THE DIGITAL HOUR

UNDP Learning Session

Fostering sustainability in DPGs and the role of Product Managers in Development Organisations

April 2022

Our speakers today

Lucy Harris
Co-lead
Digital Public Goods Alliance

Assane Gueye, Ph.d.
Co-director of the Upanzi Network
Carnegie Mellon
University Africa

Heath Arensen
Director
Digital Impact Alliance'
Open-Source Center

Robert MacTavish
Child Protection Specialist
/ Project Lead
Unicef, Primero

Ed Cable
President & CEO
Mifos

Today's moderators

Keyzom Massally
Head of UNDPs DPG Team

Ben Bertelsen
Digital Analyst

What are Digital Public Goods?

"Open-source software, open data, open AI models, open standards and open content that adhere to privacy and other applicable laws and best practices, do no harm, and help attain the Sustainable Development Goals."

Examples of Digital Public Goods

UNDP products implemented in multiple settings in process to be accredited as DPGs, and become widely available

UN Biodiversity Lab

Access to spatial data for of environment and conservation policies

30k views of platform since recent re-launch, and 5 online events with **+10k attendees**

ekShop

Platform for small and microbusinesses to sell as e-commerce

56k users (merchants)

NiSE

Educational platform providing virtual learning environments

5k users (students and teachers)

Ajeevika

Market platform for rural women to sell and gain new skills

Pilot with 10 self-help groups and **+50 merchants**

iVerify

Election anti mis-/disinformation monitoring tool

Piloted in **2 elections and 1 more planned** with NGO partners

Benefits of DPGs on speed of implementation, support and costs

**Lucy Harris**
Co-lead
Digital Public Goods Alliance

Fast-tracks implementation and lowers risk by replicating and amending, rather than building from scratch.

Supports governments digital maturity by making them owners of the source-code - and removes reliance on vendors and lock-in.

Comes with a community of contextual knowledge, people who have supported implementations, expansive technical docs, guides, etc.

Requires funds to implement but reduces overall lifetime it costs because DPGs are free to and does not come with licensing fees.
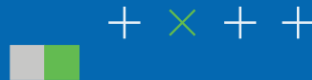
5 minutes on UNDPs approach to sustainability when working with Digital Public Goods

sustainability
/səˌstānəˈbilədē/
noun

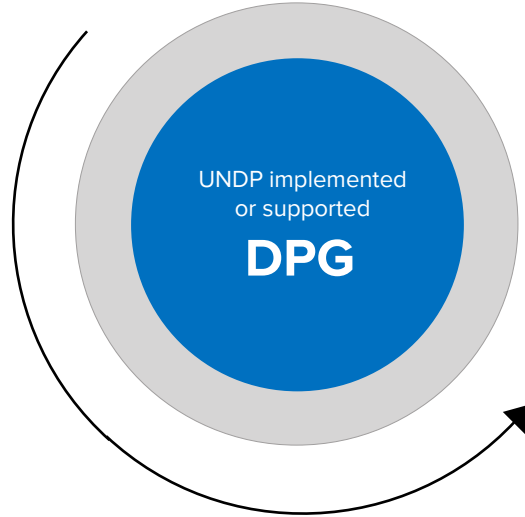the ability to be maintained at a certain rate or level.

As digital products become increasingly embedded into public services and development programming, dependencies on those products rise, which demands long-term sustainability

UNDP's Whole-of-Society approach

UNDP's work to implement Digital Public Goods

- Follows our Principles for Digital Inclusion

- Seeks to amplify development outcomes across all UNDP programming

- Support open standards and integrations with other digital services

Creating UNDP unlocks greater value for money through helping Governments and UNDP-funded digital solutions to become DPGs in the DPGA Global Registry

Maintenance UNDP collaborates with DPG communities to provide feedback of usability from countries and catalyzes creative and new partnerships for DPG sustainability and impact

Adoption UNDP through our technical assistance supports greater adoption of DPGs while also assessing usability of DPGs during implementation to ensure broader sustainability of DPGs

Roundtable

Carnegie Mellon University Africa

Assane Gueye, Ph.d.
Co-director of the Upanzi Network and CyLab Africa
Carnegie Mellon University Africa

The Upanzi Network and CyLab Africa supports solutions co-designing, technology transfer, cyber security, privacy, capacity building and lab resources. While connecting with CMU Africa's +250 student body.

Primero

Robert MacTavish
Child Protection Specialist
/ Project Lead
Unicef, Primero

Primero™ supports child protection workers and social workers in humanitarian and development contexts to manage data on vulnerable children and survivors of violence.

Currently used in more than 40 countries and territories, and more than 130 software developers are contributing (via Github).

Ed Cable
President & CEO
Mifos

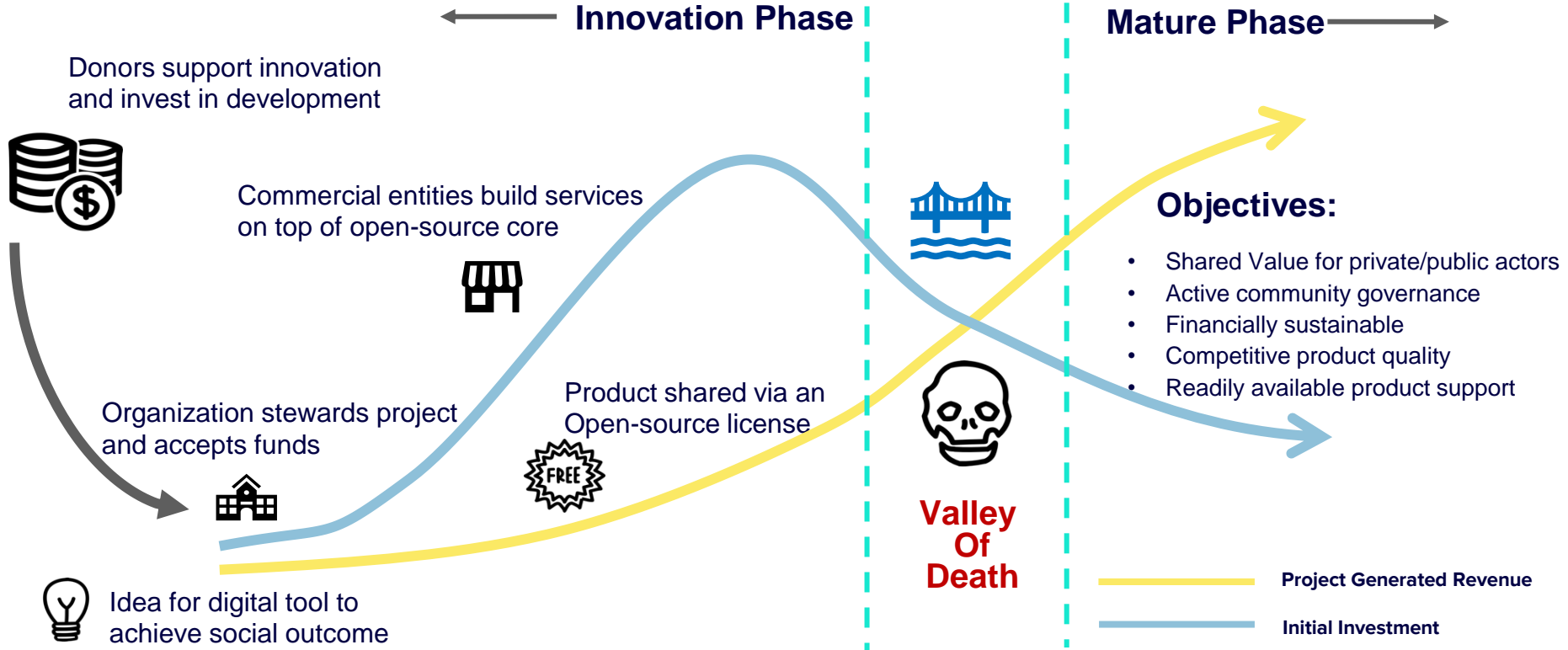# Mifos is a modern, cost-effective connected composable banking infrastructure to:

- Advance financial health of 3B underbanked.
- Commoditize core banking software.
- Unlock virtuous cycle of upstream contribution & shared innovation.
- Enable global ecosystem of market-driven solutions & services.

20,000,000 clients reached by 500+ institutions across 56 countries powered by our open APIs.

Journey of a Digital Public Good

dial Digital Impact Alliance

Heath Arensen
Director
Digital Impact Alliance'
Open-Source Center

UNDP DIGITAL

Innovation Phase

Mature Phase

Donors support innovation and invest in development

Commercial entities build services on top of open-source core

Organization stewards project and accepts funds

Product shared via an Open-source license

FREE

Valley Of Death

Objectives:

- Shared Value for private/public actors
- Active community governance
- Financially sustainable
- Competitive product quality
- Readily available product support

Idea for digital tool to achieve social outcome

Project Generated Revenue

Initial Investment

Questions?
Let's discuss!

Thank you for tuning in!
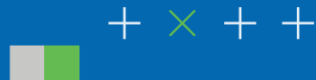
Appendix

DPG Registry

Data Explorer

611 NOMINEES ⟫ **60** DIGITAL PUBLIC GOODS

DISTRIBUTION BY TYPE

data
content
software
standard

DISTRIBUTION BY SDG

1 No Poverty: 35 nominees

2 Zero Hunger: 33

3 Good Health and Well-being: 206

4 Quality Education: 123

5: 30

6: 13

7: 23

8: 33

9 Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure: 84

10 Reduced Inequality: 80

11 Sustainable Cities and Communities: 66

12: 23

13 Climate Action: 53

15 Life on Land: 20

16 Peace and Justice Strong Institutions: 97

17 Partnerships to achieve the Goal: 102
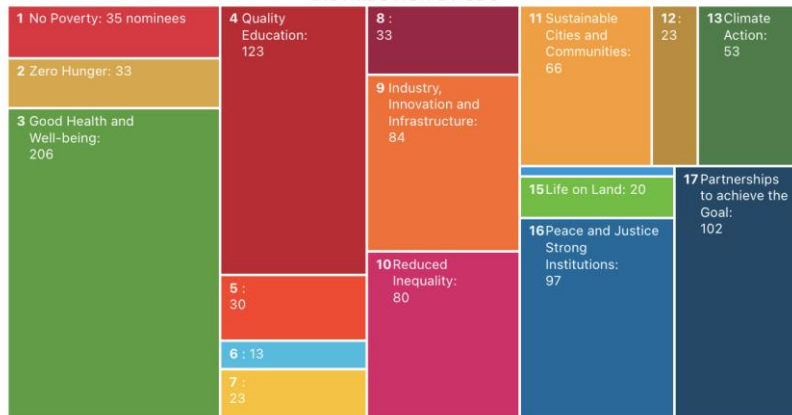
digitalpublicgoods.net/registry

Finding a home for sustaining a DPG

Organizational pathways for DPG Sustainability

Startup – commercial revenue

DPGs with the ability to incorporate a revenue model to cover operating costs as the solution scales while maintaining social mission, may choose a startup as optimal organizational structure

Organization budget supported

Organizations invest in digital tools to support their own programmatic initiatives. The costs to maintain are accounted for in internal budgets and solution may be shared with others as a DPG

Community Open Source

DPGs that invest in building strong community governance are able to organize for scale through committed stakeholders. This decentralized approach would benefit from the legal fiscal and coordinating support of a dedicated foundation.

"Digital public goods can help countries move from observers to drivers of their digital transformation.

However, to do this we must move beyond only supporting technology implementations, and supplement with new types of funding assistance directed at stimulating the local vendor ecosystem and supporting academic institutions to become local hubs of expertise and capacity."

Liv Marte Nordhaug, Co-lead, DPGA (2021)