

World Bank's Approach to Digital Development

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Panel Discussion: Recovery, Resilience and Delivering the Digital Decade



Body of European Regulators
for Electronic Communications
BEREC

 International
Institute of
Communications



THE WORLD BANK

A new digital & data driven era...



In 2016, the digital economy was worth \$11.5 trillion globally, equivalent to 15.5 percent of global GDP and has grown two and a half times faster than global GDP over the past 15 years. (Oxford Economics).



AI could contribute up to \$15.7 trillion to the global economy by 2030. A tremendous opportunity when we know that 80% of the world data is still unstructured (PwC).



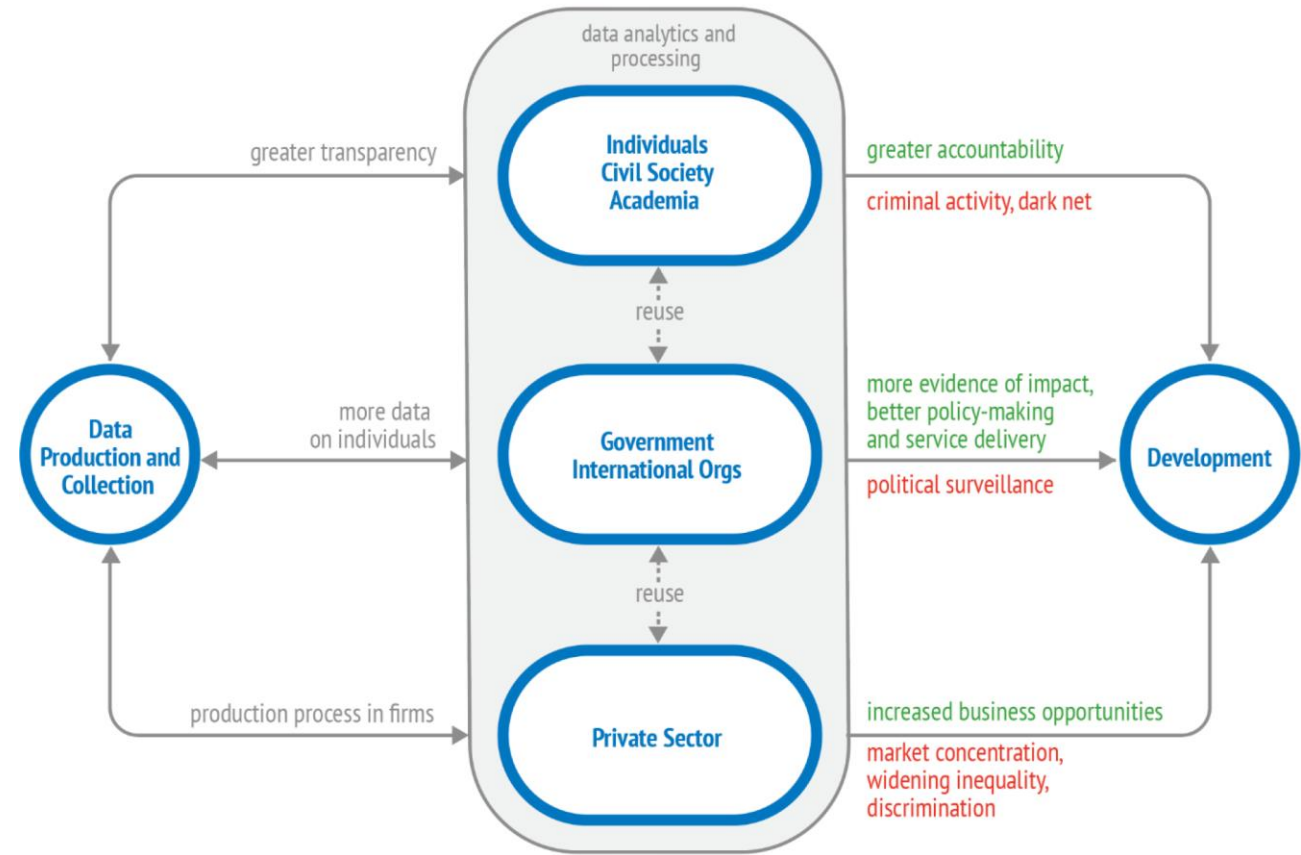
In 2018, there were more “things” (8.6 billion) connected to the Internet than people, and the number of IoT connections are forecast to grow at 17% a year, to exceed 22 billion by 2024 (Cisco).



Mobile money accounts now exceed **one billion worldwide**. For the first time, digital transactions represented the majority, **57%**, of mobile money interactions as opposed to cash-in and cash out (GSMA).

New WDR 2021 on Data for Better Lives

Three pathways along which data can foster development



... accelerated by the COVID-19 crisis...

Demand for broadband connectivity increased significantly

Global mobile network traffic grew **50 percent** between Q3 2019 and Q3 2020, as result of social distancing measures, Internet use supported economic activities (Ericsson).

Companies adopted digital solutions to cope with the pandemic

34% of firms have increased or started to use the internet, social media and digital platforms in response to the crisis (World Bank COVID-19 Business Pulse Survey).

Strong online shift of consumers and citizens

70% of people surveyed believed that their increased internet usage in all aspects of life will continue even after the pandemic (Value of the Internet survey).

Acceleration of digital government for emergency responses

- Digital cash transfer payments;
- Online public health information;
- Big Data analytics to monitor the spread of the virus;
- Use of digital tools for vaccine rollout;
- ...

Digital risks exposed

- Cyber attacks;
- Privacy concerns;
- Online misinformation;

Risk to be left behind

- Over 460 million children in the world didn't have access to remote learning during the lockdown (UNICEF).
- Gender digital divide widened and delayed by a generation (WEF)

WBG's digital development approach

Development Goals



IDA19

Twin Goals

UN's SDGs



Sectoral use cases








Health telemedicine, public health information	Education e-learning, EdTech	Social Protection digital transfers, digitalized registries for better targeting	Gov tech applications e-procurement, e-taxation	Climate change energy efficiency, e-waste management	Poverty digital tools for measuring and monitoring
Agriculture digital platforms, e-vouchers	Macro, Trade & investment E-commerce	Urban Smart cities	Gender inclusion	Energy IoT for smart grids	Transport E-mobility



Digital economy foundations



Digital Infrastructure 	Digital Public Platforms including ID 	Digital Financial Services 	Digital Business 	Digital Skills 
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Digital connectivity, Data infrastructure & policy



Policy and regulatory reform for digital infrastructure and data for development

Digital capabilities for people, government, businesses

Digital Trust: responsible use of digital technology, data protection, cybersecurity

Data infrastructure & disruptive technologies enablers: data centers, cloud computing, interoperable data systems, 5G/IoT strategies, AI framework

Digital infrastructure for connectivity: universal access to affordable and quality internet for individuals, governments, businesses



Cooperation with IFC and MIGA

Mobilizing Finance for Development

Catalyzing private investments in digital and non-digital companies

Supporting growth of markets and local ecosystems (IFC Strategy 3.0).



Priority 1: Closing the digital divides

Half of world's population remains unconnected



Operations

- Most of our operations have connectivity components focused on inclusion. DPO for inclusion.
- The WBG cascade approach is systematically used.



Knowledge

- Report on innovative business models for closing the access gaps.
- Digital Regulation Handbook with ITU.



Partnership

- Work at the UN Broadband Commission
- Joint efforts with EU on AU strategy

Rural areas are overrepresented in the coverage and usage gaps

- Report on connecting the last 10% through sustainable broadband access.

- Support to the Giga initiative on school connectivity as node for rural access.

Gender digital divide

All our current project are 100% gender-tagged. Collaboration with the Gender Group. Strong IDA19 commitments.

Analytical work and pilot program on digital skills for women in collaboration with EQUALS and GSMA.

Gender challenge in partnership with the Consumer Electronics Show (CES).

Affordability remains a major barrier to Internet access and usage



Operations

- Policy and regulatory reforms to increase competition, address market failures, support public access.



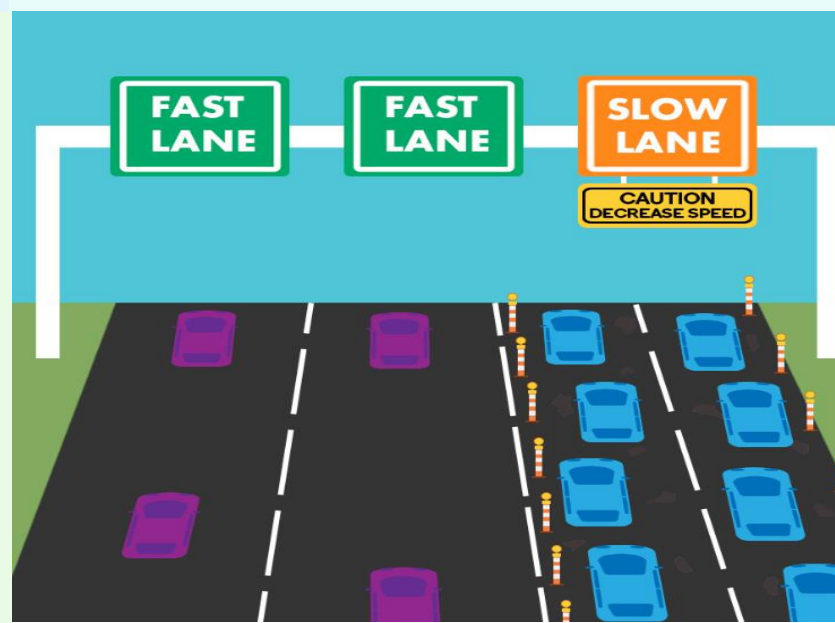
Knowledge

- Study on device affordability.
- Research on poverty and welfare benefits of digital transformation.



Partnership

- Collaboration with the Alliance for Affordable Internet (A4AI).



Uneven distribution of digital skills

- Digital skills is a recurrent project component to support adoption and the demand side.

- Digital capabilities framework.
- Digital skills for FCV entrepreneurs.

- Collaboration with the ITU.

Priority 2: Managing the risks

Cybersecurity



- New cybersecurity TF
- Cybersecurity diagnostics
- Support to regulatory frameworks
- CERTs
- Capacity building

Data protection



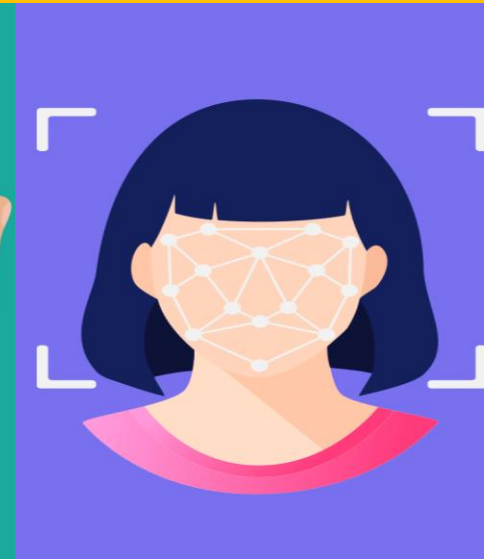
- WDR 2021 on Data for Better Lives
- Report on enablers and safeguards for trusted data sharing
- Support to regulatory frameworks
- Digital ID enabling environment assessments

Market dynamics



- Monitoring effects of vertical integration
- Promote policies that foster competition and enhance consumers' protection
- Support to competition authorities

Rights & liberties




- Ongoing work on ethical AI.
- Promoting best practices that protect vulnerable groups as part of the digital inclusion agenda.

Climate impact




- Launch of a new workstream on digital & climate change

Priority 3: Focusing on digital public platforms



ID4D is a cross-GP initiative launched in 2014 to combine global knowledge, multi-sectoral expertise and financing to help countries put in place trusted and inclusive digital ID systems that enable all people to access services

The initiative involves DD, SPJ, HNP, GOV, FCI, CGAP, Gender, Legal, DEC, and IFC. ID4D is providing TA to 35+ countries, complementing \$1.2 billion in pipeline or committed IDA and IBRD financing.



The Digitizing Government to Person Payments initiative (G2Px) is a cross-GP initiative launched in early 2020 aimed at improving government-to-person payments through digitization in a comprehensive and cross-sectoral way that accelerates outcomes, such as financial inclusion, women's economic empowerment, and government fiscal savings.

The initiative brings together expertise across SPJ, FCI, DD, Gender, CGAP, and GOV to combine global knowledge, share country experiences and support country implementations.

Priority 4: Embracing a green digital future

Exploring Relevance and Implications of AI for Development



- Ongoing analytical work on AI for Development

5G as the Network of the Future



- Upcoming flagship report on 5G
- Activities on 5G & cybersecurity

Harnessing Data as a Driver of the Digital Economy



- Operationalization of the WDR 2021
- Upcoming report on cloud-computing

New internal initiative on Mainstreaming Digital and Disruptive Technologies to support sustainable digital adoption across sectors (agriculture, transport, energy, human development, education, etc.)

Work program around three building blocks

01. Growing portfolio and pipeline

- Leveraging MFD / Cascade Approach
- Increased focus on reform across the internet value chain
- Increased focus on demand stimulation
- More work on sectoral applications
- Digital Economy for All framework adapted at regional level
- Operationalization of WDR on Data for Better Lives

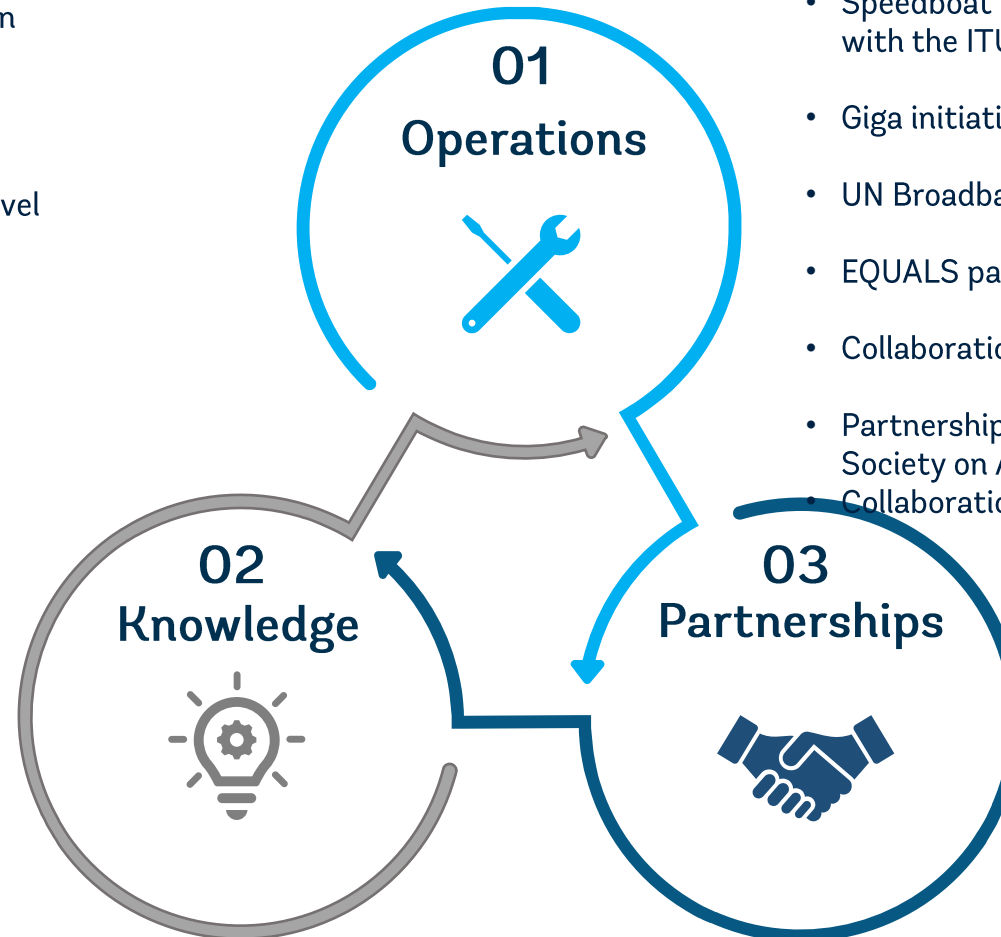
02. Stronger knowledge agenda

- Increased focus on climate change and digital
- Continued effort on global connectivity: innovative business models, rural connectivity, device affordability, school connectivity
- Digital economy assessments: 360-degree diagnostics or deep dives on cross cutting issues (i.e. cybersecurity assessments)
- Increased focus on digital regulation and policies: data governance, competition, cybersecurity, digital capabilities, and FCV context

03. Growing partnership role

Selected involvement:

- Speedboat initiative on COVID-19 Digital Action Plan with the ITU, GSMA and the WEF
- Giga initiative on school connectivity
- UN Broadband Commission
- EQUALS partnership on gender inclusion
- Collaboration with GFCE and Oxford on cybersecurity
- Partnerships in other selected areas (e.g. the Future Society on AI, A4AI on affordability)
- Collaboration with EU- MDBs- Bilaterals etc



Collaboration across regions

MENATECH

Initiative focused on digital infrastructure and digital financial services, as well as sectoral applications

Selected recent examples:

- **Morocco:** Digital and Climate Smart Agriculture Program
- **Palestinian Territories:** Digital West Bank & Gaza

ECA

Selected recent examples:

- **Regional:** Digital CASA – expanding from Kyrgyz Republic to Uzbekistan and Tajikistan;
- **Log-In Georgia**
- **Turkey:** Safe and Quality Schooling and Distance Education Project

MENA

SAR

Digital Economy for South Asia (DE4SA)

Selected recent examples:

- **Afghanistan:** Digital CASA
- **Bangladesh:** Enhancing Digital Government & Economy Project

Digital Economy for LAC (DE4LAC)

Selected recent examples:

- **OECS countries:** Caribbean Digital Transformation Project
- **Peru:** Centralized Emergency Response System Project
- **Haiti:** Haiti Digital Acceleration Project

LAC

AFRICA

Digital Economy for Africa (DE4A)

Over 31 DE4A diagnostics that inform our operations across the continent

Selected recent examples:

- **Niger Smart Villages Project**
- **Digital Cabo Verde**
- **Nigeria ID4D Project**

CHIP framework

Connect, Harness, Innovate, Protect

Selected recent examples:

- **Federal States of Micronesia:** Digital Project

EAP



Thank you

Boutheina Guerhazi, Director, Digital Development Global Practice, World Bank

Stay in touch: bguerhazi@worldbank.org

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