Final Draft Regional eHealth Strategy (2014-2020)

Regional High Level Meeting on e/mHealth
17-19 November 2013
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The importance of e-health strategy & urgency to act growing

- Recommendation 3 of the Commission on Information and Accountability
  - **Performance Indicator 1**: National eHealth strategies in place

- e/mHealth are increasingly being used in all aspects of health
  - Health promotion, health education, health information, assessments, monitoring, surveillance, Individual patient management and service delivery

- Offers powerful opportunity to bridge the health gap with
  - Increasing mobile phone accessibility
  - Internet and social media
  - Multi-lingual environments

- Coordinated efforts required
  - Multi-sectoral approach - Govt. and partners need to work together
Key challenges around eHealth in SEA Region of WHO

Lack of eHealth policy, strategy & legal framework to support national health system

Uncoordinated investment in ICT in health due to absence of overarching eHealth plan

Duplication of Efforts - A low degree of cooperation, collaboration & sharing across sectors

Limited capacity - within the public sector to implement eHealth programs

Widely differing levels of eHealth maturity across and within countries

Poor Quality & Disparities in data - HIS exist in silos, segmented by disease specific/health programs / donor-driven initiatives with little interoperability & communication.

Poor communication infrastructure - lack of broadband connectivity & internet access
WHO’s role in strengthening eHealth in the SEA Region

Enabling action areas:
- appropriate legal and regulatory environment
- norms and standards
- access to information
- public-private partnership
- gathering intelligence on eHealth

The Scope of eHealth in the region:
- Health information system (HIS, EMR, HMIS, GIS…etc.)
- Health Service delivery (telemedicine, telesurgery … etc.)
- Knowledge management (HINARI/HeLLIS, eLearning…etc.)
- Building foundation elements (Strategy, Health data standards, Norms, Legislation, Regulation …)
Final Draft strategy has undergone Rigorous consultations

- **First Consultation:** Regional Consultation on Telemedicine, 30 July- 1 August, 2013, Pyongyang, DPR Korea

- **Second Consultation:** WHO/ITU regional Workshop on National eHealth Strategy, 30 September- 2 October, 2013, Bangkok, Thailand

- Feedback on the Strategy also received from several WHO Staff and External experts
**Vision:** By 2020, affordable, appropriate and sustainable eHealth is established as one of the foundations of health systems in achieving the desired health outcomes in the South East Asia Region.

**Mission:** From 2014 to 2020, assist and collaborate with Member States in their efforts to establish eHealth as an integral part of the transformation, responsiveness and improvement of health systems, for equity and equality in the Preventive, Promotive, Curative, Rehabilitative and Palliative healthcare to all of their populations, in an effective, efficient and responsible manner.

**Goal:** To provide harmonized and comprehensive eHealth strategic framework and provide support to Member States in implementing the strategic framework by 2020.
Strategic Area 1: Policy and Strategy

*Promote and support the formulation, execution and evaluation of effective, comprehensive and sustainable public policies and strategies on the Implementation of eHealth through shared responsibility of Health and Allied Sectors*

**Objective 1.1** – Support the formulation and adoption of people-centred eHealth policies and strategies and their implementation

**Objective 1.2** – Encourage Member States to set eHealth as a political priority at the national and regional levels.

**Objective 1.3** – Support the establishment of a regional and national intra/inter sectoral networks (Public, Private, Civil Society and Others) to participate in the formulation and execution of eHealth policies and strategies

**Objective 1.4** – Establish a system for periodic assessment of the Regional / National eHealth policies, Strategies and Progress of Implementation
Strategic Area 2: Tools and Methods

*Improve health of people through the use of tools and methodologies based on innovative use of ICT*

**Objective 2.1** - Improve organizational and technological infrastructure for eHealth.

**Objective 2.2** - Promote the use of ICT for strengthening, with accountability, national health information systems, including epidemiological surveillance systems, drug and logistics management systems, financial systems and electronic medical/health/personal records.

**Objective 2.3** - Recognize eHealth as an effective tool for achieving Universal Health coverage.

**Objective 2.4** - Promote development of sustainable, scalable and interoperable e-Health programmes for health-service delivery and patient management.

**Objective 2.5** - Encourage countries to utilize eHealth applications to strengthen their CRVS and set-up close collaborations with relevant local agencies to share vital statistics electronically.
Strategic Area 3: Collaboration and Partnerships

Promote and facilitate horizontal cooperation among countries and all key stakeholders for development and implementation of the eHealth agenda for the Region

Objective 3.1 - Promote intersectoral collaboration, both within each country and among Member States; this includes identification of electronic mechanisms for sharing experiences, best practices and regional resources.

Objective 3.2 – Promote adoption of health data standards and interoperability through engagement of all key stakeholders

Objective 3.3 – Encourage countries to adopt a suitable legal and regulatory framework that supports the use of ICT in the health sector
Strategic Area 4: Human Resource Development

Promote knowledge management, education in ICT, and better access to information as a key element for health promotion and health care

**Objective 4.1** - Promote training in ICT in medical schools/universities and among health workforce

**Objective 4.2** – Ensure updating of the knowledge base and continuous education of health care providers through eLearning

**Objective 4.3** - Utilize eHealth to provide reliable, quality information on health education and promotion, and disease prevention to the mass population

**Objective 4.4**- Promote research using eHealth tools

**Objective 4.5**- Facilitate the dissemination, communication, and widespread distribution of health information, with emphasis on emergencies, through social networks including mobile technologies
ICT Interventions for health sector are not all realizable in the short time and can be divided into three categories:

- Build on what exists as immediate response
- Extend what exists as medium-term response
- Work for what requires future long-term planning

Alignment with WHO’s results-based management framework

- Progress reports: each biennium.
- Mid-term evaluation: 3rd yr
- End-term evaluation: 2020
**Vision**
By 2020, affordable, appropriate and sustainable eHealth is established as one of the foundations of health systems in achieving the desired health outcomes in the South East Asia Region.

**Mission**
From 2014 to 2020, assist and collaborate with Member States in their efforts to establish eHealth as an integral part of the transformation, responsiveness and improvement of health systems, for equity and equality in the Preventive, Promotive, Curative, Rehabilitative and Palliative healthcare to all of their populations, in an effective, efficient and responsible manner.

**Goal**
To provide harmonized and comprehensive eHealth strategic framework and provide support to Member States in implementing the strategic framework by 2020.

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**Strategic objectives**

**Strategic Area 1: Policy and strategy – Promote and support the formulation, execution and evaluation of effective, comprehensive and sustainable public policies and strategies on the Implementation of eHealth through shared responsibility of Health and Allied Sectors**

- Objective 1.1 - Support the formulation and adoption of people-centred eHealth policies and strategies and their implementation.
- Objective 1.2 - Encourage Member States to set eHealth as a political priority at the national and regional levels.
- Objective 1.3 - Support the establishment of a regional and national intra/inter sectoral networks (Public, Private, Civil Society and Others) to participate in the formulation and execution of eHealth policies and strategies.
- Objective 1.4 - Establish a system for periodic assessment of the Regional / National eHealth policies, Strategies and Progress of Implementation.

**Strategic Area 2: Tools and methods – Improve health of people through the use of tools and methodologies based on innovative use of ICT**

- Objective 2.1 - Improve organizational and technological infrastructure for eHealth.
- Objective 2.2 - Promote the use of ICT for strengthening, with accountability, national public-health information systems, including epidemiological surveillance systems, drug and logistics management systems, financial systems and electronic medical/ health/ personal records.
- Objective 2.3 - Recognize eHealth as an effective tool for achieving Universal Health coverage.
- Objective 2.4 - Promote development of sustainable, scalable and interoperable eHealth programmes for health-service delivery and patient management.
- Objective 2.5 - Encourage countries to utilize eHealth applications to strengthen their CRVS and set-up close collaborations with relevant local agencies to share vital statistics electronically.

**Strategic Area 3: Collaboration and partnership – Promote and facilitate horizontal cooperation among countries and all key stakeholders for development and implementation of the eHealth agenda for the Region**

- Objective 3.1 - Promote intersectoral collaboration, both within each country and among Member States; this includes identification of electronic mechanisms for sharing experiences, best practices and regional resources.
- Objective 3.2 - Promote adoption of health data standards and interoperability through engagement of all key stakeholders.
- Objective 3.3 - Encourage countries to adopt a suitable legal and regulatory framework that supports the use of ICT in the health sector.

**Strategic Area 4: Human Resource Development – Promote knowledge management, education in ICT, and better access to information as a key element for health promotion and health care**

- Objective 4.1 - Promote training in ICT in medical schools/universities and among health workforce.
- Objective 4.2 - Ensure updating of the knowledge base and continuous education of health care providers through eLearning.
- Objective 4.3 - Utilize eHealth to provide reliable, quality information on health education and promotion, and disease prevention to the mass population.
- Objective 4.4 - Promote research using eHealth tools.
- Objective 4.5 - Facilitate the dissemination, communication, and widespread distribution of health information, with emphasis on emergencies, through social networks including mobile technologies.
Bangkok Declaration on eHealth - 2013

We, the Health Ministers of Member States of the WHO South-East Asia Region, participating in the Regional High-Level Meeting on eHealth held in Bangkok, Thailand, on 18th November 2013;

Appreciating the efforts being made by Member States and partners in the South-East Asia Region for the appropriate use of information and communications technologies (ICT) for health-sector development;

Noting that eHealth is a broad domain covering all use of ICT innovations for health, while mHealth refers to use of mobile devices or mobile technology for health which is a component of eHealth;

Recognizing that the availability of improved technologies of eHealth including mHealth can rapidly transform the delivery of healthcare services and systems;

Noting that eHealth has great potential to strengthen health systems in addressing the health needs of the people of the Region when incorporated appropriately & optimally;

Recognizing that the effort to apply ICT innovations for health-sector development requires an integrated strategy and coordination that addresses multiple factors, such as, technology and data standardization, inter-operability and avoidance of duplication, as far as possible, between various stakeholders and partners through shared engagement;

Conscious that appropriate & optimum use of ICT in the health sector can support universal health coverage by providing greater access to quality health services and in reaching the un-reached and strengthening data systems to support better health financing;

Envisioning that eHealth facilitates achievement of goals set by health-related programmes such as civil registration and vital statistics (CRVS), maternal and child health, and emergency response and preparedness;

Acknowledging that information systems incorporated with eHealth can streamline health-sector management with better planning, monitoring and reviewing on the basis of evidence;

Considering that dissemination of health related information via eHealth means with a regulatory mechanism can enable attainment of a high-level of health literacy and empower the general population to take control of their health;

Cognizant that cost-effective tools and technologies are available that can further optimize health sector and country resources in Implementing eHealth;

Mindful of the existence of mutual interests and challenges among countries of South-East Asia, and of the need to further strengthen regional solidarity and cooperation in health informatics and ICT sectors;

Desiring establishment of a regional platform to promote further application of ICT for improving the health of the people and thus contributing to the social and economic development of the Region;

We, the Health Ministers of Members States of the South-East Asia Region hereby commit to:

1. Accord high priority to improve health information systems by incorporating eHealth for national development and prosperity;

2. Establish a National eHealth Oversight Committee comprising key multi-sectoral stakeholders, including civil society organizations as appropriate, and chaired by a high-level representative from the Ministry of Health and co-chaired by a counterpart from the allied ministries;

3. Formulating national eHealth policies, strategies and plans jointly with all relevant stakeholders in response to national health-sector development plans and other health-related strategies and further consolidating partnership with telecommunication sector and also implementing jointly as shared responsibility with a view to improve coordination and address factors, such as, technology and data standardization, inter-operability and avoidance of duplication, as far as possible, between various stakeholders;

4. Ensuring safety, privacy and confidentiality of care recipients in all the efforts to incorporate ICT in to healthcare system.

5. Build close partnerships with telecommunication sectors and health sector through joint planning and implementation of an eHealth strategic plan;

6. Utilize eHealth to enhance priority health areas of the respective country (such as civil registration and vital statistics systems, maternal and child health and noncommunicable and communicable diseases) in alignment with integration of health information systems and health-service delivery systems;

7. Apply an incremental approach to expand the eHealth services taking into consideration availability of resources, readiness of health systems, affordability, sustainability and acceptability of technologies;

8. Collaborate with law-making and regulatory bodies of our countries and medical institutes to adopt appropriate ethical, legal and regulatory framework to safeguard the rights of individuals and healthcare professionals by ensuring privacy and confidentiality of electronic health data;

9. Collaborate with relevant bodies to build up mechanism and technology to ensure the security of the information systems and the data;

10. Intensify horizontal collaboration between the Ministries of Health of the Countries of the Region, and eHealth research institutes of Global and Regional excellence to adopt data standards and data exchange standards to ensure interoperability and integration of health information systems;

11. Broaden participation of private sector in implementing national eHealth strategies within a framework of public-private partnership and integration of health information systems;

12. Reviewing curricula of medical schools and developing an Health Informatics curriculum and course for medical schools and universities to promote Information Science & ICT education among health professionals;

13. Support an appropriate mechanism for sharing experiences, best practices and regional resources including expertise to facilitate horizontal cooperation between countries to support eHealth development in the region;

14. Create an electronic educational network for health professionals to expand their knowledge on ICT and its application in the healthcare sector and to build national capacity in eHealth strategies and capacity building of ICT human resources to ensure management and sustainability of eHealth systems;

15. Provide adequate and sustained resources through domestic and external channels, and explore innovative financing mechanisms for implementation of eHealth as part of efforts to achieve universal health coverage;

We, the Health Ministers of Member States of the WHO South-East Asia Region, request the Regional Director and the Director-General to continue to provide leadership and support to member states in strengthening eHealth strategies and facilitate in building partnerships between governments, developmental partners, academia, professional bodies, ICT sector, nongovernmental organizations, the media and civil society, to jointly advocate and execute this Bangkok Declaration on eHealth.

Bangkok, 18 November 2013
Thank you very much indeed