Webinar

Emerging Stronger after COVID-19:
Science, Technology, and Innovation for Sustainable Development

Panelist

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Webinar hosted by

TAIWAN **ICDF** International Cooperation and Development Fund | Center for Sustainable Development EARTH INSTITUTE | COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY | **TECO-NY** Taipei Economic & Cultural Office in New York

COVID-19: Opportunities for Technology and Innovation

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Presentation Outline

- USAID COVID-19 Response

- USAID Digital Strategy

- USAID Digital Health Vision

- Lessons Learned From Ebola Response

- Experience in Asia

USAID & COVID-19 Response

- On behalf of the American people, we promote and demonstrate democratic values abroad, and advance a free, peaceful, and prosperous world. In support of America's foreign policy, the U.S. Agency for International Development leads the U.S. Government's international development and disaster assistance through partnerships and investments that save lives, reduce poverty, strengthen democratic governance, and help people emerge from humanitarian crises and progress beyond assistance.

- More than $1.3 billion in assistance from USAID and the Department of State is saving lives by providing state-of-the-art ventilators, improving public health education, protecting healthcare workers, strengthening laboratory systems, supporting disease surveillance, and boosting rapid-response capacity in more than 120 countries around the world.

USAID Digital Strategy 2020-2024

- GOAL: to improve development and humanitarian assistance outcomes through the use of digital technology and strengthen open, inclusive, and secure digital ecosystems.

- FOCUS: USAID, Implementing Partners, Civil Society, Partner Governments, Private Sector

— RESPONSIBLY USE DIGITAL TECHNOLOGY —

OBJECTIVE 1

Improve USAID development and humanitarian assistance outcomes through the responsible use of digital technology

USAID

Partners

— STRENGTHEN DIGITAL ECOSYSTEMS —

OBJECTIVE 2

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

Civil Society

Partner Governments

Private Sector

BENEFITS AND RISKS OF DIGITAL

— POTENTIAL BENEFITS —

Making development more effective and efficient

Driving economic growth and financial inclusion

Supporting accountability and transparency in governance

Creating a platform for innovation and inclusion

— POTENTIAL RISKS —

The persistent digital divide:
from network access to algorithmic bias

Threats to internet freedom and human rights

The spread of hate speech and violent extremism online

The influence of online misinformation and
disinformation on democratic processes

4-TRACKS OF IMPLEMENTATION

1 — ADOPT AN ECOSYSTEM APPROACH

- Digital Ecosystem Country Assessments
- Digital Ecosystem Fund
- Bureau/Sector Digital vision
- Digital Learning Agenda

2 — HELP PARTNERS NAVIGATE RISK AND REWARD

- Close digital gender divide
- Improve Digital Literacy
- Mitigate cyber harm
- Increase investment in data privacy protection
- Protect children from digital harm

3 — SHIFT TO DIGITAL BY DEFAULT

- Digital Payments
- Digital Data Collection
- Principles For Digital Development
- Cybersecurity, Data Privacy, and Digital Literacy

4 — BUILD THE USAID OF TOMORROW
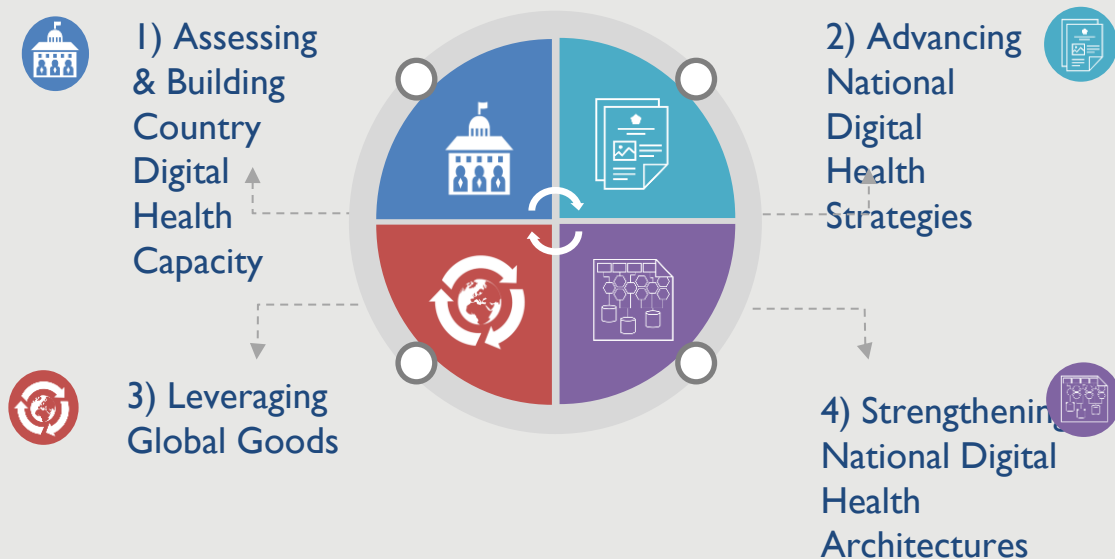
- Digital Development Advisors
- Executive Fellowship Program
- Integrate digital skills
- Senior level digital development officer
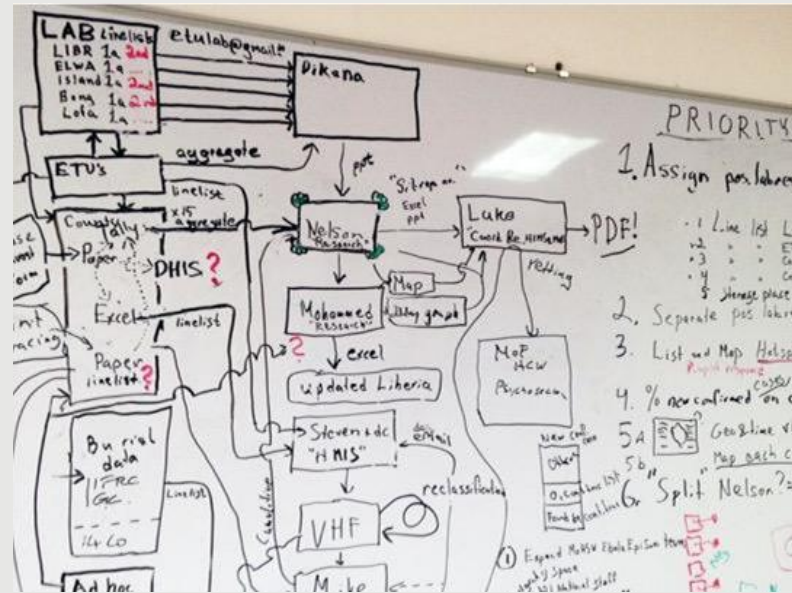
USAID Digital Health Vision

- Draft shared with external stakeholders (link)

1) Assessing & Building Country Digital Health Capacity

2) Advancing National Digital Health Strategies

3) Leveraging Global Goods

4) Strengthening National Digital Health Architectures

After a series of storms hit northern Thailand in May 2020, the ThaiRedCross used the USAID supported "Phonphai" (Safe from Danger) mobile phone app - which helps coordinate aid delivery to people in need - to distribute food & basic medicine to nearly 22K affected families.

Lessons Learned from Ebola & Zika Response

- How to avoid the "fog of data"?

- Preparation & Response
  - Extending digital connectivity
  - Country wide ICT assessment
  - Prioritize interoperability across all partners
  - "Info-structure" & Standards

Lessons Learned from Ebola & Zika Response

- mHero: Mobile, open source communication tool to connect public health officials with frontline health workers. (Ebola)

- CommCare: Mobile application for contact tracing, data collection, decision support, and information dissemination. (Zika)

- Both applications now being used for COVID-19 response.

Examples of Innovations for Asia COVID-19 Response

- **India**: Remote learning tools used to provide COVID-19 risk mitigation and prevention training to 38,000 health workers and 600 health care facilities.

- **Central Asia**: Online learning tools to support civil society and media countering of disinformation.

- **Cambodia**: facilitating distance learning for students. IT support to facilitate govt contact tracing efforts.

Mubina volunteers at the Tashkent State University of Law (TSUL)'s free legal clinic, established with support from USAID.

Resources/Links

- USAID Guide for Adopting Remote Monitoring Approaches During COVID-19
  - https://www.usaid.gov/digital-development/covid19-remote-monitoring-guide

- USAID Digital Strategy
  - https://www.usaid.gov/usaid-digital-strategy

- USAID Digital Health Vision (pending formal launch)
  - https://www.usaid.gov/global-health/health-systems-innovation/data/digital-health-vision

- USAID Fighting Ebola with Information
  - https://www.usaid.gov/sites/default/files/documents/15396/FightingEbolaWithInformation.pdf

Thanks!

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