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Promoting American Approaches
to ICT Policy and Regulation (ProICT)

An activity of the Digital Connectivity and Cybersecurity Partnership, available to undertake new projects and buy-ins

In the 21st Century, the reach of the internet and mobile networks, the security and adoption of communications services, and the vibrancy of the information and communications technology (ICT) sector are crucial for countries to be self-reliant and grow into becoming strong U.S. partners. For these reasons, the U.S. government is working to significantly increase international cooperation on securing an open, interoperable, reliable, and stable cyberspace.

USAID can provide technical assistance and capacity-building to help developing country governments establish policy and regulatory frameworks that will enable an inclusive digital economy and advance the Journey to Self Reliance. In particular, U.S. ICT policy goals include promoting:

- Open, interoperable, reliable, and secure internet and communications networks;
- Multi-stakeholder models of internet governance;
- Pro-competitive and pro-investment spectrum, telecommunications infrastructure, and regulatory policies; and
- Effective approaches to advancing cybersecurity frameworks, supply chain policies (such as for 5G), and regulation of communications networks.

Reni Sterling / DAI

PROICT

Promoting American Approaches to ICT Policy and Regulation, or "ProICT," is managed by the Center for Digital Development's Digital Inclusion Team, part of the U.S. Global Development Lab, to provide USAID partner countries dedicated policy support in the form of technical assistance, embedded experts, capacity-building, and trainings. ProICT is structured so that USAID Missions and other U.S. Government (USG) agencies that have identified opportunities to engage host countries on ICT policies can do so in an efficient, coordinated, and effective manner. ProICT advances American values and objectives in cyberspace and will coordinate this ICT policy assistance with the State Department and other USG agencies in the following areas:

- **Internet Governance**: to promote multi-stakeholder models in which private and civil society voices actively participate in shaping an open, free, and secure internet
- **ICT and Telecom Competition**: to ensure pro-competitive policies that increase access, affordability, and use of broadband, and allow for U.S. business to fairly compete
- **Spectrum Policy and Licensing**: to promote the efficient allocation of spectrum, competitive spectrum auctions, and network security
- **Secure ICT and Cyber Supply Chains**: to align countries with the Prague Proposals for 5G Network Security and help implement telecom network supply chain security measures
- **Data Localization**, **Privacy, and Cross-Border Data Flows**: to promote an open and interoperable internet in which data flows freely across borders and data privacy is protected
- **Infrastructure**: to help countries increase internet access through U.S.-tested approaches to tower sharing, rights-of-way access, permitting, and fiber optic conduit design
- **Financial Services (Fintech) and eCommerce**: to encourage the growth of trade in digital goods and services through open, interoperable, and secure platforms and payment systems

Through ProICT, USAID can provide expert firms or consultants to directly assist developing country governments implement important ICT public policy approaches in their own national settings, through mid- to long-term consultations ranging from 6-12 months.

PROGRAM MANAGEMENT

The USAID/Lab Digital Inclusion Team has a track record of experience working on telecommunications regulatory policy, specifically to increase the availability and use of broadband to un- or under-connected communities. Through its work with the Digital Connectivity and Cybersecurity Partnership (DCCP), the Digital Inclusion Team has launched ProICT to provide dedicated, intensive support to partner countries to advance American telecom regulatory models that can support inclusive digital economies.

PROJECT IDEAS? QUESTIONS?

ProICT is implemented by DAI through the Digital Frontiers project, operational until September 2022. The ProICT activity is managed by USAID/Lab and responds to requests from USAID Missions, State Department, and other USG agencies. With initial funding available for a select number of projects in the Indo-Pacific, ProICT can also accept buy-ins from other USAID operating units and USG agencies.

For questions or requests regarding the ProICT activity, please contact Tom Koutsky (tkoutsky@usaid.gov) or the Digital Inclusion Team (digitalinclusion@usaid.gov).