

UN ICT4SIDS Partnership

Smart Solomons Pilot Project -- The Vision

Note: This Concept Paper is extracted from the Invitation

1. The Smart Solomons Vision at a Glance

The goal of the Smart Solomons Project is to transform the Solomon Islands into a smart island by 2020 and to develop the best practices that can be used to transform other SIDS. Specifically, the long range vision is to achieve the following by 2020:

- Demonstrate, through hands-on experience, how the adoption of Samoa Pathway and UN Post 2015 Agenda can transform SIDS into Smart SIDS.
- Make Smart Solomons a posterchild to show how compliance with SDGs, especially SDGs 1-4, can be used as measure of being a “Smart SIDS”.
- Implement the vision displayed in Figure1. This vision shows about 6 smart hubs, one per main Island in Solomons (the smart hubs are based on the Samoa Pathway Declaration). Each hub serves as a Smart Community Center with specific SDG goals (e.g. economic development, health, education, public safety, public welfare, etc) of vital importance to the island.
- The hubs directly communicate with each other and also with a National Center located in the main island (Honiara), The hubs also communicate with a global center in USA (HU – Harrisburg University)

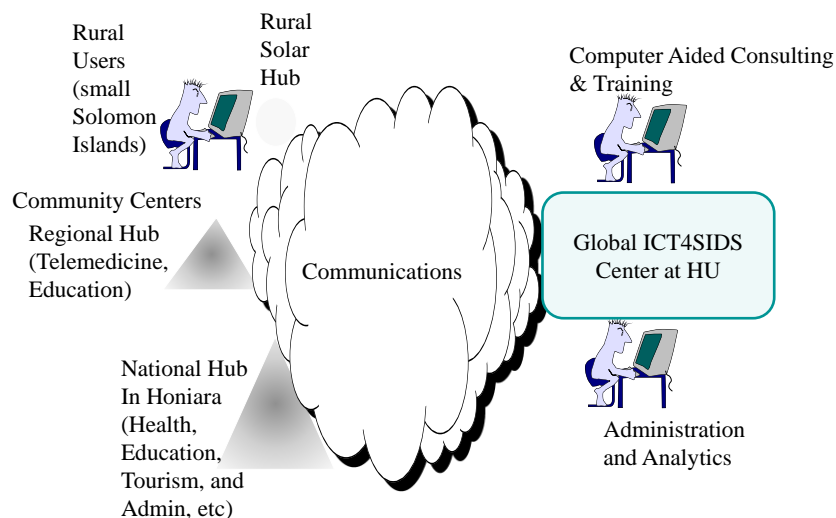


Figure1: Proposed Smart Solomons Vision

Smart Solomons will attempt to address the special challenges facing the Solomons, as shown in Exhibit1, and will be a highly visible project that is intended for direct benefits to the Solomon Islands in terms of the health, education, employment and entrepreneurship opportunities. It could also create international recognition (the first Smart SIDS in the World) and opportunities to present at UN and international conferences.

Exhibit1: Special Challenges Facing the Solomons

- Solomon Islands has a population of 0.6 million people that is spread around 900 small islands in a 10,000 square mile (roughly 100 mile x 100 mile) geographical area in the vicinity of Indonesia.
- The populations in the small islands are so small that most of them have no schools beyond primary education and virtually no healthcare facilities.
- The population is generally poor, with many people living with less than USD 100 per month. The working professionals earn between USD 500-600 per month.
- The telecommunications costs are extremely high (around USD 1200 per month) for a 1Mbps line.
- The capital city, Honiara, is the only “developed” city with decent schools and healthcare facilities. But Honiara has only 15% of the Solomons population – 85% of the population lives in the 900 islands.
- The islands are between 20 to 50 miles apart from each other. It may take between 3 to 5 hours to transport a patient from an island to a hospital in Honiara.

2. The Big Picture and Background– A Smart Global Village

Smart Solomons is a key player in our vision of a *Smart Global Village for the Underserved Populations* that consists of smart collaborating hubs located in small islands, small towns and isolated communities, as shown in Figure1. *The basic definition of a smart hub is that it is a center of activity, supported by a powerful portal, that provides location specific services of high value to its users.* A smart hub may be totally virtual (i.e., located on a handset or in the cloud) or a physical location (i.e., a small room with access to the hub portal) but it must:

- Provide highly specialized region and population specific low cost and high impact services in health, education, public safety, public welfare and other vital sectors (for example, provide hypertension telemedicine services in areas with high incidents of hypertension and offer adult job training and micro-entrepreneurship training in areas with high unemployment).
- Collaborate with each other for a global impact through information exchange and cooperation between various smart hubs (for example, a hypertension hub collaborates with another specializing in diabetes).

- Be supported by a hub portal that has prefabricated plug-ins for collaboration, business intelligence, decision support, security and project management so that the remotest populations are not left behind.
- Be aware of the local information technology and energy constraints and be customized accordingly.
- Provide a pathway to add cognitive services as local capacities of populations improve accordingly.
- Support a systematic methodology that significantly reduces the time and the cost of implementing the hubs and thus addresses the financial crisis faced by the small islands and developing countries [3].