



# USAID DIGITAL POLICY 2024 – 2034

**USAID envisions a world where open, inclusive, secure, and rights-respecting digital ecosystems enable people everywhere to thrive.**

In today's digitally-connected world, there is a growing recognition that open, inclusive, secure, and rights-respecting digital ecosystems are fundamental components of sustainable development and humanitarian response. The digital landscape has shifted significantly in the last ten years as internet usage in low- and middle-income countries has roughly doubled. Devices are smarter, smaller, and more ubiquitous; individual-level data is collected at unprecedented scale; and artificial intelligence (AI) is reshaping the way people work, access information, and engage with one another. This rapid technological progress poses an important question: how do we capitalize on the benefits of technology while effectively mitigating the risks?



The USAID Digital Policy provides the Agency's vision for a future where digital technology promotes inclusive growth, fosters resilient and democratic societies, advances human rights, and empowers all, including the most vulnerable.

## GOALS



**BUILD:** Propel positive development and humanitarian outcomes through an infrastructural approach to digital technology and services.



**TRANSFORM:** Evolve the digital approach of USAID and our partners through proactive improvement of knowledge, skills, policies, and technology.



**PROTECT:** Promote privacy, security, transparency, equity, and human rights in USAID programming and across the broader digital context.



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## PRINCIPLES



**Understand the Digital Ecosystem:** Understand local contexts to avoid risks, tap opportunities, and ensure digital tools meet legitimate needs.



**Put People First and Respect Human Rights:** Address existing power structures and embrace “do no harm” principles when adopting new technologies to avoid entrenching the status quo, creating unintended negative consequences, and harming people.



**Strengthen Local Digital Capacity, Infrastructure, and Partnerships:** Support inclusive workforce training and leadership, foster digital literacy, and promote peer learning; share digital successes and failures; invest in common resources; and engage in responsible local and global technology partnerships.



**Embrace Innovation and Adaptation:** Leverage the potential of technology to drive development, particularly by adopting local innovations. Prioritize intentionality over speed as activities will need to continuously adapt to a shifting digital landscape.

## LEARNING AGENDA

USAID will use existing methods where appropriate and innovate as needed to drive learning and adaptation; strive to harmonize metrics with partners; and use a developmental evaluation approach to learn as we develop the policy.