Promoting e-health. Enthusiasm or prudence?

Diana Pinto Masis

IDB

A reflection on e-health

"Focusing on evidence rather than development is risky: imagine if Steve Wozniak and Steve Jobs had to provide evidence that the computer they made in 1976 was useful. They would not have been able to do so, but some investors believed that they had the potential for changing the world. As an international development community we have to be willing to make some bets as well in the field of e-health, based on limited evidence."

Desmond Tutu

Interview in:

The Bigger Picture for e-health. Bulletin of the World Health Organization , Volume 90, Number 5, May 2012, 321-400

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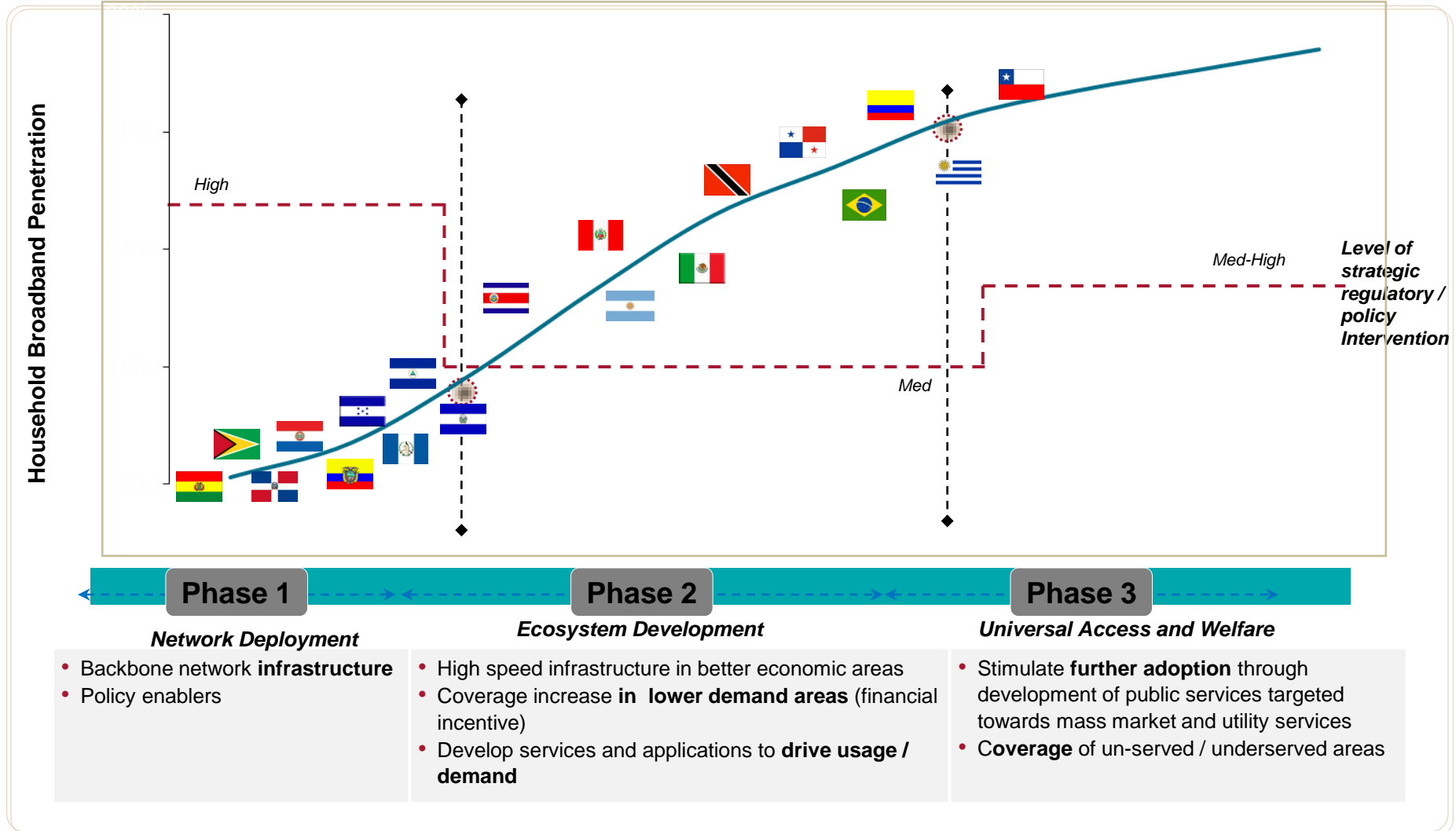
2. IDB's role and interventions in broadband

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1. LAC's broadband context at a glance

LAC region countries are at different stages of broadband development.

Household Broadband Penetration

High

Med-High

Level of strategic regulatory / policy Intervention

Med

Phase 1	Phase 2	Phase 3
Network Deployment	*Ecosystem Development*	*Universal Access and Welfare*
• Backbone network **infrastructure** • Policy enablers	• High speed infrastructure in better economic areas • Coverage increase **in lower demand areas** (financial incentive) • Develop services and applications to **drive usage / demand**	• Stimulate **further adoption** through development of public services targeted towards mass market and utility services • C**overage** of un-served / underserved areas

Main challenges for the Region and its people to benefit from broadband:

Main Challenges:

- **ACCESS** - Low Broadband Penetration

- **ADOPTION** - High Broadband Prices

- **USAGE** – Low use of services and applications

Causes:

1 **Lack of strategic public policies** and leadership to promote penetration and widespread use of Broadband.

2 **Obsolete Regulatory Frameworks,** which do not favor competition, transparency and the legislative certainty required to **stimulate necessary investments**;

3 **Low penetration of Broadband infrastructures**

4 Lack of **digital literacy and contents** in the region.

The region has recognized the need to promote broadband penetration

Recent Regional Political Acknowledgement and Agreements:

• **VI Summit of the Americas:** *"To foster increased connection of telecommunication networks in general, including fiber optic and <u>broadband</u>, among the region's countries, as well as international connections, to improve connectivity, increase the dynamism of communications between the nations of the Americas…"* (Cartagena, 2012)

• The 12 members of the **Union of South American Countries (UNASUR)** agreed to address the region's gap in <u>broadband penetration</u> (Brazil, 2011).

• **Caribbean Ministers of Telecommunications** requested an assessment of countries' <u>broadband</u> infrastructure and regulatory frameworks and training on the importance of broadband. (2011)

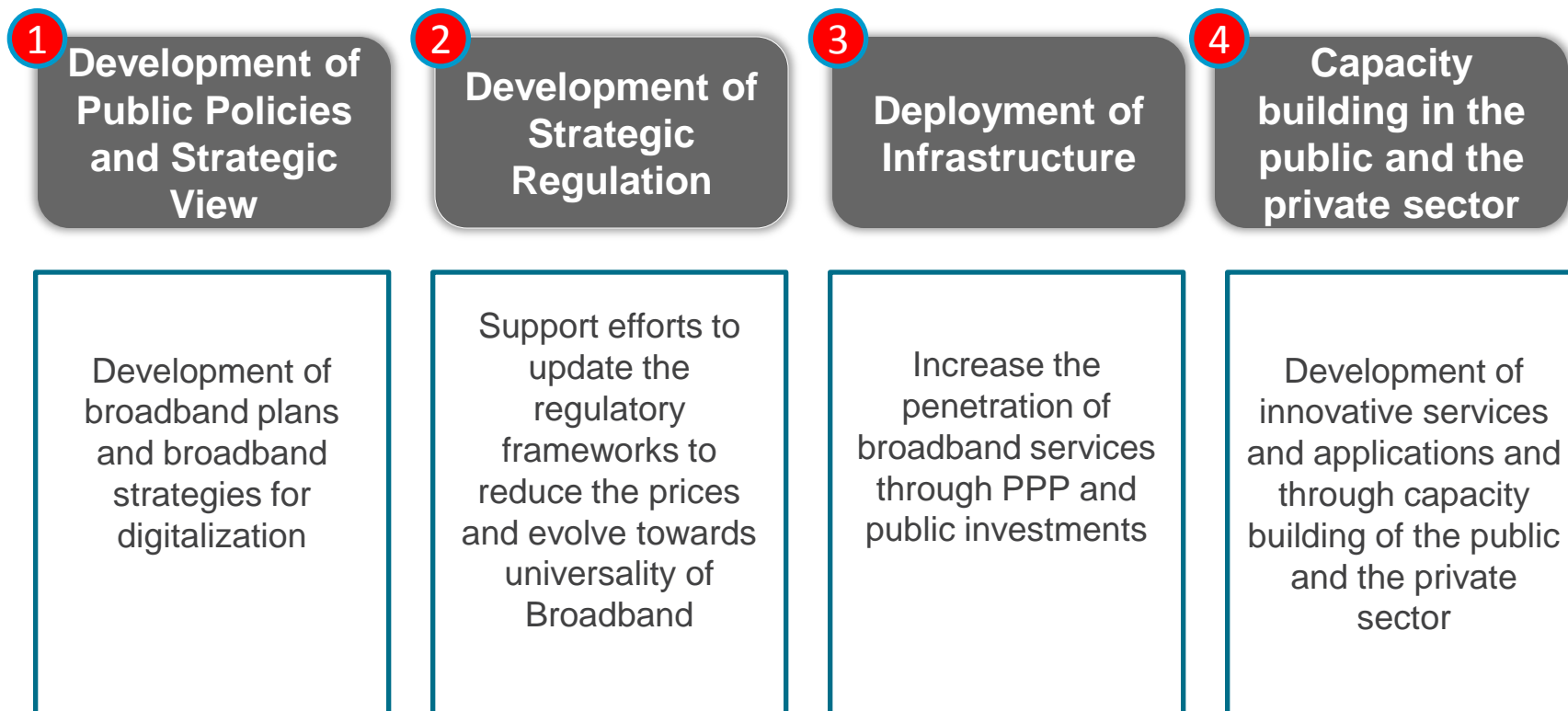# 2. IDB's role and interventions in broadband

Why should a Regional Development Bank support countries in addressing this pressing challenge?
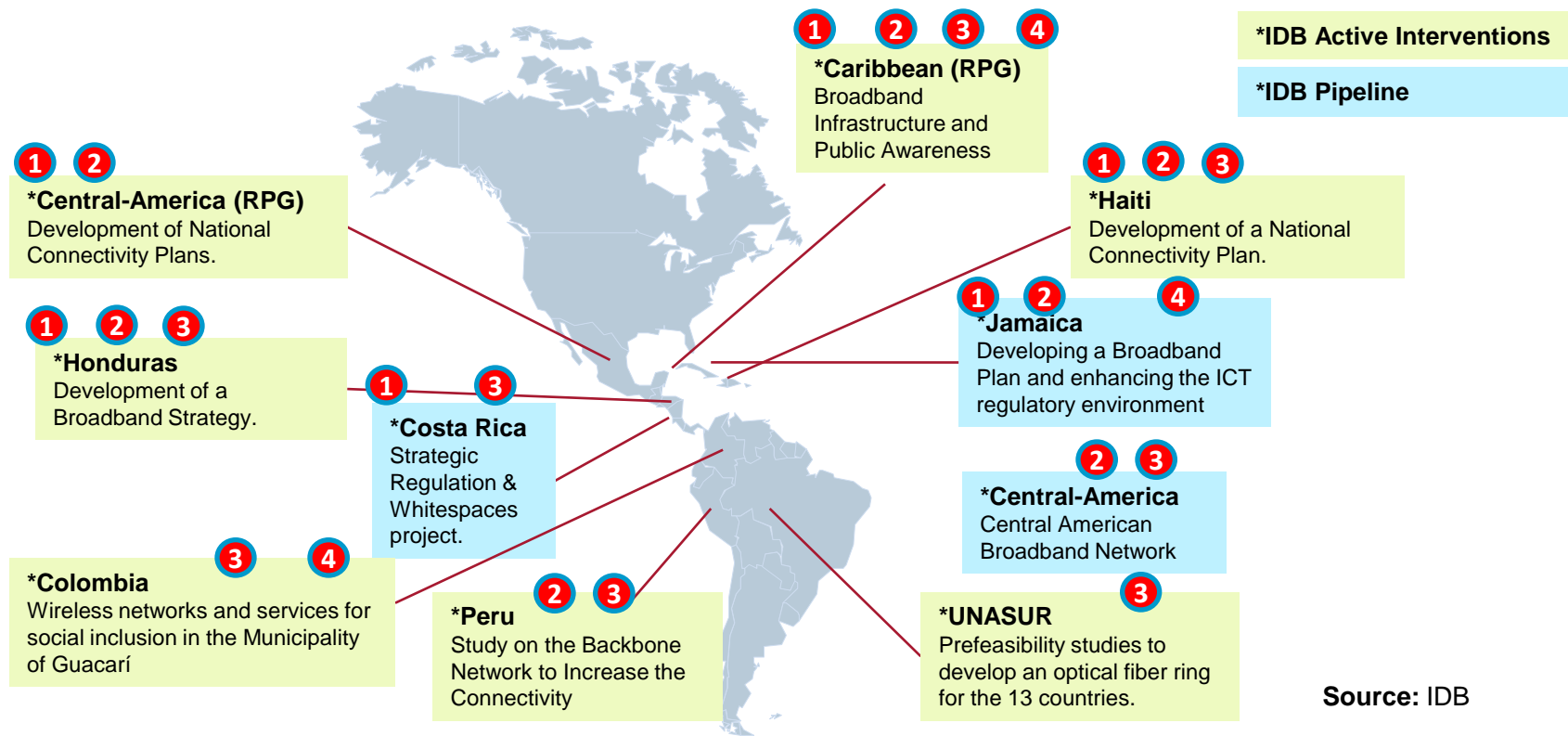
The Bank's role:

- Opportunity to respond to Development challenges following an innovative and highly cross-cutting approach

- The Bank is able to promote a holistic approach on public policy critical to broadband expansion in the region

- It can capitalize on available expertise and experience in all critical sectors

- It can play a unique role bringing together the industry and promoting a strategic regulation that would level the playing field for competition

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IDB's approach is holistic and strategic

Increasing access, adoption and use of broadband services in the region:

1 Development of Public Policies and Strategic View	2 Development of Strategic Regulation	3 Deployment of Infrastructure	4 Capacity building in the public and the private sector
Development of broadband plans and broadband strategies for digitalization	Support efforts to update the regulatory frameworks to reduce the prices and evolve towards universality of Broadband	Increase the penetration of broadband services through PPP and public investments	Development of innovative services and applications and through capacity building of the public and the private sector

IDB is a major supporter of design and implementation of Broadband Plans for LAC countries:

①②③④
*Caribbean (RPG)
Broadband Infrastructure and Public Awareness

*IDB Active Interventions

*IDB Pipeline

①②
*Central-America (RPG)
Development of National Connectivity Plans.

①②③
*Haiti
Development of a National Connectivity Plan.

①②③
*Honduras
Development of a Broadband Strategy.

①④
*Jamaica
Developing a Broadband Plan and enhancing the ICT regulatory environment

①③
*Costa Rica
Strategic Regulation & Whitespaces project.

②③
*Central-America
Central American Broadband Network

③④
*Colombia
Wireless networks and services for social inclusion in the Municipality of Guacarí

②③
*Peru
Study on the Backbone Network to Increase the Connectivity

③
*UNASUR
Prefeasibility studies to develop an optical fiber ring for the 13 countries.

Source: IDB

Demand for Broadband-Related Technical Assistance:

Of the 10 projects (active & pipeline), 8 support regulation and infrastructure as the main bottlenecks in the region.

Current project value: U$7 million

Capacity building; 3 ④

Public Policies; 5 ①

Regulation; 8 ②

Infrastructure; 8 ③

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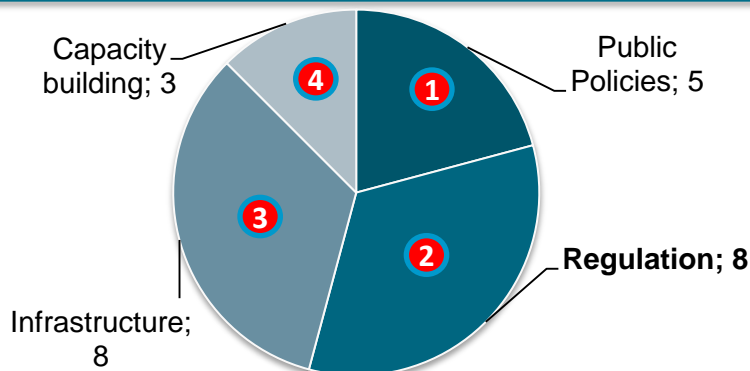
IFD is grateful to the Korean and Spanish Governments for their support and vision

The IDB has strengthened partnerships and is a credible broker with the private sector:

PPPs are an essential element in this effort: Therefore, in coordination with more than 25 representatives from the telecommunications industry worldwide, the Bank produced an action-oriented report stating the industry's common position on how to accelerate broadband penetration in the LAC Region.

Alcatel-Lucent
Gabrielle Gauthey,
Executive Vice-President,
Global Government & Public
Affairs

Asociación Iberoamericana de Centros de Investigación y Empresas de Telecomunicaciones (AHCIET)
Pablo Bello Arellano,
Secretary General

Belize Telemedia Limited
Karen Bevans,
Chief Operations Officer

Cable & Wireless LIME
David Crawford,
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Cisco Systems
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Telefonica Internacional
Javier Delgado, Director Technical
Secretariat, Telefonica Latin America

Telecommunications Management Group, Inc.
Janet Hernandez, President

Tropical Telecom, Ltd.
Chris Taylor, President & CEO

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3. IDB's Division of Social Protection and Health-SPH experience with e-health

LAC's current health context

- Double burden of disease and epidemiological transition

- Mounting cost pressures due to increase in prevalence of NCD

- Access to even basic services still very unequal. Quality is a huge issue.

- Little network integration

- Human resource challenges

SPH strategic areas of intervention in health

- Integrated Primary Health Care

- Health Systems' Organization and Performance

- Priority Setting in Health

SPH's portfolio

- Active portfolio for the Division: **US$ 1.64 billion** of which **US$ 600 million** in health.

- Countries with active health loans

Argentina	**Bolivia**	**Brazil**	**Colombia**	**Dominican Republic**
Ecuador	**El Salvador**	**Guatemala**	**Guyana**	
Haiti	**Honduras**	**Nicaragua**	**Peru**	
Panamá	**Suriname**			

- Countries with health operations in preparation (approx. **US$ 500 million**):

Argentina	**Bolivia**	**Costa Rica**	**Colombia**	**Dominican Republic**
Honduras	**Nicaragua**	**Panamá**		

eHealth in IDB's operations (2011)

E-health category	Application	# operations
Tools for management of health services	Electronic management of clinical or administrative information	9
	Electronic scheduling of appointments	3
	Electronic management of drug stocks and distribution	4
	Electronic prescription	3
Access to information for health care professionals at point of care	Access to electronic publications or databases	5
	Cell phone access to decision support systems	2
	Electronic access to clinical records	6
Communication between health services and individuals	Cell phone reminders to improve adherence to treatment or assistance to services	6
	Text messages for health promotion campaigns	6
Consultation between health care professionals	Telemedicine (phone, computer or VC)	5

eHealth in IDB's operations (2011)

E-health category	Application	# operations
Intersectoral communication	Cell phone management of emergencies or disasters	4
	Electronic interphase with other institutions (population registries, statistics, etc)	5
Capacity building	E-learning modules for health care professionals and students	5
Health monitoring and surveillance	Monitoring and surveillance epidemiologic data	1
Communication between individuals and health services	Health call centres, emergency toll free phone services, Health/health care consultation websites	6

4. Key challenges and opportunities

How do we want to move forward?

- With lots of <u>enthusiasm</u>…

  "Best bets":

  - Improving the expansion of health services to vulnerable populations and remote areas

  - Training of health personnel

  - Remote monitoring and management of patients

  - Data collection for health surveillance and service management

- …and at the same time, with <u>prudence</u>:

  - Scale, maturity of operations, evaluation of results???

How we expect to move forward, further opportunities for partnerships

- Promote an agenda/platform for innovation in the region, policy dialogues
- Facilitate leveraging of resources from existing sources and attract new sources of funds from private and public donors,

- Fund the design and implementation of technical cooperation projects in strategic dimensions for e-health
- Fund research and studies related to feasibility and impact evaluation

Thank you!
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www.iadb.org/Health
www.iadb.org/SocialProtection

IDB | **Social Protection and Health Division**