Codebook

Digital Impact Dashboard (DIA 2026)

Inter-American Development Bank (IDB)
Research Department

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Description

This codebook describes the variables, definitions, and conventions used in the Digital Impact Dashboard developed to support the Inter-American Development Bank 2026 flagship report on digitalization and artificial intelligence (DIA 2026).

The dataset compiles impact evaluations of digital interventions in low- and middle-income countries across eight sectors: Education, Health, Social Protection, Trade & Investment, Citizen Security, Government Transactions, Basic Infrastructure, and Taxes. It includes studies that use rigorous empirical methods to estimate causal effects on development outcomes.

Each observation in the dataset corresponds to a unique study–intervention–outcome combination. Therefore, if a study reports more than one outcome, each outcome is recorded in a separate row. Similarly, if a study evaluates more than one treatment arm or intervention, each intervention–outcome combination is recorded in a separate row.

General Notes:

- Missing values are coded as follows:
    - Blank: information not available or not reported in the study
- Unique identifiers (Study_ID, Instance_ID, and Record_ID) are used to ensure traceability and consistency across observations.
- Variables ending in _en contain the English version of the field.
- Variables ending in _es contain the Spanish translation of the corresponding English field and retain the same definition, structure, and intended use.

Variable Definitions

Record_ID

- **Description:** Unique identifier for each observation in the dataset.
- **Type:** String
- **Structure:** ST-0001-001, ST-0001-002, ST-0002-001, …
- **Notes:** Constructed as a combination of Study_ID and Instance_ID. Ensures that each row in the dataset has a unique identifier.

Study_ID

- **Description:** Unique identifier assigned to each study in the dataset.
- **Type:** String
- **Structure:** ST-0001, ST-0002, ST-0003, …

- **Notes:** Each unique study (as identified by the Title variable) is assigned a single Study_ID. The same Study_ID is used across all observations corresponding to that study.

Instance_ID

- **Description:** Identifier for each observation within a study.
- **Type:** String
- **Structure:** IN-001, IN-002, IN-003, …
- **Notes:** Assigned sequentially within each study. Used to distinguish multiple observations (e.g., outcomes or treatment arms) within the same study.

Sector_en

- **Description:** Sector to which the study belongs.
- **Type:** String
- **Values:** Education, Health, Social Protection, Trade & Investment, Citizen Security, Government Transactions, Basic Infrastructure, Taxes

Country_name_en

- **Description:** Country where the intervention was implemented.
- **Type:** String

Country_code

- **Description:** ISO country code for the country where the intervention was implemented.
- **Type:** String
- **Notes:** Used to facilitate country-level aggregation, merging, and visualization.

Title_en

- **Description:** Full title of the study.
- **Type:** String

Study_en

- **Description:** Short reference of the study (Author(s), Year).
- **Type:** String

Context_en

- **Description:** Description of the study population and setting.
- **Type:** String
- **Examples:** Primary school students in rural areas, Small and medium-sized firms, Beneficiaries of a social protection program

Intervention_en

- **Description:** Description of the digital intervention evaluated.
- **Type:** String
- **Examples:** SMS reminders for appointment attendance, Online business registration platforms, Computer-assisted learning (CAL) programs

Intervention_cat_en

- **Description:** Code for the broad category of the digital intervention.
- **Type:** String
- **Notes:** Used to group interventions into standardized categories for comparison across studies.

Intervention_cat_desc_en

- **Description:** Description of the intervention category.
- **Type:** String

Year_intervention

- **Description:** Year in which the intervention started.
- **Type:** Numeric

Methodology_en

- **Description:** Empirical strategy used to identify causal effects.
- **Type:** Categorical

Observations_en

- **Description:** Sample size reported in the results tables of the study.
- **Type:** String
- **Notes:** Includes both the number of observations and the unit of analysis (e.g., individuals, households, firms, schools). Corresponds to the sample used in the reported estimates (typically post-attrition when applicable).

Randomization_en

- **Description:** Description of the randomization structure.
- **Type:** String
- **Notes:** Specifies the unit of randomization (e.g., schools, villages) and, when available, the number of units assigned to treatment and control groups.

Outcome_en

- **Description:** Broad outcome category based on the sector-specific classification.
- **Type:** String

Outcome_ind_en

- **Description:** Specific metric used to measure the outcome.
- **Type:** String
- **Notes:** Closely follows the terminology used in the study.

Outcome_abbr_en

- **Description:** Abbreviated version of the outcome indicator.
- **Type:** String
- **Notes:** Used for display purposes when Outcome_ind_en is too long, while retaining the meaning of the original indicator.

Effect

- **Description:** Estimated impact of the intervention.
- **Type:** Numeric
- **Notes:** Reported exactly as in the study. Includes only the numeric value (no symbols or annotations).

Unit_measurement_en

- **Description:** Unit in which the effect is expressed.
- **Type:** String
- **Examples:** percentage points, percent, standard deviations

Unit_abbr_en

- **Description:** Abbreviated version of the unit in which the effect is expressed.
- **Type:** String
- **Examples:** pp, %, SD, USD
- **Notes:** Used for display purposes where a shorter unit label is appropriate.

Significance_en

- **Description:** Statistical significance of the reported effect.
- **Type:** Categorical
- **Values:** 0.1, 0.05, 0.01, Not significant, Not reported

Cost_en

- **Description:** Cost of the intervention, if reported.
- **Type:** String
- **Notes:** Reported following the information provided in the original study (e.g., cost per beneficiary, total program cost, or implementation cost).

Link

- **Description:** URL to access the study.
- **Type:** String

Reference_en

- **Description:** Full bibliographic reference (Chicago author-date style).
- **Type:** String

Notes_en

- **Description:** Additional comments or clarifications relevant to the study or the reported estimates.
- **Type:** String

Extra_cat1_en

- **Description:** Indicator for whether the intervention includes artificial intelligence (AI).
- **Type:** Numeric
- **Values:** 0 = No, 1 = Yes
- **Notes:** Used as an additional categorization of interventions for dashboard filtering and aggregation.

Extra_cat2_en

- **Description:** Field used for potential additional categorizations or future aggregations of information related to the study.
- **Type:** String

Extra_cat3_en

- **Description:** Field used for potential additional categorizations or future aggregations of information related to the study.
- **Type:** String

Extra_cat4_en

- **Description:** Field used for potential additional categorizations or future aggregations of information related to the study.
- **Type:** String

Display_order

- **Description:** Display order of the indicator within the category. Internal field.
- **Type:** Numeric