5 Practical steps to large-scale identification
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ID4Africa 2017
Windhoek, Namibia
Countries across Africa are making big strides towards strengthening their identity systems.

The aim: to create an inclusive and universal identity systems.

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But, countries face many challenges.

- Harmonization
- Sustainability
- Technology
- Data protection & privacy
- Lack of inclusivity
- Corruption
- Cost
- Expertise

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Thankfully, there is support available.

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From policy. To practice.

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5 Practical steps across for the *identity lifecycle*.

1. **Design & RFP**
2. **Procurement**
3. **Systems architecture**
4. **Delivery & Execution**
5. **Sustainability**

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Start small and grow.

Build on what already exists and grow an identity ecosystem by investing in functional registers.

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Set-up for long term success.

Getting the procurement process right is key to the long term sustainability of the system.

Keep in mind the three Cs: **Cost, Competition, Corruption.**

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Invest in solutions, not hardware.

Hardware is becoming increasingly commoditized and yet it remains the largest chunk of the budget in most tender processes. In short, hardware can quickly become “oldware”.

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Include everyone.

The identity program should be inclusive, covering every ‘last mile’. End users should have reasonable access to the solution regardless of where they live, even in the most rural locations. Systems should be designed with online and offline capabilities, ensuring continuous registration, ID management and verification.

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Build sustainability through harmonization

The long term sustainability of any identity system is based on its value to governments and the private sector. For both sectors the demand for reliable identity authentication is growing. To keep up, ID systems need to be integrated and universal.

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Biometrics Africa is a practical resource for the identity community, sharing insights and ideas about biometrics and how it’s helping to shape the identity landscape in Africa.

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