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

COUNTRY AND REGIONAL ENGAGEMENT

The World Bank 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, the ID4D Initiative conducts assessments of its identity ecosystem using the Guidelines for ID4D Diagnostics. 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, the ID4D Initiative responds to government demand for technical assistance, which includes a range of activities to support the design of identification systems using global good practice (e.g. universal access, multifunctional usage and interoperability, robust and unique, built on a legal and operational foundation of trust and accountability). The following is a list of technical assistance activities, among others:

- Recommendations on design, including:
  - Design options, including cost-benefit analysis of different options, to increase enrollment and coverage;
  - Design options to integrate civil registries with national ID;
  - Guidance on appropriate technology (e.g. enrollment, database structures, credential options, deduplication, and cybersecurity);
- Design sustainable business models of ID systems;
- 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, the ID4D Initiative 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 and values of services and rights for all persons through robust and inclusive identification systems. The Advisory Council—co-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. Since 2017, the Principles have been endorsed by more than 20 organizations.

Peer-to-Peer Knowledge Exchange

Countries have repeatedly expressed interest in learning from digital identification systems implemented in other countries. The ID4D Initiative 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 ID4Afrika.

The ID4D Initiative is filling gaps in critical analytics and research

Why identification systems are important

Impact evaluations of ID
Potential public and private sector savings
Linkages with delivery of services (e.g. agriculture, health, financial sector)
ID in the context of forced displacement
The role of ID in ending child marriage

How to build robust identification systems

Operational Suite
- ID Enabling Environment Assessment
- Integration of CR & ID
- Technology Landscape
- Key drivers of costs of ID systems
- Privacy by Design

End user research for vulnerable populations
Country cases: India, Moldova, Thailand, South Africa
Public-Private Partnerships

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, the ID4D Initiative 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, Omidyar Network and the Australian Government.

Technical Standards for Digital Identity

Since there are a range of global standards across the identification lifecycle (e.g. ISO, ICAO, EMV), the ID4D Initiative facilitated a dialogue on a minimum level of standards required to ensure robust and interoperable digital identification systems. This collaborative effort produced the Catalog of Technical Standards for Digital Identification Systems, which includes a user-friendly guide to help identify areas where standards are available and areas where there are competing standards.

THOUGHT LEADERSHIP AND ANALYTICS

The ID4D Initiative 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; and
- Tracking progress through global data collection and impact evaluations.
Principles on Identification for Sustainable Development: Toward the Digital Age

More than 20 organizations came together to develop a set of shared "Principles on Identification for Sustainable Development: Toward the Digital Age" which considers the fundamentals to maximizing the benefits of identification systems while mitigating the risks. We hope additional organizations would be interested in joining and consider this to be a living document to be revised in the future with further learning and implementation.

Identification for Development: Africa Business Plan

With an estimated 500 million individuals in Africa lacking basic identification—accounting for nearly half 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.


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 Assessments: This report synthesizes the findings of such assessments carried out in 17 African countries between 2015 and 2016. Country Briefs: This report provides a detailed one-page summary of the status of identification programs for 47 African countries.

Identification for Development: The Emerging Use Cases

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.

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.

Digital Identity: Public and Private Sector Cooperation

This paper lays out the digital identity lifecycle and the roles of various players across public and private sector. It outlines public-private partnership models based on case examples across a range of countries.

ID 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.

For more information about the ID4D Initiative and to subscribe to the ID4D in Action newsletter, please visit: id4d.worldbank.org