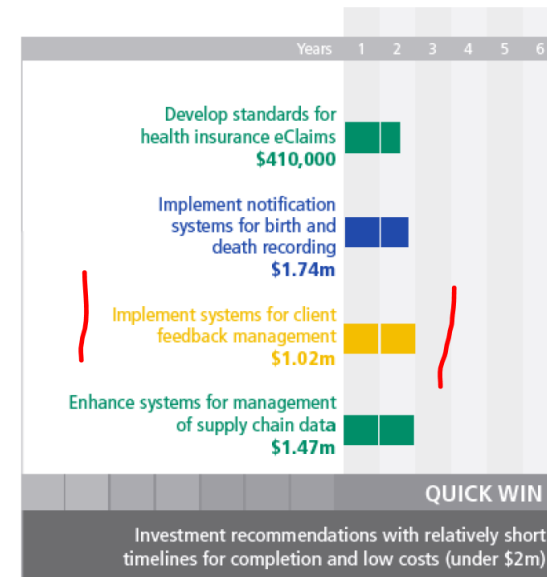
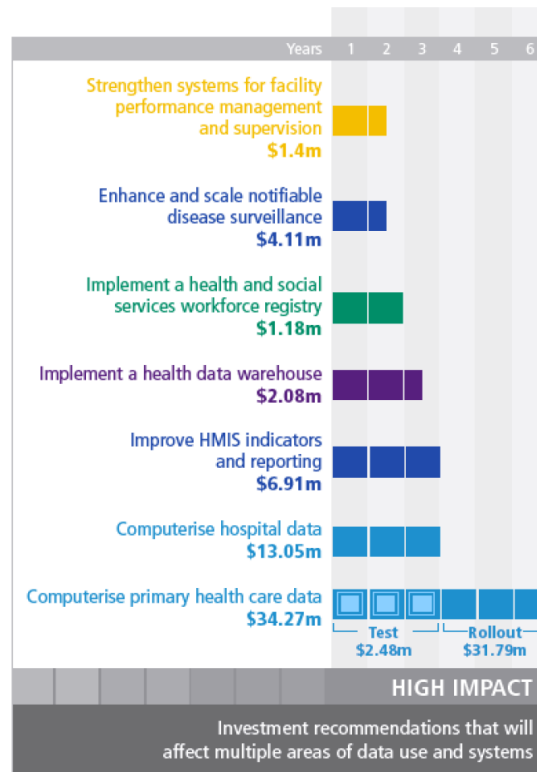
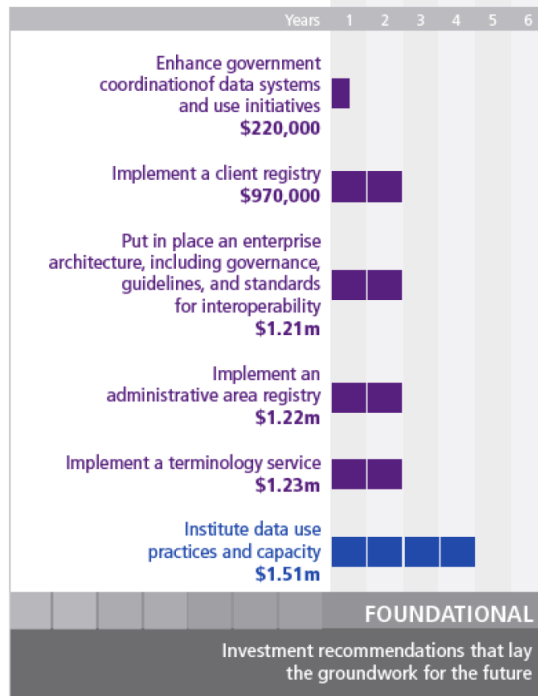
The Tanzania eHealth Strategy

- Is aligned to the National ICT Policy 2016 and the Health Policy 2007
- Has 16 strategic objectives (SO), each with a number of initiatives
- In 2017 a needs assessment for Digital Health Assessment was conducted
 - Tanzania Digital Health Investment Roadmap 2017-2023 which builds on the eHealth Strategy
 - The Road Map outlines 17 investment recommendations for using data to improve health services and outcomes
 - health information systems, increase data use to identify and solve problems,
 - measure performance and allocate resources; and for health workers use data to track clients, support clinical decisions and provide services efficiently and build local capacity in technology and governance.

FIGURE 1. INVESTMENT RECOMMENDATION ROAD MAP

ROAD MAP: THE JOURNEY

With these priority investments, Tanzania will be able to effectively use data to improve health.



<https://www.path.org/resources/data-use-partnership-the-journey-to-better-data-for-better-health-in-tanzania/>

Benefits of Digital Health for Tanzania

Five Key Domains for Digital Health

- Leadership and Governance
- Management and Workforce
- ICT Infrastructure
- Standards and Interoperability
- Data Quality and Use

Structure of the health system in Tanzania



Benefits of Digital Health for Tanzania

■ Leadership and Governance

- National eHealth Strategy, policies, guidelines and standards
- National eHealth Steering Committee established to oversee design, development and deployment of eHealth solutions
- ICT and M&E Technical Working Groups meet monthly to review digital implementation – international and local partners
- mHealth Working Group
- Large scale projects on Digitization and Data Use

Benefits of Digital Health for Tanzania

■ Management and Workforce

- eHealth competencies, training and education
- Capacity building and development e.g. computer literacy, HIS, Health Informatics, computer science, software engineering
- Financing and resources mobilization

Benefits of Digital Health for Tanzania

■ ICT Infrastructure

- Electrification, rural electrification
- Internet connectivity – about 40m subscribers using mobile/wireless – mobile operators
- National Fiber optic rollout to regions and districts
- Local area network (LAN)

■ Standards and Interoperability

- Tanzania Health Information Exchange (THIE) / Health Information Mediator
- Guidelines and Standards like HL7, ICD 10, API, service codes, etc

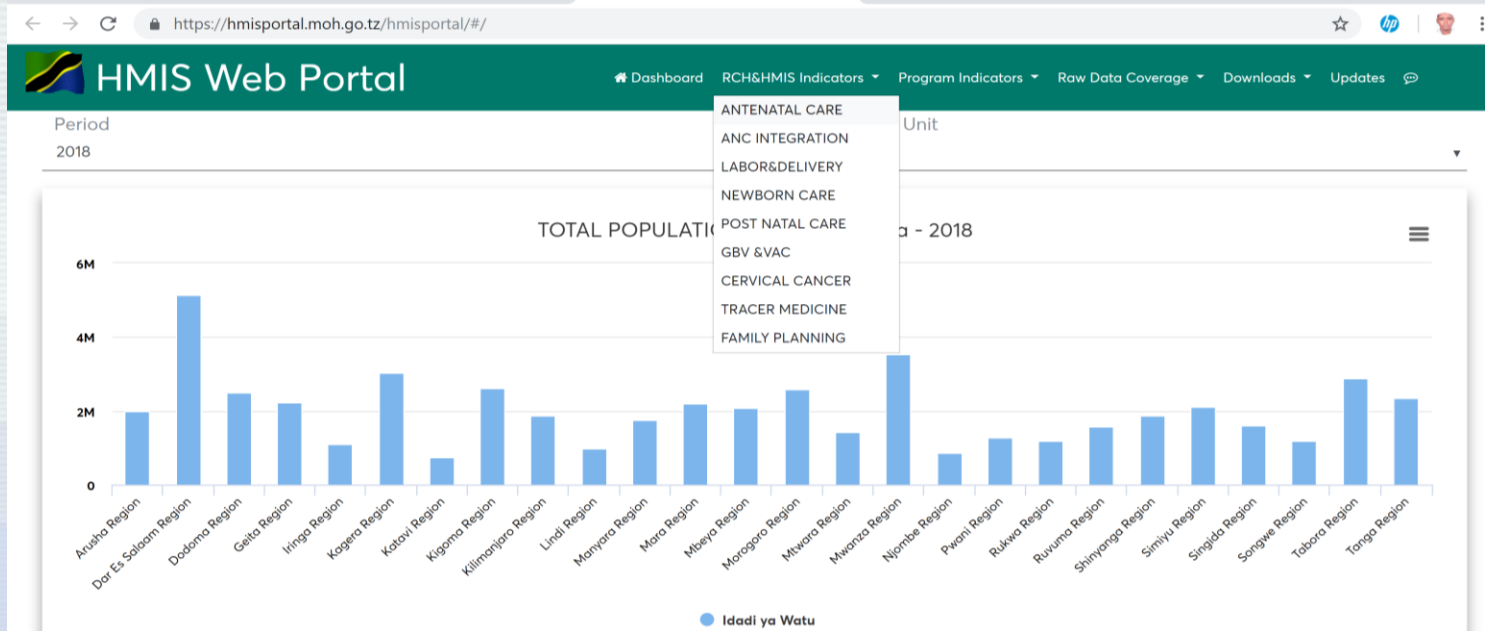
Benefits of Digital Health for Tanzania

■ Data Quality and Use

- Availability of National HIS / data sets e.g. master facility registry,
- Ongoing provider and client registries
- Data management guidelines
- Data use initiatives e.g. capacity building, monitoring and evaluation, etc.

Benefits of Digital Health for Tanzania

- Improved resources management
 - revenue collection and management
 - supply chain management
 - Improved HR management
- Improved patient tracking and management
 - E.g. hospital systems, remote consultation, reminder systems,
- Improved access to data and information at different levels
 - For clients, health care workers and managers



Some of the challenges in using Digital Health

■ Processes

- Parallel manual systems
- Undocumented business processes
- Lack of harmonization of data elements
- Semi-automated business processes

■ People

- Inadequate ICT support / ICT staff
- Inadequate knowledge and skills among users in using ICT/systems
- Negative attitudes towards technology

Some of the challenges in using Digital Health

■ Technology

- Unreliable electricity
- Unreliable or no Internet and network connectivity
- Difficulty in data exchange between the systems

■ Organizational

- Inadequate resources sharing
- Donor depending
- Unclear roles and responsibilities
- Inadequate Data use, Unreliable data, mistrust of digital system

ASANTENI SANA
Thank You
Vielen Dank



Discussion