Overview of Worldbank ICT Initiatives in East Africa

Caroline Koech

Digital Development Specialist - Worldbank

Digital Economy for Africa (DE4A)

- **Supports the operationalization of the AU digital transformation Strategy to create a momentum for Digital Transformation in Africa.**

- **Provides an integrated approach for assessing the state of the digital economy across Africa, across five foundational pillars:**

  - **Digital Infrastructure:** the availability of affordable and high-quality internet, which is instrumental to bringing more people and businesses online.

  - **Digital Public Platforms:** the presence and use of digital platforms that can support greater digital exchange, transactions and access to public services online.

  - **Digital Financial Services:** the ability to pay, save, borrow, and invest through digital means, promoting financial inclusion and growing e-commerce.

  - **Digital Entrepreneurship:** the presence of an ecosystem that supports entrepreneurs, startups and companies to generate new products and services.

  - **Digital Skills:** the development of a tech-savvy workforce, with both the basic and advanced digital skills to support increased technology adoption and innovation.

Kenya

- **Digital Economy Country Diagnostic was d**elivered in 2019, with background papers in each of the five pillars – Digital infrastructure, skills, platforms, financial services and entrepreneurship. The diagnostic helped inform Kenya's new Digital Economy Blueprint

- **Kenya Economic Update (KEU)** was Delivered in October 2019 which gave a macroeconomic assessment of the Kenya economy with special focus on Kenya's digital economy ([Link to the KEU Report](#)). The KEU raised some key areas that need to be addressed to spur growth of the digital economy in Kenya

- **Kenya Digital Economy Acceleration Project (KDEAP)** is an investment operation under preparation which aims to support the development of Kenya's digital economy as a driver of economic growth, job creation and innovation and to improve delivery and access to services utilizing digital technologies and platforms

Uganda

Regional Communications Infrastructure Program Phase 5 (RCIP 5)

RCIP is an ongoing project which aims to (i) lower prices for international capacity and extend the geographic reach of broadband networks (ii) improve the Government's efficiency and transparency through e-Government applications

Uganda Digital Acceleration Project (UDAP)

- UDAP is a project under preparation which aims to expand access to high-speed internet, improve efficiency of digital government services, and strengthen the enabling environment for digital technology adoption

Rwanda

Rwanda Economic Update (REU) was Delivered in 2020 which gave a macroeconomic assessment of the Rwanda economy with special focus on Accelerating digital transformation in Rwanda ([Link to the REU Report](#)). The REU raised some key areas that need to be addressed to spur growth of the digital economy in Rwanda

- **Rwanda Digital Acceleration Project**

The project under preparation aims to increase digital inclusion, improve the efficiency of public service delivery, and strengthen Rwanda's digital innovation and entrepreneurship ecosystem.

TANZANIA

Digital Tanzania Program

The World Bank is working with Government of Tanzania on preparation of the new Digital Tanzania Program. The program aims to assist the country to harness its digital potential - ensuring that all citizens have access to high quality, low cost connectivity, that public services are easily accessible online, and that the digital economy is driving growth, innovation and job creation.

Regional Initiatives

East Africa Single Digital Market (SDM) Initiative

- The E.A. SDM Initiative aims to support the region to become a more deeply integrated and dynamic digital investment, innovation and growth hub.

- The WBG has undertaken analytical work through consultation with stakeholders across the region to define: (i) a vision for an SDM, (ii) a Strategic Framework for achieving an SDM, (iii) an assessment of the current state in each country and region as a whole, (iv) a 'Digital Roadmap' of policy reforms and investments to achieve a SDM, (v) a Digital Scorecard to measure progress and (vi) and estimate of the impact on GDP growth, job creation and poverty reduction. The final report was published earlier this year.

- The WBG is in discussions with the EAC countries on support to implement the harmonized policy reforms and investment identified under the digital roadmap through a regional investment and/or policy support operation.

THANK YOU