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EHealth and Mobile Strategies in Kenya

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OUTLINE OF PRESENTATION

- Introduction
- The status of eHealth and mHealth in Kenya
- Enabling environment for eHealth and mHealth
- Common challenges of eHealth and mHealth
- Conclusion

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INTRODUCTION

- Advanced ICT has affected the way people work, live and play
- Innovations around Internet and communicative use of IT are revolutionizing health systems
- Kenya is among the top countries in Africa taking advantage of these developments
- This presentation shows the opportunities and challenges for adoption of eHealth and mHealth approaches

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INTRODUCING THE CONCEPT OF EHEALTH

- There is no one single definition of the term e-Health
- Scholars define it using different concepts-health, technology etc.
- Alvarez (2002) defines e-Health as "the use of emerging ICT, especially the Internet, to improve or enable healthcare"
- E-Health is a key enabler for health systems globally

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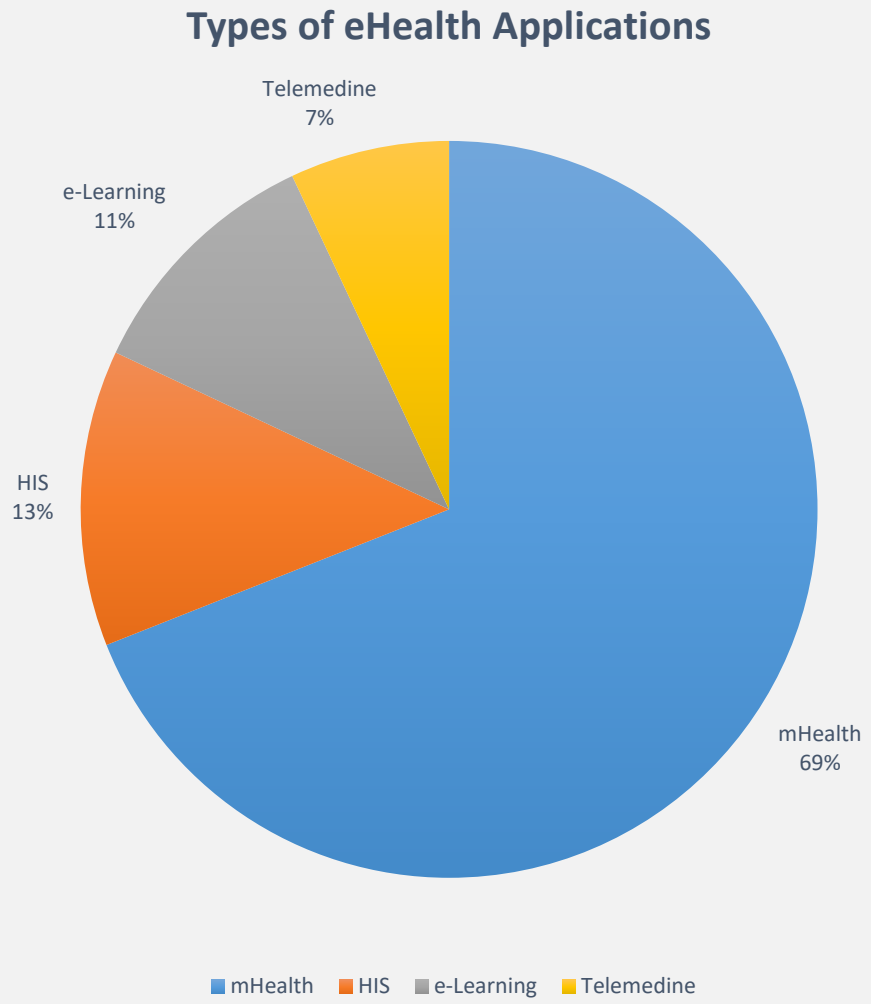
EHEALTH SOLUTIONS IN KENYA

- Kenya adopted various eHealth solutions:
- Telemedicine, Health Information Systems (HIS), mHealth and e-Learning
- Most are on Primary health care and HIV/AIDS
- Ref: *(Njoroge et al., 2017)*



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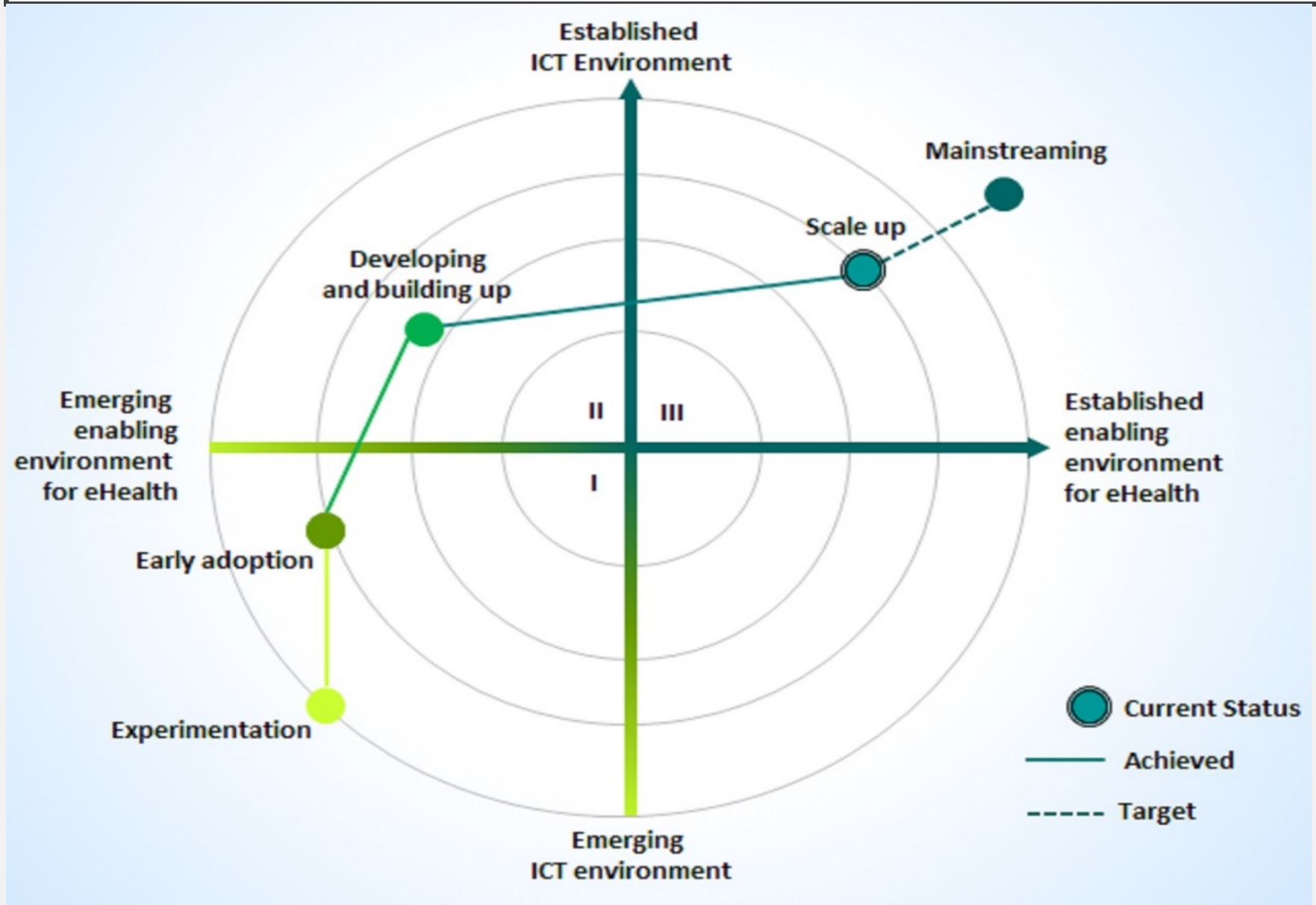
STATUS OF THE EHEALTH IN KENYA



Source: Draft Kenya eHealth strategy 2018-2023

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ENABLING ENVIRONMENT FOR KENYA'S EHEALTH:

- Political goodwill to support healthcare reforms and innovation
- Availability of highly skilled health personnel
- Availability of advanced health facilities and referral systems carrying out complex eHealth medical procedures
- High level of awareness of ICT among the general population
- Awareness of the existing of eHealth technologies among healthcare workers
- High uptake of IT and mobile technology in the country

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ENABLING ENVIRONMENT FOR KENYA'S EHEALTH:

- Alternative sources of electrical power – solar, geothermal
- National ICT policy promoting use of ICT in public service
- Recognition of eHealth as a mode of service delivery by the Kenya Health Act 2015
- National e-Government Strategy and Vision 2030 recognizes eHealth as a national priority
- Existence of National eHealth policy and strategy
- Availability of robust national reporting systems

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IMPLEMENTATION OF KENYA'S EHEALTH STRATEGY

- The current vision eHealth Strategy:
  - Affordable, efficient, sustainable and quality digital health solutions that support Universal Health Coverage (UHC)
- Drafting of the strategy adopted stakeholder involvement
- The vision can be achieved by utilizing technology in the six pillars of health systems (WHO)

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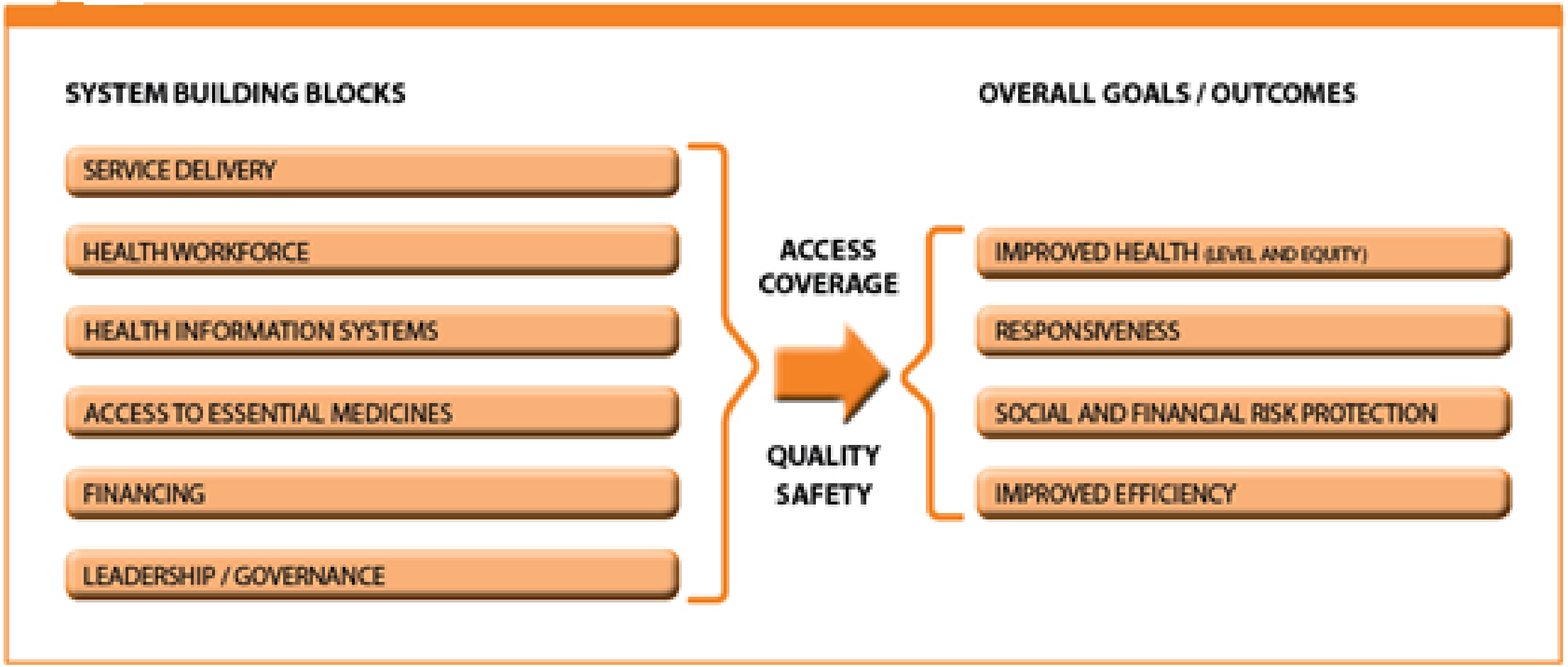
THE SIX BUILDING BLOCKS FOR HEALTH SYSTEMS.



Source: (WHO, 2007)

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EXAMPLES OF EHEALTH BASED ON PILLARS OF HS:

- Leadership and Governance: Timely data from eHealth to support decision making
- Finance: Interlinking healthcare service providers to the payers like the National Health Insurance Fund
- Essential medicines: Managing the supply chain efficiently
- Health workforce: e-learning platforms and a database for workers(HRIS)
- Service delivery: digital health solutions such as telemedicine, DHIS2 , Master facility lists, EHR, EMR, mobile solutions to enhance patient – provider interaction.

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USE OF DATA, PROTECTION OF DATA

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SPECIFIC POLICY ON PROTECTION OF DATA

Policy/strategy	Key Functions
The Constitution of Kenya, 2010	Right to information
Kenya National eHealth Policy 2016 – 2030	Adopt user-friendly eHealth platforms for clinical and public health
Health Information System Policy 2010-2030	Enforce security mechanisms for collection, storage and dissemination of health data
Health Sector Strategic Plan for Health Information Systems 2009-2014	Data must be handled with confidentiality and security that they deserve

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SPECIFIC POLICY ON PROTECTION OF DATA

Policy/strategy	Key Functions
Kenya Health Policy 2014-2030	Develop appropriate system (accessible, affordable, acceptable to the community)
Health Sector ICT Standards and Guidelines- Ministry of Health June 2013	Adhere to cloud computing guidelines-build secure infrastructures offering confidential data protection
Kenya National eHealth Strategy 2011-2017	Protect patient confidentiality and restrict access to authorized persons
Kenya Standards and Guidelines on mHealth Systems April 2017	mHealth platforms have to conform to security, confidentiality and non-repudiation

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COMMON CHALLENGES OF EHEALTH SOLUTIONS

- The exciting eHealth solutions present new challenges
- Choice of technologies
- Up-front investment
- Acceptable standards
- Existence of multiple disparate systems with Limited capability to exchange health information
- Weak regulatory frameworks
- Possible violation of patients' privacy and confidentiality

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COMMON CHALLENGES OF EHEALTH SOLUTIONS

- Training in eHealth skills not integrated in medical schools
- Inequitable distribution of staff in the Public Health Sector
- Multiple data collection tools affecting routine reporting systems
- Inadequate coordination between the two levels of government in implementation of policy and guideline documents-
  - Possible conflict since eHealth has centralizing tendencies in a decentralized government

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COMMON CHALLENGES OF EHEALTH SOLUTIONS

- Connectivity: The strength of Internet connectivity varies widely in Kenya. Some regions also have less access to electricity and mobile telephony –
- Capacity: The capacity to use ICTs effectively is a challenge. A skilled ICT work force is inadequate
- Stakeholders: Taking care of all stakeholders' needs in the system risks overloading it
- Capital: While the projects are heavily donor funded, there may be need to find ways to blend private and public resources for sustainability

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CONCLUSION

- Kenya made a bold move to adopt eHealth , and mHealth solutions, suggesting that if well managed, they can improve health care in Africa
- It is however important that capacity building, relevant infrastructure and staffing levels be evaluated for the systems to work well

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THANK YOU!