Murambinda Works Update
eHealth Perspectives from Masvingo Province
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What is eHealth?

eHealth is the combined use of electronic communication and information technologies in the health sector, ensuring the right health information is provided to the right person at the right place and time, in a secure, electronic form for purpose of optimising the quality and efficiency of health care delivery.
Why eHealth?

African governments recognise Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) are instrumental to *leapfrog* legacy systems and practices towards **improved cost effectiveness** and **quality of health care**

National Health Strategy Zimbabwe (2016-2020) states

“The item with the lowest availability was the computer with internet/email access“ (page 7, on *General Service Readiness indicators*)

“The hospital information systems need to be harmonised and fully computerised with all departments, equipment and patient flow properly linked electronically.” (page 50)

“Significant investments in health system strengthening are necessary for the health facilities and other service delivery and coordination platforms to function optimally. [...] new innovative programmes such as e-health are implemented to enhance and not to disrupt what has been working so far“ (page 61)

**Zimbabwe’s National eHealth Strategy** is ‘work in progress’

In 2017, Ministry of Health and Child Care starts the role out its national [Electronic Health Records system](http://example.com) for the ‘e-first‘ handling of patient’s data and institutional reporting of indicators by all health facilities

Developments still depend largely on opportunistic networking of people, co-operating partners, and funding opportunities
eHealth at SolidarMed, Masvingo Province

- Information and Communication Technologies and Internet Access is crucial for efficient operations of partner organisations and SolidarMed.
- Assistance in eHealth developments through training, implementation, research, and operations, since 2016.
- ICT developments result in beacon of hope and new opportunities at partner institutions and in SolidarMed organisation.
eHealth, what is involved?

- Infrastructure Development
  - Creating local and sustainable infrastructures (e.g. Local Area Networks at Hospitals and Nurses Training Schools)
  - Streamlining operations and equipment, (e.g. thin client computing, tablets and network servers)
- Application Development, e.g.
  - Clinical Mentoring
  - Physician’s peer-to-peer communications and referrals
  - Patient follow up communications
  - Mental Health
  - Electronic Health Register
- Strengthening eHealth capabilities
  - Improve **Quality and Efficiency of Health Care**
  - Improve **Sustainability of Health Institute Operations** in line with contextual opportunities (e.g. mobile money) and barriers (e.g. latency, congestion and diversity)
  - Bolstering knowledge and integration of eHealth
Zimbabwe to Role out EHR
eHealth perspective: Infrastructure Improvements
eHealth perspective: Professional Education

- Continuous Professional Education crucial and prerequisite for registration of health care practitioners

- Digital access limits costs of travel and downtime in medical care
TESTING INTERNET CONNECTION AT CHIKOMBEDZI MISSION HOSPITAL
1. **To assist** in building out eHealth infrastructures at partner institutes in Bikita, Zaka and Chiredzi Districts

1. **To engage** in App Development, in line with opportunities

1. **To strengthen** eHealth knowledge base and capabilities