Interoperability in African Governments: Digital Identity as an Enabler
About Seamfix
We are the KYC Company

- Seamfix is a team of over 100 enthusiastic professionals from diverse ethnic groups. We create platforms to empower businesses across Africa.

- For over 12 years, we have delivered innovative platforms in the identity management vertical and built cutting edge solutions that enable our clients achieve more.
Introduction
This presentation is focused on how digital identity enables interoperability for the benefit of government agencies and citizens.
What is Digital Identity?

Digital identity is the unique information about an individual which is used to authenticate who the individual claims to.

The identity consists of very delicate information about the individual.
Interoperability in African Government; Why?

- Interoperability refers to the ability of different IT systems to be able to exchange data, communicate and verify identities.

- It ensures a common understanding of the exchanged data between systems and across organizations.

- Most government have citizens’ data in different silos – a lot of times these data are incomplete and often conflict.
Challenges of the Identification Systems in Africa

- Fragmented identity systems
- Lack of implementation capacity
- Semi-digital model
- Inadequate provision for faster and accurate enrollment

*Prime partners may receive additional benefits*
Benefits of Interoperability

- Access to e-Government Services
- A key enabler of Financial Inclusion
- Smarter Governance
- Easier access to healthcare and health services
- Easier access to education and educational services
- Better security systems/ a more secure country
The first step to ensuring interoperability is by Creating Data Standards.
What are Data Standards?

Data Standards refer to the rules that guide how data is created, recorded, shared and integrated while ensuring that they have been gathered in the expected format.

It establishes the need for accurate and trustworthy data to be shared seamlessly across organisations and avoid ambiguity.
Role of Data Standards

• Data standards promote reusability of data, constant use of the data ensures data integrity.

• Consistency is enhanced during data retrieval.

• What do we do when we have multiple databases?
Addressing Multiple Data Sources

Government agencies and parastatals need an integrated system of Information Technology that enables shared synchronization of data/information from different agencies.

Synchronization of existing data may be done through the use of Artificial intelligence and Robotics to analyse the data variables from different agencies.
In building a **strong, reliable** national database, a **trustworthy** network is needed.

To have a trustworthy network, security, privacy and reliability must be on every major network component together with countermeasures to curb potential threat this exercise may face.
National Enrollment Case Study

• NIMC developed an 11 digits NIN – National Identification Number.

• NIMC has made vast progress and integrated to the database of other parts of the government – health, immigration, driver’s license.

• Some transactions will now require mandatory use of NIN in the nearest future.

• This will aid a swift response rate in terms of verification.
For example, the NSA needs information on Abdul Chima Tunde. With a single search, the different databases are hit to provide information on everything about the individual.
NSA COMMAND PORTAL

Search Abdul Chima Tunde Enter
Conclusion

To ensure a safe and holistically inclusive economy and Government, it is pertinent to start as quickly as possible to ensure interoperability across government agencies.

This will further enable better collaborations and movement among countries within the African Union.
Since 2007, Seamfix has successfully deployed and managed more than 30 enterprise KYC and identity management projects for its growing client base, which includes at least 3 major telecommunication firms, 5 top tier banks, Federal government and many State governments.
1 Million Data Captures Daily

200k Data Captures

250k Data Captures

450k Data Captures

Over 200k Data Captures Nationwide

For Telcos Industry

Post-UME registration Across 12 universities

Document digitization & data capture entries for UNN and UNICAL

Ghost worker elimination projects across many states

For Telcos

NIMC National ID Card project.