The Reality of Aid ASIA PACIFIC

World Bank's Digitalization of Aid

Multiplying risks and threats for women and girls?

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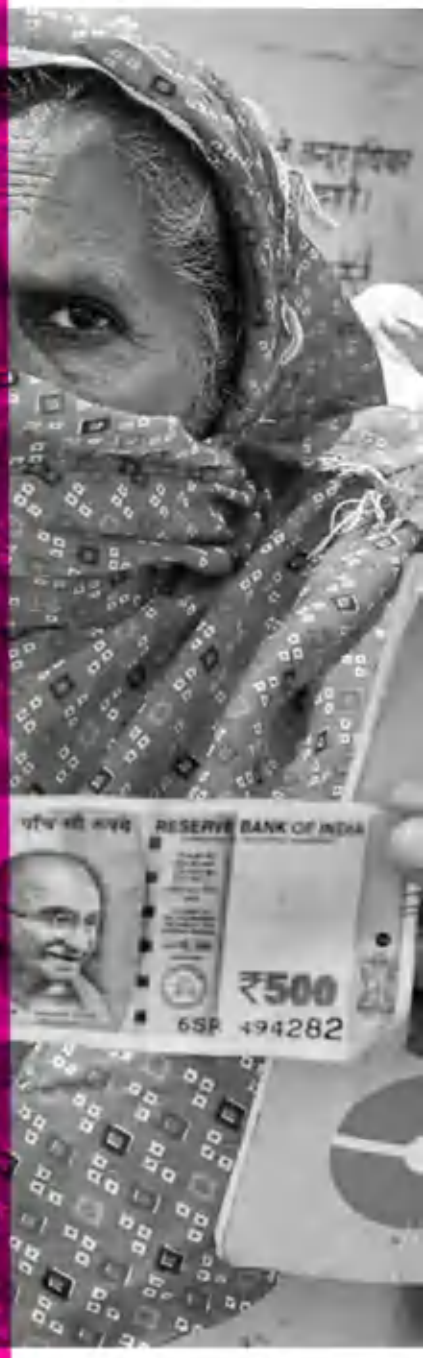

DEEP DIVE SERIES

In the wake of the pandemic, marginalized sectors have become more vulnerable, amid worsened inequalities and widened gaps. Girls and women are the most burdened by the social and economic impacts. Women lost livelihoods and incomes, pushing an additional 47 million women and girls into extreme poverty.[1] Social services and social security nets that should have cushioned the impact on women remain lacking and inefficient due to neoliberal policies. The pandemic also saw a rise in cases of violence against women and an increase in unpaid care and domestic work.[2]

Governments have since targeted women to receive assistance during the period. With movement restrictions in place to prevent the spread of the virus, there was a push towards the digitalization of aid, which entails channeling financial assistance through digital systems. Donor countries and international financial institutions (IFIs) such as the International Monetary Fund-World Bank (IMF-WB) have been advocating for 'digital development', which includes the digitalization of identification systems and government-to-person (G2P) payments. Digitalization is posed as a solution to reach the furthest behind, in order to leave no one behind. However, as digitalization depends on technology and connectivity to be functional, lack of access to basic digital infrastructure (otherwise known as the digital divide) will leave vulnerable populations bereft of this much-needed aid.

As national governments, multilateral institutions and IFIs forward digitalization as a tool for recovery from the pandemic and advancement of sustainable development with the help of new technologies, the underlying inequalities and impacts of this supposed solution must be examined closely. Civil society organizations, social movements and affected communities have been expressing underlying concerns that digitalization of aid can facilitate the further control of the private sector over public services and infrastructure; exacerbate existing inequalities due to digital divide; increase human rights violations as it can hinder provision of public goods and services; and lead to threats on peace and security due to data and privacy issues. These risks are disproportionately felt by marginalized populations, such as women and girls.

This Deep Dive aims to look into the World Bank's approach to 'digital development' and how it leads to more risks than benefits for marginalized populations, especially women, as evidenced by cases in India and the Philippines. The paper also provides recommendations to development actors for a rights-based, people-centered digitalization.

Cashing out: The digital transformation and the digitalization of aid

Ushering in the fourth industrial revolution, digital transformation is defined as a process where "the whole social fabric is disrupted by new technologies with the creation, management, use and distribution of resources,"[3] which raises the need for a new development paradigm and rethinking of value systems. Digitalization, which is the "the process of using digital technology and data to improve business processes, models, and productivity,"[4] is just one aspect of digital transformation. While largely business-oriented or market-based, other aspects of digital transformation focus on enhancing cross-border connectivity, improving productivity, and catalyzing progress on sustainable development.

However, this transformation poses numerous risks as it can exacerbate inequalities, worsen polarization in societies, increase exposure to security risks, and cause environmental degradation. The Asia-Pacific region has the widest digital divides in the world, with richer countries from Northeast Asia leading the digital transformation but with the region's developing countries lagging behind. Aside from being between countries, the digital divide can also be based on age, gender, education, disability and geographic characteristics. It leaves girls and women without access to technology and connectivity that offer additional opportunities and services. Misinformation and hate speech have proliferated through social media, with women also being targeted. These social networks have influenced political and social outcomes, impacting democracy and peace. Moreover, the capture of data by digital systems has made users more susceptible to scams, hackers, and other security risks. Lastly, the manufacture and upkeep of digital infrastructure and technology have accelerated the exploitation and extraction of resources, especially from the global South.[5]

For aid and development, digital technologies and systems can serve as a "key enabler in delivering effective and timely humanitarian aid,"[6] as these facilitate communication and the more efficient and targeted delivery of assistance. While largely initiated by the humanitarian sector, the delivery of social assistance has been increasingly digitized. Digital G2P (government-to-person) systems have been scaled up in the Asia-Pacific region during the pandemic. Digital payments entail end-to-end digital transactions through an electronic medium.[7] Digital transfers have been promoted as financial assistance can be easily disbursed to the target population, and enable more

transparent accounting and reporting of transactions.[8] However, these initiatives also face numerous barriers and will impede the provision of assistance to those left behind, particularly women and girls, if not addressed properly.

Digital mastermind: The IMF-WB approach to digitalization

The IMF-WB has been leading digitalization initiatives in the region and beyond. Under the bank's Digital Development Partnership (DDP), it claims to address the global digital divide and guide governments in building the foundations for digital transformation that paves the way for digital economies, governments and societies. The WB is investing in universal broadband connectivity and access, as well as green, resilient, and inclusive digital data infrastructure and platforms, promoting a view that "digital technologies are at the forefront of development." Under the DDP, the bank also pursues the Identification for Development Initiative (ID4D) and the Government-to-Person Payments (G2Px) initiative, which claims to support governments in establishing identification and digital payment systems. As of this writing, the DDP has projects in 26 countries across the Asia-Pacific region.

The bank claims that their financial and technical assistance in the digitalization of public infrastructure and aid can scale up development initiatives in an efficient manner and can reach more beneficiaries. However, examining the DDP initiative, it can be seen that the IMF-WB's initiatives towards digitalization intensify the corporate capture of development, hinder the provision of much-needed aid, and subject the people to digital risks and human rights violations.

1. Digital corporate capture

For the past years, the Asia-Pacific region has witnessed growth in the construction of ICT infrastructure, connectivity, and internet use. However, there still exists the digital divide, and within it, a digital gender divide as women and girls lack access to digital technologies and connectivity. As of 2020, there persists a 32% gender gap in accessing the internet, with 54.6% of men having access compared to only 41.3% of women in Asia. Dependence on digital technologies to provide social assistance during times of emergency can further widen the gap between those with access to technology and government services, and those who cannot obtain both.

To address the digital divide, the private sector enters the picture. Private sector entities, especially leading technology companies, also called the Big Tech, are being contracted by governments to provide the necessary digital technology, processes, and services. Big Tech entities emerged as the United States allowed the privatization of information and communication

technologies in the 1990s, which has now allowed them to monopolize and control digital infrastructure, services, and markets. The digital sphere is now relegated to the hands of leading American technology and data corporations or the Big Five – Alphabet, Amazon, Apple, Meta, and Microsoft.[9]

The DDP is initiated by the World Bank together with its private sector partners – Google (owned by Alphabet), Global System for Mobile Communications (GSM), and Microsoft.[10] Today, telecommunications, technology and data corporations are seizing the opportunity to gain profit as they sign contracts with governments in implementing these digitalization schemes. In pursuing partnerships with the private sector, there is a danger of vendor or technology lock-in, furthering dependence on Big Tech companies who are presented as the sole source of technology, systems, and knowledge for digital systems. Besides securing partnerships with governments, these corporations heavily influence policies and laws that will allow them unregulated access to resources and profit. Thus, digital transformation, as described and promoted by donor countries and IFIs, facilitate further corporate control over public infrastructure, services and processes, as well as the data stored in these systems.[11]

Reliance on corporations to maintain digital systems also puts the data of citizens in corporate hands, which they utilize for their own interests. Despite claiming that the digital world can contribute to the promotion of democracy, it has contributed to the opposite, a "new emerging social order based on a new attempt to seize the world's resources for the benefit of elites" or data colonialism.[12] The control of global North governments and corporations over massive amounts of data from the global South is a new form of control that sustains oppression and exploitation.

Private sector partners have control over the capture, storage, and sale of data from millions of citizens. Large amounts of data are used to generate patterns and trends that are used for "profiling, targeting and predictions, and machine-learning or artificial intelligence (AI)."[13] This paves the way for surveillance capitalism or a "market-driven process where the commodity for sale is your personal data, and the capture and production of this data relies on mass surveillance of the internet."[14] By collecting tons of data, companies are able to predict behavior in purchasing goods and products, which is exploited by corporations, marketers, and advertisers to maximize profit.

The DDP also claims to promote digital economies and women empowerment through their inclusion in these systems. As the pandemic affected women's livelihoods that are largely in the informal sector, they turned to digital labor platforms to earn a living. These platforms were able to amass billions in revenue because they have subjected female workers to below minimum wages with no social protection.[15] Digital labor platforms in the global South have contributed to the precarity of female workers.

2. Digitalization of G2P payments

In early 2020, the World Bank, with the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, launched the Government-to-Person payments (G2Px) initiative, which has an objective of "improving government-to-person payments through digitization that accelerates critical development outcomes."[16] It also has an overall aim of contributing to "individual agency, financial inclusion, and women's economic empowerment."[17] During the pandemic, the G2Px was further accelerated in order to deliver aid to a wider population and in a supposedly more efficient manner.

According to the IMF-WB, a digitized G2P system is reliant on three key pillars – a reliable identification system, an interconnected socio-economic database, and a mode of digital delivery. Given that these pillars are weak or absent in developing countries, the digitalization of aid faces many barriers in effectively and efficiently delivering aid to the marginalized and vulnerable sectors. Moreover, these systems can be easily co-opted by other development actors to forward their own interests – with ID systems being vulnerable to violations to data privacy or exploitation of data, with cashless delivery systems, banking, and mobile networks easily monopolized by corporations.

Digital cash transfers are ultimately reliant on existing socio-economic programs and policies. Across the region, social protection programs have been unreliable, inefficient, and insufficient to provide a safety net for marginalized populations, especially in times of crises. Prior to the pandemic, 73.5% of the world's women do not enjoy protection from the government and this has worsened their precarious situation.[18] During the pandemic, there were a total of 623 initiatives relating to social protection in the Asia region, but only 104 of these are gender-sensitive, with 31 of these supporting unpaid care, 73 projects target economic security, with none addressing violence against women.[19]

Governments have long been compromising socio-economic programs and initiatives due to austerity measures brought about by rising debt. International finance institutions such as the IMF-WB and the ADB have been disbursing loans with attached policy conditionalities to developing economies. To pay off debt, financing for crucial services and goods are diminished, and services are privatized. This disproportionately impacts women who have long been reliant on social protection programs given the nature of their employment in the informal sector and the amount of unpaid care work they are forced to bear.[20]

The transition to digital systems set another barrier for women to access much-needed services. As digital identification is a prerequisite to be a beneficiary, those outside the system are excluded entirely from the provision of public services and assistance. Inefficient socio-economic programs and poor digital structures of national governments serve as shaky foundations for the

digitalization of cash transfers. Instead of making the transfers more accessible and seamless, the marginalized – especially those who have no identification and access to digital infrastructure – are left even further behind.

3. Digital ID systems that violate peoples' rights

The World Bank has been extending assistance to countries to set-up their digital ID systems under their Identification for Development (ID4D) initiative. This initiative aims to unleash the "transformative potential of identification (ID) systems,"[21] since it is believed that identification serves as a cornerstone in achieving various SDG targets, especially regarding access to finance, social services, social protection measures and economic opportunities. Out of the world's population, 850 million individuals are not registered in official systems, with figures higher in lower-income countries and among marginalized sectors.

ID systems assign a transactional or economic identity to each individual, which serves as their bases for receiving assistance or enjoying their rights. The Bank claims that other benefits of ID4D include the improvement of the transparency, efficiency, and effectiveness of government processes; bolstered private sector and digital economy operations, facilitate regional and global integration; and production of reliable data.[22] The initiative is pursued through partnerships with the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, the United Kingdom and French governments, the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (NORAD), and the Omidyar Network. The World Bank has positioned itself as a central actor for the development of ID systems, as it effectively shapes the agenda and partners with governments to implement their initiatives.[23]

Evidence of positive outcomes resulting from the ID4D initiative is also lacking. While the World Bank has published numerous publications and documents that detail the perceived benefits of the program, there is no concrete proof that these have contributed to positive development outcomes. The World Bank has been bold in directly linking the initiative to its supposed effects of increasing access to services, upholding rights, and fostering economic inclusion. However, CSOs have noted the lack of baseline studies, evaluations and assessments from these projects.[24] As the COVID-19 pandemic further accelerated the transition to digital ID systems, CSOs and human rights defenders have highlighted the danger and risks of an expedited transition of identification systems to the digital realm.

Digital systems are built on existing systems that have been highly unequal and exploitative. As such, it can exacerbate issues of marginalization, inequality, and exclusion. Current identification and biometric systems emerged in the context of countering terrorism and protecting national security, especially for the United States. Data is crucial in the overall security and economic strategy of the superpower, as information can be used to further their geopolitical interests. Likewise, data systems have been exploited by authoritarian governments to build a surveillance state. In contexts of conflict, women and girls are victimized as they are subjected to attacks, sexual violence, trafficking and prostitution by armed forces.[25] Under increased surveillance, women human rights defenders and development workers targeted by the state are being harassed, arrested and detained.[26]

JAMming the digital system: The case of India's Aadhaar and PMGKY initiatives

Last May 2020, at the height of the pandemic, the World Bank approved a USD 750 million loan to support the government of India's efforts of providing social assistance to poor and vulnerable households severely impacted by the pandemic. The World Bank's Accelerating India's COVID-19 Social Protection Response Program aimed to support the capacities of local and national governments to provide social assistance through the Prime Minister's welfare scheme for the poor or the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Yojana (PMGKY) initiative. Another USD 400 million was approved for the second phase in December 2020. The loan was also used for scaling up assistance, providing social protection to relief workers and ensuring last-mile delivery of aid.

During the pandemic, the government adopted a "digital first" social assistance strategy, with beneficiaries required to have access to JAM, an acronym for Jan Dhan bank accounts, Aadhaar digital ID system and mobile phones.[27] The Jan Dhan is a basic, zero-balance savings account available to Indian citizens who do not have an existing bank account. The PMGKY program aims to provide targeted cash and food assistance to marginalized and vulnerable groups. It has a Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) system that can directly transfer aid to the bank accounts of beneficiaries. Under the PMGKY, social pensions, cash transfers to women bank holders, cash support to farmers and assistance to construction workers were delivered during the pandemic.[28]

From April to June 2020, the government scaled up assistance by providing a total of INR 1,500 (or USD 20) cash assistance for female beneficiaries with a bank account under the Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY) or National Mission for Financial Inclusion, an additional INR 700 (approximately USD 10) for cooking gas cylinders and provision of five kilograms of wheat or rice is given to poor families.[29] The government claims that the program was able to deliver immediate cash transfers to 320 million bank accounts, of which are 206 million women, and food rations for 800 million individuals.

In a research conducted in May 2020 among women from 13 Indian states, 16% of the interviewees either did not have a functional bank account or did not know the status of their account. This effectively hinders these women from receiving such monetary aid. While 66% of those interviewed received financial assistance, 20% did not receive anything, while the remaining 13% did not know the status of the transfer. Those who were able to access this aid faced problems with visiting the

bank physically to withdraw the money, which was challenging given the lockdown, threat of infection, and inaccessibility for some communities. [30]

Moreover, the government failed to achieve its targets since many people reported to have not received the assistance due to their exclusion in digital systems and infrastructure. According to the Digital Development Dashboard of the International Telecommunication Union, while 99% of India's population is covered by a cellular network, only 43% of individuals use the internet and only 15% of the users are women.[31] India also has the widest gender gap in mobile phone ownership in the region, as only 25% of the total adult female population owning a smartphone, as compared to 41% of the male population.[32] Furthermore, the Aadhaar system is increasingly seen as a 'tool of exclusion' rather than a way to facilitate the delivery of crucial assistance to supposed beneficiaries.[33]

As food rations, cash transfers, and other services are dependent on enrolment to the Aadhaar system, those facing challenges in registering in the system are deprived of these services. Those living in rural communities far from government centers face challenges in registering themselves for the Aadhaar. Indigenous Peoples and villagers from Imphal and the Kakching and Kangchup districts in Manipur filed a complaint with the Manipur Human Rights Commission because they were denied their rice rations and other forms of assistance. In some cases, elderly women are denied social assistance because the biometrics machine could not read their fingerprints or because they lacked a mobile number to connect to their ID. Mothers also face barriers in receiving their maternal benefits as the cash transfers are being redirected to different bank accounts under the Aadhaar.[34]

In addition, there have been discrepancies in the data for the beneficiaries of social assistance schemes, especially with missing local districts and varying numbers of female beneficiaries in government reports and documents. Many women have reported that their bank accounts, which is how they will be receiving their cash transfers, are inactive. For women in rural villages, applying for such schemes is itself a roadblock. Banks and government centres are located far away from rural villages, where they will need to register their Aadhaar card, voter ID, ration cards and other relevant documents.

For those already incorporated in the Aadhaar system, their information and data have been compromised. In 2018, government websites accidentally made the databases public, including their names and bank account details, leaking over 1.1 billion Aadhaar profiles. This led to the sale of identification details to get access to bank accounts and the creation of fake Aadhaar accounts under other stolen identities. The Aadhaar system allows the Indian government to have unprecedented access to massive amounts of data, which poses a threat to human rights defenders, civil society and people's organizations who have long been targeted by the state online and offline.[35]

ID for inefficient and dismal aid? The Philippine case of the ID4D initiative

Since 2017, the World Bank and its ID4D initiative has been providing technical assistance to the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) for the establishment of the Philippine Identification System (PhilSys). In 2021, the World Bank loaned USD 600 million to the government of the Philippines under the Philippines Promoting Competitiveness and Enhancing Resilience to Natural Disasters Sub-Program 3 Development Policy Loan, which included additional assistance to PhilSys to cover G2P payments and improve delivery of social services. The PhilSys aims to become a central digital identification platform that will simplify public and private transactions, strengthen social service delivery, and promote financial inclusion.[36] According to the Bank, PhilSys has registered a total of 52 million people in 2021.[37]

By establishing these identification systems, beneficiaries are supposed to be easily targeted and should be able to receive aid more quickly. The ID4D initiative continued during the pandemic to contribute to the implementation of the COVID-19 Social Amelioration Programme (SAP), which aims to deliver cash aid to 83% of the total households in the country. However, aid disbursement has been insufficient, slow, and inefficient. The government only allocated PHP 5,000 to 8,000 (approximately USD 100 to 160) per household for two months, despite the lockdown lasting for four months. This meant that families only had PHP 11 (or USD 0.22) to spare for each member of the household daily for the whole lockdown.[38] While the government claims that 18 million families were able to receive such aid, a lot of women have reported that they were excluded from government databases as beneficiaries of the subsidy.[39] Furthermore, those included in the lists had to wait six to ten weeks for the cash transfer.

Despite having the system, there have been a lot of complaints regarding the service delays, wrong data inputs, and failure to recognize the ID for some services. Human rights defenders and civil society organizations have noted the threats and risks of the identification system to people's right to privacy and data protection. The current model of PhilSys is vulnerable to the creation of a 'comprehensive surveillance system' that can record an individual's photograph, fingerprints, eye scan, bank accounts, enrollments, and transactions. There is a lack of established processes, structures and safeguards that will protect people's rights in the implementation of this initiative.[40] With the Philippine government's history of using illegal surveillance and violating data privacy, data stored in the PhilSys can also be exploited to heighten state surveillance and increase attacks and threats to activists, civil society, and people's organizations that have already been targeted by the government in order to silence dissent.[41]

Going offline: People's responses

As the digitalization of aid has contributed to further exclusion of marginalized populations out of government assistance schemes, civil society and social movements serve as frontline responders in addressing the needs of the people during the pandemic. In India, the vendors in the indigenous women's market in Manipur were severely impacted by the pandemic, cutting off their source of livelihood and faced shortages in government

assistance. Indigenous groups in Manipur gathered their agriculture products and provided assistance to these women, as well as other villages, quarantine centers and hospitals during the height of the pandemic. They also organized their own quarantine centers for those returning to their villages. In addition to demanding for an efficient government response to the pandemic, civil society organizations provided relief to other affected communities by providing food and sanitary items.[42]

In the Philippines, coordinated civic action resulted in the emergence of over 800 community pantries across the country. The original community pantry is a woman-led initiative, with other pantries organized by individuals, religious groups, and peoples' organizations following suit. These pantries aim to feed the hungry and provide relief to those impacted by the pandemic, including women in the informal economy who experienced loss of livelihoods. They served as an alternative to the inadequate government response to curbing the virus which left thousands jobless, homeless and poor. The government and armed forces were quick to brand these mutual aid efforts as anti-government, intimidating and attacking the organizers. Despite these, the community pantries continued with people's support by providing additional food and supplies, and joining calls to stop the red-tagging of these efforts and demanding accountability from the government.[43]

Social movements have raised awareness on the threats and risks of digitalization to people's privacy. Several governments have used digital technologies, which included GPS tracking, thermal scanners and facial recognition, in order to contain the spread of the virus. These efforts have effectively expanded government surveillance. Organizations have demanded governments to ensure that these measures must be lawful, time-bound, respect the right to privacy, protected by safeguards from private sector interests and promote inclusive and meaningful participation.[44]

Recommendations

If implemented properly, transition to digital systems can improve delivery of aid and assistance to marginalized populations. However, in cases where digital infrastructure and services cannot reach everyone, those vulnerable are left even further behind. Digital systems and databases can also be exploited for economic, geopolitical and security interests by governments, which can violate people's rights and sovereignty. In this context, a rights-based, people-centered and gender-responsive digitalization is needed to safeguard rights and to truly leave no one behind. For digitalization to genuinely contribute to sustainable development, address gender inequalities and promote people's rights, these recommendations to different development actors must be upheld.

For the IMF-WB, other international finance institutions and donor countries:

- Meet and exceed the 0.7% GNI target without further delay. Scale up aid and assistance for social protection schemes that can be enjoyed by all, which can ensure the provision of public services and goods, especially in times of crises.
- Do no harm. Ensure that digital solutions to development challenges are based on sound risk and impact assessments that entail inclusive, meaningful, and participatory consultations with affected communities and sectors to ensure that these do not contribute adverse impacts or create new risks. Technological solutions must be gender-sensitive, culturally appropriate, economically feasible, and ecologically sustainable.
- Cease the digital corporate capture of development. Instead of partnering with multinational corporations that pursue market-based digital solutions and prioritize profit over positive development outcomes, work with other development actors, such as recipient governments, civil society, women's organizations, communities, in designing, planning, and implementing the transition to digital systems.
- Enable technology transfers and digital capacity development in developing countries, in order to ensure sustainability of the digital transformation. Technologies, especially those used for the disbursement of much-needed aid, must not be owned, maintained and controlled by certain corporations but rather democratically-owned.
- Establish a rights-based and gender-responsive framework for digital

transformation, and anchor all forms of development finance on the four development effectiveness principles: ensuring national ownership, focus on results, inclusive partnerships and mutual transparency and accountability.

For the private sector, especially the Big Tech companies:

- Private sector entities must adopt and adhere to international human rights guidelines and regulations, as well as the Kampala Principles for Effective Private Sector Engagement in Development Co-operation. The private sector must follow the International Labour Organisation (ILO) core labour standards, the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights, the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises, and the OECD Guidelines on Due Diligence, and other such agreements.
- Uphold transparency and accountability over business activities and outcomes. Remain accountable for human rights violations conducted from business activities and development initiatives. Disclose policies, processes and assessments that entail data collection, management, and surveillance. Do not exploit people's data to gain profit and further interests.
- Provide grievance redress mechanisms to address issues and concerns regarding human rights violations, and ensure pathways to provide remedy to affected peoples, communities and sectors.

For national governments:

- Address the digital divide, including the digital gender divide, by providing democratically-owned digital infrastructure to ensure access and connectivity. Invest public finances towards building a publicly-owned digital infrastructure system that can facilitate women's inclusion and catalyze provision of services. During the transition, safeguards and mechanisms for those without access must be adopted and secured to ensure the efficient delivery of social services.
- Effectively regulate the role of the private sector, especially Big Tech corporations, in digital transformation initiatives. Support the establishment of a multilateral governance framework that can ensure corporations' transparency and accountability. Business activities must be aligned with international human rights and labor norms and standards. Democratically-owned digital infrastructure and data sovereignty must be upheld by governments. Collective rights of peoples over data must be upheld, giving them the right to benefit and access to their data.
- Secure digital systems and databases, ensuring that the information collected is used only for its intended purpose. Governments must not use these for increased surveillance and further shrinking of civic space towards women and other marginalized sectors. Policies, laws, and safeguards to secure people's rights offline and online must be ensured by governments.
- Involve marginalized communities, civil society organizations and people's organizations in the design, planning, implementation, and monitoring of the transition to digital systems and processes. Governments and other development actors must remain transparent and accountable to the people over their plans and work on digital transformation.

For people's organizations and civil society organizations:

- Continue to monitor the conduct of digital transformation, including the role of IFIs, donors, private sector entities and impacts of these initiatives on marginalized sectors and communities.
- Forward alternative technologies and digital solutions that are locally-led, rights-based, secure and environmentally sustainable.
- Coordinate with other organizations working on digital rights to further advocacy and campaign. Foster solidarity with local, national, regional and global networks to assert proper regulatory measures, standards and frameworks to guide a rights-based, people-centered and gender-responsive digital transformation

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