1. Background

- There is increased interest by national and local governments, partners, and private institutions to invest in global and national eHealth initiatives.
- eHealth can transform health care delivery by enabling information access and supporting health care operations, management and decision-making. The successful implementation of eHealth requires strategies that are aligned with the national respective health priorities.
- There are several models or frameworks for developing a national eHealth strategy, often developed by technologists and thus are complex to understand and use by health system actors; often there is a missing causal link between health sector priorities and how technology can be applied to these priorities.

2. Objectives

- Develop a pragmatic eHealth strategy framework that is guided by health sector priorities and also easy to implement.
- Demonstrate feasibility by applying this framework to develop the national Tanzania eHealth strategy 2013-2018.

3. Methods

- Review existing strategy and eHealth strategy methodologies. This includes the WHO eHealth Strategy Toolkit, Business Motivation Model 2 and Ohmae Fishbone Diagram Strategy development model.
- Review existing national eHealth strategies including Canada, Australia.
- Complete a practical application of this eHealth strategy framework in Tanzania over the period of 12 months (Sep 2012 to Sep 2013).
- Final launch of the Tanzanian eHealth Strategy 2013-2018 on 30 September, 2013 and national eHealth Steering Committee inaugurated on the same date.

4. Results

- The eHealth Strategy was guided by the Tanzania Health Sector Strategic Plan (HSSP) B (2009-2013), which identifies health sector priorities.
- The initial background work occurred over a period of 2 years, culminating in a 1-week multi-stakeholder workshop (health sector and ICT eHealth experts) in September 2012 that used this framework to develop the eHealth Strategy.
- Continued Ministry of Health and Social Welfare (MOSHW) and stakeholder review resulted in a final eHealth Strategy publication in September 2013.
- The following figures illustrate the 3 eHealth Strategy Development Framework, 2 mapping of the HSSP (2013-2015) health sector priorities to the eHealth Strategy Objectives and 3 the four eHealth Pillars and their related Strategic Objectives.

5. Summary

- The Tanzania eHealth Strategy 2013 - 2018 was launched on 30 September, 2013.
- The national eHealth Steering Committee was inaugurated on 30 September, 2013 and has met several times.

6. eHealth Strategy Vision & Mission

- Vision: By 2018, eHealth will enable a safe, high-quality, equitable, efficient and sustainable health system for all citizens by using ICT to enhance planning, managing, and delivering health services.
- Mission: To support the transformation of the Tanzanian healthcare system by leveraging ICT to improve the health and social wellbeing of all citizens.

7. Limitations

- Known limitations of the eHealth Strategy framework.
- This framework has only been applied in Tanzania.
- The eHealth Strategy implementation is under way but is not yet complete.

Tanzania national eHealth Strategy 2013-2018

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