Mobilizing Standards
Opportunities for Advancing mHealth Through Standards and Interoperability

Patricia Mechael, PhD MHS
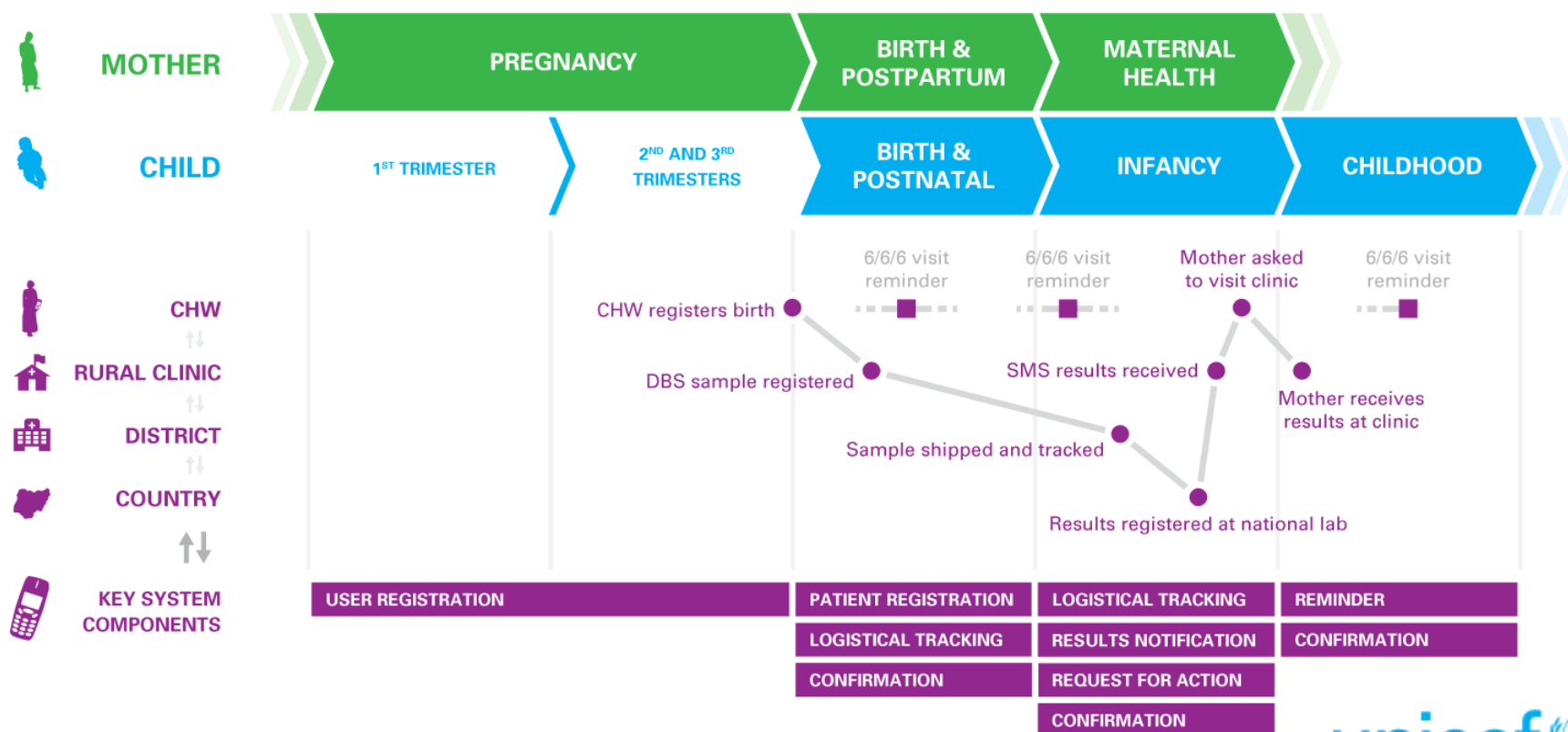**Executive Director**

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Critical Learnings: Tech Standards

The programmes in Zambia and Malawi have focused on EID, postnatal services, nutrition and have started expanding into ANC
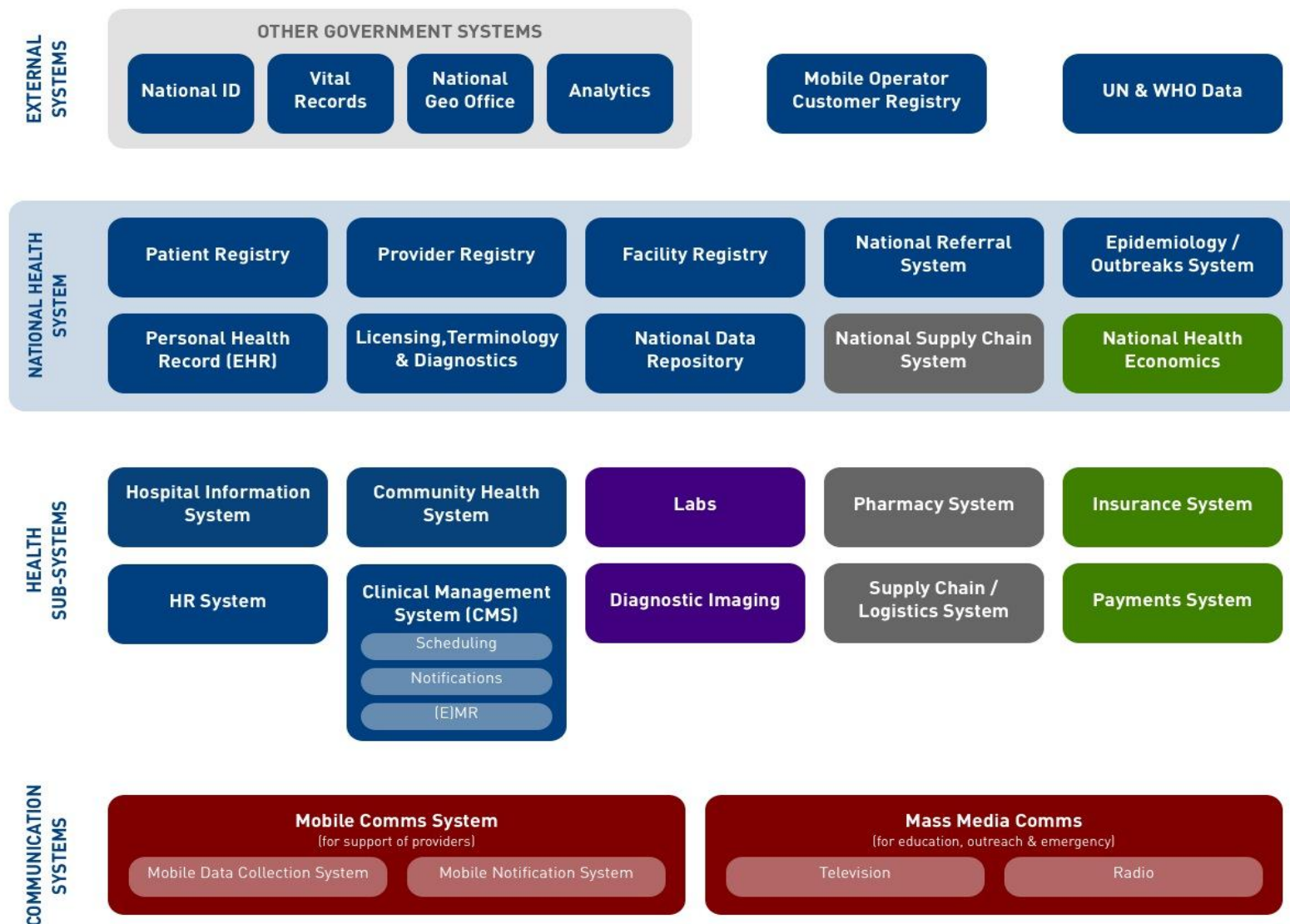

MWANA INITIATIVE, ZAMBIA & MALAWI

Health Systems Diagram
UNICEF Interoperability Workshop, Rwanda – May 2012

Standards Gaps to mHealth Scale

- Lack of systematically applied standards and interoperability between systems

  – Lack of alignment on standards

  – Limited opportunities for collaboration

  – Limited collaboration or communication across other mServices

  – Limited guidance from donors and governments on which standards to use
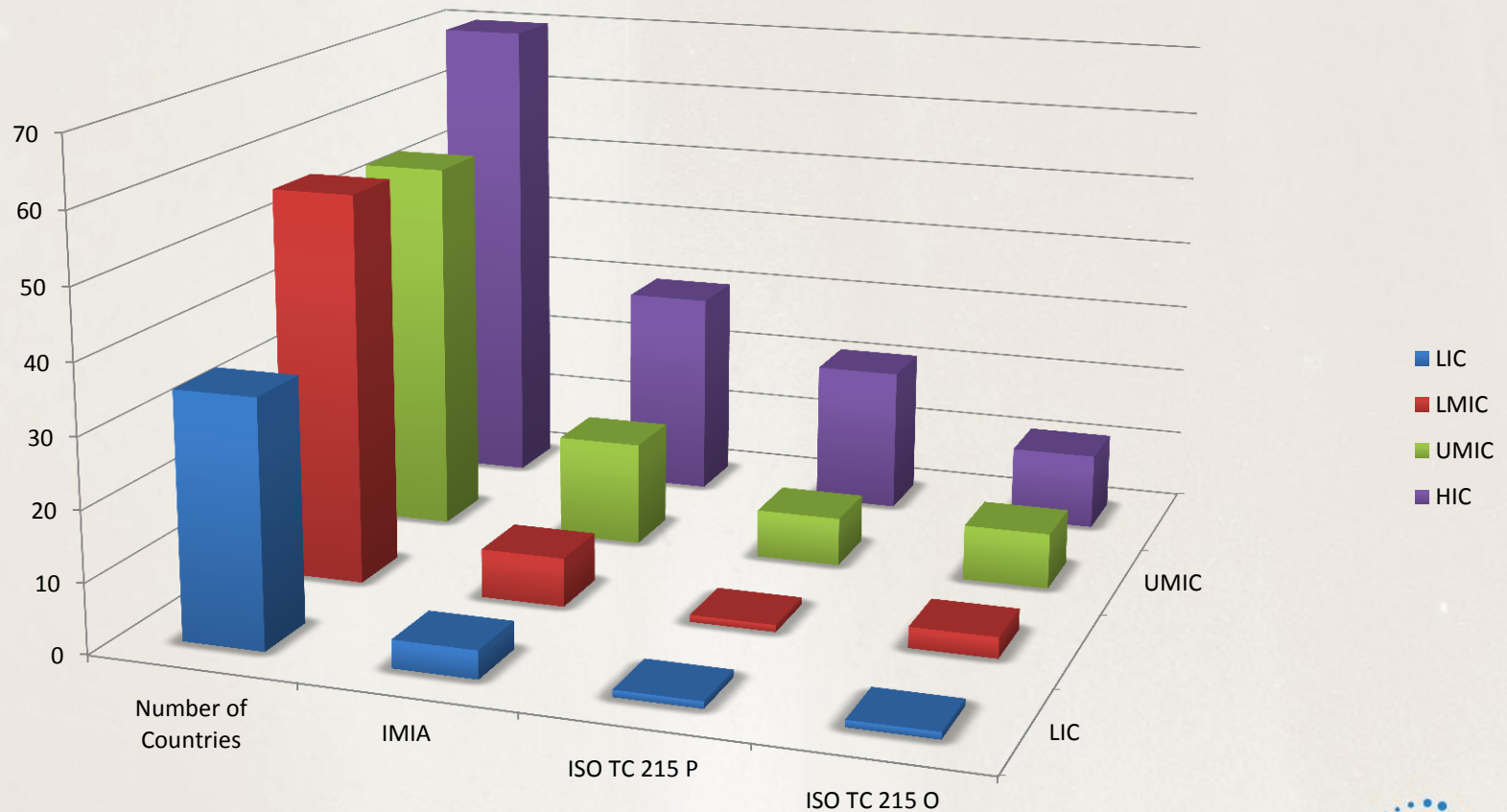
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Standards Basics

- mHealth as subset of eHealth

- Many standards players – most in High-income countries

- Health Informatics Standards Scope

  - Architecture

  - Data Interchange

  - Semantic Content

  - Security, Safety, and Privacy

  - Pharmacy and Medicines Business

- Interoperability

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Standardization Gap

Progress to Date

- mHealth Alliance establishing ISO TC 215 Liaison

- mHealth officially launching Standards & Interoperability Working Group in Dec 2012

- mHealth Working Groups formed at several standards development organizations (SDOs)

- HL7 released IP at no cost

- Public Health Task Force published its first standard: "Capacity-based ehealth roadmap"

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Key Findings – Landscape Review

- Acceptance of eHealth interoperability as necessary

- Perception that existing standards are not relevant to LMICs, though some standards development needed

- Standards capacity lacking across the board

- Access to standards and guidelines limited

- Donors play a pivotal role in changing the landscape

- Need new mechanisms for alignment

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Next Steps

1. Capacity building and standards access

2. Mediating the connection between LMICs and external stakeholders

3. Coordination and alignment

4. Standards development and information gaps

5. Governance

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Questions & Answers

Thank you!

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Photo credit: Josh Nesbit

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