Digital Government and ICTs in the service of SDGs

The Transport and ICT Global Practice Smart Connections for All

Samia Melhem

Global Lead, Digital Development, WORLD BANK

Digital technologies are changing the world



Challenges in connectivity: Access, Capability, Affordability and **Digital Divide**

The Internet remains unavailable, inaccessible and unaffordable to a majority of the world's population



Sources: World Bank 2015; Meeker 2015; ITU 2015; GSMA, https://gsmaintelligence.com/; UN Population Division 2014. Data at http://bit.do/WDR2016-Fig0 5.

Note: High-speed internet (broadband) includes the total number of fixed-line broadband subscriptions (such as DSL, cable modems, fiber optics), and the total number of 4G/LTE mobile subscriptions, minus a correcting factor to allow for those who have both types of access. 4G = fourth generation; DSL = digital subscriber line; ICT = information and communication technology; LTE = Long Term Evolution.

Two key foundations for digital government

- (i) Broadband Infrastructure
- (ii) Digital Government Platforms
- These two are considered positively inter-related.

Example: Statistical research in Colombia shows positive mutual influence between Broadband and e-Government enabled by Digital Government Platforms.



Principles of Digital Government

- 1. Digital by Default
- 2. Open and Secure by Design
- 3. Data-driven (not document driven)
- 4. Transformational by Design
- 5. Mobile and Cloud First





Our Approaches towards Digital Government for SDGs

The World Bank helps client countries form digital government platforms through:

- Establishment of the enabling environment cross-cutting approach
 - Formulation of National ICT Action Plan and Digital/e-Government strategy
 - Inter-ministry institutional coordination mechanisms and change management
- Digital platforms and shared infrastructure, services, databases, of e-Government services, in addition to sector-specific assistance
 - eID/Digital ID
 - Enterprise Architecture, interoperability
 - Computing and Hosting Environment (Data Centers and Cloud)
 - Government WANs
 - MIS
 - Open source policies, open data standard
- Improvement of e-Government services for better public service delivery
 - Back-end systems, Transactions (G2C, G2B, G2G), Capacity building
- Integration with mobile applications for greater reach to the disadvantaged target
 - Greater access in remote areas, by females and unemployed youth
 - Mobile-money services towards greater financial inclusion
- Promotion of ICT "trust" policies
 - Cybersecurity, data and privacy protection, and intellectual property
- Engagement of private sector for improving digital connectivity and platforms
 - Effective provision of knowledge and solutions, Partnership (i.e. PPP)

Trends we are seeing today:

Infrastructure:

- Single, integrated, platform for government services(Build once, re-use always)
- Mandated use of cross-government shared service components Unified data shared across public sector, and beyond
- New supply models (service contracts, PPPs)
- Integrated cyber-security and privacy
- Integrated sensors, IoT, Precision Agriculture, Smart Cities
- Data analytics

• eServices:

- Transformational by design
- Open and secure by design
- Digital from end to end
- User-centered service design (customer as a focus, Identity-based)
- Mobile-centric and able to accommodate new devices too



Elements of successful digital development



Framework for Digital Government Platforms

Holistic approach is needed to effectively deliver public services.



Key framework for building a digital economy: Skills



National digital



Digital dividends

1.1 billion individuals are unable to prove their identity Identification

An estimated The lack of ID 1.1 billion people makes it difficult for are unable to individuals to... prove their identity Own. transfer or Access financial accounts and credit inherit property Prove eligibility for and access social and health benefits Vote in Cross borders elections safely and legally

Large proportions come from vulnerable populations: the poor, people living in rural/remote areas, children, migrant refugees and stateless persons.

...which results in...

- Economic, political and social **exclusion**
- Service delivery and governance challenges, e.g. leakages and ineffective targeting in programs
 - **Difficulty tracking development progress** due to no or unreliable data
- Missed opportunities for innovation, digital inclusion and e-government

....Full Coverage is still a Way Off



Lessons Learnt

- Think Customer, Not Government Agency
- Reinvent Government, Don't Simply Automate It



- Early priority on getting the key databases and data platforms established citizen/identity, companies, land, geospatial data infrastructure and so on. This will save you the trouble of having to align different databases later.
- Priority on common building blocks e-payments, notifications, e-identity and so on – many of which can be projected through SMS.
- A single portal and a cross-government approach from the start (!)
- Build and capitalize on partnerships early on with solid, reliable, and honest companies .
- Digital development Partnership Launch



Thank you for your attention.

