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
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
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.
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)
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
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
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)
THE SIX BUILDING BLOCKS FOR HEALTH SYSTEMS.

Source: (WHO, 2007)
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.
USE OF DATA, PROTECTION OF DATA
<table>
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<tr>
<th>Policy/strategy</th>
<th>Key Functions</th>
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<tr>
<td>The Constitution of Kenya, 2010</td>
<td>Right to information</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kenya National eHealth Policy 2016 – 2030</td>
<td>Adopt user-friendly eHealth platforms for clinical and public health</td>
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<td>Health Information System Policy 2010-2030</td>
<td>Enforce security mechanisms for collection, storage and dissemination of health data</td>
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<tr>
<td>Health Sector Strategic Plan for Health Information Systems 2009-2014</td>
<td>Data must be handled with confidentiality and security that they deserve</td>
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<td>Key Functions</td>
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<td>Kenya Health Policy 2014-2030</td>
<td>Develop appropriate system (accessible, affordable, acceptable to the community)</td>
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<td>Health Sector ICT Standards and Guidelines- Ministry of Health June 2013</td>
<td>Adhere to cloud computing guidelines-build secure infrastructures offering confidential data protection</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kenya National eHealth Strategy 2011-2017</td>
<td>Protect patient confidentiality and restrict access to authorized persons</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kenya Standards and Guidelines on mHealth Systems April 2017</td>
<td>mHealth platforms have to conform to security, confidentiality and non-repudiation</td>
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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
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
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
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.
THANK YOU!