Hacking for Global Health

A competition ('Hackathon') of the German Federal
Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)
for the 3rd International German Forum.

Background information

Kenya is at the forefront of digital transformation in Africa. The health care sector, however, has not yet benefited sufficiently from technological advances and remains poor, especially in rural areas. As a consequence, too many children and adolescents still die from preventable diseases. What opportunities can digital health care solutions (eHealth) offer to improve this situation?

To answer this question with specific solutions and approaches, a 'hackathon' has been organised for the 3rd International German Forum (IGF) of the German Chancellor Angela Merkel. Its aim is to stimulate the creative energy in Kenya for local health solutions. A 'hackathon' – the term is a combination of the words 'hack' and 'marathon' – describes an event at which participants develop software solutions in an intense process within a few days.

The BMZ is facilitating this hackathon as part of the 3rd IDF with the intention of bringing people together and jointly developing solutions for a better future. The 3rd IDF will take place 21 and 22 February and will focus on 'Global Health and Innovation'.

'Hackers' work on innovative solutions for the health care sector.

HACKING FOR GLOBAL HEALTH
FROM LOCAL TO GLOBAL HEALTH

Objectives

A Healthy Future: Health is a human right. The solutions developed at the Nairobi hackathon all offer responses to the many challenges the health sector in Kenya is facing.

Global Innovation: Impulses for 'Global Health and Innovation' are developed locally and discussed and grown on an international level.

Tangible and sustainable: Stakeholders develop applicable IT-based solutions for creating a healthy future.

Activating People: The Competition encourages young IT professionals to participate.

Global Networking: Actors exchange their knowledge and ideas across continents.

Participants and Mentors

The hackathon brought together young people from the sectors of health, management, marketing, IT Start-Ups, programming and design. During the competition, interdisciplinary teams were formed.
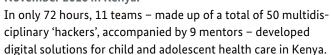
The participants received continuous support from mentors, e.g. from the University of Nairobi, several non-governmental organisations, independent health care professionals, as well as representatives from the private sector.

Celebrating the winners of the 'Hack for Global Health' in November 2016 in Kenya.

Procedure

The 'Hacking for Global Health' hackathon took place in November 2016 in Kenya.

In only 72 hours, 11 teams – made up of a total of 50 multidisciplinary 'hackers', accompanied by 9 mentors – developed digital solutions for child and adolescent health care in Kenya.

▶ The three best teams were invited to the 3rd International German Forum (IGF) in Berlin in February 2017, where they will pitch their solutions to a high-level audience.

▶ During the pre-IGF phase the teams will refine their approaches in cooperation with different mentors. In Germany, they will meet with local actors from the health care and startup sectors to exchange ideas.

▶ The IGF audience will see presentations of all three solutions: micro health insurance via an app, a platform for taboo topics and a tool for supervised births in health care facilities.

▶ A jury of experts will select the winning team at the IGF. Subsequently, this team will receive financial support and guidance for the further development of its software solution.

http://hack4health.info

https://www.bundesregierung.de/Webs/Breg/EN/Issues/
Internationales-Deutschlandforum/_node.html