



# Unlocking Potential: Launch of CABRI's New Programme to Enhance Digital PFM in Africa

18 April 2024 |  
10 00 - 11 45  
(GMT)

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Across Africa, governments are exploring ways to improve service delivery and internal systems using digital technologies. These digital reforms take significant time, political capital and funding to implement (Long et al 2023). Too often, implementation of the digital system becomes the focus, rather than the improvement the reform is intended to bring about (Cangiano et al 2017). Typically, the goal is not simply to digitise a system, but rather to digitalise – to ensure that the processes are improved and the right data is used to improve services to the population.

Ministries of finance (MoFs) play an important role in ensuring digital reforms are impactful. Firstly, as a ‘consumer’ of reforms, MoFs strive to digitalize Public Financial Management (PFM) systems to improve efficiency, transparency and ultimately quality of public sector spending. Secondly, MoFs play a ‘facilitator’ role in digital reforms of line ministries, as they support how reforms are funded, procured and monitored.

That means MOFs are becoming Digital Transformation champions, which was not the core of their activity until recently. A lot of the research insists on the importance of an adaptive, modular, agile approach instead of implementing a wholly-planned out system that “does it all”. However it is still unclear how, in practical terms, those digital transformation projects should be managed.

The Collaborative Africa Budget Reform Initiative (CABRI) is launching a new work area to support our member countries in their digital journeys. The “Enhancing Digital PFM in Africa” work will collect practical experiences from African countries on their journey to digitalize PFM and improve efficiency and effectiveness of public spending and service delivery, complementing on-going work by the Overseas Development Institute (ODI), International Monetary Fund (IMF) and other institutions and think tanks. The focus is not on the management of the whole existing information systems environments but on the governance of a MOF digital transformation project in an adaptive, flexible, modular way.

The goal of the first phase of this work is to conduct in-depth country case studies that will lay down the foundation of future support. In line with CABRI’s ethos, this new work area will focus on collecting practical learnings of how to translate digital reforms into improved outcomes, including by investigating:

1. What has enabled countries to take a problem-driven and iterative approach to digital reforms?
2. How capabilities have been built within government to manage digital systems?

**In this context, CABRI will organize two webinars on *Enhancing Digital Public Financial Management in Africa*. [The first event will take place on April 18, 2024 from 10:00 a.m. – 11:45 a.m. GMT. Register here](#) to join us and learn more about digital PFM and CABRI’s new area of work.**

## Programme

Time (GMT)	Session	Speakers/Discussants
10:00-10:10	Welcome remarks and Overview of <b>CABRI's work in Digitalizing PFM in Africa</b>	Dr Kay Brown, Executive Secretary, CABRI
10:10-10:20	Introduction on <b>common challenges in digital reforms of PFM and States for research</b>	Giselle Hadley, Programme Manager, CABRI and Nicolas Botton, expert
10:20-11:00	Country Panel Discussion: <b>Adaptative, customizable, modular, agile, flexible... The step-by-step challenge of how to manage a governmental FMIS project in a practical and successful way</b>	Country representatives (4)  Moderated by Giselle Hadley, Programme Manager, CABRI and Nicolas Botton, expert
11:00-11:15	Comments from presenters and audience Q&A	
11:15-11:25	<b>Presentation of the scope of work for "Enhancing Digital PFM in Africa" and future topics of interest</b>	Giselle Hadley, Programme Manager, CABRI and Nicolas Botton, expert
11:25-11:30	Closing remarks and call for interest	Dr Kay Brown, Executive Secretary, CABRI

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