Africa Regional Forum on
Data Governance and Digital Government

Data standards, classifications; and data sharing, exchange and interoperability

SIERRA LEONE's INSIGHT

PRETORIA

SOUTH AFRICA

3-4 OCTOBER 2025

Sierra Leone's Data Governance Landscape

Sector-Specific Data Systems: Managed across sectors like healthcare, education, agriculture, and finance. However, many of these systems are siloed, meaning there is limited cross-departmental integration.
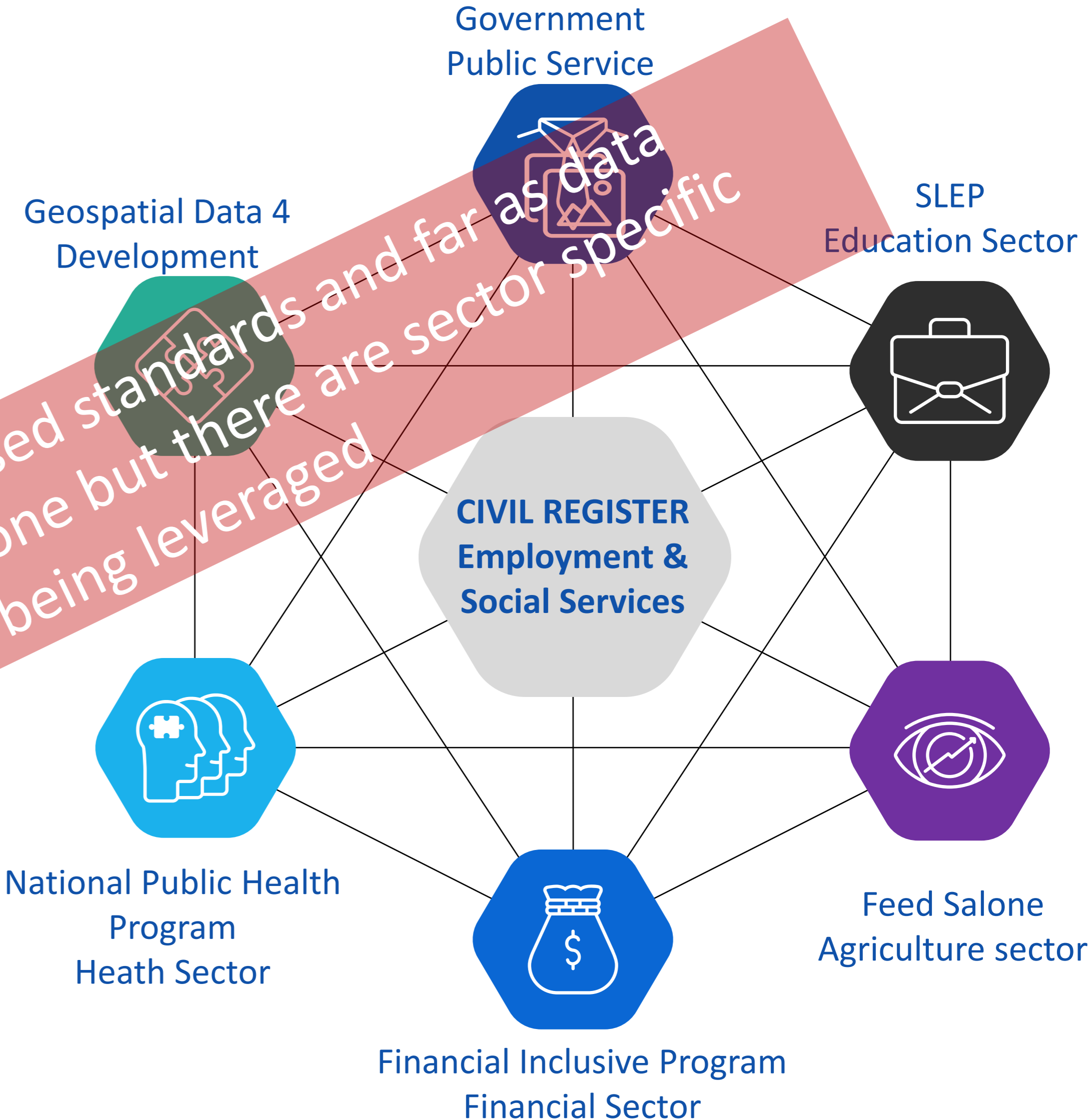
Open Data: Sierra Leone has an Open Data Portal, a positive step towards transparency, though the scope and quality of data available through this platform remain limited. It primarily hosts statistical data, and there's an ongoing effort to expand the types of datasets available for public use.

Geospatial and Statistical Data: Key agencies like Statistics Sierra Leone and the National Spatial Data Infrastructure (NSDI) are working on harmonizing data, especially in the context of population censuses, Telecoms infra. and land use.

National Civil Registration System: mandated to among others carry out the continuous, permanent and compulsory recording of the occurrences and characteristics of vital events including Births, Deaths and social status change
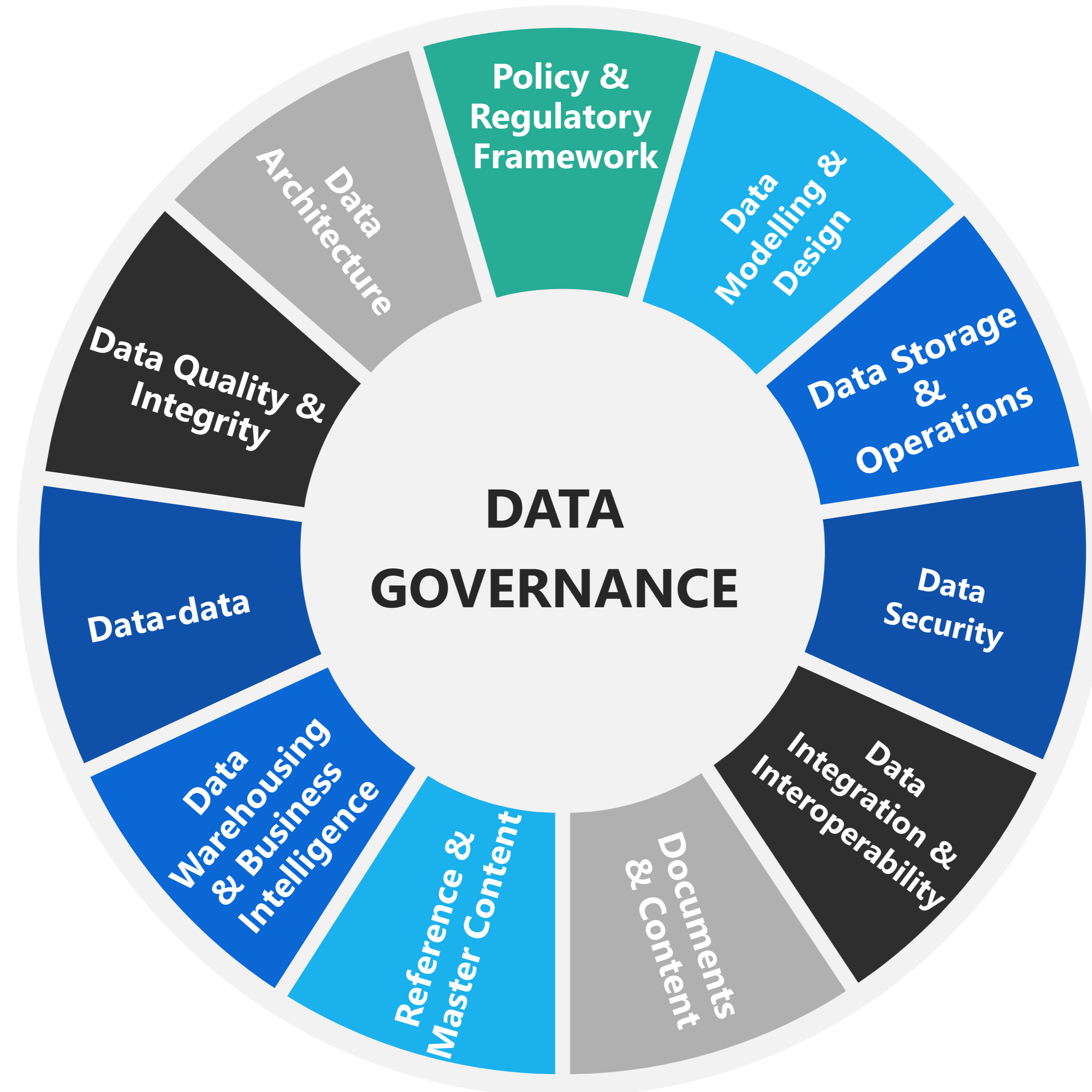
There are no clearly defined centralised standards and far as data governance is concerned in Sierra Leone but there are sector specific standards that are being leveraged

Next: Data Governance Elements
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SOME KEY EFFORTS

Government Public Service

Geospatial Data 4 Development

SLEP Education Sector

CIVIL REGISTER Employment & Social Services

National Public Health Program Heath Sector

Feed Salone Agriculture sector

Financial Inclusive Program Financial Sector

STRATEGIC SECTORS

Key Elements of Data Governance

Policy & Regulatory Framework

Data Modelling & Design

Data Storage & Operations

Data Security

Data Integration & Interoperability

Documents & Content

Reference & Master Content

Data Warehousing & Business Intelligence

Data-data

Data Quality & Integrity

Data Architecture

DATA GOVERNANCE

Next: Challenges
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Sierra Leone's Data Governance Challenges

Governance

Technology Evolution

Soiled Playbook technology investment

Very minimal interoperable systems

Weak Technical Capacity

Digital Divide

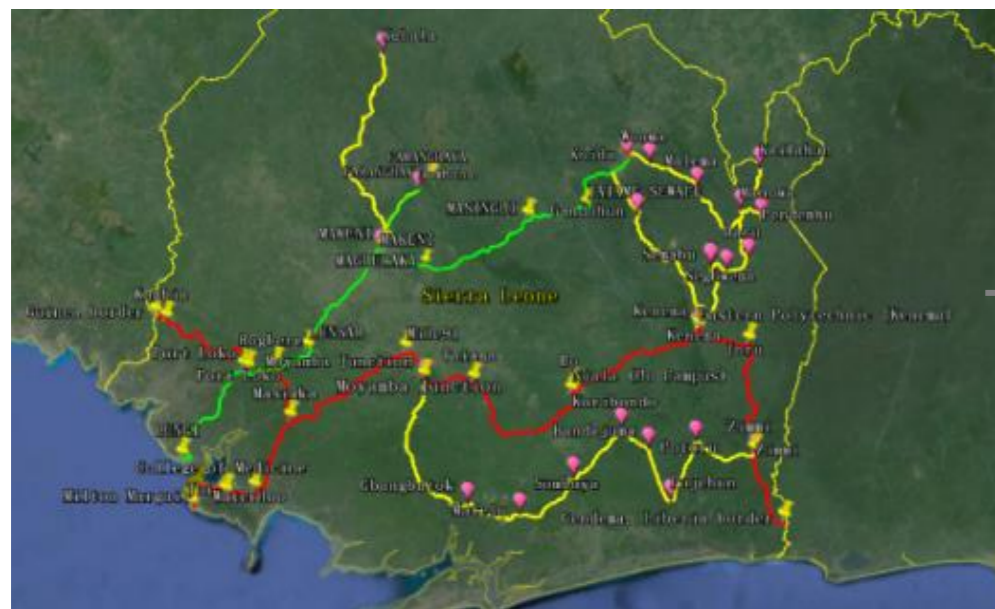Lack of Unified Standards & Guidelines
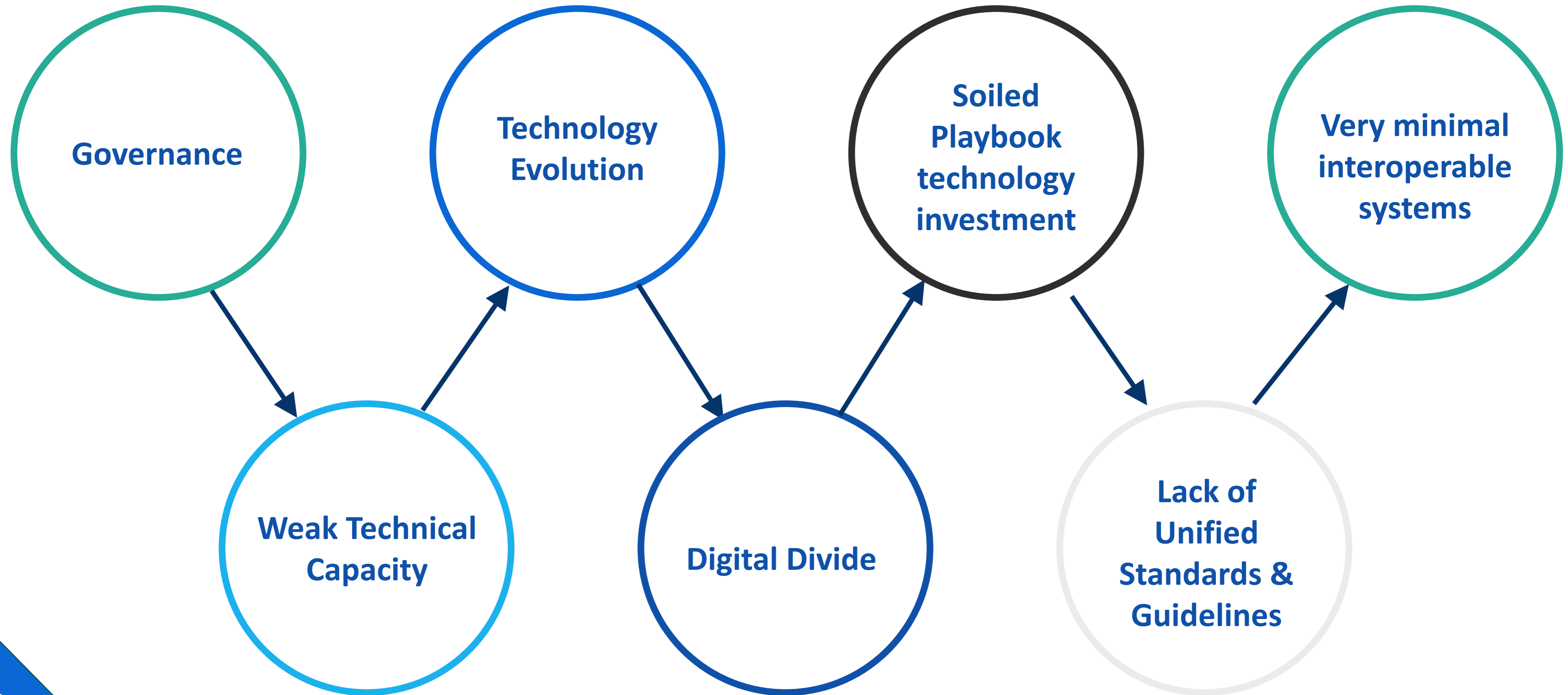
Next: successes & efforts
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Some Major Successes and Ongoing Efforts

We Are a Whole-of-Government Service Provider seeking to minimise cost, corruption and enhance public service efficiency
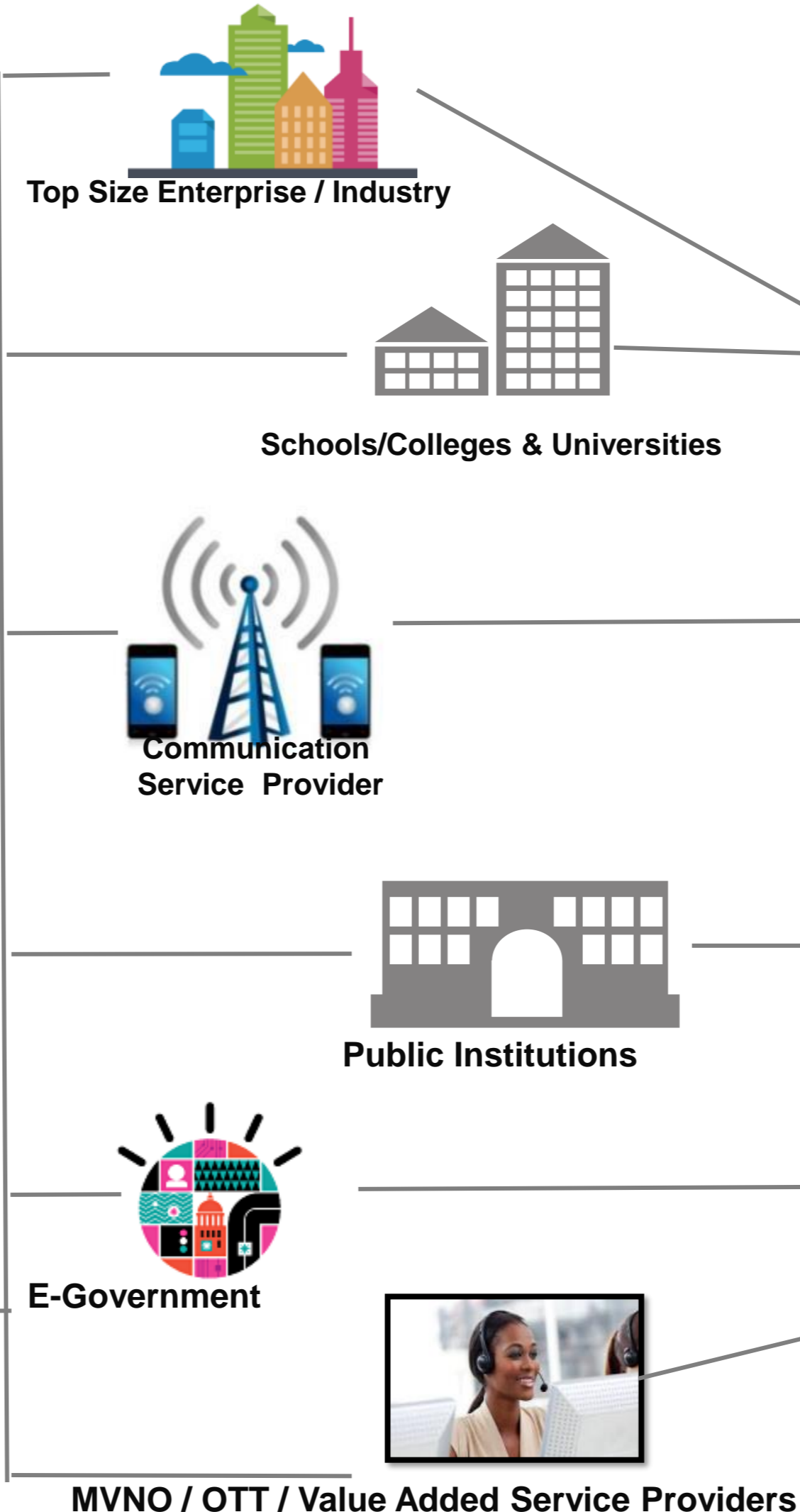
INFRASTRUCTURE & ESERVICES

Data Centre/Cloud Infrastructure

IT Services

National Fibre network

Bandwidth Leasing

2,3,4,5G Last Mile

Last Mile Connectivity

Top Size Enterprise / Industry

Schools/Colleges & Universities

Communication Service Provider

Public Institutions

E-Government

MVNO / OTT / Value Added Service Providers
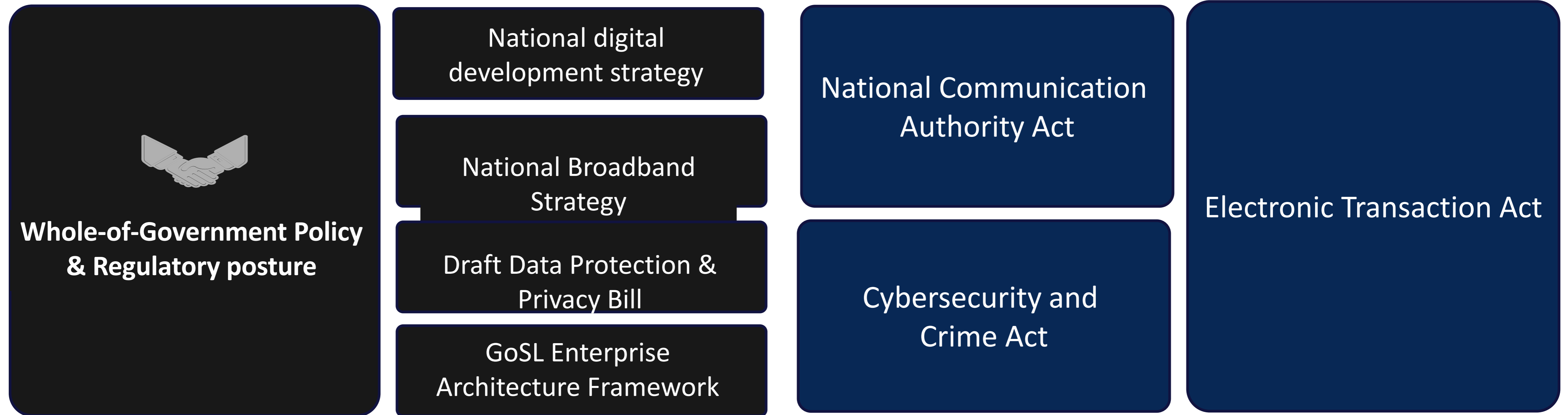
NGO/ Donor Partners

Family User

Personal User

Covid-19 was a big changer in the digitalisation efforts of particularly in Sierra Leone

eServices

- Unified Collaboration system
- Unified website & Central Government Service Portal
- eCabinet
- HRMS
- IGIS
- MDA Specific Online Services
- eProcurement
- Digital Identity
- Digital Financial services

Nex: Policy & Regulation
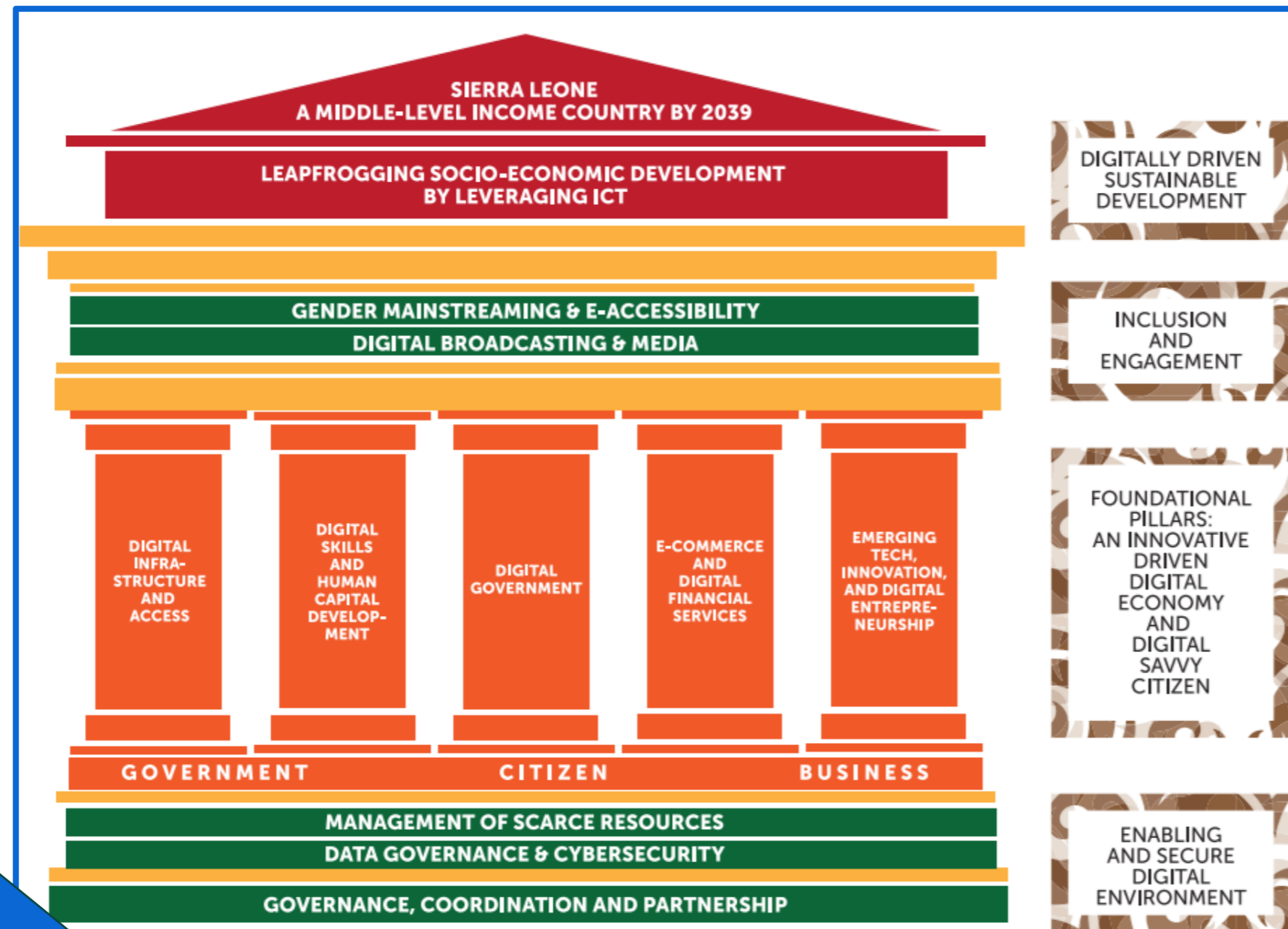..............

General Policy & Regulatory Ecosystem

Whole-of-Government Policy & Regulatory posture

National digital development strategy

National Broadband Strategy

Draft Data Protection & Privacy Bill

GoSL Enterprise Architecture Framework

National Communication Authority Act

Cybersecurity and Crime Act

Electronic Transaction Act

SLDTP

Digital Service Standards Study

eGovernment Policy & Regulatory Study

Digital Service Interoperability Study

eGoment infrastructure Assessment

Next:
The Defining Step
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The Defining Step

Policy Landscape

Next: Policy Linkages

National Digital Development Policy

DIGITAL DEVELOPMENT POLICY
Towards a Digital Economy

2021

THE GOVERNMENT OF SIERRA LEONE

1

DIGITAL DEVELOPMENT POLICY - THE GOVERNMENT OF SIERRA LEONE

SIERRA LEONE
A MIDDLE-LEVEL INCOME COUNTRY BY 2039

LEAPFROGGING SOCIO-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
BY LEVERAGING ICT

DIGITALLY DRIVEN SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

GENDER MAINSTREAMING & E-ACCESSIBILITY
DIGITAL BROADCASTING & MEDIA

INCLUSION AND ENGAGEMENT

DIGITAL INFRA-STRUCTURE AND ACCESS | DIGITAL SKILLS AND HUMAN CAPITAL DEVELOP-MENT | DIGITAL GOVERNMENT | E-COMMERCE AND DIGITAL FINANCIAL SERVICES | EMERGING TECH, INNOVATION, AND DIGITAL ENTREPRE-NEURSHIP

FOUNDATIONAL PILLARS: AN INNOVATIVE DRIVEN DIGITAL ECONOMY AND DIGITAL SAVVY CITIZEN

GOVERNMENT   CITIZEN   BUSINESS

MANAGEMENT OF SCARCE RESOURCES
DATA GOVERNANCE & CYBERSECURITY

ENABLING AND SECURE DIGITAL ENVIRONMENT

GOVERNANCE, COORDINATION AND PARTNERSHIP

BENCHMARKS FOR REFERENCE: AFRICAN UNION, WORLD BANK DE4A, PATHWAY FOR PROSPERITY COMMISSION, KENYA'S DS

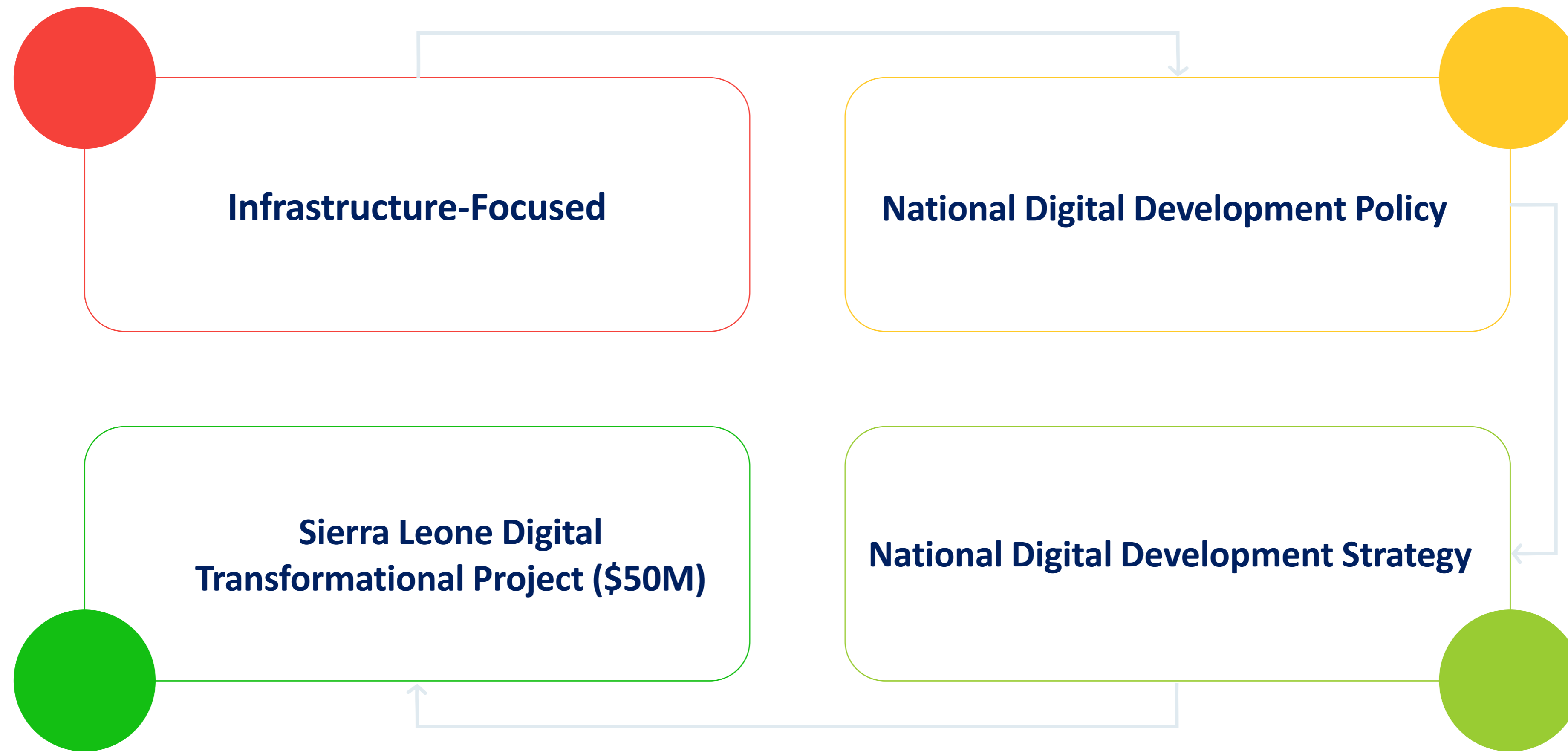| AREA	DEFINITION	POLICY OBJECTIVES
GOVERNANCE, COORDINATION & PARTNERSHIP	ENABLING POLICIES, PREDICTABLE ENVIRONMENT, AND COORDINATION OF ACTORS AND PLAYERS	• To provide legal frameworks that promote investments and competition • To enhance coordination between across ministries, departments, and agencies (MDAs) • To encourage cooperation with the private sector
DIGITAL INFRASTRUCTURE AND ACCESS	AVAILABILITY, ACCESSIBILITY, AND AFFORDABILITY OF A RELIABLE INFRASTRUCTURE	• To ensure access to digital services among the unserved and underserved • To ensure quality services
DIGITAL SKILLS & HUMAN CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT	DIGITAL LITERACY TO ENABLE PARTICIPATION IN THE DIGITAL ECONOMY	• To integrate ICTs in the curricula • To equip educational institutions with digital infrastructure • To facilitate training in ICT across all sectors
DIGITAL GOVERNMENT	ESSENTIAL COMPONENTS TO OFFER E-GOVERNMENT SERVICES TO EMPLOYEES (G2E), CITIZENS (G2C), BUSINESSES (G2B), AND ACROSS GOVERNMENT (G2G)	• To develop a whole-of-government (WoG) and whole-of-society (WoS) framework for digital transformation • To implement a harmonised digital ID to access public services • To develop common technology standards across government
E-COMMERCE & DIGITAL FINANCIAL SERVICES	SAFE, INCLUSIVE, AND SECURE DIGITAL MARKETPLACE	• To support the creation of a single digital market for Africa • To create a regulatory framework for the financial technology sector • To ensure consumer protection • To provide a framework for the efficient delivery of physical goods
EMERGING TECHNOLOGY, INNOVATION & DIGITAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP	DIGITAL ECOSYSTEM THAT FOSTERS INNOVATION AND CREATES OPPORTUNITIES	• To improve the ease of doing business through digitalisation • To promote partnerships with local and international investors • To promote research and development in emerging technologies
MANAGEMENT OF SCARCE RESOURCES	EFFICIENT USE OF SPECTRUM FOR FAIR MARKET COMPETITION	• To develop a market-driven licencing regime • To ensure maximum consumer welfare in spectrum management
DATA GOVERNANCE & CYBERSECURITY	SAFE AND SECURE DIGITAL SYSTEMS	• To protect digital systems, users, and their data • To deploy a common data architecture across government
DIGITAL BROADCASTING AND MEDIA	DIGITAL TV AND STRENGTHENED NEW MEDIA TO FOSTER ENGAGEMENT	• To align with international obligations on digital television broadcasting • To develop frameworks on the use of new media in government
GENDER MAINSTREAMING AND E-ACCESSIBILITY	INCLUSION OF VULNERABLE POPULATIONS TO PARTICIPATE IN THE DIGITAL ECONOMY	• To promote the participation of the vulnerable in the digital economy • To promote access to digital services among vulnerable populations

Policy Linkages

NATIONAL DIGITAL DEVELOPMENT POLICY
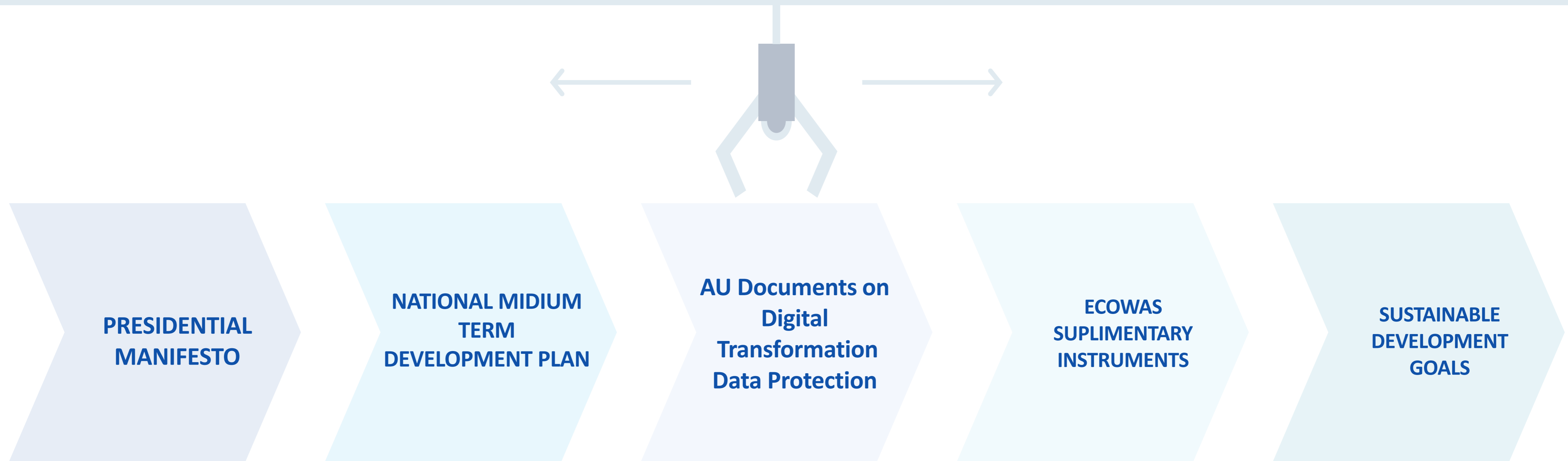
PRESIDENTIAL MANIFESTO

NATIONAL MIDIUM TERM DEVELOPMENT PLAN

AU Documents on Digital Transformation Data Protection

ECOWAS SUPLIMENTARY INSTRUMENTS

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

Next: Resultant Effect
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Looking into the Future

Digital Governance Pillars

1 Governance, Partnership & Coordination

2 Capacity Building

3 Financing & Investment

4 Standards, Guidelines & Compliance

5 Policy & Regulation
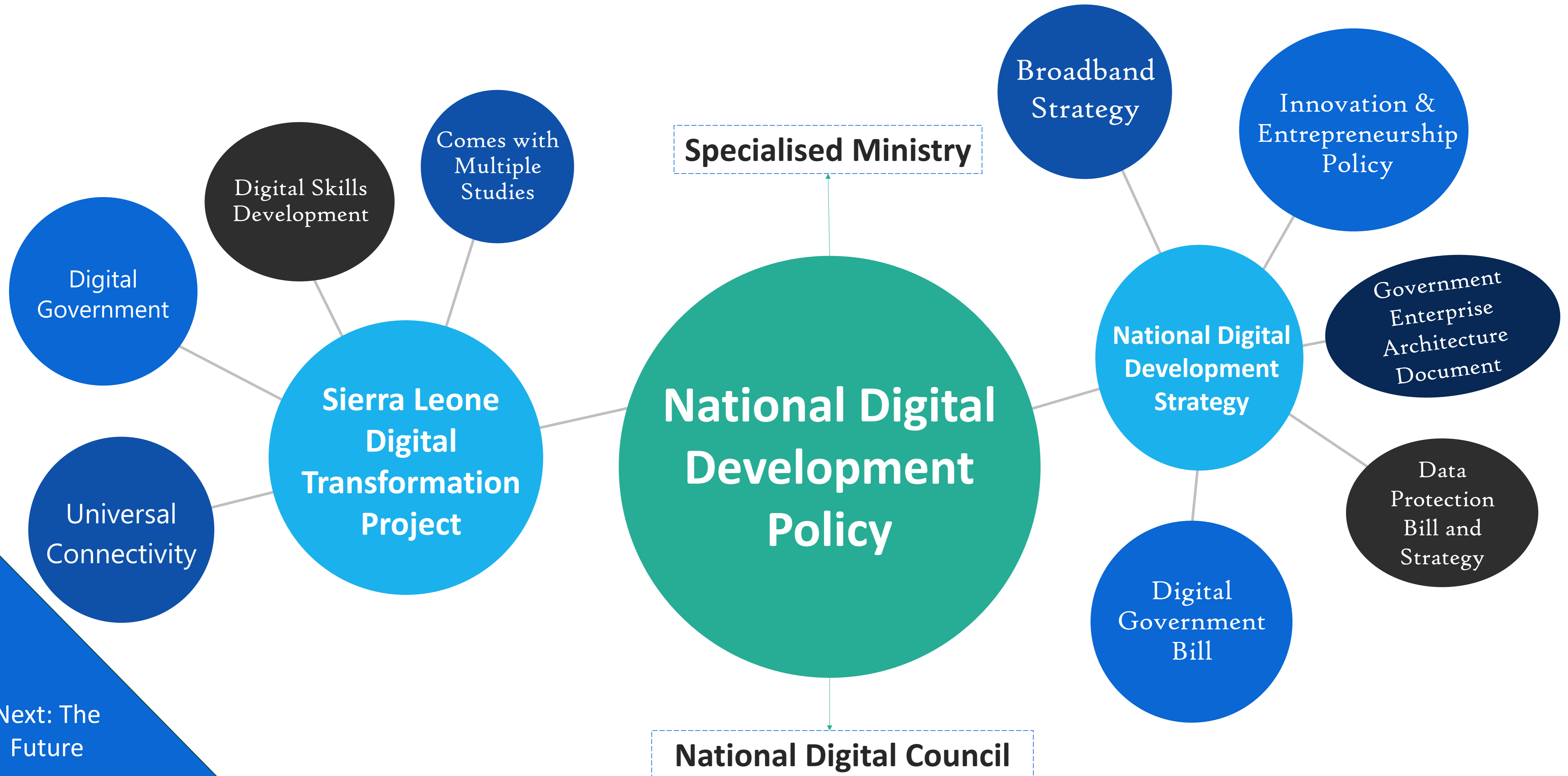
Services, Technology & Infrastructure
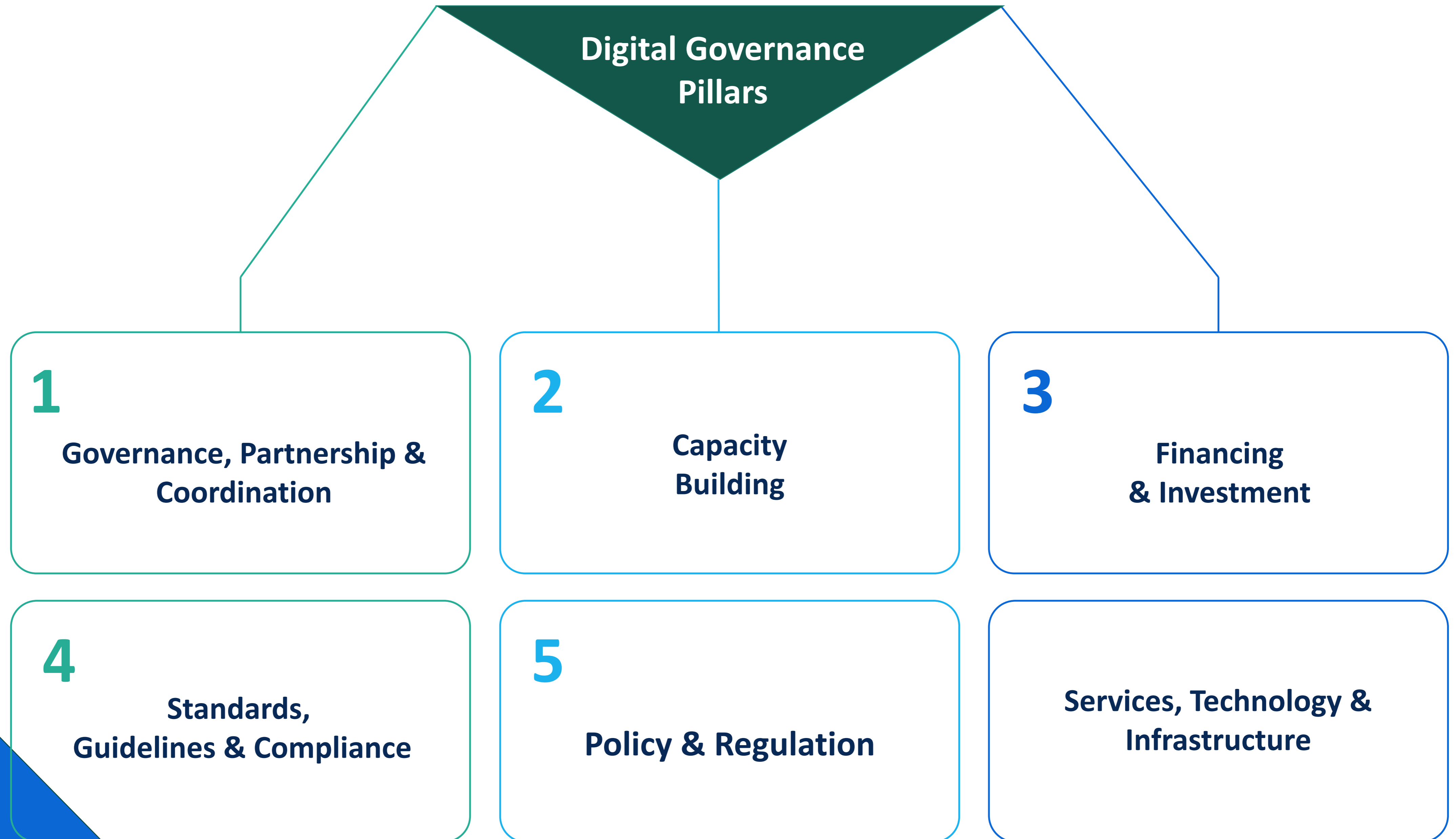
Next: Conclusion
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Closing Down on Data Governance

01
- Digital Economy @ the Heart of the President Agenda
- Appointment of CIO

02
- Policy
- Strategy
- Investment

03
- National Digital Development Council

04
- **Approval of Government Enterprise Architecture**
- **Standard & Compliance Team**

05
- Digital Service Standards
- eGovernment Policy & Regulatory Study
- Public Sector Digital Service Interoperability Frame work study

Digital Government Bill: will establish Standards & Compliance Agency
Digital Solution Development Agency

Next:
Thank You

Ongoing Development of National Data Strategy March 2025