STATE OF IDENTIFICATION SYSTEMS IN AFRICA

ID4AFRICA THIRD ANNUAL MEETING | APRIL 26-28, 2017
WINDHOEK, NAMIBIA
THE STATE OF IDENTIFICATION SYSTEMS IN AFRICA: SYNTHESIS OF CASE STUDIES

THE STATE OF IDENTIFICATION SYSTEMS IN AFRICA: COUNTRY BRIEFS
Out of 49 Countries evaluated in Sub-Saharan Africa...

- 46 countries registering births
- 32 countries with mandatory birth registration
- 42 countries with national ID systems
- 28 countries with mandatory national ID systems
- 16 countries with a single national ID and birth registration agency
Birth registration rates in sub-Saharan Africa:
Low for the region, but highly variable across countries

AGGREGATE BIRTH REGISTRATION RATE (SSA)

Registered 35%
Unregistered 65%

Source: ID4D Dataset (2017) and UNICEF.
National ID registration rates in sub-Saharan Africa: Low for the region and high mostly in small countries

NID COVERAGE IN THE ELIGIBLE POPULATION*

 Registered 29%
Unregistered 71%

NID COVERAGE BY COUNTRY

Population below 2 million
Use of technology in African identification systems:

*Paper-based still dominates BR, less so for NID*

Most birth registration processes are still largely paper based...

...whereas NID systems have more sophisticated solutions

- **Paper-based**: 60%
- **Electronic**: 40%
- **Smart card**: 25%
- **Bar code card**: 45%
- **Paper card**: 30%
Registration points for identification systems

Varies widely across countries but fewer for NID
**Common patterns resurface across the region**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>FRAGMENTATION</strong></th>
<th><strong>LEGAL GAPS</strong></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lack of coordination and <strong>duplication</strong> between NIDs and functional ID (especially voter IDs) adding costs and limiting interoperability</td>
<td>Although gaps still exist, a growing number of countries have recently introduced personal <strong>data protection</strong> legislation</td>
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<th><strong>FINANCIALS</strong></th>
<th><strong>LINKS TO SERVICES</strong></th>
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<td>Few countries have been able to generate revenues that <strong>reduce financial dependence</strong> on government budgets</td>
<td><strong>Lack of integration</strong> into public and private delivery systems in most countries Few examples of <strong>authentication</strong> of the individual through the credential; long way to go to build an authentication ecosystem</td>
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## TIP OF THE ICEBERG!

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<th><strong>Who is Covered?</strong></th>
<th>Composition of covered population unclear (e.g. age, sex, income)</th>
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<td><strong>Legal Frameworks</strong></td>
<td>Including legal status of digital vs paper files, cybersecurity laws, human resource capacity</td>
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<td><strong>Demand Drivers</strong></td>
<td>E.g. child grants, old age pensions, or mobile KYC</td>
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<td><strong>Identification Infrastructure</strong></td>
<td>A more granular understanding of the identification infrastructure and use of technology</td>
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Let’s take the journey together.