

Murambinda Works Update



eHealth Perspectives from Masvingo Province

Presentation by Joseph Bishi , Nairobi Kenya



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**.

OXFAM DISCUSSION PAPER

FEBRUARY 2017



Women read SMS about Polio prevention, Somalia, 2014. Photo: Ahmed Farah/Hijra

DIGITAL DEVELOPMENT: WHAT IS THE ROLE FOR INTERNATIONAL NGOS?

ICT for Development programmes and opportunities in the Horn, East and Central Africa

MATT HAIKIN AND GEORGE FLATTERS

Development is going digital and INGOs like Oxfam have a vital convening role to play. This paper draws on ICT for Development in Oxfam's programmes in the Horn, East and Central Africa to consider what this role is. In order to realise the opportunities associated with the digital landscape, Oxfam will need to build internal and external capacity to implement ICT in programmes to enhance quality, accessibility, and efficiency.

Oxfam Discussion Papers

Oxfam Discussion Papers are written to contribute to public debate and to invite feedback on development and humanitarian policy issues. They are 'work in progress' documents, and do not necessarily constitute final publications or reflect Oxfam policy positions. The views and recommendations expressed are those of the author and not necessarily those of Oxfam.

For more information, or to comment on this paper, email AODonnell@oxfam.org.uk



Why eHealth?



Source: Haikin, M., & Flatters, G. (2017). Digital Development: What Is the Role for International NGOs? Oxford: Oxfam.

Graph: <https://matthaikin.com/2017/02/23/oxfam-research-poses-a-challenge-to-ngos-in-digital-development-what-should-their-role-be/>

eHealth, on the Agenda in Africa



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 roll out its national [Electronic Health Records](#) system 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

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16 May 2016

SolidarMed

Attention: Dr Janneke van Dijk,
Country Coordinator SolidarMed

The Government of Zimbabwe, Ministry of Health and Child Care, is partaking in the development of e-Health policies and strategies. This work is part of its strive to provide for innovative, effective and contextual Health Care in Zimbabwe.

The Provincial Medical Directorate Office regards the use of Information and Communication Technologies of prime importance to attain the outcomes of the National Health Strategy, especially for health care in the periphery.

Therefore, with this letter, I confirm my request for the assistance of your organization, where advantages in partnership with Zimbabwean entities like SIRDC, in the development of comprehensive support in the community engagement, work force development and thought leadership for e-Health in our province. Your facilities in Masvingo and your operational and fruitful relationships in Bikita, Zaka and Chiredzi are ideal platforms for sensitization, training and role out of e-Health pilots, operational research, and operational support in this field.



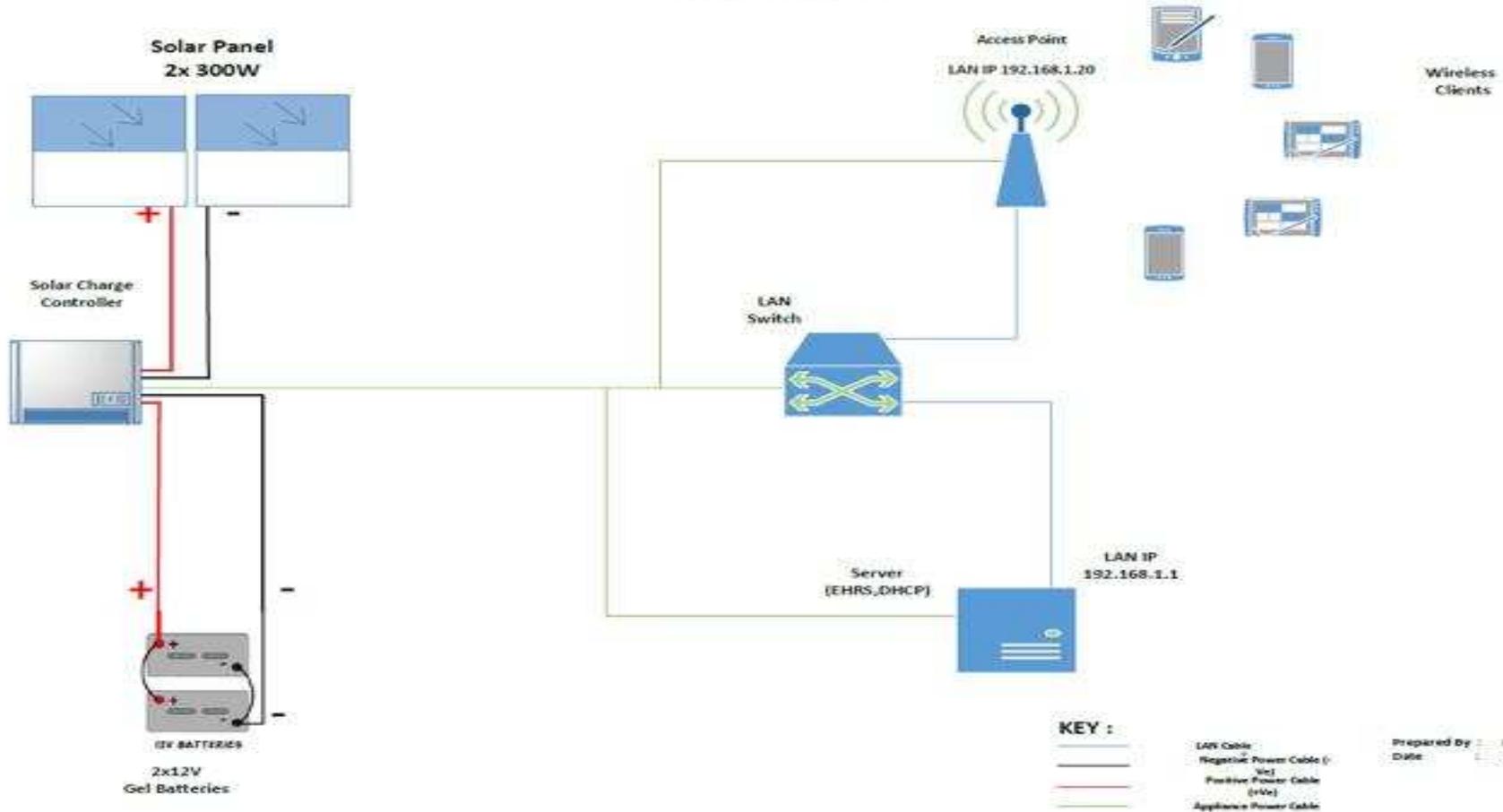
eHealth, what is involved?



- 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

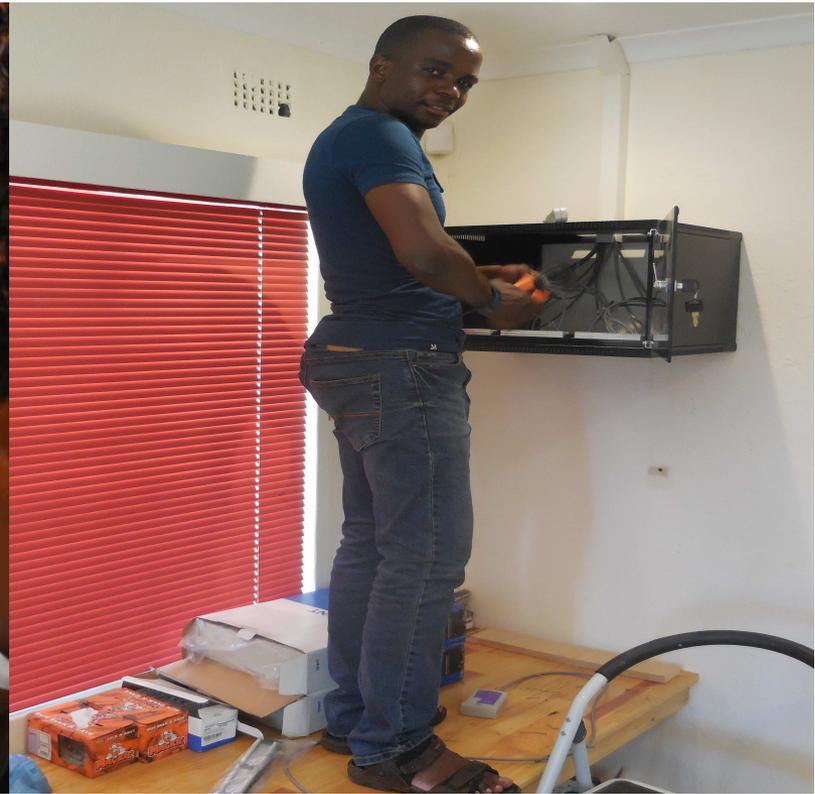
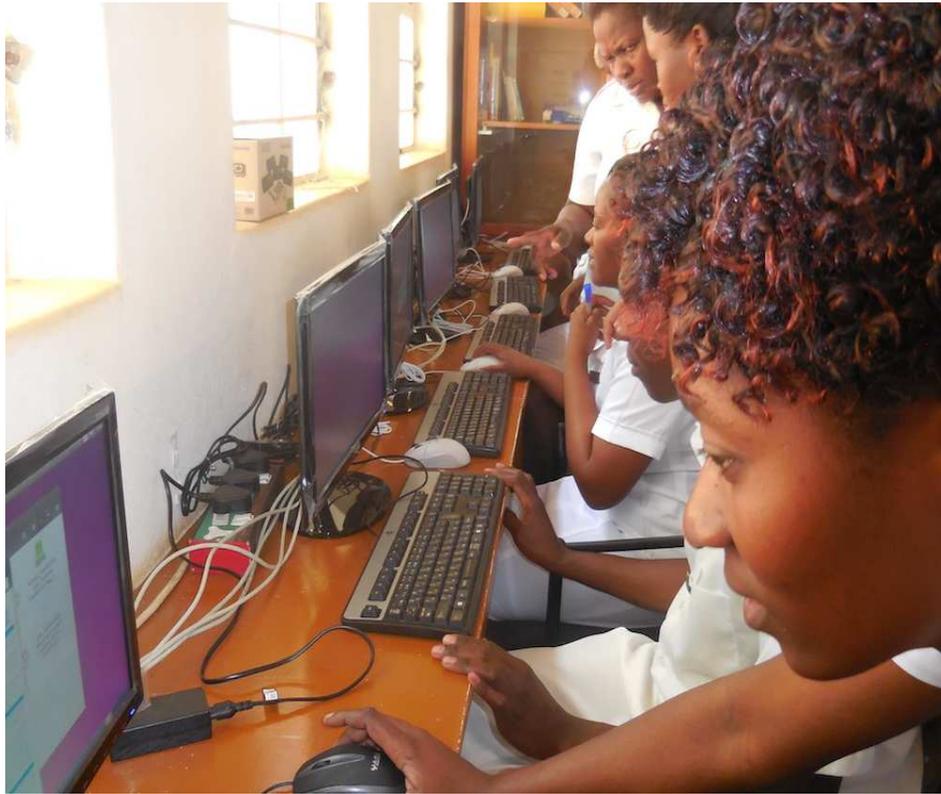
Zimbabwe to Role out EHR

Health Center LAN and Solar Power backup solution



eHealth perspective: Infrastructure Improvements

SOLIDAR
MED



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





Photo: Marten Brill

TESTING INTERNET CONNECTION AT CHIKOMBEDZI MISSION HOSPITAL

**SOLIDAR
MED**



eHealth in Masvingo, perspective SolidarMed



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