The World Bank Group’s ID4D initiative uses global knowledge and expertise across sectors to help countries realize the transformational potential of digital identification systems to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals.

COUNTRY AND REGIONAL ENGAGEMENT

The World Bank Group (WBG) helps countries build more robust and inclusive identification systems through analytics, assessments, and financing. Digital identification systems can lead to tangible benefits across a range of areas, such as financial inclusion, health services, social protection for the poorest and most vulnerable, and empowerment of women and girls.

Country Diagnostics

In response to a country’s request, ID4D conducts assessments of its identity ecosystem using the ID4D Country Diagnostic Tool. ID4D has implemented over 30 country diagnostics facilitating engagement and dialogue within countries.

Technical assistance and advisory services to countries

Building on the country diagnostics, ID4D responds to government demand for technical assistance, which includes a range of activities to support the design of identification systems using global best practice (e.g. universal access, multifunctional usage and interoperability, robust and unique, based on a legal and operational foundation of trust and accountability). The following is a list of technical assistance activities, among others:

- Develop a robust legal and regulatory framework, including data protection and privacy requirements.
- Integrate identification systems into service delivery programs.
- Monitoring and evaluation mechanisms.
- Ensuring end-user engagement from design through implementation.

GLOBAL PLATFORMS AND CONVENING

With its multi-sectoral approach, ID4D has made progress in unifying and driving the global identification agenda by raising awareness and harmonizing the varying interests on this topic through the following:

ID4D High-Level Advisory Council

The Advisory Council, which includes eminent practitioners and thought leaders from the public and private sector, was formed to provide strategic guidance to the ID4D initiative and promote the vision of services and rights for all persons through robust and inclusive identification systems. The Advisory Council—chaired by Kristalina Georgieva, World Bank CEO, and Amina J. Mohammed, United Nations Deputy Secretary-General—considers emerging trends and challenges, including new technologies, privacy and data protection, migration, and displacement.

Principles on identification for Sustainable Development

The Principles were developed with a broad group of development partners, UN agencies, and the private sector to create a shared vision on identification and draw attention to the topic. Endorsed by 23 organizations since they were finalized in February 2017.

South-South Knowledge Exchange

Countries have repeatedly expressed interest in learning from digital identification systems implemented in other countries. ID4D supports knowledge sharing at multiple levels:

- Advocacy and strategic discussions with senior officials to generate commitment and inform a country’s direction.
- In-country implementation support by technical experts from good practice countries.
- Site visits to countries with advanced identification systems, multi-country workshops, and support for the participation of government delegations to ID4D Africa.

Technical Standards for Digital Identity

Since there are a range of global standards across the identification lifecycle (e.g. ISO, ICAO, EMV), ID4D is facilitating a dialogue on a minimum level of standards required to ensure robust and interoperable digital identification systems. This collaborative effort is ongoing and has produced an initial report on Technical Standards for Digital Identity – Draft for Discussion, which catalogues technical standards relevant for digital identification systems.

THOUGHT LEADERSHIP AND ANALYTICS

ID4D advances the global understanding of digital identification through a dynamic research agenda focused on:

- Advocacy to raise awareness among countries and development practitioners about why identity is important and why invest in identification systems.
- Informing country engagements with good practices and how identification systems can be designed to address the needs of various development use cases.
- Tracking progress through global data collection and impact evaluations.

ID4D is Filling Gaps in Critical Analytics and Research

Why identification systems are important

- Synthesis of Africa ID4D diagnostics
- Potential public and private sector savings
- Linkages with delivery of SDG(a)s (e.g. health, education, financial sector)
- End user research for vulnerable populations
- ID in the context of forced displacement
- The role of ID and ending child marriage

How to build robust identification systems

- Operational Guide
- ID Enabling Environment Assessment
- Integration of CR & ID Technologies
- Costs of ID Systems
- Country cases: India, Thailand, South Africa, Estonia and Korea
- Public-Private Partnerships

Tracking of progress toward our goals

- Impact evaluations of ID
- Global dataset & trend analysis
- Findings surveys
- Africa country briefs

ID4D IS A PARTNERSHIP PLATFORM

Given the size of the global identification gap, no single country, international organization, NGO, or private sector entity can surmount this challenge by working alone—coordination is needed at the global, regional and national levels. To this end, ID4D has developed strong relationships with a range of actors working on this emerging topic—including UN agencies, foundations, think tanks and academics, regional bodies, private sector associations and standards bodies. To accelerate the initiative’s work at global, regional, and country levels, the ID4D Multi-Donor Trust Fund was established with support from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and Omidyar Network.

www.worldbank.org/id4d
A SELECTION OF ID4D’S ANALYTICAL WORK

Identification for Development: Africa Business Plan
With an estimated 500 million individuals in Africa lacking basic identification — accounting for nearly half of the global total — developing robust and inclusive identification systems is a top priority in the region. This document outlines the status of identification systems in Africa and planned World Bank engagement at global, regional, and country levels.

As a first step in assisting countries in closing their identification gap, ID4D conducts assessments to evaluate a country’s identity ecosystem. This report synthesizes the findings of such assessments carried out in 17 African countries between 2015 and 2018.

This report provides a strategic view of the role of identification in a country’s national development, as well as a tactical view of the building blocks and policy choices required for establishing a digital identification system.

The State of Identification Systems in Africa: Country Briefs
This report provides a detailed one-page summary of the status of identification programs in 67 African countries, providing insight on the robustness of ID systems, the legal and regulatory environment, and successes and challenges these nations face.

The Role of Digital Identification for Healthcare: The Emerging Use Cases
Identification is crucial for the efficient and effective delivery of health services and public health management. This report synthesizes selected examples of how digital ID systems are used for healthcare in a variety of countries.

Technology Landscape for Digital Identification
This report is an overview of various technologies throughout the identification lifecycle. It provides a framework for assessing technologies against multiple criteria, including the length of time they have been in use, ease of integration with legacy and new systems, and interoperability with other technologies.

Understanding Cost Drivers of Identification Systems
This report provides guidance on key drivers of costs based on evidence from a diverse sample of 15 countries and analysis of the key country characteristics and program design choices, which have the most significant impact on costs. It also includes a financial model, which can be used to estimate the cost of rolling out a system under different scenarios.

The Role of Identification in Ending Child Marriage: Identification for Development
The causes of child marriage are multifaceted and complex — including factors such as poverty, culture, and gender and social norms. This report investigates the positive role identification plays in preventing child marriage and empowering girls.

Identification in the Context of Forced Displacement
Lack of official identification significantly increases the vulnerability of those who have been forced to leave their homes because of conflict, persecution, or natural disaster. This report considers the various identification challenges in the context of forced displacement.

Public-Sector Savings from Identification Systems
Initial evidence suggests that robust identification systems have the potential to produce substantial savings in the public sector. Using the experiences of a handful of countries where data is available, this report builds a framework for analyzing the fiscal benefits associated with investment in identification systems.

Forthcoming
ID4D Enabling Environment Assessment (IDEEA) — for privacy, data protection and inclusion
Most countries lack adequate legal frameworks to support and regulate modern identification systems. Through IDEEA, ID4D supports governments in the development of legal frameworks to promote trust in the design, implementation and use of digital identification, particularly in the areas of data security, individual privacy and data protection, nondiscrimination and inclusion.

Private Sector Savings from Identification Systems
This is a companion piece to the analytical work on public sector savings, which seeks to develop a framework for evaluating the cost savings and revenue generation channels created by foundational identification systems for the private sector.

For more information about ID4D and to sign-up for our newsletter, please visit: www.worldbank.org/id4d