

EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY

EAST AFRICAN HEALTH RESEARCH COMMISSION

P.O. Box 1096

ARUSHA, TANZANIA



Tel: +255-27-2162100/14

Fax: +255-27-2162102/2162191

Fax: +255-27-2504255/2050281

E-mail: eac@eachq.org

Web: <http://www.eac.int>

CONCEPT NOTE ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A WEB PORTAL FOR HEALTH INFORMATION FOR EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY

1. Introduction

The 5th Extra-Ordinary Summit of the EAC Heads of State that was held on 18th June 2007 established the East African Health Research Commission (EAHRC) as an institution of the East African Community, as per *provisions of the Article 118* of the Treaty for establishment of the East African Community. The 31st Meeting of the Council of Ministers which took place between 27th and 30th April 2015, at the EAC HQ, in Arusha appointed the first key staff of the EAHRC.

The EAHRC is established as a mechanism for making available to the community, advice upon all matters of health and health related researches and findings necessary for knowledge generation, technological development, policy formulations, practices and related matters.

EAHRC as per its mandate and to fulfill its specific objectives, would like to establish a mechanism for collecting health information from different sources and create a **single-point-of-access** to the health information for stakeholders in the region and globally. EAHRC proposes the establishment of a web portal for health information for EAC. The dynamic and interactive web portal will offer a more structured, and navigable interface, allowing for browsing an organized hierarchy of categories of health information.

Furthermore, the web portal will showcase the capacity in health available in the region; such as hospitals, medical universities, research institutions, and medical and pharmaceutical industries and their products. In this way it will improve accessibility and utilization of health services, medical products, and study and career opportunities to the citizens of East Africa before they seek for

similar services/opportunities outside the region. The web portal will provide to the world a one-stop center for comprehensive health information in East Africa. The web portal will also host other activities like health journals, news, events, conferences, and health-related social media.

In this way the web portal will be serving the EAC spirit of **free movement of people, free movement of services, and free movement of goods; under One people, One destiny.**

2. Name of the Web Portal:

www.eahealth.org

Official comprehensive compendium of health information in East Africa
Hospitals, Universities, Research, Industries, Professionals, Opportunities, and More....

3. Coverage and Content

Coverage

The web portal will cover all aspects of health relevant for East Africa

Content

- a. **Health services:** The web portal will provide information on health services available in East Africa; it will provide in an organised manner profiles of referral and consultant hospitals. This will include specialised and super-specialised services offered by health facilities in the region. In this way, it will avail more options to the people of the region to choose when seeking for health services. The web portal will also showcase the capacity that East Africa has in health services and thus become another destination for medical services, including medical tourism.
- b. **Academics:** It will provide relevant information of medical universities and medical colleges registered in East Africa. Including academic programmes offered by the medical academic institutions, etc. in this way, it will provide the opportunity for potential students in the region and outside the region to have more choices to explore for their career and academic life. It will facilitate free movement of our students in search of their career.
- c. **Research Institutions:** the web portal will have profiles of research institutions in the region, their research capacity, portfolio, and research programmes. Knowing the capacities and activities of the research institutions will allow for more collaborations and networks

to take place among the institutions of the partner states. Furthermore it will make the institutions in the region visible and attract potential collaborators from outside the region. Thus foster more research activities to take place in the region.

- d. Pharmaceutical and Medical industries:** The web portal will provide an avenue for pharmaceutical and medical industries in East Africa to be visible in East Africa and globally. The portal will be a forum for the industries to widen its market.
- e. Database and registry:** the web portal will host research findings (e.g. from surveillance studies, trends of diseases, database on morbidity and mortality, policy issues, etc).
- f. Social media:** the web will be a media for interactions on relevant issues using social media e.g. Twitter, etc
- g. News:** The web portal will be the source of information on events (e.g. upcoming conferences, meetings), opportunities (e.g. scholarship, grants, and placement), announcements (e.g. new policies, health alerts), etc.
- h. The journal:** The web portal will host the electronic version of the health research journal; it will provide services for processing (from submission to review and production), and accessing the journal.
- i. Conferences:** the web will provide proceedings of health related meetings and conferences e.g. the East African Health and Scientific conference and health exhibition and trade fair
- j. Regional health:** The web will host relevant health-related issues/activities from partner states
- k. EAC Department of Health:** the web will host the activities of the health department of the East African Community.
- l. The Commission:** the web portal will provide information regarding the EAHRC and its activities

m. And related matters

The web portal will among others:

- Enable universal login
- Handle both structured and unstructured data
- Access different data

- Enable transactions
- Publish content
- Personal content
- Enable search for information
- Be a knowledge management platform
- Facilitate messaging
- Facilitate notification e.g. health alerts, outbreaks, policy, periodically updated reports, etc.
- Allow automated tuning: with ability for ubiquitous contents to be tuned based on personalisation, location, browser, etc
- Integrate to other systems
- Social media platforms (e.g. Facebook, or Twitter, WhatsApp) which will be managed accordingly
- Emails, Podcasts/Videos, Info Graphics, etc
 - a. The email addresses (e.g. xsurname@eahealth.org): will be in two domain: one official and one for health professionals in the region

4. Infrastructure and key features

- **Server:** Server will be robust with sufficient space to support text, audio, video, and with option for expansion of its capacity. The server required will have reliable (99 – 99.5%) uptime throughout.
- **Back up:** the service provider will have reliable backup for the service, for data, and provide prompt technical support. The backup will be available all the time, even when offline
- **Speed:** capable of loading up fast
- **Security** from hackers: the host to have an automatic backup mechanism and protection of the content of the web portal.

- **Link:** capable to link to other websites/web portals that are relevant to health
- **Updating:** the web portal will be updated and assessed regularly
- **Connection:** Powerful connection to the backbone of the internet
- Appropriate software, and technology to support the contents of the web portal, e.g. the journal, etc
- Tracking system and analysis to provide data on the web portal coverage/audience and trends
- The web portal will be subjected to review and feedback for improvement

5. Promotion of the Web Portal

Various promotion strategies will be employed; including advertisement, use of social media, putting the web portal into the staff addresses, linking it to other websites/web portals, institutions, libraries, etc.

The administration of the web portal will charge fees for hosting activities, information of the institutions, organisations, etc. The fee will be charged in order to support the cost associated with hosting, maintaining, updating, and running of the web portal

6. Personnel

After the initial installation and setting up, the web portal will be managed by the web portal administrator, supported by ICT personnel, and the commission