

Country indicators	Benin	World Bank	WHO	Global	WHO
Population (000s)	8 662	Total health expenditure (%GDP)	4.8	ICT Development Index	1.35
GNI per capita (PPP Int \$)	1 510	Per capita total health expenditure (PPP Int \$)	72	ICT Development Index rank	141
World Bank income group	Low	Hospital bed density (per 10 000 population)	5	Mobile cellular subscriptions (per 100 population)	56.33
OECD country	No	Physician density (per 10 000 population)	0.6	Internet users (per 100 population)	2.24
Life expectancy at birth (years)	57	Nurse density (per 10 000 population)	7.7	Disability Adjusted Life Years (DALY)	37 601

Sources: See page ix

I. eHealth foundation actions

eHealth foundation actions build an enabling environment for the use of ICT for health. These include supportive eHealth policy, legal and ethical frameworks; adequate funding from various sources; infrastructure development; and developing the capacity of the health work force through training.

I. Policy framework				
	Country response	Global response (%) [§]	Policy implemented	Year of implementation
National eGovernment policy	Yes	85 ^b	Partly	2003
National eHealth policy	No	55 ^b	—	—
National ICT procurement policy for health sector	Yes	37 ^b	Partly	2000
National multiculturalism policy for eHealth	No	30 ^b	—	—
National telemedicine policy	No	25 ^c	—	—

II. Legal and ethical frameworks for eHealth		
	Country response	Global response (%) [§]
<i>Legislation on personal and health-related data</i>		
To ensure privacy of personally identifiable data	No	70
To protect personally identifiable data specifically in EMR or EHR ¹	No	31
<i>Legislation for sharing health-related data between health care staff through EMR/EHR¹</i>		
Within the same health care facility and its network of care providers	No	26
With different health care entities within the country	No	23
With health care entities in other countries	No	11
<i>Internet pharmacies</i>		
Legislation that allows/prohibits Internet pharmacy operations	No	Allows: 7, Prohibits: 19
National regulation/accreditation/certification of Internet pharmacy sites	No	7
Legislation that allows/prohibits Internet pharmacy purchases from other countries	No	Allows: 6, Prohibits: 12
<i>Internet safety</i>		
Government sponsored initiatives about Internet safety and literacy	No	47
Security tools required by law for facilities used by children	No	22
<i>Quality assurance approaches to health-related Internet content</i>		
Voluntary compliance by content providers or web site owners	No data	56
Technology through filters and controls	No data	28
Government intervention through laws or regulations	No data	26
Education programmes for consumers and professionals	No data	23
Official approval through certification, accreditation, or quality seals	No data	17

III. eHealth expenditures and their funding source								
Expenditure	Public funding		Private funding		Donor/non-public funding		Public-private partnerships funding	
	Country response	Global response (%) [§]	Country response	Global response (%) [§]	Country response	Global response (%) [§]	Country response	Global response (%) [§]
ICT equipment	Yes	78	Yes	37	Yes	59	Yes	28
Software	Yes	76	Yes	35	Yes	56	Yes	29
Pilot projects	No	69	No	33	No	51	No	28
Skills training	No	61	No	26	Yes	43	No	20
Ongoing support	No	61	No	19	No	35	No	18
Scholarships	No	28	No	8	No	19	No	4

IV. Capacity building		
	Country response	Global response (%) [§]
<i>ICT education</i>		
ICT training for students in health sciences at tertiary institutions	Yes	77
Institutions offer continuing education in ICT for health professionals	Yes	75
<i>Professional groups offered ICT continuing education</i>		
Medical	Yes	73
Nursing	No	62
Public health	Yes	60
Dentistry	No	54
Pharmacy	No	54

[§] Indicates the percentage of participating Member States responding "Yes"

¹ Electronic medical records / Electronic health records

2. eHealth applications

eHealth applications surveyed in 2009 include telemedicine (the delivery of health care services using ICT where distance is a barrier to care); mHealth (the use of mobile devices in delivering health care services); and eLearning (use of ICT for learning).

I. Telemedicine		
	Country response	Global response (%) [§]
<i>Telemedicine enabling actions</i>		
National telemedicine policy	No	25
Implemented national telemedicine policy	—	—
Formal evaluation and/or publication of telemedicine initiatives since 2006	No	22
<i>Barriers to implementing telemedicine solutions</i>		
Perceived costs too high	No	60
Lack of legal policies/regulation	No	40
Organizational culture not supportive	Yes	39
Underdeveloped infrastructure	Yes	38
Lack of policy frameworks	No	37
Competing priorities	No	37
Lack of demand by health professionals	No	31
Lack of nationally adopted standards	No	26
Lack of knowledge of applications	Yes	25
Lack of technical expertise	Yes	17
<i>Information most needed in country to support telemedicine development</i>		
Cost and cost effectiveness	No	69
Clinical possibilities	Yes	58
Infrastructure	No	52
Evaluation	Yes	46
Legal and ethical	No	45
Effect on human resources	Yes	40
Patients' perception	Yes	30

II. mHealth		
	Country response	Global response (%) [§]
<i>mHealth initiatives</i>		
mHealth initiatives are conducted in country	Yes	83
Formal evaluation and/or publication of mHealth initiatives	Yes	12
<i>Barriers to implementing mHealth initiatives</i>		
Competing priorities	No	53
Lack of knowledge of applications	No	47
Lack of policy framework	No	44
Cost effectiveness unknown	No	40
Lack of legal policies/regulation	No	38
Perceived costs too high	Yes	37
Lack of demand	Yes	29
Underdeveloped infrastructure	Yes	26
Lack of technical expertise	Yes	26

IIIa. eLearning		
	Country response	Global response (%) [§]
<i>eLearning in health sciences at the tertiary level</i>		
Used in teaching health sciences	No	72
Used in training health professionals	No	69
<i>Barriers to eLearning</i>		
Underdeveloped infrastructure	No	64
Lack of policy framework	Yes	63
Lack of skilled course developers	Yes	55
Lack of knowledge of applications	Yes	46
Perceived costs too high	No	45
Availability of suitable courses	Yes	42
Lack of demand	No	21

IIIb. eLearning target groups				
Profession	Students		Professionals	
	Country response	Global response (%) [§]	Country response	Global response (%) [§]
Medical	—	68	—	71
Public health	—	52	—	56
Nursing	—	50	—	55
Pharmacy	—	45	—	37
Dentistry	—	39	—	37

^a n=113

^b n=112

^c n=114