Governments in developing countries are all on a progressive pathway to digitize service delivery. Not all are without struggles.

- **Coordination**: Problems in coordination commonly occur in aligning ICT ministry work with that of other agencies.

- **Siloes**: Siloed investments and duplicative efforts by development partners create fragmented digital governance in partner countries.

- **Funding**: Challenges in procuring and implementing affordable IT solutions persist, as do challenges in finding the necessary capital to invest in ICT infrastructure projects.

- **Scaling**: Major challenges exist in adapting and investing in projects at scale, particularly in the rollout of physical ICT infrastructure, and deployment and use of common data platforms.

Online Service Index (OSI/EGDI), from 2010 to 2018
Index between 0 and 1

Best Globally · *#1 in Africa* · Ghana · Kenya · *Median Globally* · Burkina Faso · Senegal · Benin · Angola · Sierra Leone · *Median in Africa* · Gabon · Côte d'Ivoire · Niger
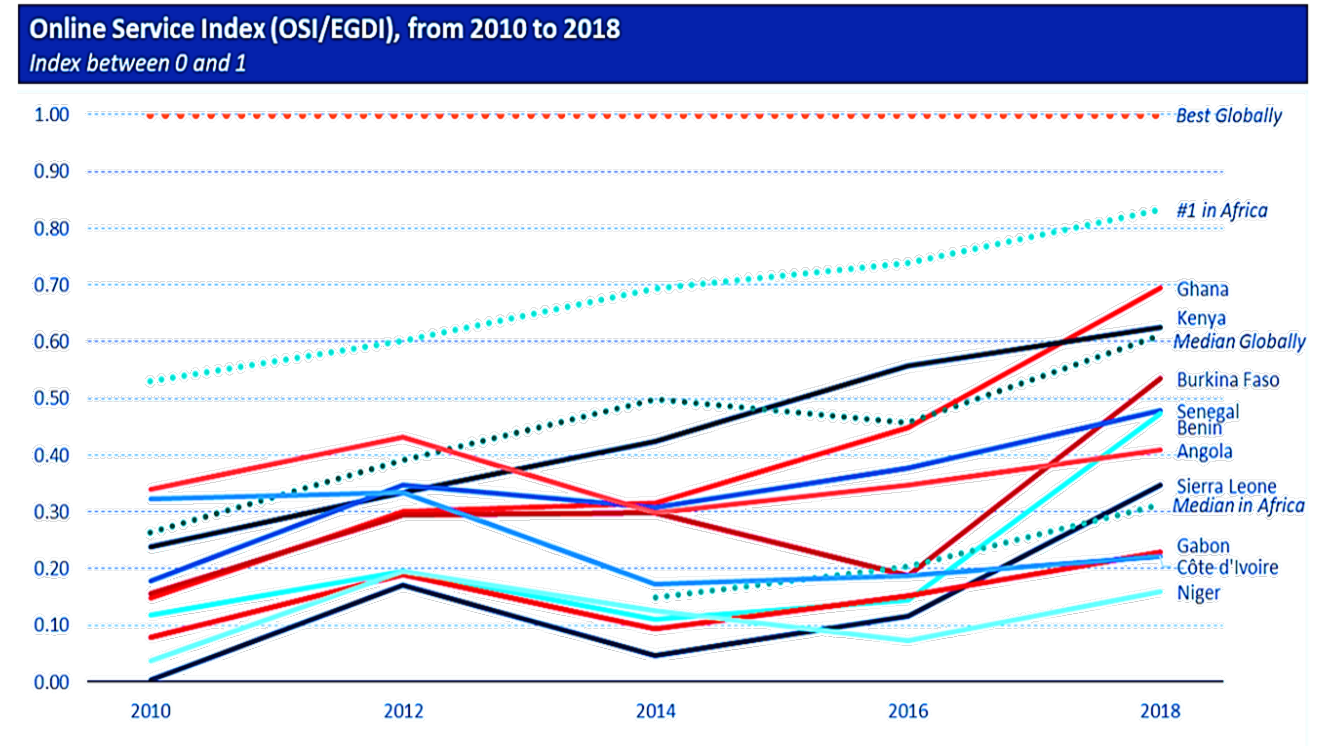
Continuous but disparate digital service provision progress across selected countries
[source: DIAL Listening Study]

2

The GovStack Initiative

The **International Telecommunication Union (ITU)**, **Estonia**, **Germany**, and the **Digital Impact Alliance (at the United Nations Foundation)** launched the **GovStack** Initiative in 2020 with the goal of accelerating national digital transformation and the digitalization of government services for achievement of Sustainable Development Goals by 2030.

See our joint declaration here: govstack.global/partnership

GovStack is a joint initiative to bring the *Building Block* approach to a broader reality.

What is it?

GovStack initiative is an expert community-driven multistakeholder effort aimed at creating a common framework and technical practice for developing reusable and interoperable digital components – so-called "digital building blocks" – needed for the digital transformation of governments.

What does it aim to achieve?

GovStack aims to enable countries to kickstart their digital transformation journey by adopting, deploying, and scaling digital government services and in doing so improve services for social well-being.

Where did it come from?

GovStack model is an extension of the SDG Digital Investment Framework, an earlier effort by the Digital Impact Alliance (DIAL) at the UN Foundation and the International Telecommunication Union (ITU).

There is an existing approach practiced by leading e-gov. countries to create a common shared platform to deliver digital government services …

GovStack

A **holistic (*Whole-of-Government*)** digital platform that can be used by any government agency across sectors to build new e-gov. services without the need to redesign, test and operate the underlying systems and infrastructure themselves every time.

Adaptive shared citizen-centric e-gov. services facilitated by a service-oriented architecture

Instead of creating unique and disparate solutions, use a **common reusable stack of *Building Blocks*** to form the core platform engine and contextualize various e-gov. services on top.

Mediation middleware
Open API Gateway, secure data exchange

Common Applications *Blocks*
e-Learning, e-Marketplace, Business Intelligence / Analytics, Workflow, etc.

Foundational *Blocks***
Identity/Authentication, Security, Consent, Payment, Registration, Messaging, etc.
*** Digital Public Infrastructure (DPIs) considered part of this foundational layer*
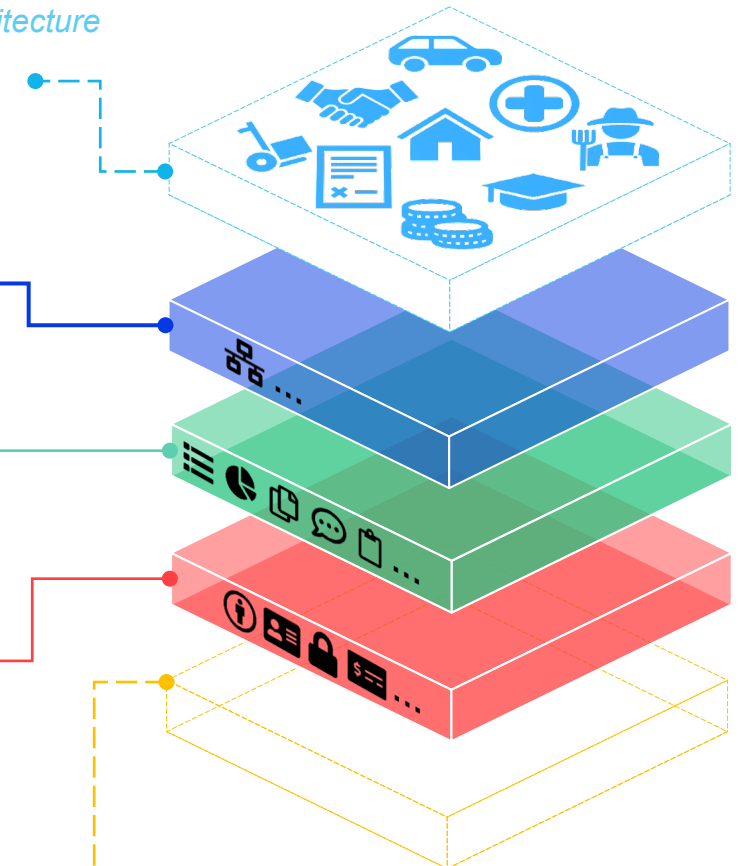
Hosting

[Recommended reading: *Key findings on digital government "stacks" by New America*]

There is an existing proven framework practiced by leading e-gov. examples: The use of generic *Building Blocks*.
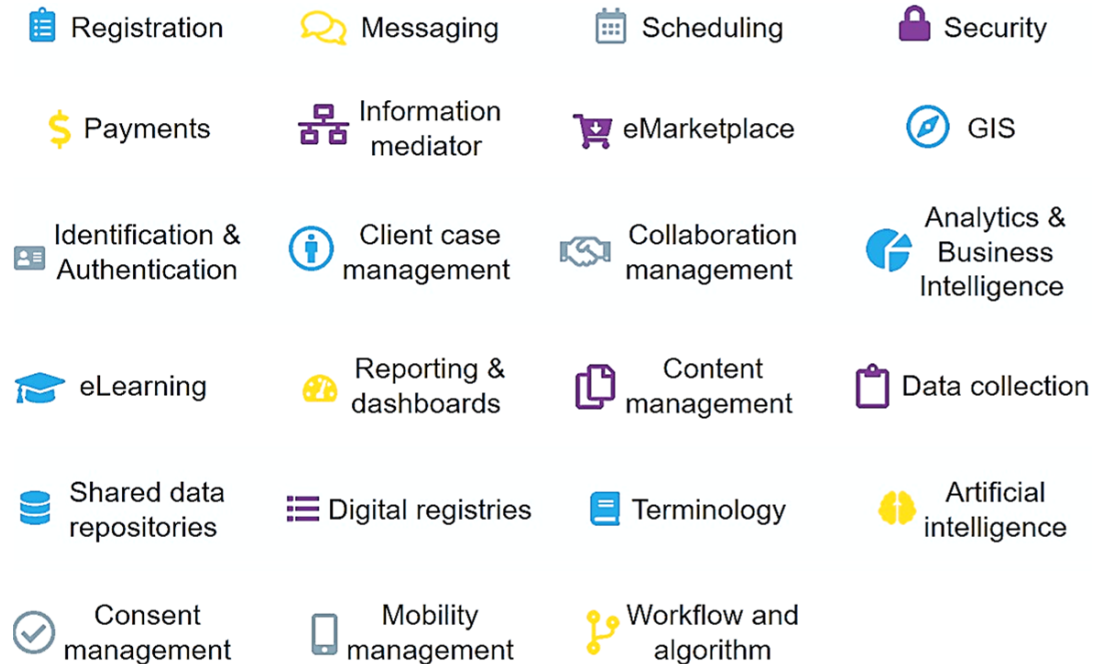
GovStack

What are *Building Blocks*?

Generically-defined **software components** that in combination provide key functionalities to facilitate generic workflows common across multiple sectors.

What are their characteristics?

- Reusable software components
- Open-source, commercial off-the-shelf (COTS), or freely available with open access to data
- Facilitate one or more generic op. workflows
- Applicable to use cases across multiple sectors
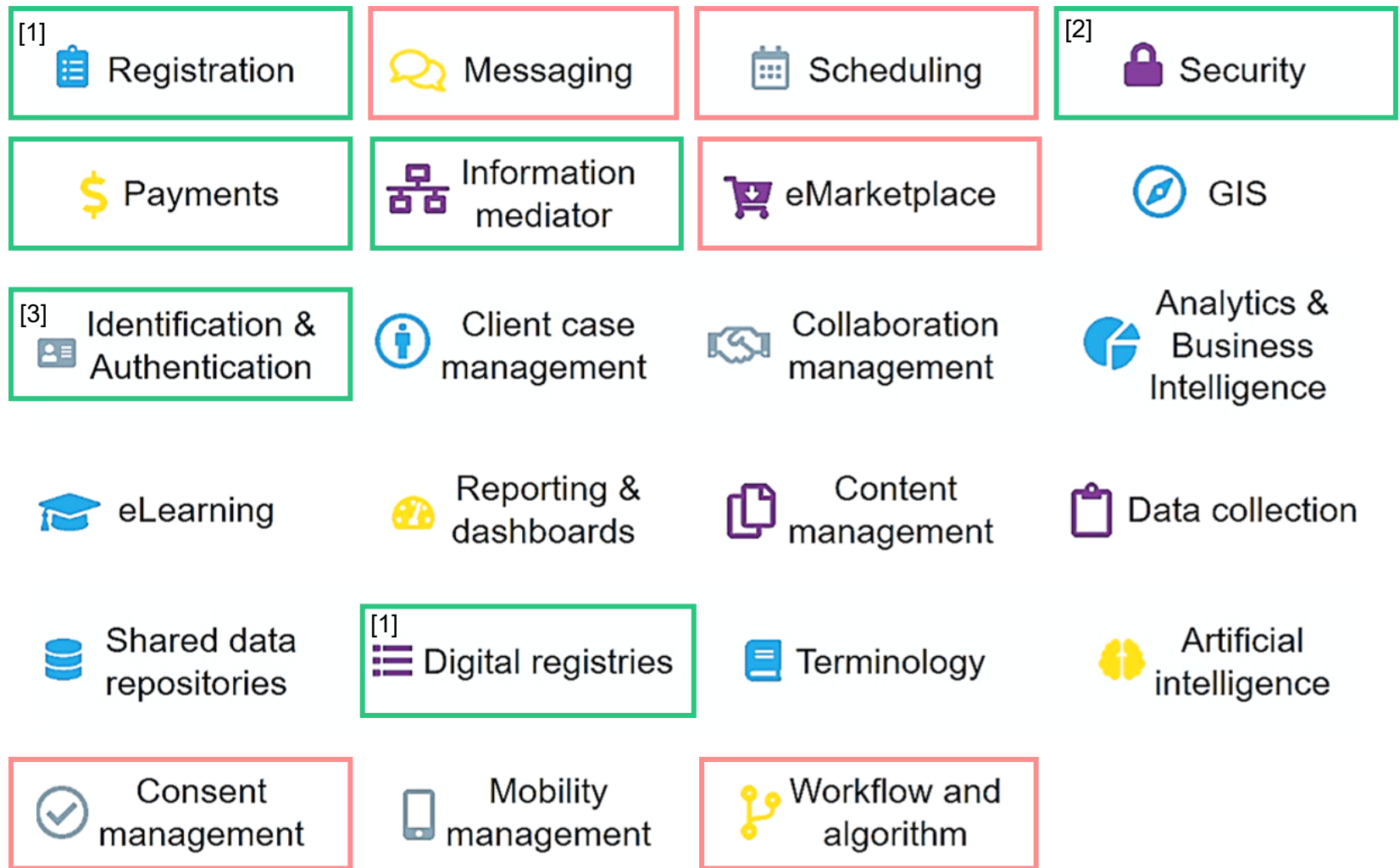- Interoperable with other *Building Blocks*

Building Blocks set

Identified **components** so far

Registration	Messaging	Scheduling	Security
Payments	Information mediator	eMarketplace	GIS
Identification & Authentication	Client case management	Collaboration management	Analytics & Business Intelligence
eLearning	Reporting & dashboards	Content management	Data collection
Shared data repositories	Digital registries	Terminology	Artificial intelligence
Consent management	Mobility management	Workflow and algorithm	

[refer to: *Building Blocks* section of Govstack.global]

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The following *Building Blocks* technical working groups were established...

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[1] Registration

Messaging

Scheduling

[2] Security

Payments

Information mediator

eMarketplace

GIS

[3] Identification & Authentication

Client case management

Collaboration management

Analytics & Business Intelligence

eLearning

Reporting & dashboards

Content management

Data collection

Shared data repositories

[1] Digital registries

Terminology

Artificial intelligence

Consent management

Mobility management

Workflow and algorithm

Wave 1

[1] Registration and Digital registries addressed as one
[2] Security potentially redressed as "Authentication"
[3] Identification & Authentication to focus on "Identification"

Wave 2

The initiative has 3 strategic areas

GovStack

	Major Strategic Areas	Goal
1 **Specify**	Develop and evolve **specifications for high-priority Building Blocks,** and a **Blueprint** for an illustrative digital government service that uses them	Create technical reference pieces of generic digi. gov enabling components
2 **Demonstrate**	Invite approach demonstration and develop working reference models of the illustrative stack showcasing applicability of digital services, guided by specification outputs from Phase I (Building Blocks and Blueprint)	Show how the GovStack approach can employ a set of cross-sector, interoperable, secure and integratable Building Blocks to demonstrate delivery of a pipeline of digital services
3 **Apply**	Engage **pilot countries to inform approach in their larger digital government strategy effort** and implementation roadmap, and sustain ongoing advocacy and address country capacity needs	Ultimately inform national digi. gov strategy drawing from proposed approach + diff. reference models in their transformation journey

Interest and commitment to adopting the *GovStack* model is also being demonstrated by national, regional and global partners…

Overall interest in consideration for member states (potential flagship)

TBC: Supporting regional approach to econ. integration under *Single Digital Market* pillar
[source: hoainitiative.org]

Commitment from German Dev. Coop to support GovStack model in these countries

Informing DIAL and ITU support approach to digital strategy and related efforts in partner country (s)

ITU member states

Largely driven and supported by

Part of the in-country "Digital Transformation Centers" by GIZ, and other GIZ country programmes

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A *GovStack Stakeholders Platform* will facilitate open participation from groups around the globe.

Aiming biannual convening to allow:

- **Expert working groups and community meetup** to work on specifications, review building blocks in the **Technical Review Committee**, provide in-country implementation perspective and advice, exchange knowledge and discuss next steps in the technical direction of the initiative

- The formation and **meeting of the *Advisory Board*** to set the future strategic view and discuss / explore partnerships, review governance elements

- **High-level panel discussions** describing latest trend in e-gov. in relation to GovStack approach and inspiration from the model (e.g. Tallinn Digital Summit 2021, IGF 2021)

- **Digital Government Leader's Forum** (parallel track) with open invitation to general participation by country delegates, technical knowledge groups, industry associations, other relevant stakeholders to share experiences and connect ideas.

- Support **development of a long-term institution** and develop concepts for co-investment

First installment being planned at the 2021 Digital Tallinn Summit.

There are many ways for interested organizations, individual experts, and country governments to join the effort

>> Learn more at https://www.govstack.global/

Example engagement options	Description
Participate in our community	Join the conversation or email us at <u>info@govstack.global</u>
Build: Share pipeline of use cases	Representing sector-specific digital solutions / topics to explore using the GovStack model to demonstrate applicability of platform approach in their use cases, e.g. health, social protection, education, etc.
Specify: Be part of *Building Block* **specification effort**	Provide expertise and be a part of the discussion and technical effort to inform the current *Building Blocks* specification design.
Advise technically: Technical Review Committee	Be a part of a technical advisory body of the GovStack governance structure to provide unbiased objective input to the technical decision points, and review / validate specification and other reference outputs
Share: GovStack Digital Leader's Forum	Share, learn, advocate, network: open continuous forum for discussion! Become part of the Digital Government Leader's Forum. Facilitate the inclusion of government input, review and other authorities to bolster open and user-centered design processes.