

**The African DPI Facility:  
Catalysing a continent-wide DPI  
ecosystem through African owned  
infrastructure.**



OPEN CITIES LAB

**For millions of Africans,  
the barrier to  
opportunity is  
something as simple as  
not having an ID.**

No ID means no job, no loan, no way to register a business.

Without payments, you can't trade - not locally, not across borders.



**DPI isn't just tech - it's the infrastructure that lets people step into the economy, access what the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) makes possible, and build better futures in cities and communities across Africa.**



**The African Digital Public Infrastructure Technical Assistance Facility helps governments move from strategy to real systems - services, digital ID, payments, and data exchange built with local teams, maintained in-country.**

# Delivering on Africa's DPI Priorities

## A Sustainable, Enabling Strategy

The African DPI Facility turns continental ambitions into action by grounding DPI in local context, governance, and usage.



### National DPI Strategies

We support governments to co-develop and implement DPI strategies through embedded technical assistance and interdepartmental working groups. These are grounded in national realities and policy frameworks, ensuring alignment with broader digital transformation agendas. This approach builds local ownership and long-term sustainability from day one.



### Reference Architecture: Privacy & Interoperability by Design

We co-create technical blueprints, open standards, and shared governance models to ensure interoperability across sectors and borders. By embedding these principles early, DPI solutions can scale and integrate seamlessly into wider public systems. This reference architecture reduces duplication and strengthens efficiency.



### Embedded, Clear Governance

Governance is built into delivery - not added later. We help countries establish transparent, functional DPI governance structures alongside implementation, ensuring local accountability and trust. These structures enable participation from both government and private sector.



### Locally-Led Implementation and Capacity

This is delivered through a vetted Implementation Network (our 'spokes') coordinated by the OCL-led Secretariat (the 'hub'), supporting co-creation, localisation, and standards alignment. Governments lead the work, while local teams build and maintain the digital public goods. This ensures each solution is relevant, sustainable, and fosters open, secure, and inclusive participation.

# What It Takes to Make Digital Systems Work for Africa

To unlock Africa's digital future, we need DPI that is locally built, governed, and interoperable. This keeps our data, systems, and economic value on the continent - while creating jobs, building skills, and ensuring digital systems connect seamlessly across borders to drive sovereignty, innovation, and shared prosperity.

## Beyond capacity building | 01

Our approach ensures implementation and adoption, building capacity through delivery, not just training.



## 02 | Locally rooted, continentally connected

Our Implementation Network ensures African-grown DPI solutions are developed, tested, and owned locally, not imported.



## Designed for interoperability and uptake | 03

Each use case advances regional and cross-border interoperability while responding to local needs.



## 04 | Bridging the AfCFTA Gap

Supports local delivery and governance to turn AfCFTA's digital goals into action.



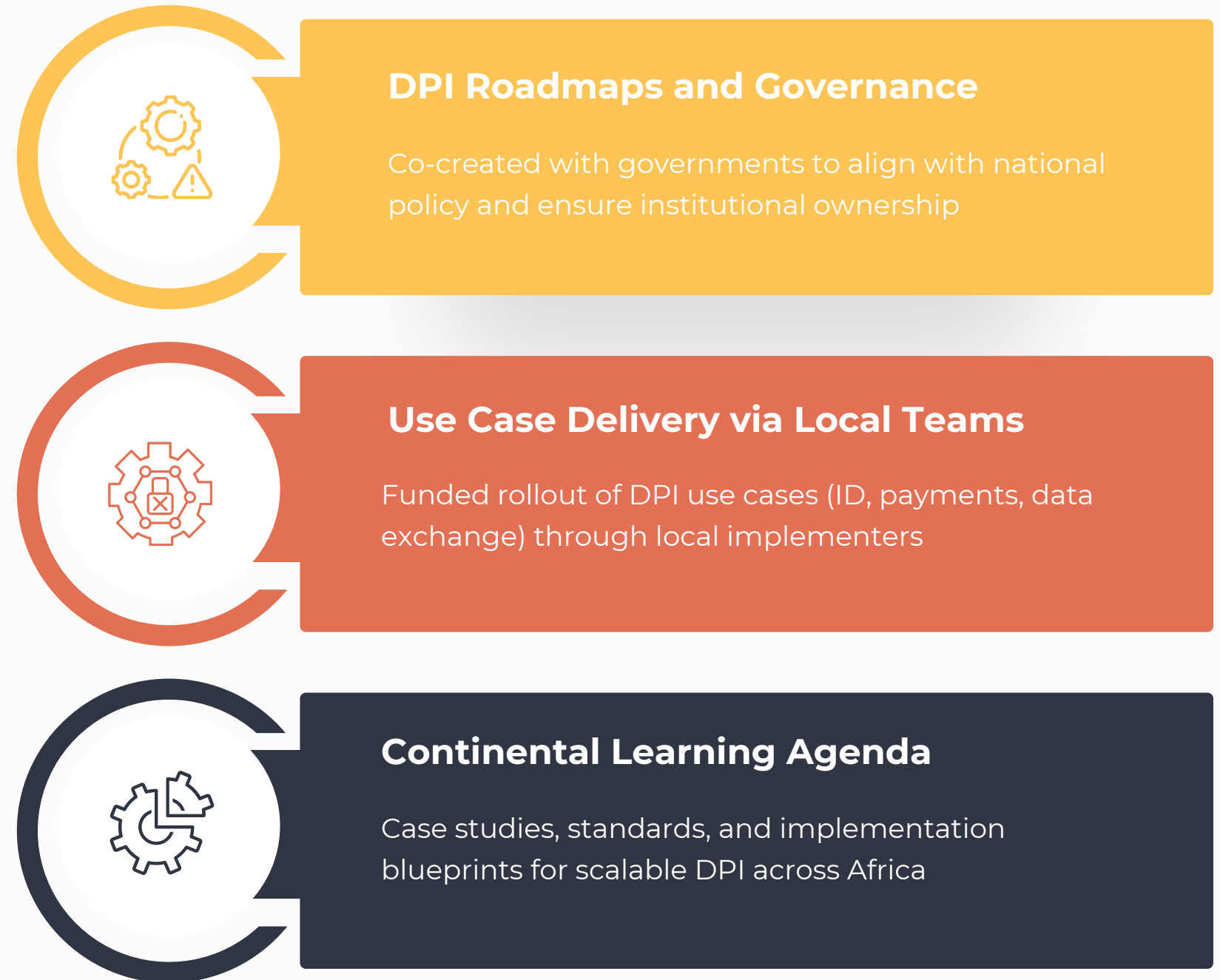


# Delivering DPI That Works

## What This Actually Means:

This means that governments won't just get strategies or training - they'll get real, working digital systems. Things like digital ID, payments, and data sharing will be built and tested in ways that actually help people access services, like social grants or business registration. The work will be done by trusted local teams, with support from Open Cities Lab, and matched to each country's goals. It's not one-size-fits-all, each country gets a plan that fits their context, but all are part of a growing network so countries can learn from each other and scale what works.

## What's Included:



*NOTE: These are not consulting deliverables, rather implementation is built into the model.*

# OPPORTUNITIES TO BACK AFRICA'S DPI JOURNEY

From funding a single use case to backing core operations, here's how you can help make DPI work for people across the continent.

Implement foundational DPI for an African country, including roadmap & implementation.



~\$1 million

Fund a country, regional or local use case - practically implement DPI in Africa



~\$500 000

Fund a Country Roadmap - capacitate government for effective DPI



~\$300 000

Fund convening and training for government & African tech-implementors.



~\$200 000

Fund a research or policy paper - build the framework within African DPI



~\$100 000

Fund OCL's DPI Hub to empower African owned DPI



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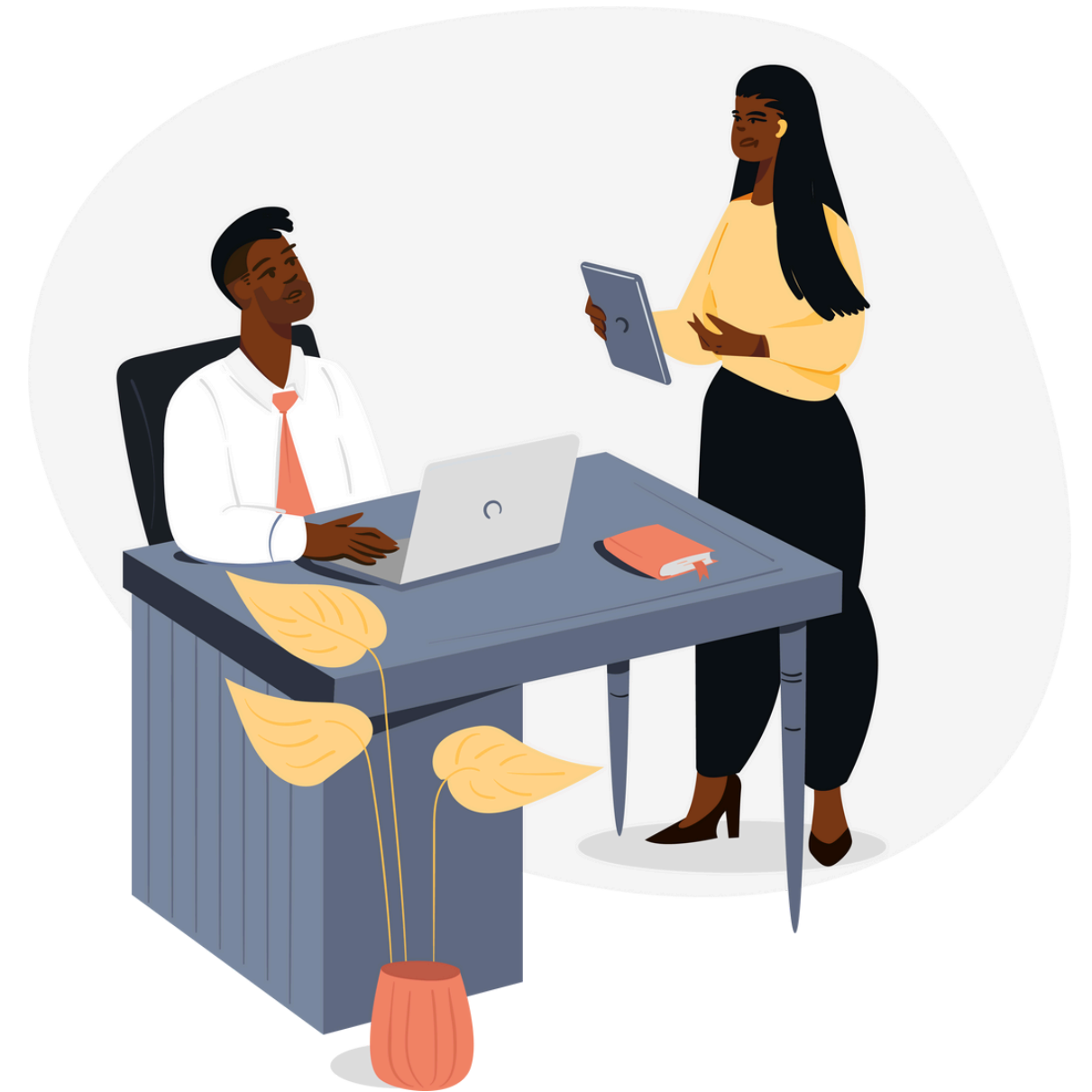
# Invest in Africa's Digital Sovereignty.

Partner with Open Cities Lab and our Implementation Network to deliver a continent-wide DPI ecosystem that transforms public services, drives economic inclusion, and positions Africa as a global digital leader.

## Key Partners:

This Facility has been co-developed with leading DPI actors and validated in ongoing conversations with the Gates Foundation, World Bank, and AfDB. Other partners we are speaking to include:

- DPGs: OpenSwitch, FANTA, IHM, MOSIP, Mojaloop
- Capacity Building: Carnegie Mellon University, Digital Frontiers Institute, Genesis Analytics
- Political buy in & continental convening: Smart Africa, AfDB



# Implementation Network

OCL is part of and convening a growing network of African-led organisations involved in building, customising and implementing Digital Public Goods for Africa, by Africans with Africans.



*More Implementers coming soon... we're just getting started!*

# Get in Touch



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