

Regional Telehealth Centres

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Agenda

- The Concept
- Reasons for Selection
- Success Factors for Regional Centres
- Methods Used in Africa
- Proposed Centres
- Expectations
- The Three Phases
- Guiding Principles
- Questions

The Concept

- Emerged at the International Telemedicine Symposium for the Middle East, Africa and Europe held in Tunisia September 28 1998



Reasons For Selection

- Availability of funds to start the process
- Local support (expertise, hand-holding)
- Existing network backbone
- Existing links with other countries
- Willingness to co-operate with other countries in the sub-region
- Existing content
- Innovative national plans for Telehealth
- Regional distribution



Success Factors For Regional Centres

- Skill - basic skills in health informatics
- Resources - adequate start up funds
- Champions, Champions, Champions - individuals that move the idea of telehealth forward and institutional support
- Openness - ability to network and share knowledge and resources



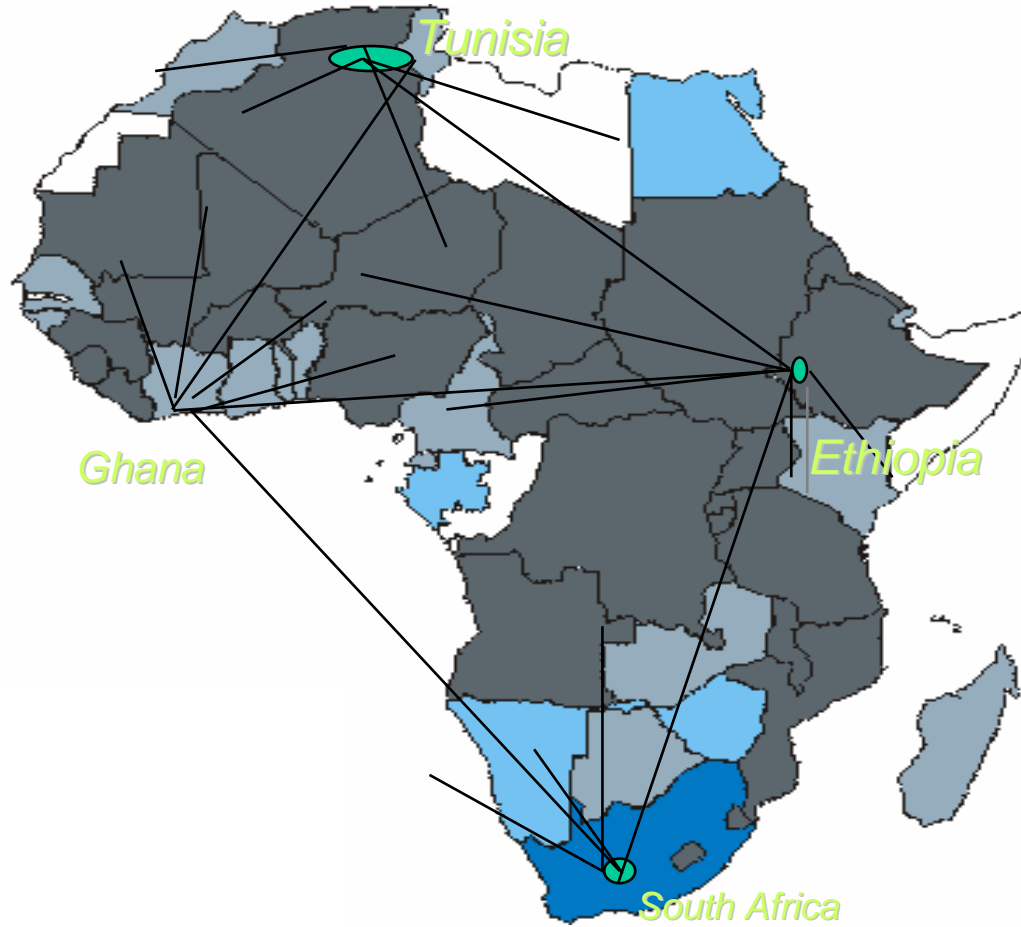
Methods Used In Africa

- From Centre to the Periphery
 - building a national centre and expanding knowledge gained to other countries
- Help Desk Approach
 - building a centre of excellence with capacity to support others
- National Telehealth projects
 - focus on single country

It is the belief of the Africa Telehealth Project that the use of these three techniques together in regional telehealth centres will improve the quality of healthcare delivery. The centres would act as a hub for knowledge to other countries by connecting the national healthcare facilities.



Proposed Centres





Expectations

- Centres should:
 - Create elaborate national and sub-regional plans
 - Expand the content to be shared at the regional level by creating a clearing house for telehealth in the sub-region
 - Evolve as a centre of best practices for the sub-region, document and disseminate knowledge
 - Act as a networking hub if necessary



Phase 1: Elaborate National Plans in Telehealth

- Basic network access for health practitioners
- Projects on basic telemedicine and health content
- National awareness on health communication and telemedicine
- Work on national telehealth policy
- Project on national health informatics training and course
- Plan for overall promotion of information communication technology

Phase 2: Advancing Connectivity at National and Sub-Regional Level

- Expanded access to health workers including Internet and multimedia video conferencing for remote diagnostics
- Intensive training on information access
- Improving local medical content development and its dissemination to the Internet
- Outreach to the sub-region

Phase 3: Expansion of Telehealth at Grassroots and Regional Level

- Use of multipurpose telecentres at local level to provide remote diagnostic and disseminate health information
- Build Intranet in health institutions to disseminate experience and health content to students and practitioners
- Evaluate, document and duplicate experience in other countries



Guiding Principles

- Regional centre selection is not absolute
- Telehealth implementation will be defined by each country
- Activities of the sub-regional centres will be evaluated annually
- Centres will be created as required
- The goal is to create national telehealth centres in all African countries!



Questions?

