



mHealth on the Move

Photo courtesy of Kiwanja

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Definition of mHealth

Mobile health, or mHealth, can be defined as

Medical and public health practice supported by mobile devices, such as mobile phones, patient monitoring devices, tablets, personal digital assistants (PDAs), and other wireless devices.



Photo: David Evans



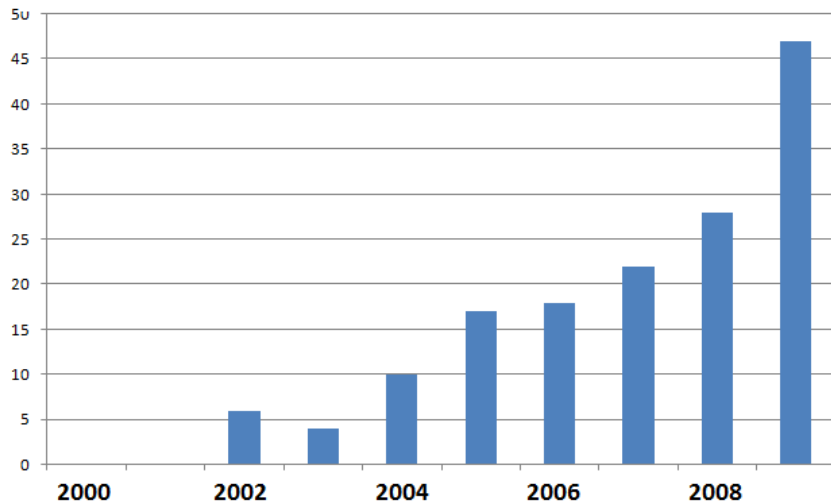
Photo: ebayink www.flickr.com/photos/ebayink



Progression of mHealth

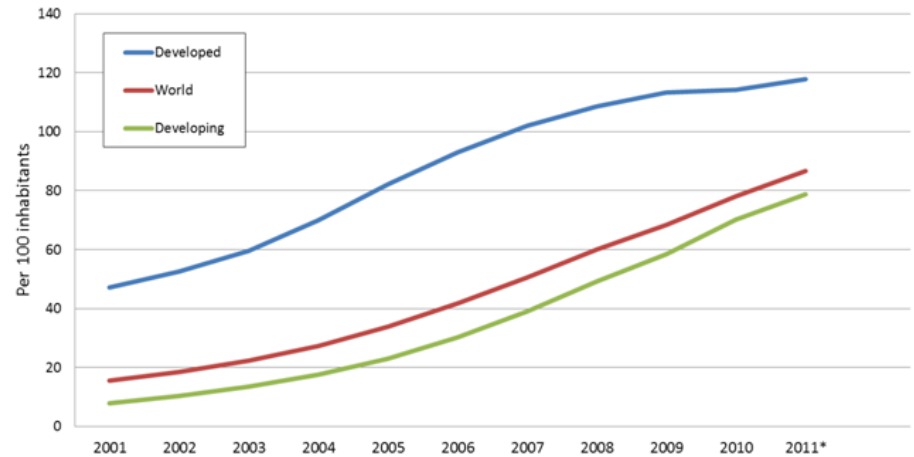
With the rise in mobile subscriptions worldwide....

Number of mHealth Articles Used in 2010 Literature Review



Source: Barriers and Gaps Affecting mHealth in Low and Middle Income Countries: Policy White Paper, mHealth Alliance, The Earth Institute, 2010.

Mobile Phone Subscriptions Worldwide, 2001 - 2011*



* Estimate.

The developed/developing country classifications are based on the UN M49, see:

<http://www.itu.int/ITU-D/ict/definitions/regions/index.html>

Source: ITU World Telecommunication /ICT Indicators database

... comes a rise in mHealth initiatives in countries around the world and increase in research to assess impact.

mHealth Around the World



From Rwanda to Sweden, many countries are building and implementing national mHealth strategies.



83% of WHO member countries reported having at least one mHealth initiative in their country.¹

77% of responding low-income countries reported at least one mHealth initiative in their country, making them only ten percent behind high-income countries.¹

¹World Health Organization. mHealth: New horizons for health through mobile technologies: second global survey on eHealth. http://www.who.int/goe/publications/goe_mhealth_web.pdf.



Types of mHealth



Education and Awareness
Messaging in support of public health and behavioral change campaigns.



Diagnostic and Treatment Support
Mobile phone as point-of-care device.



Disease and Epidemic Outbreak Tracking
Sending and receiving data on disease incidence, outbreaks and public health emergencies.



Supply Chain Management
Using mobile solution to improve stock-outs and combat counterfeiting.



Healthcare Worker Communication and Training
Connecting health workers with sources of information.



Remote Monitoring
Maintaining care giver appointments or ensuring medication regime adherence.



Remote Data Collection
Collecting real-time patient data with mobile applications.



Emerging trends: Remote Diagnostics



Photo: CellScope



Photo: Stop TB Partnership



Photo: EyeNetra.com



Photo: EyeNetra.com



Emerging Trends: Self Management

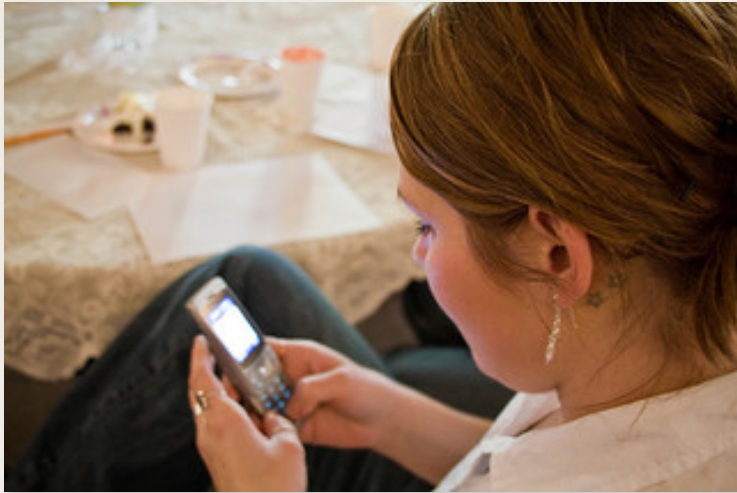


Photo: <http://www.flickr.com/photos/amanky/>



Photo: <http://www.flickr.com/people/newbirth/>



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Global Focus: mHealth for Maternal & Newborn Health



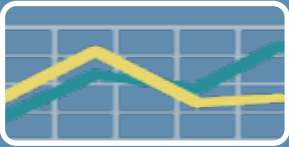
UN Photo: Sophia Paris, Haiti



UN Photo: Joseane Daher, Brazil



Barriers to Scale and Sustainability



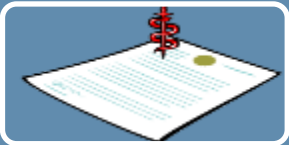
Lack of rigorous **EVIDENCE**



Limited technological **INTEGRATION & INTEROPERABILITY**



Limited sources of sustained **FINANCING**



POLICY challenges



Lack of **CAPACITY**

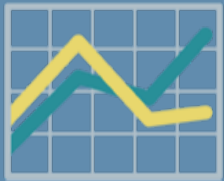


mHealth Alliance Strategy

Goal:

Mobilize the effective integration of mHealth into global health practices, programs, and policies by building the mobile health commons

Strategic Priorities:



Evidence

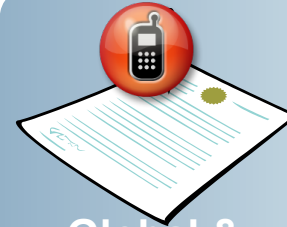
Base – linking mHealth to operational benefits and improved health.



Increased **technology integration and interoperability**



Sustainable sources of **financing** for mHealth



Global & national policies supporting mHealth



Health community with **capacity to design and deploy**



Alliance Activities:

Set the agenda to build mHealth Commons

Build the mHealth knowledge base & communicate/advocate

Connect, convene, and facilitate the mHealth community

Provide catalytic funding to accelerate building the Commons



Thank you!

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www.mhealthalliance.org;
www.healthunbound.org



The mHealth Alliance is hosted by the United Nations Foundation: www.unfoundation.org