Tanzania’s Digital ID Ecosystem Roadmap:
A vision for integration and enhanced service delivery

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Tanzania at a glance

Population: 54.2 million (2018)
(Over 18: 27.1 million)
Population growth: 3.1%
Land area: 947,300km²
Population density: 57 per km²
Rural population: 68% (2016)
GDP per capita PPP: $2,786 (2016)
3G/4G penetration: around 40% (2016)

This reveals a challenging (but not impossible) context for introducing a national ID system.
History of Tanzania’s national ID system

1968: The idea of a National ID system was introduced

1986: Registration and Identification of Persons Act was enacted

2008: Formation of the National Identification Authority (NIDA)

2013: Commencement of registration and production
Key features

Eligibility: All citizens, legal residents and refugees living in Tanzania, aged 18 years and above

Credentials: • Unique 20-digit national ID number (NIN)
• National ID smartcard (80kb contactless)

Authentication: • Fingerprint or PIN matching against central database through Common Interface Gateway (CIG) and APIs
• Fingerprint matching against smartcard
• Secure web portal to access demographic data (NIN + PIN)
• PKI for authentication when online services
Current status

- **Mass registration underway** in all regions – last region, Kigoma, launched this month)
- **15.2 million people registered** as of April 20 (~56%) – on track to cover the entire adult population by end year
- **5.2 million national ID cards issued**
- **53 institutions** have signed a MoU to access CIG for authentication services through API
- Registration Office established in all 150 Districts
- Data/Production Center and DRR site fully functional
Challenges

- Geography and population size/density slowing mass registration
- Inadequate resources to for mass registration, building capacity and establishing ICT infrastructure
- Outdated legal and regulatory framework
- Existing functional ID systems making it difficult for service providers to adopt the national ID system for their identity needs
- Different technology standards make interoperability more challenging
- Poor connectivity restricts authentication services and use cases
- Separation of civil registration and national ID systems
Key opportunities and use cases

Higher education loans
Eliminating ghost workers
TASAF Assistance (cash transfers)
Financial inclusion (account opening)
National Health Insurance Fund
Social security consolidation
Integrity of passports
Land registration
E-Government
Digital ID Ecosystem Roadmap (2018-2020)

• In late-2017, NIDA developed a 3-year roadmap to:
  • address fragmentation in Tanzania’s identity ecosystem and establish the national ID system as the authoritative source of truth on the identity of individuals in Tanzania
  • promote usage of the national ID system, including integration with civil registration

• The vision:
  • By 2020, Tanzania will possess world-leading, inclusive, secure and trustworthy national ID system that accelerates socio-economic development by empowering the population with access to rights and services, supporting peace and security, improving public administration, and advancing regional integration
The Process

• Establish a Digital ID Ecosystem Taskforce (DIET) of 8 organizations:
  • NIDA; RITA; Zanzibar ID; Zanzibar Registrar of Birth and Death; Ministry of Home Affairs; Immigration Department; Refugee Services Department; and e-Government Agency.

• 2 consultative workshops, attended by over 50 stakeholder
  • Government; Mobile Operators; Banks; Development Partners
  • Experts from India, Estonia, ID4Africa
Roadmap Goals

1. Universal coverage and accessibility
2. Robust design and sufficient capacity
3. Enabling environment of trust and accountability
4. Efficient and reliable verification ecosystem
Activities and targets (1)

1. Universal coverage and accessibility

- By December 2018, all eligible residents will have been registered in the national ID system and issued a NIN.
- By December 2019, all eligible residents will have been issued with their national ID card.
- By December 2018, District Registration Office (DRO) will be established in every district.

2. Robust design and sufficient capacity

- By March 2018, NIDA’s data centers will be fully operational and secure.
- By December 2018, NIDA will be technically and financially self-sustaining by charging fees for verification and card replacement.
Activities and targets (2)

3. Enabling environment of trust and accountability

• By September 2018, the national ID system will benefit from a strong legal and regulatory framework that protects personal data and privacy.

4. Efficient and reliable verification ecosystem

• By December 2018, the national ID system will be used for all KYC processes for new customers in financial and mobile services.
• By December 2018, the national ID system will be integrated into key services and programs, including tax administration, student loans, civil service payroll, pensions and health insurance.
Harmonizing ID and civil registration

• Birth and death data is essential for the accuracy and sustainability of any national ID system

• NIDA is already integrated with Zanzibar’s civil registry

• As part of the Roadmap and as RITA digitizes, NIDA and RITA will integrate on the Mainland

• Long-term strategy is assigning NINs on birth certificates across Tanzania

• NIDA reviewing law to lower ID card age from 18 to 15
Key lessons from Tanzania for other countries to do their own Roadmap

1. Prioritize national development, which will break down silos
2. Involve all stakeholders in a consultative process, they have a lot to share and offer
3. Identify shared objectives to find common ground
4. Leverage low hanging use cases and incentives
5. Learn from what other countries are doing
6. Draw on development partners for technical advice and financing
7. Promote open standards to facilitate technical interoperability
Asante !!!