



Vanuatu



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

The POLHN – Pacific Open Learning Health Network. This is a regional initiative initiated by the WHO, and its aim is to provide access to e-health facilities for health workers in Pacific Island countries.

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

The initial establishment costs were met by the WHO. It is difficult for Vanuatu to continue to provide e-health in-country because of lack of capacity and resources. The WHO continues to support the operations of this initiative in-country. Long-term sustainability is questionable.

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

The main challenges have been: lack of capacity, lack of resources (e.g. funds), high tele-communication costs, the need to raise more awareness to encourage health workers to use e-health, and the slowness of the internet connection.

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

Not that I am aware of.