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# What ICT4D interventions work to improve democracy and governance outcomes in L&MICs: A rapid review

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# Rapid evidence question

- Participants: citizens, politicians, governments in low- and middle-income countries
- Interventions: ICT (internet and mobile technologies)
- Comparisons: status quo counterfactual
- Outcomes: democracy and governance outcomes, some economic outcomes
- Studies: experimental and quasi-experimental evaluations

# Rapid evidence review methods

The objective is to use a methodological approach that allows implementers to conduct low-bias reviews in a shorter period of time and fewer labor resources than a standard systematic review

- Obtain unbiased sample of studies from a pre-existing evidence map
- Conduct quality appraisal using a simplified “practitioners” tool
- Preference for narrative synthesis

# Theories for effect of ICT on governance

- Increase information
- Increase transparency
- Address bounded rationality (nudge)

# Data source: ICT4D evidence map

Intervention categories	Education & academe	Health	Democracy, human rights & governance	Agriculture & food security	Crisis and conflict	Economic growth, finance & trade	Environment & climate change	Water & sanitation	Energy
Digital infrastructure	1			2		1			
Policy and regulation for digital services									
Digital literacy	3	1	1	2		1			
Digital inclusion	3	4	1	4		1			
Digital finance			1	4		8			
E-governance	1		5	2		6			
Digital identity		2		1		2			
Data systems		11		1		2			
Digital information services	4	4	5	13	1	6	1		
Technology-assisted learning	18	24		1					
Mobile health	1	146				1		1	

# Preliminary findings

- Interventions to increase transparency (primarily e-government) can have positive impacts
- Interventions to address bounded rationality (nudge) have null to weak impacts
- Interventions to increase information have mixed impacts
- Many studies assume that ICTs have an impact and instead test messages or messengers (within treatment variation)

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# Thank you!

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