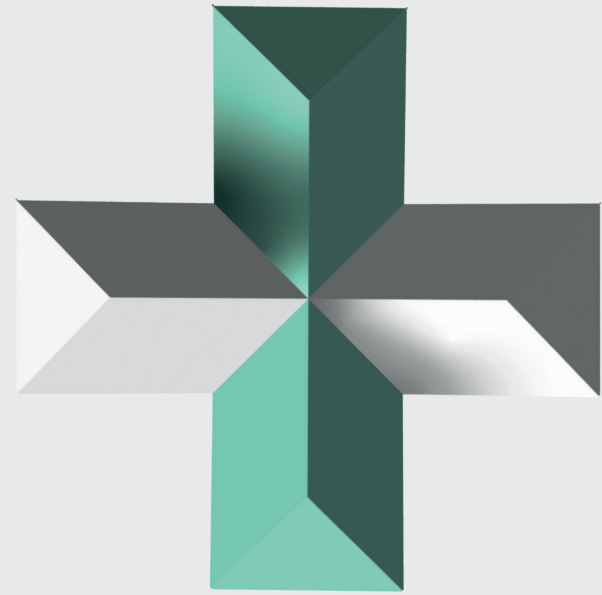


State of health



Affordable, accessible healthcare is still out of reach in many African countries, but innovative technology can greatly improve conditions.

By Chelsea Lotz

Healthcare in Africa is vital – literally a matter of life or death. It defines the way people live, before and after an illness. However, for many people, decent healthcare is unaffordable or inaccessible. Africa remains the continent most in need of healthcare infrastructure, personnel, and equipment. Lack of access to healthcare is still a critical factor that creates difficulties for elderly, disabled, and economically disadvantaged people – particularly those living in remote locations.

For two decades, Health System Technologies (HST) has provided nearly 400 health-tech sites throughout Africa. By harnessing the power of telecommunications, the company delivers solution-based “telemedicine” services that drive results and assist in maintaining and restoring physical, mental, and emotional well-being.

By using ICT, HST has created the Enterprise Master Consumer Index (EMCI), a database that assigns a unique identifier to each patient. The unique identifier works in conjunction with the HST suite of patient administration, patient management, remote consultation, and order-entry solutions to provide a holistic view of the patient’s care and the resources utilised to deliver such care. This software catapults healthcare into 4IR, which is itself a key component in ensuring that Africa moves beyond

Third World status and meets the UN Millennium Development Goals. By combining healthcare and technological solutions, HST is pioneering a new future in healthcare for the continent.

A sustainable and sufficient healthcare operating model is integral to a well-functioning public health system. HST is in a unique position to work hand-in-hand with governments to provide sustainable, affordable, and efficient healthcare solutions – something it has already begun doing in South Africa by partnering with the Western Cape Department of Health and the National Health Laboratory Service.

Earlier this year, the South African government signed off on the National Health Insurance Bill, which prioritises affordable, quality healthcare – including costly medical procedures and treatment by private facilities – for all citizens. HST’s innovative systems – which can track patient records and medical procedures across public and private practices – will allow the SA government, and governments across Africa, to run efficient organisational healthcare systems that place people and technology at the core of everything they do. 🌍

healthsystems.co.za