



Seychelles



Kindly describe a successful or challenging e-health initiative your country has taken.

The National ICT policy, spearheaded by the Seychelles Ministry of National Development, was launched in 2007.

In 2000, the Ministry of Health began its long drive to interconnect all its health facilities through a local and a wide-area-network of close to 300 computers.

This was the first step towards the introduction of an electronic patient management system. If all goes well, the electronic patient management system will be operational during 2008.

What were the financial challenges and costs associated with implementation of this programme?

Although the Health Information System has been identified for e-health implementation adequate financial commitment is a major challenge.

What have been the main technological challenges to implementing e-health in your country?

- ✦ *Current challenge is incompatibility of specialised medical equipment, which is not dicom compatible.*
- ✦ *Facilities for teleconference and telemedicine are still not in place*
- ✦ *Internet speed is still relatively slow in the Seychelles. It is believed that it will speed up soon. E-health will be the main driver for health and health services improvement. Steps are being taken in that direction. Soon the Ministry of Health and Social Development will have its own dedicated VSAT for e- health.*

This will eliminate the poor bandwidth problems of the internet.

- ✦ *The other challenge is security of information while transmitting it to another location.*

Have any ethical issues been raised during the design and implementation of e-health programmes

There were no ethical issues raised.

Has the implementation of e-health programmes required any legal or regulatory changes?

In the Seychelles the Data protection act is in place.

What have been the outcomes of your e-health initiatives?

- ✦ *Data collection for disease surveillance and response is undertaken with far less effort, saving money and time in the process. Online epidemiological journals and bulletins are regularly produced.*
- ✦ *Ministry of Health and Social Development has developed a website on which citizen oriented information is provided on various medical topics.*
- ✦ *At least two pilot attempts at radio-conferencing have been made thus far, to link the main island, Mahe, with Centres of Excellence in Europe.*
- ✦ *The Ministry of Health and Social Development has long realized the potential for telemedicine as, if connected via tele-medicine, the 115 islands of the Seychelles will respond better to the health needs of their inhabitants.*