Inclusive Digital Development Workshop

Invite-Only Event | Date: July 19-21, 2021

Time: daily start time 7:00am PDT / 10:00am EDT / 3:00pm BST / 5:00pm EAT / 7:30pm IST

The Inclusive Digital Development Workshop is the third in a successful annual series in which the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) and UK Research and Innovation (UKRI) bring together researchers, practitioners, and policy makers to address systemic barriers that limit the potential impact of research and innovation in international development. The topic of Inclusive Digital Development reflects our growing awareness that the data and digital revolution brings a number of potential gains for developing countries. To ensure that this revolution serves all members of society, not just those who are already digitally empowered, the development community must navigate a number of challenging questions around fairness, marginalization, and equity. This fits with the principles outlined in the UKRI AI Review and USAID's Digital Strategy.

Meeting Objectives

Over the course of three virtual convenings on successive days, participants will explore digital ecosystem factors that influence inclusive access and use of digital technology and data, identify knowledge gaps, develop research questions and ideas for further study, and consider how research results can be used to improve development outcomes. Inclusive digital development takes into consideration marginalized groups, inequities and relationships of power that can affect access and use, and human capabilities for use such as digital skills and education.

The workshop will consider cross-cultural perspectives to identify critical questions and knowledge gaps across three themes:

1. **Broadening Perspectives:** Explore how cross-cultural differences in conceptions of fairness, inclusion, and equity shape digital ecosystems and the innovation that occurs within them.

2. **Diagnosing Harms:** Explore how the use, experience, and consequences of digital technologies varies across intersecting marginalized groups, and brainstorm solutions for maximizing benefits and minimizing harms.

3. **Identifying Levers of Change:** Consider how stakeholders in digital ecosystems—communities, civil society, researchers, private sector, and government—produce and use evidence for responsible and inclusive innovation. This could include norm-building, local capacity development, policy interventions, and implementation practices to increase inclusivity, transparency, and accountability vis-à-vis digital technologies.