# WHY

***What is the problem the initiative addresses?***

*The outbreak of COVID-19 meant that time was of the essence. Lives were at stake, so government had to make good decisions fast. At the same time, citizens felt helpless and hopeless locked down inside their homes. But how could government and citizens connect to co-create solutions in the middle of an unprecedented crisis?*

***Why is your organisation doing this project?***

*Because a2i was perfectly placed within government and had the right social capital, access to platforms and people (including citizens) necessary to create value immediately by connecting the dots.*

***Why is this initiative important for Bangladesh?***

*a2i is more than just a a unique 'capability' in the innovation ecosystem of Bangladesh. (e.g. it was only because a2i was involved [think track record, expertise and social capital] that the Telcos felt comfortable sharing data and working with the National Telecoms Monitoring Centre and data scientists to enable big data analysis for disease surveillance)*

***Is this initiative improving an existing system or approach or is it innovating a new system or approach?***

*Honestly, a bit of both. Introducing a new way of doing government is a "long con"! First you have to gain the trust of the existing system by offering to help improve it…not blowing it up ☺*

# WHAT

**Objectives**

*For the Government of Bangladesh to gain the capability of systematically and continuously engaging citizens in the process of governance and empowering them to achieve the SDGs.*

**Resources**

*(e.g. team, $, partners, stakeholders)*

*Budget: USD 70,261,560 (over 5 years; 50M in GoB funds)*

*Implementing Agencies: Prime Minister's Office, Cabinet Office, ICT Ministry*

*Partners: DFID (UKAid), Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and others*

**Phases of Activity**

- *a2i Phase-I (2007 to 2012)*
- *a2i Phase-II (2013 to 2018)*
- *a2i Phase-III (2019 to 2024)*

**Outputs**

- *Digital Bangladesh Vision 2021 (government vision document)*
- *Perspective Plan 2041 (gov planning doc)*
- *Platforms for inclusive innovation: Digital Centres, AIM Digital Gov Payments, Teachers' Portal, SDG Tracker, CustoZen*

# HOW (EFFECTS)

*What effect* is the initiative producing?*
*Hard number: USD 8 billion+ saved by Bangladeshi citizens; Mindset change: Reducing 'TCV' has become a byword for innovation; Annual Performance Agreements (simplification b4 digitization);*

*What will we gain as a result of this project?*
*e.g. capabilities, new relationships, assets, resources, models, data, insight on policy change needed, insight into different stakeholders.*
*All of the above :D*

*What could accelerate /amplify effect of the initiative? e.g. new connections, leverage points*
*Establishing a2i as Bangladesh's Public Sector Innovation Agency*

*What is getting in the way of having an effect?*
*-Bureaucracy (e.g. a2i Bangladesh Innovation Agency being recommended to be established as gov authority rather than an independent enitty) and the stubborn mindset of bureaucrats that still restrains them from truly believing that citizens can meaningfully participate and contribute to the process of public service innovation.*
*-The brightest minds are often deterred from doing even a "tour of duty in government" (Tom Kalil)*

Repurpose and Collaborate

# COVID-19 Collective Intelligence System for Health

## Data collection

- Citizen Self-report
- Report by Community Health Workers
- Report from COVID-19 Test Labs and Hospitals
- Frontline Workers Self-report

## Data analysis

- Doctors' Pool (4,000 doctors)
  - Medical advice
  - e-Prescription
- Data Analytics
- Verification by Doctors
  - High-risk cases
  - Hotzones
  - Recommendations

## Decision making

- Dashboard for Healthcare Providers (DGHS, IEDCR, public and private)
  - Medical decisions
- Dashboard for Govt. Administration (Cabinet, field admin, police)
  - Admin decisions
- Multi-stakeholder Communication
  - corona.gov.bd
  - TV, radio, community radio, phone, social media

# Are we investing enough in ‘Social R&D’?