# Digitalization in IsDB's Realigned Strategy (2023-2025)

- ICT and Digitalization is one of the key focus areas under Pillar 1 of IsDB's Realigned Strategy (2023-2025).

- IsDB's Regional Cooperation and Integration (RCI) operations contribute to IsDB's strategic cross-cutting pillar on capacity development as well as Pillar 1 through cross-border transport, energy and ICT connectivity projects.
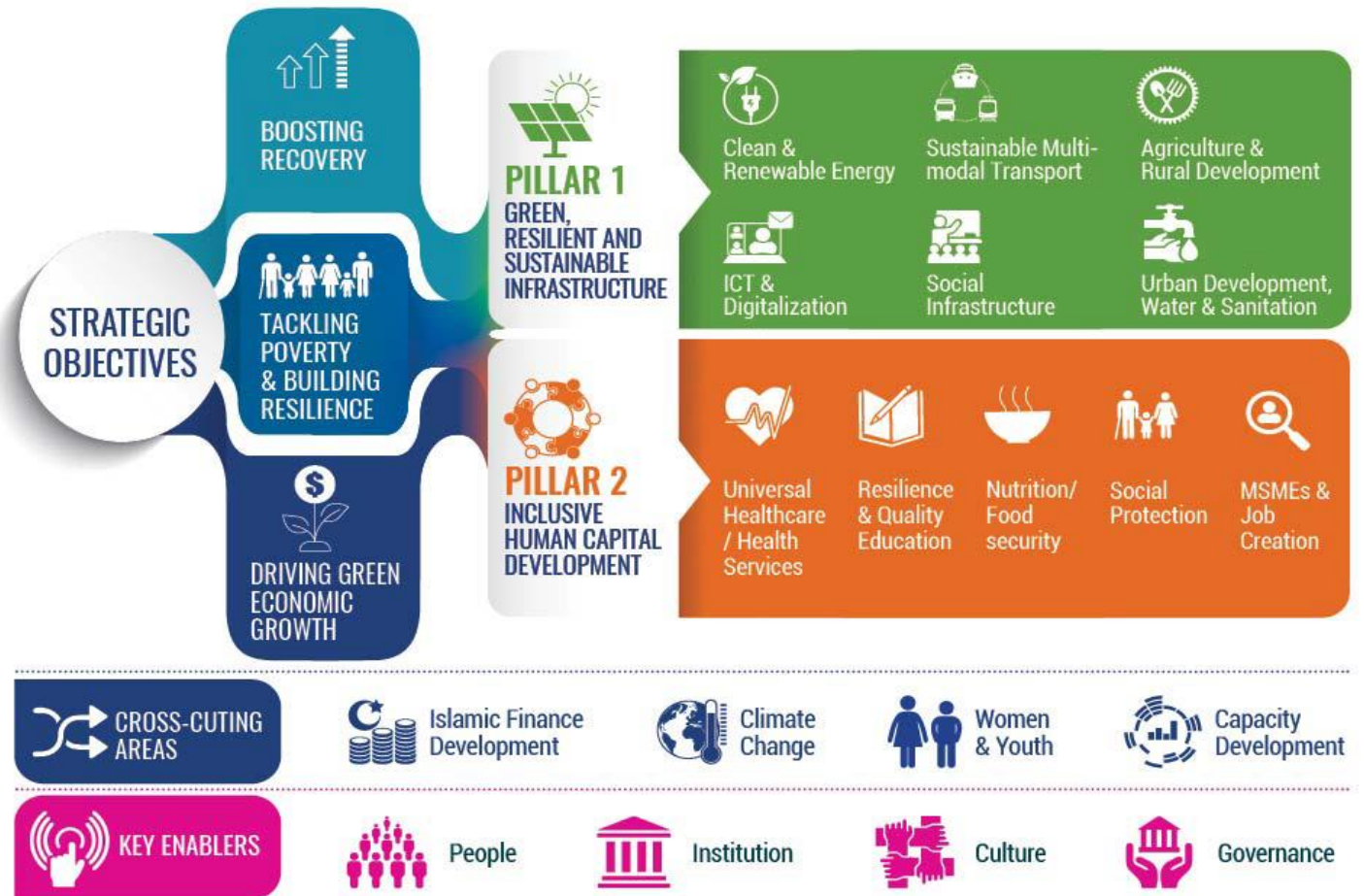
# ICT Connectivity and Investment Climate in IsDB's RCI Policy

- Vision: IsDB MCs coexist harmoniously and achieve sustainable and interdependent growth through mutual cooperation.

- Mission: Working as "One IsDB Group" in cooperation with public and private sector partners to bring together member countries, regional cooperation organizations and communities to achieve inclusive growth through joint actions.

- Enhanced cross-border ICT connectivity (both physical and soft) and improved investment climate are among the main pillars of IsDB's RCI Policy.



FIGURE 1: IsDB Regional Cooperation and Integration (RCI) Strategic Framework
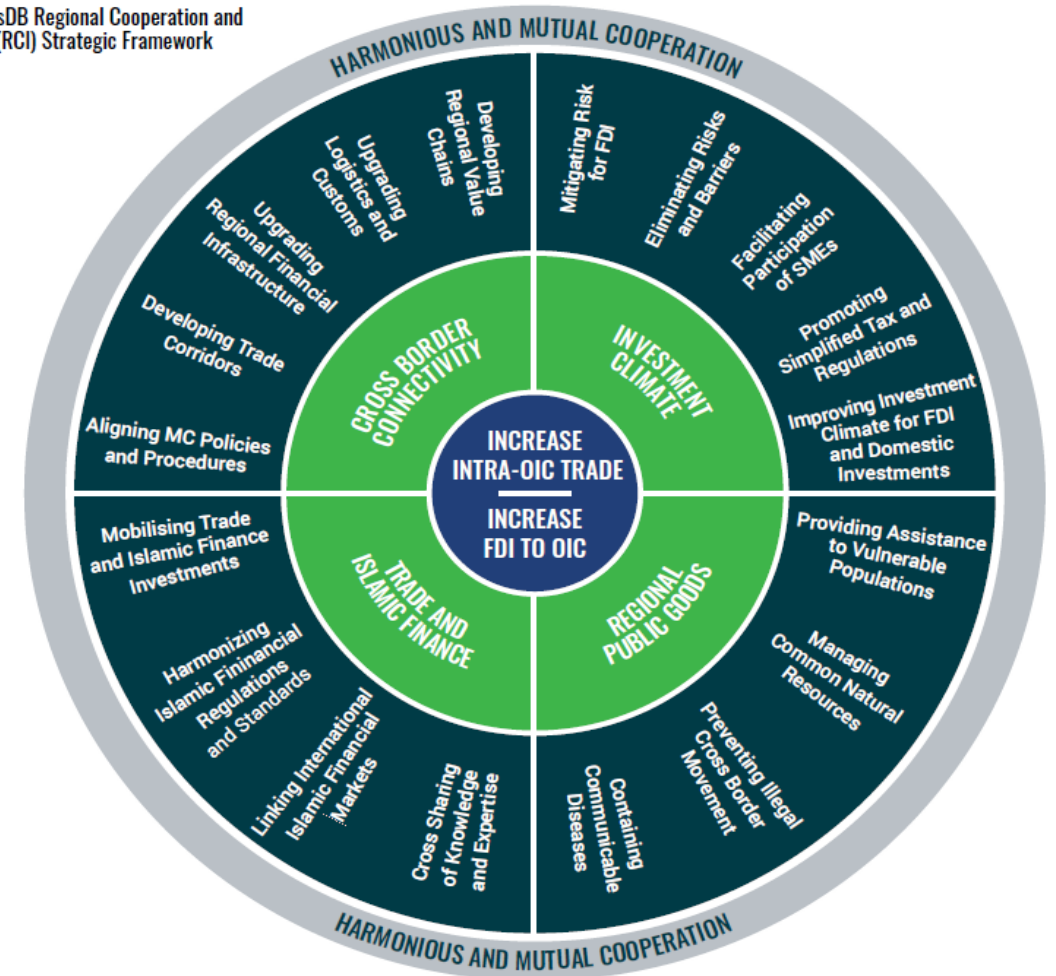
# Stages of Building a Robust Digital FDI Ecosystem

Improving the investment climate (regulatory and non-regulatory measures)

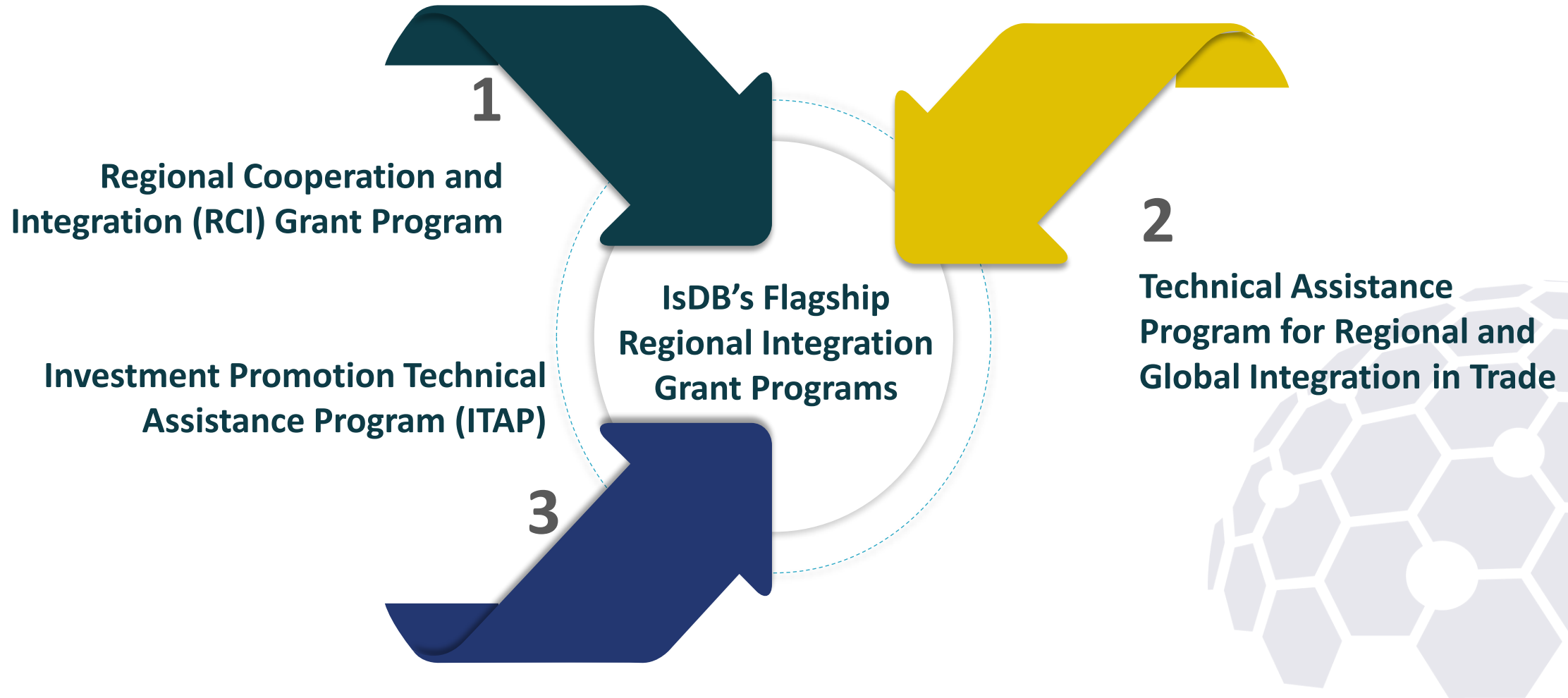Enhancing ICT infrastructure and connectivity (regional level)

Transitioning to digital economy (local talents and cross-border standardization)

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# The Role of Partnerships in Enhancing Digital FDI Ecosystems

✓ Basic ICT Infrastructure (governments and the private sector)

- Building a conducive environment for ICT infrastructure investments and utilizing PPP models to expand digital infrastructure networks

✓ Customizing education strategies to enhance digital skills of people and businesses (governments and the private sector)

✓ Cross-cutting priorities such as gender (civil society)

✓ Regulatory harmonization (intergovernmental coordination)

- Cross-border data flows, cybersecurity, trade and investment facilitation

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# Supporting Digital FDI Ecosystems through RCI

**1**

**Regional Cooperation and Integration (RCI) Grant Program**

**2**

**Technical Assistance Program for Regional and Global Integration in Trade**

**IsDB's Flagship Regional Integration Grant Programs**

**Investment Promotion Technical Assistance Program (ITAP)**

**3**

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# ITAP: Objectives & Rationale

ITAP's main objective is

to offer **technical assistance** and **capacity building services** to IsDB MCs' *investment promotion agencies*

to support their efforts in attracting **domestic** and **foreign direct investment**

- Greater recognition of the role of the private sector and foreign direct investment in sustainable socio-economic development of a country

- The need for improving the investment climate and capacity to attract FDI by IsDB MCs

- Lack of investment promotion capacity

- The need for articulating competitive sectors and projects

- Lack of information sources and databases

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# IsDB's Ongoing Work to Support Digitalization

✓ ICT Connectivity (telecommunication network upgrade project in Turkmenistan)

✓ Regional-level digital transformation programs (Digital CAREC, Digital Economy in the West African Economic and Monetary Union area)

✓ Cross-border electronic data exchange between customs and trade facilitation agencies (e-CMR project in the ECO region)

✓ Supporting the use of digital trade facilitation tools (such as e-TIR and e-CMR).

✓ Utilizing digital tools to inform project development (GIS project with UNECE and ECO)

✓ Synergizing ITAP, Reverse Linkage, and Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) activities to ensure a holistic approach

✓ A new regional connectivity initiative with development partners in Central Asia

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