UK approach to Digital Development & **FCDO-ITU partnership on digital inclusion**

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Workshop on Meaningful Connectivity: the key to sustainability

Mon 8th May 2023

ITU-D Study Group 1 Rapporteur Group Meetings
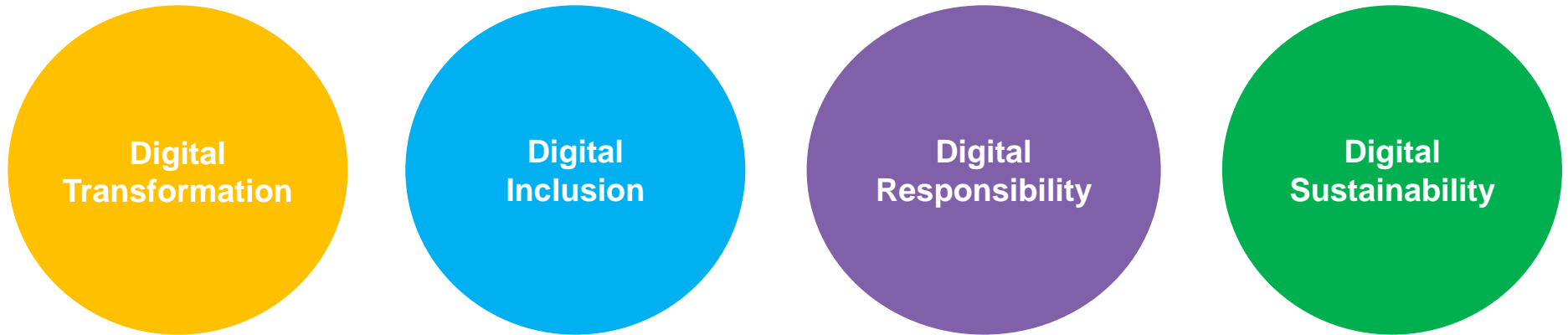
Presentation outline

1. **UK approach to Digital Development**

2. **UK Digital Access Programme (DAP)**

3. **FCDO-ITU partnership on digital inclusion**

4. **(Q&A / discussion)**
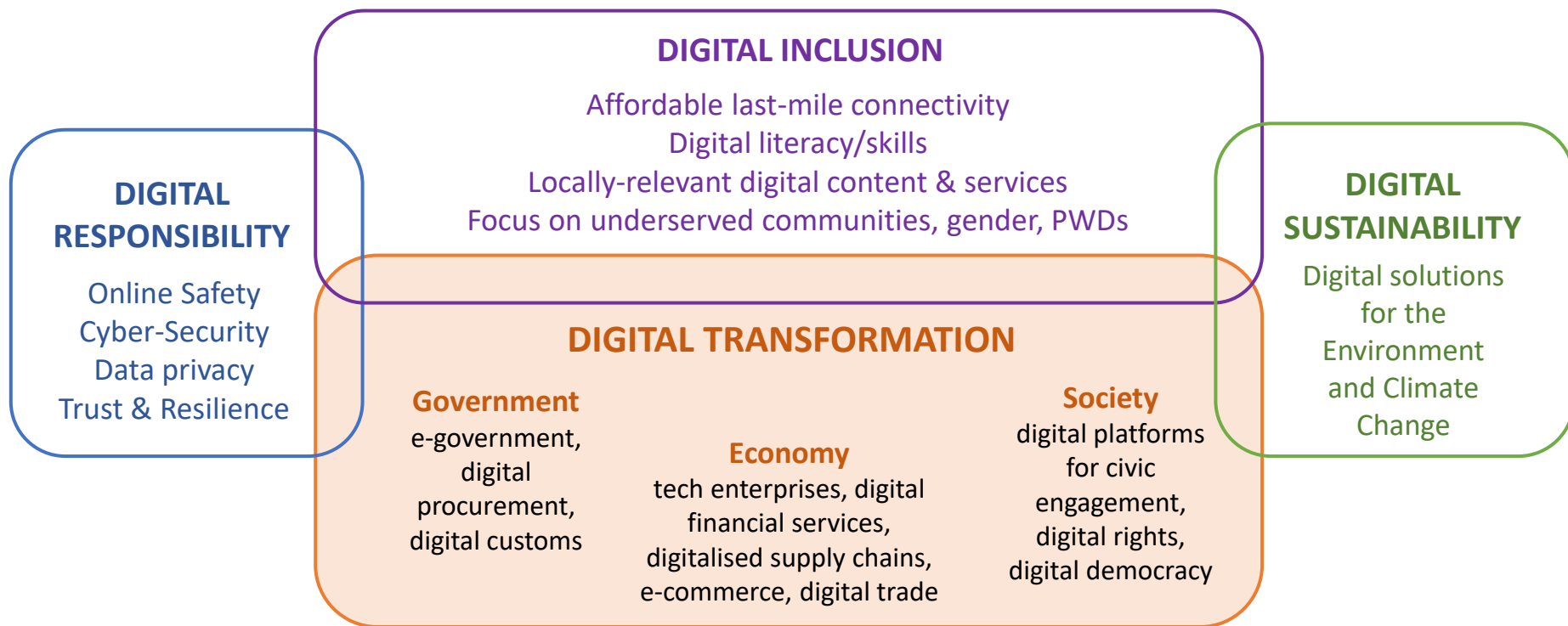
Digital Development
definition

"To support the inclusive, responsible and sustainable digital transformation of partner countries"*

* developing and emerging countries, ODA-eligible.

Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office

FCDO Digital Development
policy framework

Digital Transformation

Digital Inclusion

Digital Responsibility

Digital Sustainability

This framework is evolving into a new **FCDO Digital Development Strategy** to be published by end 2023, indicating key priorities for the next 5 years.

DIGITAL INCLUSION

Affordable last-mile connectivity
Digital literacy/skills
Locally-relevant digital content & services
Focus on underserved communities, gender, PWDs

DIGITAL RESPONSIBILITY

Online Safety
Cyber-Security
Data privacy
Trust & Resilience

DIGITAL SUSTAINABILITY

Digital solutions for the Environment and Climate Change

DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION

Government
e-government, digital procurement, digital customs

Economy
tech enterprises, digital financial services, digitalised supply chains, e-commerce, digital trade

Society
digital platforms for civic engagement, digital rights, digital democracy

- **Digital Transformation**: supporting developing and emerging countries to **embrace digital technologies**, products, services, and processes **that positively disrupt and transform** their **governments, economies and societies.**
- **Digital Inclusion: ensuring that no one is left behind in a digital world.** This ensures that institutions, businesses and people in our partner countries can all harness digital communication and tools for inclusive economic growth, social development, and open and transparent governance.
- **Digital Responsibility:** supporting **a safe, secure, and resilient digital environment.** This ensures that people, institutions and businesses can manage the challenges of an increasingly connected digital world. It means they will trust the use of digital technologies for social development, economic growth, civic engagement and democratic participation.
- **Digital Sustainability:** supporting partner countries to embrace digital technologies in a way that **reduces** their **environmental costs.** This includes supporting digital solutions that **enable climate change resilience and adaptation**.

FCDO-DSIT Digital Access Programme (DAP)
in Brazil, Indonesia, Kenya, Nigeria, South Africa

FCDO-led Pillar 1 'Models & Enablers':

Policy and regulations for **digital inclusion.** Innovative, sustainable tech and business models for affordable, inclusive **connectivity.** Digital **skills**, **content** and **services** for underserved communities. (Focus on gender, PWDs).

FCDO-led Pillar 2 'Trust & Resilience':

Cyber-security capacity building for governments, businesses and citizens to prevent and respond to online risks and harms

DSIT-led Pillar 3 'Sustainable Digital Ecosystems':

Digital enterprises, high-end digital skills, local / international tech sector partnerships through a network of **Tech Hubs.**

Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office

DAP 2022 Annual Review – key results

- 1,967 stakeholders engaged

- 2,233 communities reached

- 48 reforms delivered

- 128 models tested

- **7.8 million people benefited from increased digital inclusion through sustainable, scalable or replicable models**

Annual Review scores:
- 2019: **A**   Moderate Risk
- 2020: **A+** Moderate Risk
- 2021: **A+** Moderate Risk
- 2022: **A+** Moderate Risk

DAP 'potted history' + delivery model

- Designed in 2018 (in-depth country diagnostics, initial pilots).

- Full implementation from July 2019. Extended to March 2025.

- Hybrid, flexible, agile delivery model (in-house, direct, outsourced).

- 5 Global partners (ITU, APC, DSA, British Council, BSI).

- 50+ local (country-level) partners.

- 5 DAP country teams (in UK embassies).

- Central management and expertise.

- More than 100 projects implemented.

- Direct stakeholder engagement. Focus on co-design.

- Modelling, learning, scalability, sustainability, systems.

- 'DAP 2.0': knowledge management, regional amplification.

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Example of systems approach
DAP support to meaningful connectivity

Systemic level

Policies and regulatory reforms.

Licensing regimes. Spectrum management.

Facilitating public investment. USF improvements.

Policy dialogue, stakeholder engagement, institutional capacity building.

Supply side

Testing last-mile tech and biz models.
TA and capacity building at market level.
Focus on community networks, SISPs.

Demand side

Digital literacy and skills.
Access to digital content and services.
Digital accessibility standards.
Online safety. Cyber-hygiene.

Locally-led digital transformation enhances sustainability

Key principles:

Locally-relevant

Locally-driven

Locally-owned

Key actions

- Country digital access diagnostics (systemic and market D/S levels)
- Ongoing dialogue with country stakeholders (public/private/non-profit sectors)
- Country teams made of locally-engaged digital advisers

- Flexible, adaptive, agile delivery models
- In-house expertise blended with external TA to catalyse progress
- Focus on local organisations' contextual knowledge and networks. Value-add from int'l organisations.

- Building partnerships with local stakeholders, across sectors
- Embedding reforms and capacity in local institutions
- Seek buy-in from country stakeholders, incl. through in-kind contributions

DAP project example
FCDO-ITU Digital Inclusion partnership project

- Co-designed by DAP FCDO central team with ITU-D in 2020.

- Implemented from early 2021. Now in all DAP countries.

- Extended to Dec 2023. Scoping further scale-up.

- FCDO funding/expertise + ITU in-kind contribution/networks/global remit.

- Delivery model: ITU central/regional teams & DAP central/country teams.

- Key objectives:

a) Supporting **regulatory analysis**, framework and tool development to support digital inclusion in partner countries (e.g. **USF reforms**).

b) Promoting sustainable models to expand **school connectivity** in underserved communities (collabo with ITU-Unicef Giga on mapping).

c) Promoting a more conducive environment for **private and public investment** in digital inclusion.

d) Advancing **digital skills** as a means to decent jobs, especially for young people.

Highlights (cont'd)
FCDO-ITU Digital Inclusion partnership project

Ongoing work and next steps…

Building on project outcomes, tools and approaches, e.g.:

→ Training on the use of the **interactive connectivity and infrastructure maps**.

→ Using evidence from **assessment of connectivity projects** funded by **USFs**.

→ Embedding the **Universal Service Financing Efficiency Toolkit**.

→ Scaling the **grant management training** delivered to telecoms regulators.

→ Promoting **fifth-generation collaborative regulation (G5).**

→ Supporting use of **regulatory sandboxes** to test connectivity enablers.

→ Applying **research on sustainable connectivity business models**.

→ Collaborating on complementary models and **community networks** to expand access and provide platforms for digital skilling (e.g. working with DAP partner APC).

→ Follow up on **national and regional skills mapping** to develop **targeted training** on digital skills (incl. working with DAP local partners and British Council).

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Thank you!

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