



# Digital Public Goods and Digital Public Infrastructure

*Perspectives from USAID*

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Allana Welch is the team lead for the implementation of USAID's-first ever Digital Strategy and she leads USAID's Digital Public Goods and Digital Public Infrastructure practice. She has nearly a decade of experience working at the crossroads of digital technologies and global development. Previously, she served on the Agency's Ebola Task Force between 2015 and 2017 with the Global Development Lab, focused on the use of technology in emergency response and recovery efforts. Allana also served as the Global Director for the Principles for Digital Development at the Digital Impact Alliance from 2017 to 2020, where she advised donor, multilateral, and implementing organizations on the best approaches to utilizing technology in their development programs.



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# DEFINITIONS

# DEFINING DPGs



OPEN-SOURCE SOFTWARE, OPEN DATA, OPEN AI MODELS, OPEN STANDARDS AND OPEN CONTENT THAT ADHERE TO PRIVACY AND OTHER APPLICABLE LAWS AND BEST PRACTICES, DO NO HARM, AND HELP ATTAIN THE SDGS.



- *UN Secretary General's Roadmap for Digital Cooperation*

# DEFINING DPI



[DIGITAL] SOLUTIONS AND SYSTEMS THAT ENABLE THE EFFECTIVE PROVISION OF ESSENTIAL SOCIETY-WIDE FUNCTIONS AND SERVICES IN THE PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SECTORS... THE DIGITAL BACKBONE THAT SERVES AS AN ENABLER OF THE EFFECTIVE PROVISION OF ESSENTIAL SOCIETY-WIDE FUNCTIONS AND SERVICES, WHICH CAN BE BUILT WITH EITHER OPEN-SOURCE SOLUTIONS (INCLUDING DPGS) OR PROPRIETARY SOLUTIONS.



- *GovStack and Digital Public Goods Alliance (DPGA)*

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# **USAID DIGITAL STRATEGY**

# STRATEGY GOAL



TO ACHIEVE AND SUSTAIN OPEN, SECURE, AND  
INCLUSIVE DIGITAL ECO SYSTEMS THAT  
CONTRIBUTE TO DEVELOPMENT AND  
HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE OUTCOMES.





# STRATEGY OBJECTIVES

— RESPONSIBLY USE DIGITAL TECHNOLOGY —

— STRENGTHEN DIGITAL ECOSYSTEMS —

## OBJECTIVE 1

## OBJECTIVE 2

Improve measurable development and humanitarian-assistance outcomes through the responsible use of digital technology in USAID's programming

Strengthen openness, inclusiveness, and security of country digital ecosystems.



USAID



Partners



Civil Society

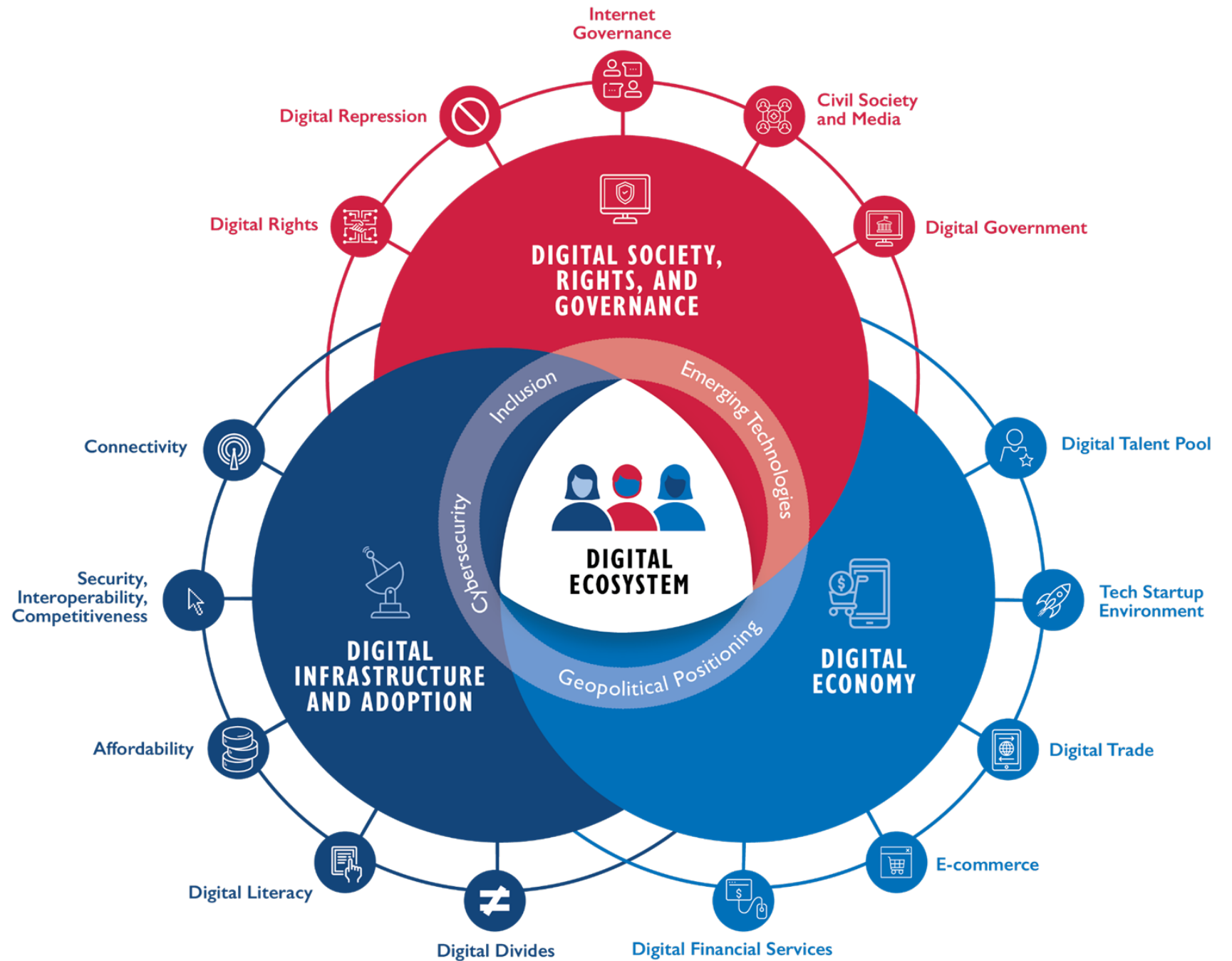


Partner Governments



Private Sector

# DIGITAL ECO SYSTEM





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# USAID & DPGs

# PAST ENGAGEMENT ON DPGs

- As early as 20 years ago, USAID was investing in open-source civil and vital registry systems, human resources management systems, district health systems, and logistics management information systems.
- During the Ebola outbreak in West Africa, USAID supported the creation of mHero, an SMS-based communications tool that Community Health Workers could use to report health statistics in real-time.
- Following the Ebola outbreak in West Africa, USAID co-founded Digital Square, a leading organization supporting DPGs in the health sector, to better support governments to respond to health crises.
  - USAID's investment in Digital Square has reached \$130 million and has attracted an additional \$40 million+ from other donors and private-sector partners.



# CHARTER FOR DIGITAL PUBLIC GOODS

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A commitment to advancing the use of digital public goods which can enable countries to build safe, trusted, and inclusive digital public infrastructure at scale.

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# BACKGROUND ON DPG CHARTER

- Multi-stakeholder campaign launched in 2021 to align and mobilize diverse stakeholders and initiatives around a compelling shared vision for Digital Public Goods and their role in driving safe, trusted and inclusive digital public infrastructure at scale by 2030.
- These efforts are in line with the UN Secretary-General's Roadmap for Digital Cooperation, and the activities of the Global Digital Compact and the Summit of the Future in 2023.
- 9-month process to receive input from governments, donors, multilaterals, developers, maintainers, and private sector.
- Final document included input from 8 USG Agencies.
- **USAID formally endorsed the Charter on April 28, 2023 at Transform Africa Summit**

# DPG CHARTER FOCUS AREAS:

- Country capacity to build, test, implement, maintain, and govern digital public goods that best address their country's infrastructural needs;
- The legal, regulatory, and policy frameworks as well as the public institutions required to ensure individuals' data is safe and protected from misuse and provides equitable access to the benefits of digitalization;
- Sufficient and sustainable funding and funding models that enable DPGs to deliver stable, best-in-class digital solutions that address country needs;
- Vibrant commercial ecosystem of vendors and services who enable rapid deployments and integrations at scale; and
- Thriving software communities that contribute code and support products.



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# **PARTNERSHIP & ENGAGEMENTS**

# G20 AND DIGITAL PUBLIC INFRASTRUCTURE

- Under their presidency, Government of India has woven DPI throughout agenda
- DPI and DPGs have been raised in Health, Finance, Digital Economy, and Development working groups
- Proposed outputs from DEWG:
  - Develop a **common framework for DPIs** that outlines the core principles;
  - **Mobilize G20 member financing** to help low and middle income countries design, build and regulate inclusive, interoperable and secure DPIs;
  - Create a **Global Digital Public Infrastructure Repository (GDPIR)** .

# DONOR DPI WORKSHOPS

- Number of private foundation and governmental donor organizations have joined together to align on investments and activities related to DPGs and DPI.
- Two in-person workshops held so far:
  - **Berlin, December 2022** (*donors only*)
  - **Washington, DC, March 2023** (*broader ecosystem of actors including country government reps, implementers, private tech sector, civil society, and multilaterals*)
- Mapping DPI ecosystem, roadmap, and gaps

# DPGA CO-DEVELOP

A multi-stakeholder initiative with a mission to accelerate the attainment of the sustainable development goals in low and middle income countries by facilitating the discovery, development, use of, and investment in digital public goods.

Hosted by UNICEF

# GOVSTACK

An alliance of international donors, nonprofits, and multilateral organizations that supports governments to digitally transform their government services and processes.

Founded by BMZ, GIZ, Estonia MFA, ITU, and DIAL

A global notfor-profit fund to achieve the catalytic possibilities of digital public infrastructure.

Hosted by Global Impact.

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# LOOKING AHEAD

# MODELING UKRAINE'S DPI

- Ukraine's award-winning mobile application and online portal (Diia) was launched in 2020 and transformed how its citizens engage with the government.
- Diia has been skillfully adapted to provide new services and registries post February 24, 2022.
- USAID Administrator Samantha Power announced at DAVOS in January 2023 that USAID would commit \$650,000 to help countries with the adoption of Diia-like systems and the digital technology services that underpin them.
- Phase 1 will include assessments of existing digital infrastructure and services within partner countries, including Colombia, Kosovo, and Zambia.
- Phase 2 will look to support the implementation of DPI systems.

THANK YOU

