

# The Idea

Speech-Language Pathologists (SLPs) are beginning to use an internet-based technology called telepractice to provide services to clients in other states or clients who are not able to travel to a clinic. Since this service delivery method has garnered positive results, it follows that telepractice on an international scale may also be beneficial. Kenya has high need for SLP services but low access or availability; connecting potential clients to clinicians in the U.S. via telepractice can help to even that imbalance.



## Resources

- [www.tembotrading.org](http://www.tembotrading.org)
- [www.yellowhousechildrens.org](http://www.yellowhousechildrens.org)
- <http://globalslcs.org>
- [www.asha.org](http://www.asha.org)
- [www.stutteringhelp.org](http://www.stutteringhelp.org)
- [www.hackersforcharity.org](http://www.hackersforcharity.org)
- <http://asltk.wordpress.com/>
- [www.microsoft.com/africa/4afrika/default.aspx](http://www.microsoft.com/africa/4afrika/default.aspx)

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# Stuttering Therapy via Telepractice in Kenya

An Overview

# The Republic of Kenya

Kenya is a country located in Eastern Africa famous for its safaris and wildlife reserves. It is not, however, known for having adequate speech-language pathology resources or clinicians. The few speech-language services available are private, requiring a client to pay, and all are based in large cities. This leaves the large majority of Kenyans, those who live below the poverty line in extremely remote areas, without easy access to necessary therapy services.



## STUTTERING

What: Stuttering is a communication disorder in which the flow of speech is broken by repetitions, prolongations, or abnormal stoppages. There may also be unusual facial and body movements associated with the effort to speak.

Why: Formally unknown but attributed to genetics, neurophysiology, and family dynamics.

Who: ~1% of world population, 4:1 ratio of males to females, 5% of children (3/4 will spontaneously recover).

Goals: Reducing the frequency of stuttering; decreasing the tension and struggle of stuttering moments; working to decrease word or situation avoidances; learning more about stuttering; using effective communication skills such as eye contact or phrasing; and, determining whether goals relate to long-term change or to meet a specific short-term need, such as a job interview.

## TELEPRACTICE

What: Telepractice is the application of telecommunications technology to the delivery of speech language pathology and audiology professional services at a distance.

Types: *Asynchronous* – images/data are captured and transmitted  
*Synchronous* – require real time audio and video connection

Licensure: For use within the U.S., the clinician must be certified in the state they are located in and the state the client is located in. International considerations include adherence to country policies and sensitivity to cultural and linguistic differences.

Tech: Requires internet connection and videoconferencing hardware/software/devices.

Help: Appropriately trained facilitators may assist at the remote site.

Privacy: Services within the U.S. are bound by HIPAA regulations. International considerations include HIPAA regulations as well as the client's country regulations.