Digital Storytelling in East Africa for Global Health Research & Action

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1. Mbarara University of Science and Technology; 2. Common Language Digital Storytelling; 3. University of Calgary

Background

DST for Global Health Research and Action aims to address the following:

Data gaps:

- Quality: unique voices under-represented, limited depth, & researcher-driven.

- Dissemination: low engagement, lacking indivdual voices, presenter vias, poor digital adaptation, not action oriented

DST implementation globally: language/cultural differences, low literacy, lack of technology, limited images/music.

This project is jointly implemented by 3 main partners:

- Mbarara University of Science and Technology (Implementation Lead)

- University of Calgary (Research Supprt)

- Common Languages DST (Technical DST Support)

Acknowledgement

Phase 1 (Complete)

Objectives

Identify and document the DST implementation experience in East Africa

Data Collection

| **50** Digital stories catalogued | **10** Interviews with storytellers | **7** DST facilitators engaged in discussions |

Results

ENABLERS

- Trust
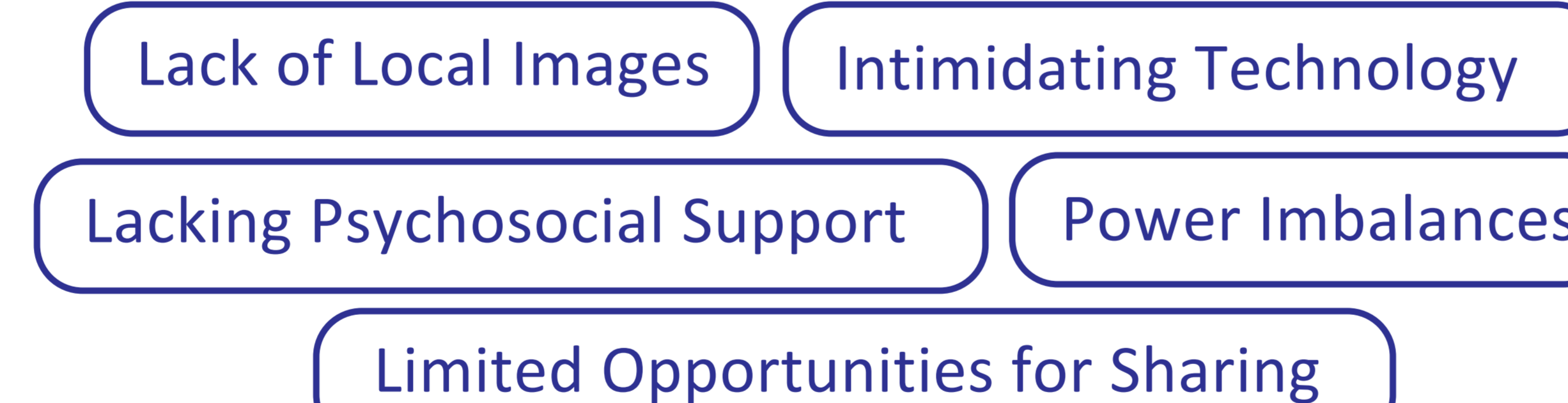- Storytelling Culture
- Welcoming Space
- Storyteller's ability to share

Ugandan DST Experience

ADAPTATIONS

- Sharing via radio, narration at trainings, TV at health facilities, and directly by storytellers
- Travelling to the storyteller's community for photos
- Team facilitation

BARRIERS

- Lack of Local Images
- Intimidating Technology
- Lacking Psychosocial Support
- Power Imbalances
- Limited Opportunities for Sharing

Phase 2 (Ongoing)

Objectives

- Document, evaluate, and revise an East African DST Curriculum.

- Deliver initial DST training to 7 MicroResearch sites and full training to 2 sites.

- Enhance MUST capacity to deliver DST training.

- Establish a network of partners ready to facilitate DST ethically.

Products

| 3 Research Manuscripts | DST Desicion Aid | Short DST Documentary | Photo Bank | East African DST Curriculum |

HEALTHY CHILD UGANDA

UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY CUMMING SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

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COMMON LANGUAGE DIGITAL STORYTELLING