Worksheet for Digital Ecosystem Mapping

Example for Bangladesh

Technology Sector

• What is the nature of the local digital technology sector?
- The digital technology sector is vibrant, with multiple stakeholders. The ICT ministry looks over the sector from the government's side. There is a national policy roadmap in place (Digital Bangladesh), with clear guidelines, action items, and tax incentives.

• What is the overall level of digital literacy/ digitization (in government, private sector, key populations, etc.)?
- The government is pushing hard for digitizing the administration. There is a big push for digital literacy among the government officials. However, there are some resistance from some quarters, due to lack of good trainings, motivation, and incentives. Private sector is performing better. However, the digital literacy of the country is still lagging. Digital literacy is now part of the school level curriculum. Absence of resources, training content, and teachers are resulting in less desirable outcomes.

• How does technology access and use differ by gender, geographic, ethnic, linguistic, or other groups?
- Women are lagging behind in digital technology adaptation. The major cities have significantly better infrastructure than the rest of the country.

• Which areas of the country are covered by cellular networks (3G, 4G, and possibly 5G)?
- Officially the entire country is covered by 3G services, and 4G is active in some parts of the two major cities. However, in practice, the quality of network does not go beyond 2.5G.

• What are the rates of cell phone ownership and use?
- More than 80%

• How many people use the internet? Social media?
- Around 50%. Facebook is the most famous online application/communication platform.

Energy Infrastructure to support ICTS

• What is the nature local energy infrastructure supporting digital services?
Not that good. Frequent power cuts, and extensive use of fossil fuel.

• What are the energy access disparities across geographic, ethnic, linguistic, or other groups?
Huge disparity between the people in the capital and the rest of the country. Government is trying to push for fossil fuel based bigger infrastructure to solve the energy crisis.

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Government

What policies exist to protect individual privacy and speech online?
- The constitution supposed to guarantee freedom of expression. However, the ICT Act and the latest Digital Security Act are draconian laws against any kind of freedom of speech online or using digital platforms.

What risks exist with regard to cybersecurity, surveillance, or digital manipulation?
- The banking sector is very much vulnerable. Lack of basic security awareness. Increasing number of attacks.
What are the current government and private-sector strategies for expanding access and use?
- Addressed in "Technology Sector"
Are there any tax incentives for digital service providers? How affordable are internet and mobile access relative to local incomes?
- Addressed in "Technology Sector"

External Factors

- What digital-focused activities comes from outside donor funding?
- Primarily in the Education and Human Resource Development Sector.
- Are the donors/NGOs/development agencies/multinational companies allowed to work in the digital service space? Are they coordinated?
- They are, but mainly within the strategy framework of Digital Bangladesh