DIGITAL RMI PROJECT: Reporting Period: Q1 2025 (March 31st)

To expand access to the internet, promote private sector investment in climate resilient digital services and establish the critical foundations digital government services and the RMI digital economy.

Implementing Agency: MoFBPS; Budget: 21.1M SDRs (currently approx. $28 M)
Project lifespan: 2022 - 28

Project components:

1) Component 1: Market reforms through a Public Private Partnership to improve the quality of telecommunication infrastructure and services so that people can access a sustainable, reliable, high quality, secure service at affordable prices;
2) Component 2: Improved Government digital services and investment in digital skills development so that the people can more easily access and use digital Government services, improving the quality of people's lives and the development opportunities for communities; and
3) Component 3: Regulatory reforms to support enhanced Government digital services and build the trust and confidence of the people in online transacting and use of telecommunication services.

Latest update

Component 1: Project Steering Committee met with Bank TTL during Bank Mission Nov 2024 to agree next steps for closing Component 1 and reallocating funds to Components 2 and 3. Bank restructuring documentation will be available for negotiation in Q2 2025. As per Cabinet direction, no work is being done on Component 1.

Component 2: Digital Unit has (i) finalised Implementation Plan for the roll out of Microsoft 365 and Azure for government ministries and agencies and the development of Digital ID architecture; (ii) gone to market to procure suppliers for the Implementation Plan (iii) with the support of Accenture, provided support and training to President's and OCS for an interim M365 mail/workspace solution. (iv) developed the ICT leadership technical working comprising the public sector ICT Directors (iii) agreed a digital capability training work plan for the CMI with contract to be entered into Q2 2025; (iv) undertaken public sector surveys to better undertand digital needs and concerns.

Component 3. 3 of the 5 Digital RMI Bills (Cybersecurity Bill, Digital Transformation and Identity Verification Bill, Electronic Transactions Bill) have been pased by the Nitijela alongside the MOTCIT Telecommunications (Reform) Bill.

Next Steps:

Component 1:Restructure of Finance Agreement to be agreed with World Bank by early Q2 2025 and re-allocation of Component 1 funds to Components 2 and 3 based on demonstrated need.

Component 2:

(i) Digital Unit to select suppliers for the next stage of the digital transformation Implementation plan. Digital Unit and Accenture to undertake some early preparatory work with Departments/Agencies to maintain momentum until procurement contracts have been entered into for full implementation.
(ii) Agree contract with CMI for community wide digital skills training.
(iii) Results of Public Sector survey to be reported to Digital Unit/PSC and factored into the Implementation Pan. Work on community surveys to commence in 2 2025

For Component 3: Two remaining Digital RMI Bills (Cybercrimes bill and Personal Data Protection Bill) to be considered by Nitijela in August session. Working with the lead agencies for the 3 Bills passed to build understanding of their requirements.

Key objectives:

Developing community wide digital awareness and skills.
Developing enablers for digital government and digital economy and an implementation road map and supporting quick wins for Government.
Developing a local staffed digital unit of excellence, to support the implementation and oversight of the above.