



The Computerworld Honors Program

Honoring those who use Information Technology to benefit society

Final Copy of Case Study

Status:

Winner

Year:

2013

Organization Name:

Desmond Tutu HIV Foundation

Organization URL:

www.desmondtutuhivcentre.org.za/

Project Name:

Fight to End HIV and Tuberculosis

Please select the category in which you are submitting your entry:

World Good

Please provide an overview of the nominated project. Describe the problem it was intended to solve, the technology or approach used, how it was innovative and any technical or other challenges that had to be overcome for successful implementation and adoption. (In 300 words or less.)

South Africa is fighting a fierce battle against HIV and tuberculosis. One group that's stepped up to help in particular is the Desmond Tutu HIV Foundation (DTHF). Supported by Archbishop Desmond Tutu since its founding in 2004, the DTHF HIV Research Unit in Cape Town was one of the first public clinics to offer anti-retroviral therapy to people living with HIV. In addition to clinical trials, DTHF provides free education, testing, and treatment for HIV and tuberculosis from multiple locations. A mobile unit also travels to outlying townships. As DTHF has grown with numerous new projects and leaders who often travel, so have expensive regulatory audits and administrative costs. To better manage operations, including compliance with stringent governance requirements, DTHF turned to SAP Business One for a new grant and financial management enterprise resource planning (ERP) system developed by SAP partner Bluekey Software Solutions. SAP Business One is substantially reducing audit costs even as DTHF grows. The system has already reduced transaction processing times by 30 percent, which gives traveling project leaders the ability to authorize and approve projects from

anywhere on their mobile devices. Creditor summary reports have significantly improved creditor management while multi-currency reports automatically calculate exchange rate risks, a capability DTHF did not have before. The organization estimates savings of over \$45,000 per year with the new software, which also allows DTHF to conduct full cost recovery faster. In addition, the full transparency DTHF now allows physicians managing individual clinical trials to understand exactly how much budget they have to work with and what they can spend. Before using SAP Business One, physicians were sometimes so afraid of going over their budget that they often wouldn't spend money at all. Now they make informed spending decisions easily, freeing up more time for patient care.

When was this project implemented or last updated? (Please specify month and year.) Has it incorporated new technologies and/or other innovations since its initial deployment? (In 300 words or less.)

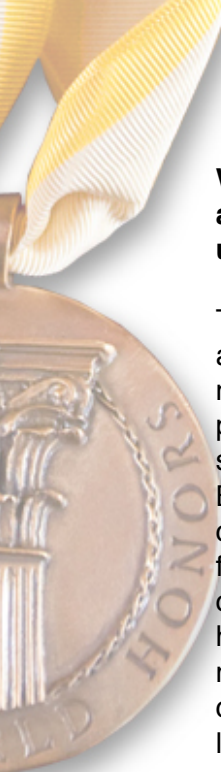
Project was implemented in March 2012.

Is implementation of the project complete? If no, please describe the project's phases and which phase the project is now in. (In 300 words or less.)

Yes, project is complete.

Please provide at least one example of how the technology project has benefited a specific individual or organization. Feel free to include personal quotes from individuals who have directly benefited from the work. (In 300 words or less.)

DTHF counselor Flora Thobela knows the difference timely information and treatment make. Diagnosed with HIV 20 years ago, she participated in a DTHF clinical trial. Today she lives with AIDS and works as a counselor for the foundation. "Patient responses to DTHF have been tremendously positive," Thobela says. "People value medical attention, but having someone who cares is just as important. As an HIV patient, you have to fight to be heard, and the Tutu Foundation gives people a voice. When you are given an HIV-positive diagnosis, there's fear of the unknown. But if a person that lives with HIV tells the person how it feels, things become easier." Jill Thorne, DTHF General Manager, says, "There aren't many software packages able to manage non-government organization requirements like SAP Business One. We have a centralized, credible and robust financial system that increases our ability to receive grants and extend social benefits. SAP Business One also keeps our engine running regardless of where our management staff is working around the world. We can more easily utilize personnel resources in the best way to serve patients. We can also focus on the things we need to think about to help people improve their health and make the world a better place for the people of South Africa." DTHF Director Linda-Gail Bekker adds, "With the HIV and tuberculosis disease, people are dying, so there's no time to waste. SAP Business One frees up everyone's time to focus on what we're all about: to end HIV and tuberculosis. We have a vision of an AIDS-free South Africa, and our research, treatment and prevention efforts to reduce the effects of this pandemic on South Africans have grown 90% over the past four years with the help of SAP."



Would this project be considered an innovation, a best practice or other notable advancement that could be adopted by or tailored for other organizations and uses? If yes, please describe that here. (In 300 words or less.)

The SAP Business One ERP solution deployed for the Desmond Tutu HIV Foundation is an innovation unique in today's world that can be leveraged by any organization that needs to manage grant applications, research budgets and treatment programs for patients with critical diseases. Bluekey Software Solutions purposely built a generic solution that other non-government organizations can easily adapt to fit their processes. Both Bluekey and SAP believe it's their company's social responsibility to invest in the communities in which they do business. They view solutions such as the one developed for DTHF as the perfect way to fulfill the mission of making systems run better so organizations can improve peoples' lives. Any organization using SAP Business One has easy, real-time access to the information they need. In addition to saving time and money, this also allows medical staffs to focus more time on patient care. With a few clicks of a button, users can see where procurement processes might be held up. This lets them avoid having to contact multiple people to find out what's going on with a particular process or project. The technology plays a critical role in treating patients because accessing the right information and treatment at the right time helps save lives. SAP Business One has made a huge difference in helping DTHF spend more time on clinical trials, treatment, and prevention efforts. The technology is poised to do the same for other healthcare organizations.

If there are any other details that the judges should know about this project, please note them here. (In 300 words or less.)

For organizations like the Desmond Tutu HIV Foundation, efficient fund management as well as grant control and financial transparency are crucial to secure future funding. When donor organizations can clearly see their grants are put to good use and that the success can be tracked, the probability of repeat funding dramatically increases. With an ERP solution like SAP Business One achieving these capabilities for DTHF, the likelihood of future grants remaining steady has increased. The solution is also particularly critical for a country like South Africa, which is estimated to have more people infected with HIV/AIDS than any other country in the world and has the fourth largest rate of tuberculosis worldwide. In a country where approximately 25 percent of the population is unemployed and lives on less than \$1.25 per day, the health care situation requires heroes. At DTHF, policymakers, health care professionals and donors seek to win this battle with large doses of education, testing, and treatment all supported by ERP technology like SAP Business One so that more time can be spent focusing on patients, and so patients have a better chance at living a quality life. For more info, please see the following video: <http://www.sap.com/asset/index.epx?id=cd3d7629-acb6-4480-9f51-5a9bc5b33608>