

DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION

GATEWAY TO ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT

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MALAWI UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE
AND TECHNOLOGY



OUTLINE

Context
Digital transformation
Economic empowerment
Opportunities and Challenges
Conclusion



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



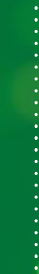
THE 17 UN SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

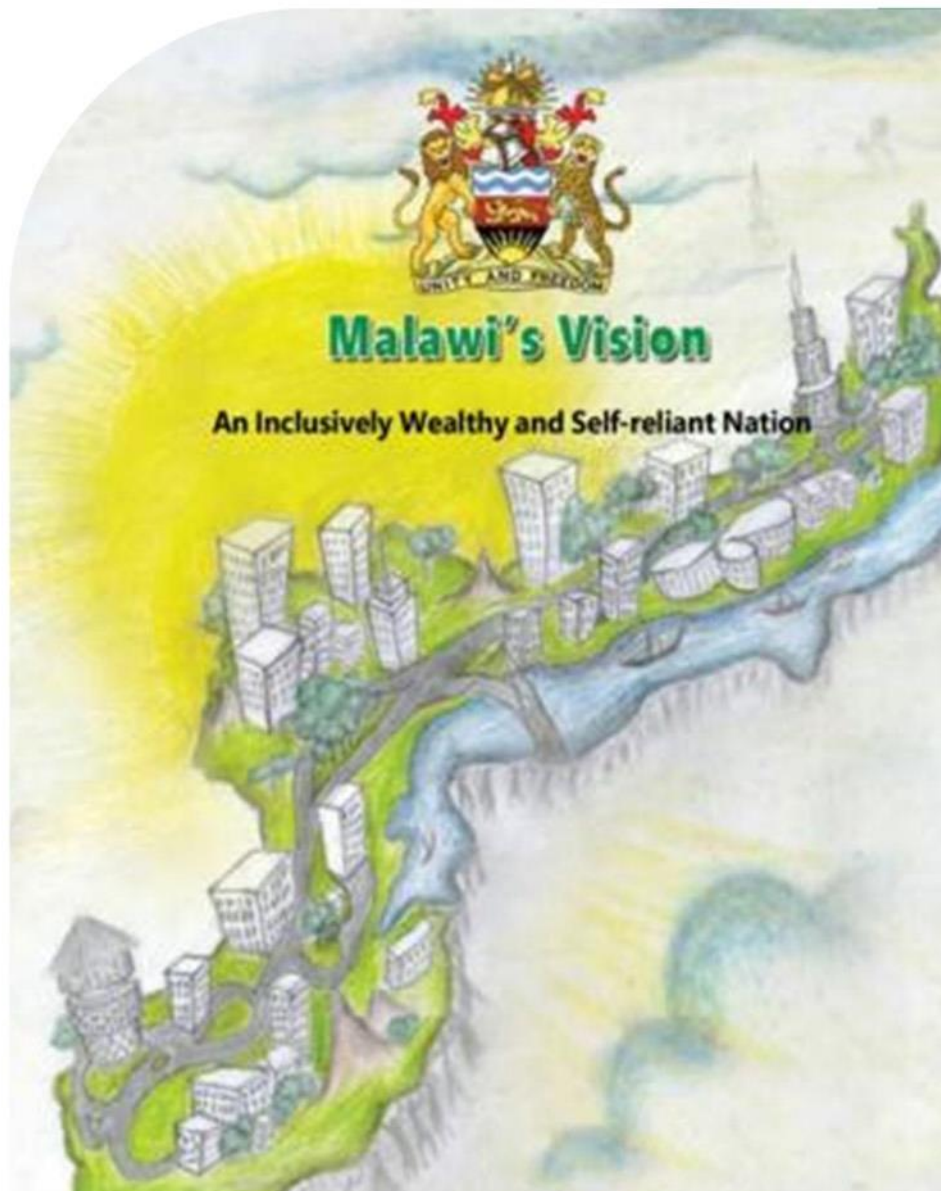




Agenda 2063

THE AFRICA WE WANT.





MALAWI 2063

DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION

REFERS TO THE PROCESS OF

Utilizing
Digital
Technologies

01



03

Interacting
With
Stakeholders

Delivering
Value To
Customers

02



04

Integrating
Digital
Technologies





ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT

WHAT IS ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT?

Economic empowerment is the process of enabling individuals, communities, or groups to have greater control over their economic circumstances, resources, and opportunities. It involves equipping them with the means to participate more fully in economic activities, make informed choices, and improve their economic well-being.





HOW CAN
DIGITAL
TRANS
FORMATION
FACILITATE
ECONOMIC
EMPOWERMENT?



ACCESS TO MARKETS

Digital platforms connect businesses to make transactions

Provides opportunities for entrepreneurs in remote areas have access to broader markets

01

02

03

04

05

Digital platforms connect individuals to discuss business

Facilitates communication beyond immediate physical reach

Digital platforms facilitates payment for goods (cashless)



REDUCED BARRIERS TO ENTRY

Digital tools and platforms significantly lower the barriers to entry for starting businesses

01



With access to online resources, cloud computing, and e-commerce platforms, individuals with innovative ideas can launch and scale up their ventures

02



03



Digital tools facilitate access to expert knowledge for newcomers and adopters of new tools to self-train and get to work faster.

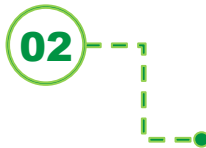
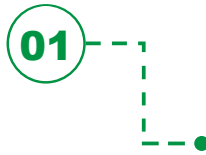




JOB CREATION

New jobs will be created due to digital transformation. The gig economy facilitated by digital platforms allows individuals to find flexible work arrangements.

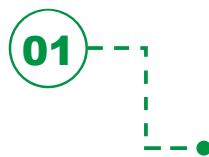
Digital platforms allow individuals to be creative and innovative





EFFICIENCY AND COST REDUCTION

Digital automation streamlines processes, reduce operational costs, and increase efficiency for businesses.



SKILLS DEVELOPMENT

DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION REQUIRES:

Individuals to acquire new skills, to adapt to changing technologies and market demands

Critical thinking: to look at problems from different perspectives, identify good and bad reasoning, and rapidly adapt to new technologies

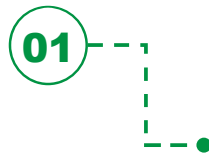
Change management:
Digital transformation is challenging





FINANCIAL INCLUSION

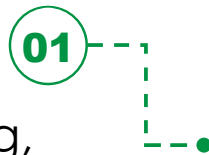
Digital financial services such as mobile banking and digital payment platforms provide access to banking services for previously unbanked or underbanked populations.





INNOVATION ECOSYSTEMS

Digital transformation fosters innovation ecosystems by providing platforms for collaboration, knowledge sharing, and access to resources.



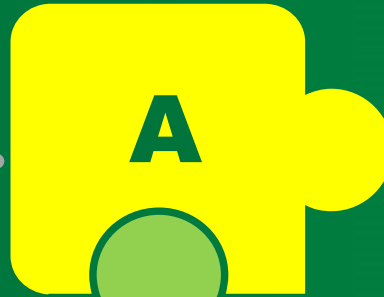
This encourages entrepreneurship and supports the development of new ideas, products, and services, driving economic growth and empowerment.



ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE AND DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION

Artificial intelligence will shape digital transformation

01



03

Should digital transformation be people-centric? Tech – people balance

02

Should digital transformation be tech-centric? Machine take over



04

AI should be given boundaries: tech should not be given control of life-death situations





**WHAT IS
NEEDED **TO**
LEVERAGE
DIGITAL
TRANSFORMATION?**



ACCESS TO INFRASTRUCTURE

DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION REQUIRES:

Access to reliable and affordable digital infrastructure

Access to broadband internet, mobile networks, and computing devices

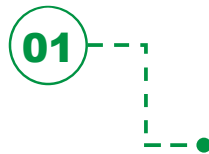
Governments and private sector entities must invest in expanding infrastructure coverage, particularly in underserved areas.





DIGITAL LITERACY

Individuals need basic digital literacy skills to effectively navigate digital technologies, access information, communicate digitally, and utilize digital services-education trajectory.



Human, societal and environmental wellbeing: Technology/AI systems should benefit individuals, society and the environment

Privacy protection and security: Technology/AI systems should respect and uphold privacy rights and data protection, and ensure the security of data



ETHICAL PRINCIPLES

Human-centred values: Digital transformation should respect human rights, diversity, and the autonomy of individuals.

Contestability: When an Technology/AI system significantly impacts a person, community, group or environment, there should be a timely process to allow people to challenge the use or outcomes of the system





**CRUCIAL FOR
DIGITAL
TRANSFORMATION
AND ECONOMIC
EMPOWERMENT**



Malawi

Electronic Transactions and Cyber Security Act

Chapter 74:02

Published in Malawi Gazette Supplement 6C on 4 November 2016

Commenced on 1 June 2017 by Electronic Transactions and Cyber Security Act, 2016: Commencement

[This is the version of this document at 31 December 2017 and includes any amendments published up to 31 October 2021.]

[Note: This version of the Act was revised and consolidated in the Fifth Revised Edition of the Laws of Malawi (L.R.O. 1/2018), by the Solicitor General and Secretary for Justice under the authority of the Revision of the Laws Act.]

[33 of 2016; G.N. 25/2017]

An Act to make provision for electronic transactions; for the establishment and functions of the Malawi Computer Emergency Response Team (MCERT); to make provision for criminalizing offences related to computer systems and information communication technologies; and provide for investigation, collection and use of electronic evidence; and for matters connected therewith and incidental thereto

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INFORMATION IS VITAL FOR DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION



Malawi

Access to Information Act, 2016

Act 13 of 2017

Published in [Government Gazette Extraordinary no. 3C](#) on 16 February 2017

Assented to on 10 February 2017

Commenced on 30 September 2020 by [Government Notice of 2020](#)

[This is the version of this document from 16 February 2017 and includes any amendments published up to 31 October 2021.]

An Act to provide for the right of access to information in the custody of public bodies and relevant private bodies; the processes and procedures related to obtaining that information; and to provide for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto

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MALAWI HAS THE DATA PROTECTION ACT



DATA PROTECTION BILL, 2023

MEMORANDUM

This Bill seeks to provide for a comprehensive legal framework for the regulation of the processing and movement of personal data of natural persons, in compliance with internationally accepted principles of data protection.

The Bill, among other things, proposes to—

(a) designate the Malawi Communications Regulatory Authority as the Data Protection Authority (hereinafter referred to as the “Authority”) charged with overseeing the implementation of the Bill;

(b) provide for the key principles that govern the processing of personal data, namely, the processing of personal data lawfully, transparently and fairly, purpose limitation, data minimization, data accuracy, storage limitation, data integrity and data confidentiality;

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zarlrl' bnlbosq immigratlon' qzrs wlnmllxzarlou' qzrs scclnscxl' zlolzbc
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**THE BILL IS
BEING
CONSULTED ON,
RIGHT NOW**



MACRA

Communication services for a digitally transformed nation

PUBLIC NOTICE

**DIGITAL INNOVATION AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP BILL, 2024:
CALL FOR COMMENTS**

The Malawi Communications Regulatory Authority (MACRA) is the public body responsible for the implementation of the Communications Act, the Electronic Transactions and Cybersecurity Act and the Data Protection Act. Under section 6 (2) of the Communications Act, MACRA is mandated to promote adoption of new technologies and innovation in ICT sector. In order to promote digital innovation and entrepreneurship, MACRA has developed a draft Bill styled as the Digital Innovation and Entrepreneurship Bill which essentially provides for legal framework to:

- (a) create and develop of an enabling environment for information and communication technology-enabled startups in Malawi;
- (b) encourage growth and sustainable technological development and new entrepreneurship employment;

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- (d) create and develop of an enabling environment for information and communication technology-enabled startups in Malawi;

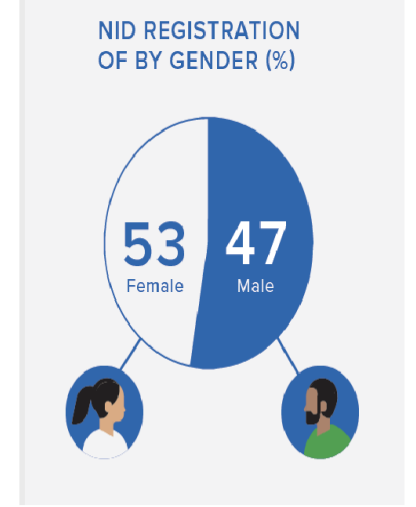
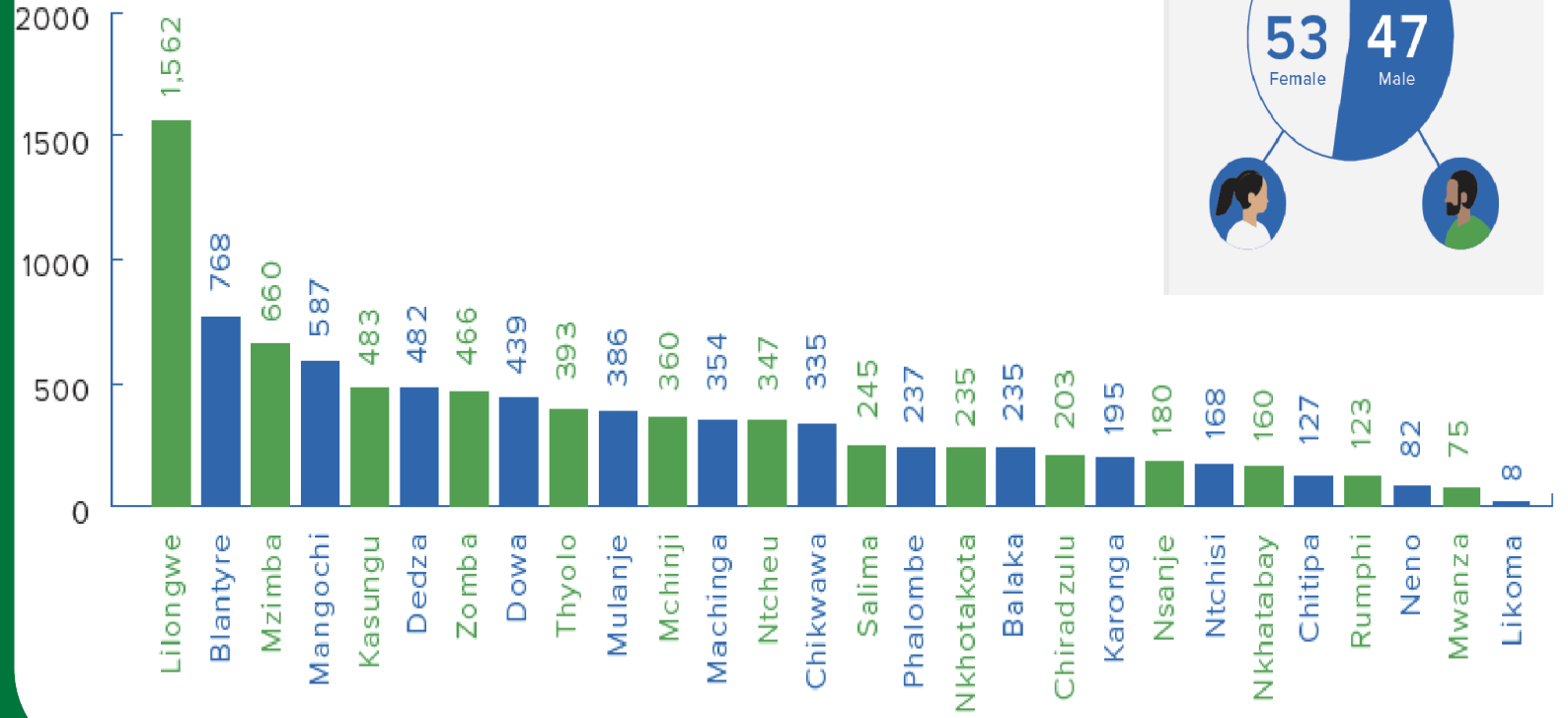
which essentially provides for legal framework to:
that the Bill styled as the Digital Innovation and Entrepreneurship Bill



11 MILLION MALAWIANS REGISTER VIA THE NATIONAL REGISTRATION INFORMATION SYSTEM PROJECT 2016-2023

NID Registration: 10.9 million

NID REGISTRATION BY DISTRICT (In Thousands)





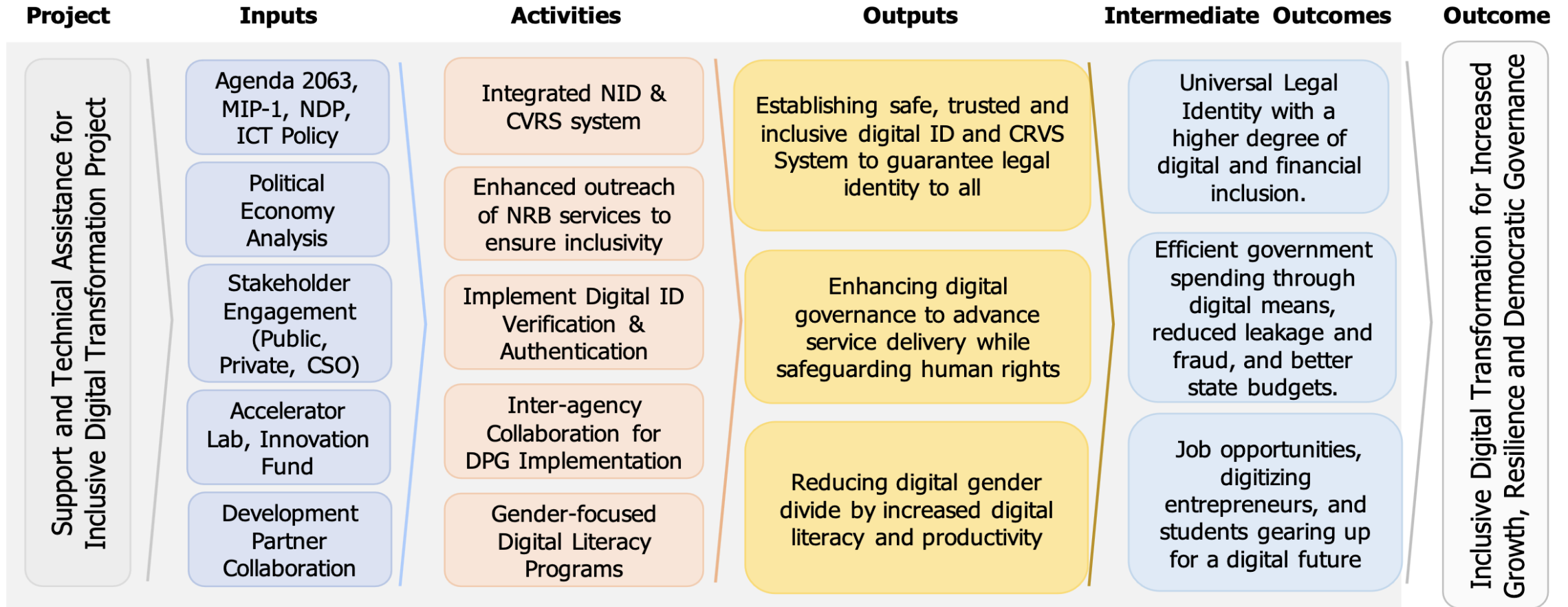
**11 MILLION
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2016-2023**

Inclusive Digital Transformation



UN
DP

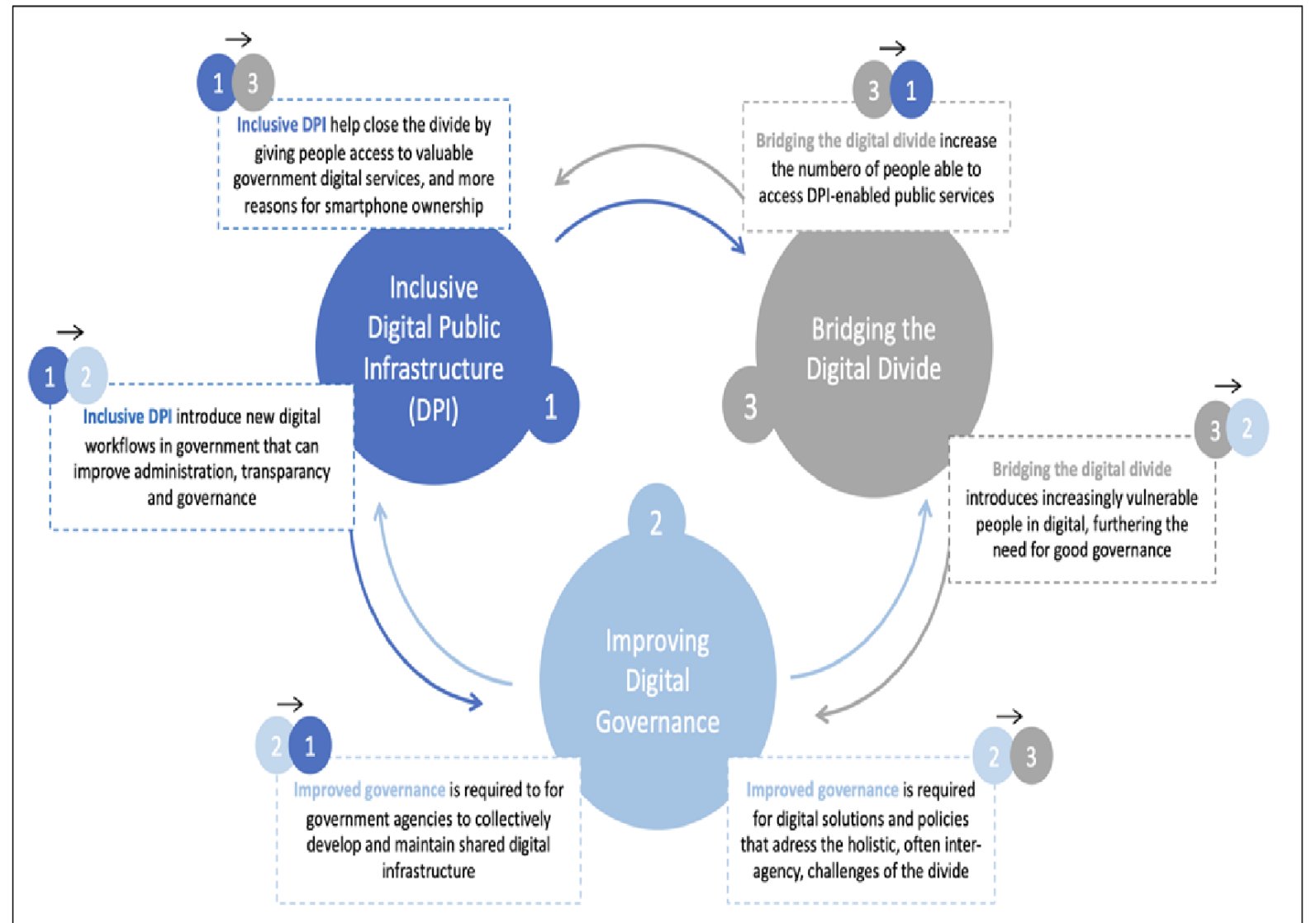
Theory of Change for Inclusive Digital Transformation





TO GET THE BEST OUT OF SUCH INITIATIVES, MALAWI NEEDS A VIBRANT ECOSYSTEM

Strategy: Three core areas for an inclusive digital transformation that mutually support and require one another





NATIONAL DATA CENTRE

Cloud technologies adoption and the availability of high-end IT infrastructure in Malawi will ease contextualisation of AI and other technologies

National Data Center in Blantyre, and another is being constructed in Lilongwe.

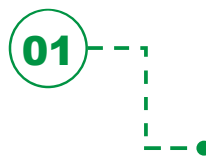
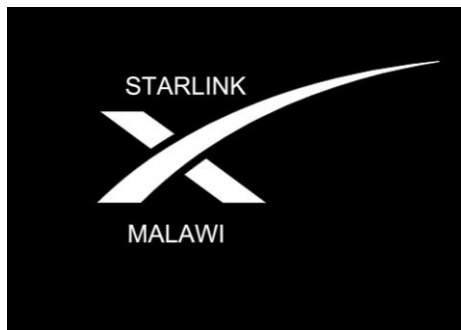
TNM, OCL, MRA etc all have top computing facilities





STARLINK MALAWI

Starlink will boost availability and affordability of internet to rural areas, a critical enabler of inclusive transformation



THE FUTURE

Investment

Science, Technology
and Innovation

01

02

03

04

05

Legislation and
Political will

Inclusion

Partnerships

FUTURE





**GREAT
PARTNER
SHIPS**



**SHARE
COMMON
GOALS**



MALAWI UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE
AND TECHNOLOGY



**THANK
YOU
ZIKOMO**