A look at BENIN eID Experience

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BENIN HIGHLIGHTS

- 115,000 km²
- Population: approx 11.2 million
- GDP per capita = $928 (2018 est)
- Economic area: ECOWAS
E-ID CONTEXT IN BENIN

Government VISION
« Transforming BENIN in the number 1 e-service platform in west Africa for economic growth and social inclusion ».

New political leadership since april 2016

Strong social component of the governement program

How to provide efficient social services (reduction of fraud)

Political stability and consensus

Referential building :
- people
- businesses
- land

Digital at the centre of all public development projects
Process Timing

Decision and contractualisation
- Objective settings at the highest level
- Selection of the Partner
- Design of the project (1500 tablets, Partner driven, 6 months, all citizen, all residents, not compulsory, biometric data, etc…)
- Initial timing

Preparation: Field and Governance
- Project team
- Internal government communication
- Recruitment and training of « form agents »
- Setting up of a political Supervision team
- Design and launch of the campaign.
- Data Centre installation

Biometric Data Capture
- In 600 stations at a time
- Minimum of 2 agents + 1 form agent + municipal agent
- Queue management and security
- Power management
- Data card collection
- Supervision and reporting.

Data validation
- Data verification (photo quality, duplications, …) by special team
- Special cases processing and verification: no ID or Birth certificate

Operationalization and usage
- Creation of ANIP (gouvernemental agency for Identification)
- Provision of dematerialized birth certificates to 2.5 millions people
- Production of first eID electronic cards.
.... And Communication, Communication, Communication

- Communication team
- All advert channels (Radio, TV, newspapers, billboards, etc.)
- 1 simple message on benefits, not process
EXCELLENT RESULTS SO FAR

A database of biometric records for 10 millions+ beninese

- Significant expectations created by the process
- Identification of 2.5 millions people with no proper identity for different reasons taken into account
- Numerous requests from different sectors of the Administration willing to use the results of the registration
- Launch of the Electronic National Identity Card (ECOWAS compliant) starting with the poorest
- Consensus that the biometric database is not meant for political / election bias
THE REGISTRATION FORM AND DATA CAPTURE

A facilitation tool
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IT CHALLENGES

The database is just the tip of the IT iceberg

- Obviously the database should be set up in a very secured facility
- But the biggest challenges are rising after the massive initial registration:
  - Protecting the Database from cyber attacks (hardware + software + processes) – Call on ANSSI
  - Safe and simple use of data: use of clones and copy, so that queries can be processed. System urbanization required.
  - Online changes on the database (processes + hardware + software)
  - Cost of deploying use case: access, end points, Match-on-card, monitoring and monetization

For each use case, cost of IT (CAPEX and OPEX) are to be offset by efficiency gains on top of money savings.
CHALLENGES

A few challenges … of course

✓ What about the Beninese from abroad (diaspora) ?
✓ Heavy cost of the initial process (>USD 40 millions) … let’s prove it is worthwhile !
✓ Structure and governance for the on-going registration
✓ Structure to operationalise and monetize the biometric database
✓ Management of personal data (stringent laws on protection of personal data in Benin)
✓ How these biometric data of people can be transformed in a reference database at national level ?
1ST USE CASE: CIVIL REGISTRATION

The impact on population and SDGs are high

Already in process:

✓ Provision of dematerialized birth certificates to 2.5 millions people without any ID

In the pipeline:

❖ Setting up of a centralized Civil registration
❖ Setting up of municipal, decentralized, registers
❖ New e-birth-certificate for all
OTHER USE CASES FOR BENIN

The sky is the limit 😊

Already in process:

✓ Provision of dematerialized birth certificates to 2.5 millions people without any ID
✓ Handing over of eID electronic cards to the “poorest” citizens for them to access free health services (strong and immediate authentication was required)

In the pipeline:

❖ Electronic ID card (ECOWAS compliant) to 5 million people within 2 to 3 years and progressive phase out of existing laminated ID
❖ Personal Identification number (NPI) to be paired with SIM Cards
❖ Social security services (pension, disability, etc…) will be served quicker if you have an ID card. The contact chip will help eradicating fraud.
❖ All administrative documents delivered by government will have the NPI of the person concerned
❖ Services will be offered to banks and insurance companies to simplify the KYC
❖ Etc ….
IN CONCLUSION:

GO FOR IT! NOW 😊