Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office

UNDESA and APRM Forum

FCDO data and digital

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UK Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO)

Who We Are: A department of the UK government responsible for promoting the UK's interests overseas, supporting British citizens and businesses around the world, and tackling global challenges.

What We Do:

Diplomacy: We work to maintain and strengthen relationships with other countries, promoting peace, security, and prosperity.

Development: We support developing countries to help reduce poverty and promote sustainable development.

Consular Services: We assist British nationals abroad, providing support in emergencies.

Our Priorities:

Climate Change: Leading international efforts to combat climate change and promote environmental sustainability.

Economic Growth: Supporting global economic stability and growth and promoting trade and investment.

Human Rights: Advocating for human rights, democracy, and the rule of law around the world.

Global Security: Addressing threats such as terrorism, cyber-attacks, and nuclear proliferation.

RESEARCH, EVIDENCE AND DATA UNDERPINS OUR WORK TO DELIVER AGAINST THESE PRIORITIES

Data and Digital in the FCDO

Internal and external activities and objectives:

- **International Development White Paper** (external)
  – Emphasizes the transformative role of data and digital technologies in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.

- **FCDO Digital Development Strategy** (external)
  – Leverage digital tech and data to support the UK's development objectives and ensure no one is left behind.
    - Digital Transformation: Enhance digital capabilities across health, education, agriculture, and government services.
    - Digital Inclusion: Bridge the digital divide focusing on remote and marginalized communities.
    - Digital Responsibility: Promote ethical use of digital technologies and protect data privacy.
    - Digital Sustainability: Ensure long-term sustainability of digital initiatives and infrastructure.

- **FCDO Data Strategy** (internal)
  – Emphasize senior support, data champions, and feedback mechanisms
    - People: data-driven culture and skills
    - Processes: governance systems in place for use and storage
    - Systems: data architecture and improve data accessibility

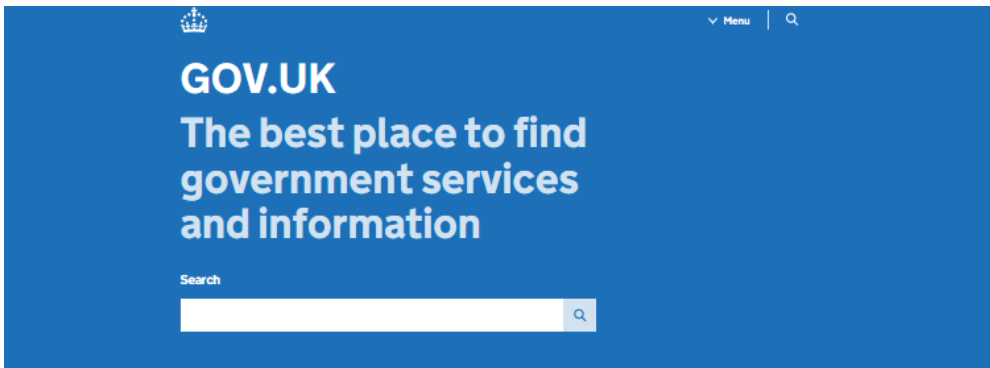# Digital government

- **Digital Access Programme (DAP)** to catalyze inclusive, affordable, safe, and secure digital access for underserved populations in Kenya, Nigeria, South Africa, Brazil, and Indonesia. Case studies covering services such as social protection, health and education.

  – In SA: Open data policy framework for municipalities

- **Digital Impact Alliance (DIAL)** to advance digital inclusion to achieve the SDGs. FCDO is signatory to the **Digital Public Goods (PDG) Charter** – a vision for DPGs (open-source technologies designed for the public good) and their role in driving safe, trusted and inclusive digital public infrastructure at scale.

- **Identification for Development Programme (ID4D)** delivered by the World Bank enabling over 60 governments and regional organisations to establish and implement digital identification systems.

- **More to come…** UK Government Mission: transform public services and fuel economic growth through science and technology.

Data governance

- **ID4D** has provided technical advice to over 30 countries for legal and institutional reforms on digital identity systems.

- **DAP** helps countries adhere to international standards, including through knowledge and best practice exchange.

- **Power of Data (PoD) initiative** has built 9 country-led political partnerships to mobilise investment in national data systems and support development priorities.

- **UK's Office of National Statistics Strategic Partnerships** – ONS technical advisers embedded in the National Statistical offices of Ghana, Kenya, Rwanda, Zimbabwe and UNECA to build the capacity of national statistical systems.

- **Inclusive Data Charter** aims to advance the availability and use of inclusive and disaggregated data so that governments and organisations better understand, address, and monitor the needs of marginalised people, and ensure no one is left behind.

- **Cape Town Global Action Plan for Sustainable Development Data (CTGAP)** – FCDO uses CTGAP objectives to shape our engagement with partner countries.

GOV.UK – a single, user-friendly platform where users could easily access all government services and information

- Launched in 2012

- Developed in-house by Government Digital Service (GDS)

- Consolidates over 1,800 government websites into a single platform

- Handles over a billion transactions per year

- Over £4bn was saved in the first 4 years

- Designed with a focus on user needs, simple and intuitive interface, clear navigation, powerful search function

- Continuously updated based on user feedback and tech advancements, integrating more services

- Led to professionalisation of digital skills and staff across government

- Won several awards and used as a model by other countries

The Case of the UK's Government Digital Service: The Professionalisation of a Paradigmatic Public Digital Agency | Digital Government: Research and Practice (acm.org)