DIGITAL FRONTIERS: SCALING DIGITAL DEVELOPMENT AT USAID

U.S. GLOBAL DEVELOPMENT LAB'S CENTER FOR DIGITAL DEVELOPMENT

WHY DIGITAL?

Digital technologies are spreading rapidly in developing countries where more households own a mobile phone than have access to electricity or clean water. This has accelerated change at every level of society—from mobile solutions that serve rural women's savings groups in Tanzania to data-driven decision-making tools for natural resource planning in Honduras. The challenge, however, is that these solutions to date have not matched the pace and scale of the problems they address. USAID can capitalize on this digital revolution by rapidly scaling up its efforts to effectively utilize digital technologies for development.

HOW DIGITAL FRONTIERS CAN HELP

Digital Frontiers is a five year (2017-2022) cooperative agreement with a $74.4 million ceiling, administered by USAID's Center for Digital Development, that works with USAID, the private sector, and international and local development organizations to identify successful and sustainable digital approaches and scale their impact globally. As a "buy-in" mechanism, USAID missions and bureaus can buy project implementation and strategy support from Digital Frontiers and access a range of services from a fully operational unit specialized in digital development.

Digital Frontiers works with USAID to design and implement digital-led interventions to achieve its development objectives, such as:

- Increased access to financial services for rural businesses
- Improved health and education outcomes
- Better governance and more effective service delivery
- More adaptive and effective decision-making
- Sustainable, private sector-led economic growth
- Renewable and distributed energy solutions

Through advancing tools and approaches in the areas of digital finance, digital inclusion, digital information systems, and data analytics and visualization, Digital Frontiers can help USAID missions and bureaus achieve a greater impact across the Agency's development portfolio.

WE MAKE IT EASY

Access to expertise and new partners: Digital Frontiers has been working with USAID to foster powerful networks across the digital ecosystem and relationships with top experts in the field. With this existing network, Digital Frontiers can quickly identify and mobilize the premier digital experts and partners you will need to successfully navigate the digital development space.

Fast, efficient project management: Digital Frontiers can take care of the scoping, recruitment, procurement/assistance, management, communications, and monitoring, evaluation, and learning activities for any digital project. As a one-stop-shop for digital development support, Digital Frontiers makes it easy for USAID missions and bureaus to invest in digital by reducing administrative and project management burdens.

DIGITAL FRONTIERS SERVICE OFFERINGS

USAID missions and bureaus can buy in to Digital Frontiers to support various stages of their strategic and programmatic development and execution. Examples of services include, **but are not limited**, to:

- **Digital Assessments:** Digital Frontiers can assess your mission or bureau's current programs and make recommendations for how you can leverage digital tools or approaches to improve your development impact. Resulting recommendations can include a number of ready-made services that CDD and Digital Frontiers can help deliver.

- **Design and implementation of digital programs:** From providing strategic support on your CDCS to integrating digital identity systems into a development project to implementing a small-holder farmer targeted mobile money project, Digital Frontiers can work with you throughout all stages of a mission or bureau's strategy, design, and implementation cycle.

- **Capacity building and delivery of training on effectively utilizing digital technologies:** Digital Frontiers can support your team and ensure you are up to speed on best practices in the digital development field such as how to integrate blockchain into your project and how you can work with telecom operators to improve internet connectivity in your local area. Digital Frontiers helps build capacity on your staff to continue leveraging digital approaches for better development impact.

LET'S GET STARTED

If your USAID mission or bureau has an idea for a digital project or needs assistance, contact:

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Digital Frontiers is implemented by DAI, a trusted USAID implementation partner.

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