



Why Foundational ID Generated Voter Rolls Make Common Sense

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Presentation Focus

1. Synopsis
2. Value of Collaboration Among ID Entities
3. Obstacles/Remedies to Collaboration between Electoral and NID Authorities
4. Why Foundational ID Generate Better Voter Rolls
5. Conclusions



Synopsis of the Presentation

- **I seek to:**

- 1) help unlock the huge benefits that can accrue from cooperation (and not competition) between African electoral and foundational ID authorities,**
- 2) show why I believe that foundational ID systems generate far better voter rolls than voter-specific (functional) ID systems , and**
- 3) point out that African counties appear to be migrating to foundational ID-generated voter rolls, and those that have not done so should get onboard sooner,**



Why I Could be Helpful Here

I developed interest in this collaboration between electoral and national ID authorities because of my unique background:

1. Former commissioner of elections in Liberia (1997)
2. Head of Liberia's national ID agency since 2015
3. Experience in finance, which makes me to see this collaboration as a strategy for mobilizing significant financial resources in building national ID ecosystems

Value of Collaboration Among ID Authorities



- We may agree that a key requirement for robust ID ecosystems is the coverage ratio, i.e. the percentage of the total population that is identified
- One challenge that impedes some African countries' desire to achieving high coverage ratios is funding of the enrollment of citizens/residents
- I think that as a group, we at ID4Africa, have explored harmonization of a country's ID systems to aid higher coverage; but this is challenged by interoperability and poor data collection issues among agencies.
- The other area that we may want to also look at is cooperation, which enables pooling of resources and can generate financial leverage

Value of Collaboration Among ID Authorities (2)



Collaboration between national ID and electoral authorities may be a significant partnership for achieving higher coverage ratios because:

- 1. Voters represent about 50% of a country's total population**
- 2. Election has constitutional and political implications and occur periodically, giving it huge clout in mobilizing resources**
- 3. Therefore, when voter registration is linked to national identification, the national ID ecosystem gets a huge boost**



Obstacles and Remedies to Collaboration

1. Turf or territorial wars among entities: - joint

implementation could ease these tensions, but it may be difficult to manage as well; consider giving electoral authority an influential role in the process

2. Legal and regulatory issues: better to identify them sooner;

however, they may not be too challenging, if a constitutional

change is not required



Obstacles and Remedies to Collaboration (2)

3. Fear that civil registry authorities will manipulate voters roll:

- not quite founded as electoral frauds can happen across the full electoral spectrum; haven't electoral authorities too been accused of manipulating voters rolls? The key here is to implement strong electoral systems.
- All parties/stakeholders have a duty to be vigilant, and they should always be
- This is becoming the most popular approach in generating voters rolls today
- Electoral authorities can do biometric verification of data provided by the ID authority, a policy that could discourage those who wish to manipulate the

list



Why Foundational IDs Generate Better Voter Rolls

Using Functional ID

1. Preventing manipulation of VR

- Difficult because registration starts at voting age

2. Creating an ever-ready VR

- not possible because registration excludes people below voting age

Using Foundational ID

1. Preventing manipulation of the VR

- Quite easier because registration starts at birth and covers all ages

2. Creating an ever-ready VR

- Quite possible because registration covers all

Why Foundational IDs Generate Better Voter Rolls

(2)



Using Functional ID

3. Long-term cost for Elections

- Increases with repeat voter registrations

4. Global Acceptance

- Many countries seem to be moving away from this approach

Using Foundational ID

3. Long-term cost for Elections

- significant savings due to no new 'voter registrations'

4. Global Acceptance

- **Becoming a global standard for creating voter rolls**

Statements from ID4Africa Community Members



- At our 2016 meeting in Kigali, Zetes, a leading biometric ID solution provider and one of the pioneers for biometric voter IDs in Africa announced that it believes voter-specific biometric ID solutions are not optimal.
- This year ID4D is reporting that South Africa, our distinguished host, has saved about USD313.7 million over three electoral cycles, by deriving her voter roll from the population register.

Conclusions

- In addition to harmonization, collaboration among ID authorities, especially civil and electoral, offer huge opportunities for resource mobilization in building ID ecosystems
- Collaboration between electoral and ID authorities should be encourage because elections have leverage
- There will be obstacles, but none seems insurmountable
- Using foundational IDs to generate the voter roll is becoming the most **widely adopted approach today.**



THANK YOU!
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