



Liberia's National Biometric Identification system: a Foundational Identity Platform

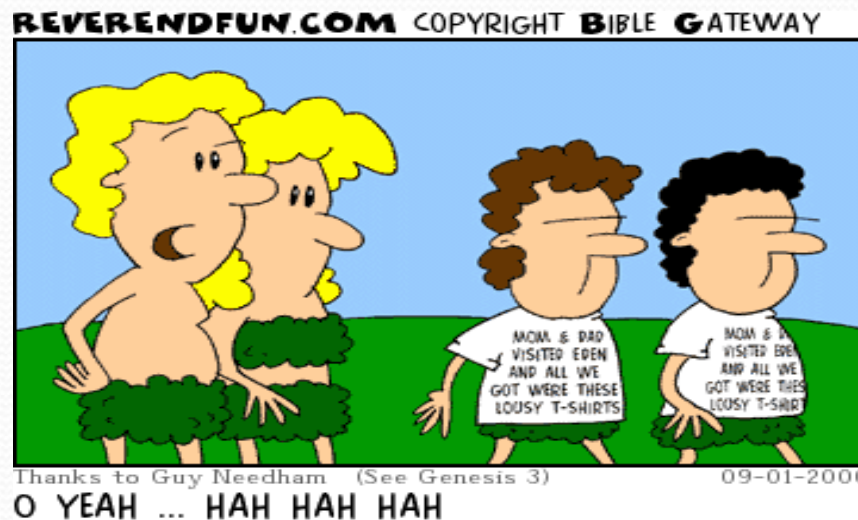
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Presentation Focus

1. Briefly Survey Liberia's Identity Journey
2. Share Insights into our Current Solutions
3. Show why Functional ID Issuers Consider us a Partner
4. **Suggest that a High-coverage Ratio Population Register is a Great Option for Harmonization**

Who Needed ID's in the Beginning?

- In the beginning there may have been little need to identify people
- Did a world made up of only Adam, Eve, Abel and Cain need fingerprinting?



How Liberia's ID Needs Evolved

- Descendants of freed American slaves led independence efforts
- May have had a population of less than 100,000 people at independence in 1847
- By 1980 we were approaching 2 million people and had challenges
- 1983: first national ID system established

How our System is Designed?

- Re-started national ID conversation in 2008, with card seen as a tool for filling nationalism deficit
- National ID required for several documents/services
- Our National Identification Registry is designed as a population registry
- Law passed in 2011, management appointed Oct 2015, and first biometric ID card issued Oct. 31, 2017
- We have an AFIS for ten fingers
- We are combining 11 permanent and at least 50 mobile enrollment teams to be able to reach 3,000 locations nationwide

Our Technical Partner

- We chose Techno Brain Global, FZE
- They have been a great partner
- Some twenty-one top-tier firms expressed interest in working with us.

A Push for 99% Coverage

- Enrollment is free and required by law, but ID card is for a fee of US\$5 or US\$10
- Want to register 99% of the population in two years
- We have commenced with enrollment of Government employees and pensioners
- We will then move to enroll those who use mobile phones, banking and other important services.
- Challenge with low-income earners and informal sector could be addressed with external assistance

We Support – not Compete with Functional ID's

- We have by far the largest enrollment platform : more than 70 teams
- Development partners who support and operate biometric ID databases are finding that it is better to get the foundational information from us
- ICT firms are finding that we will spur growth in the industry in Liberia
- Other government agencies are realizing that it is cheaper to collect the information from us

National ID for Voting

- Our Government has decided against biometric registration that is only for voting purposes. Next is for stakeholders to accept use of the national registry data for creating a voter roll. The signs are encouraging.
- Biometric voter registration will have a lower data center management cost, but a higher enrollment cost
- It requires nationwide enrollment for each electoral cycle
- **Illustration:** registration at a 3,000 localities over 18 years.
 - elections registration will happen **8 more times**
 - national registration will happen **0 more time**

Liberia's NBIS:

A vehicle for Harmonization

- We find a high-coverage ratio population/civil register an optimal path to harmonization
- For us, functional biometric ID systems were created because of the absence of a central database
- Data quality and specificity discouraged us from using existing data
- Medium to long-term benefits of a national register far exceed the cost of establishing one

Conclusion

- Liberia's ID ecosystem is evolving with population growth and service complexity
- With a foundational/national register everyone wins
- Consider the building of a population register as an option for harmonization.



Thank you.