Health Informatics Research (HIR) for Uganda

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Why HIR for Uganda?

• Research Problem
  • Disconnect between Health Informatics solutions and Society

• Research Question
  • How can Health Informatics research and development facilitate and stimulate actualizing of better outcomes for society? I.e. how can the actualized society be achieved?
Theory of Change

• A Catalyst for an Actualized Healthy Society ... Where Health Informatics Solutions Connect to Society

• Goal
  • To actualize (realize better outcomes) the society through research, creation and delivering innovative products and services that are connected to society
Alignment to National Development & Health Sector Goals

- Uganda’s National Development Plan (2015/16 – 2019/20) and Uganda Vision 2040
  - ICT and Innovations are key drivers and fundamental opportunity to socio-economic transformation
- National ICT Policy (approved in 2014/15) and Ministry of ICT Strategic and Investment Plan (2015/16 – 2019/20)
  - prioritize research, development and innovations among the ICT sector priority thematic areas to guide systematic deployment of ICT for transformation of Uganda
  - health and environment are placed among the priority thematic areas (as ICT Health, Safety and Environment)
- Health Sector Development Plan (2015/16 – 2019/20) on ehealth development and implementation in Uganda
- Draft eHealth Policy and Strategy (2016/17 – 2020/21)
Why the Health Sector?

- A limited extant pool of relevant skills and human capital to successful ehealth development and implementation
- Successful rolling out of the eHealth Policy and Strategy requires health informatics training and research, on going support, and tools
- Need to scale up and upgrade the existing training and research programmes in these disciplines primarily from all health training institutional levels to university degree programmes, and health professionals & practitioners
- **Hence HIRI will focus on:**
  - Human capital development in informatics for health and related health disciplines at both professional and technician levels;
  - Development of an enabling environment for ehealth at the Ministerial level as well as local government/district level to facilitate ehealth (health informatics) solutions to connect to society
HI (Applied) Research Themes

- Developing, enhancing and strengthening eHIS equipped with accurate health information to improve health service delivery; evidenced decision making and clinical decision support
- Cost controlling and access to quality health care services
- Data and information management (data science, data mining and big data analytics) for data quality (Standards, Use, HIE, Security i.e. protection, privacy, incident response and biz continuity)
- Impact evaluations (wrt functionality, impact/outcome and usability) of eHealth innovations and services on quality of healthcare delivery and outcomes for individual and community to support continuity of care, inform policy and evidence-based decision making, etc...
- Developing, reviewing, monitoring and evaluation of eHealth enterprise architecture and interoperability/HIE, HIS standards
- Enhancing and strengthening surveillance and emergence response and reporting through eSurveillance and eReporting from the community level to national level
HIR support to Government Entities

• Working as the HI research arm for the Government of Uganda – Ministry of Health (All MoH Programmes, Division of Health Information, & National Public Health Institute)

• Supporting all health services providers, regulators, Development Partners and research institutions in Uganda

• Supporting the National Council of Science and Technology wrt Health Informatics research

• Supporting the Ministry of ICT and Innovations wrt addressing health care problems

• Supporting Makerere University College of Health Sciences

• Etc...
THANK YOU FOR LISTENING, CONTRIBUTIONS ARE WELCOME. LOOKING FORWARD TO COLLABORATIONS