



**NIRA**  
NATIONAL IDENTIFICATION &  
REGISTRATION AUTHORITY  
HAY'ADDA AQOONSIGA IYO DIIWAANGELINTA QARANKA

# Somalia's Journey Towards a Foundational National ID System

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Director General, NIRA Somalia**

# Current Status – Somalia's National ID System



**Somalia launched its National ID program in September 2023, led by NIRA.**

## *Legal Framework*

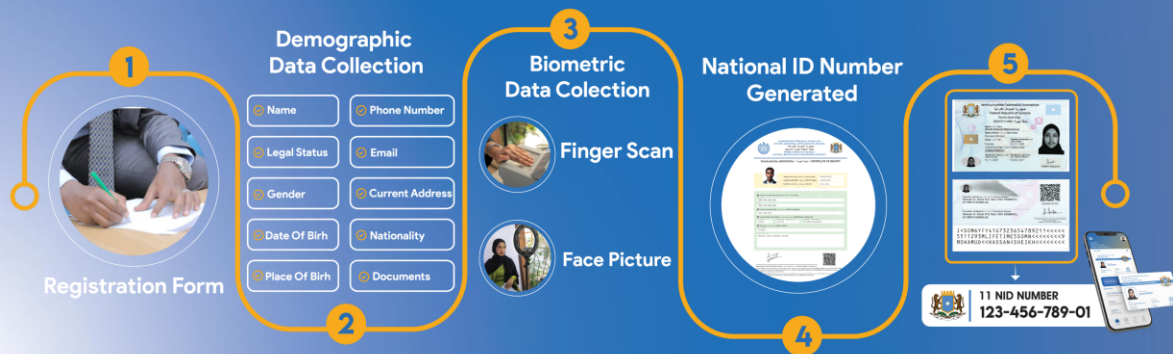
**National ID Law enacted  
(Law No. 009 of March 2023)**

**NIRA, established in 2020, was mandated to implement the Act in March 2023.**



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## *System Features*



**Unique National ID number  
(11 digits)**

**Biometric  
(fingerprints and facial  
recognition)**

**Digital and physical ID cards**

## *Technological Readiness*

**eAqoonsi App launched for digital ID access (Available on Google Play and App Store)**

**Hubiye Platform operational for verification by relying parties (Accessible through API Interface)**





## Current Use Cases

### Private

 **BANKS**

**6** Connected

 **Notaries**

**2** Connected

 **Microfinance**

**1** Connected



### Public

 **Ministry of Education**  
**Connected**

 **Ministry of Transportation**  
**In Progress**

 **Ministry of Commerce**  
**In Progress**

 **Civil Service Commission**  
**In Progress**



# Key Drivers for NIRA



**Ensure legal identity for all (SDG 16.9)**

**Enable Correspondent Banking  
(Meeting KYC & AML Standards)**



**Unify Fragmented Identification  
Systems across the country**



**Strengthen Security and Stability  
(Improving Law Enforcement)**





**Public misconceptions linking National ID to elections or surveillance**



**Interoperability issues (government systems)**



**Misinformation around data privacy and use**



**Infrastructure gaps and security risks in remote regions**





## Phased Implementation

- ✔ Proof of Concept conducted
- ✔ Pre-registration tested and validated
- ✔ Piloting completed

## Technology Expansion

- ✔ Iris capture capability under development
- ✔ Biometric verification capability tested

## Strategic Capacity Allocation:

Instead of spreading thin, we focused our limited national capacity on high-level program management and strategic oversight

## Safeguards

- ✔ National Data Protection Act enacted
- ✔ Data Protection Authority (DPA) established



## Smart Capacity Use



Somalia's technical pool is limited.

We focused our in-house resources where they could drive the most value software development, oversight, policy, and coordination—while leveraging external expertise & support

## Partnering for Speed and Scale

Instead of building everything from scratch, we partnered with experienced players to accelerate delivery.



Our goal:  
speed without sacrificing control.

## Standards & Interoperability

We adopted international standards from the outset to

Ensure future interoperability with government and private sector systems

Avoid vendor lock-in and maintain strategic flexibility



## Early Impact

Improved service delivery (e.g., education)



Building trust through community outreach

Potential for regional integration & cross-border interoperability

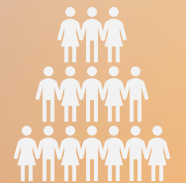


## Key Lessons



Legal and institutional frameworks are essential for legitimacy

Continuous public engagement counters misinformation



Technology investments enable flexible registration models

# Future Roadmap

April 2025

**Mass Registration Campaign,  
with the aim of reaching all FMS and remote regions**



# Future Roadmap

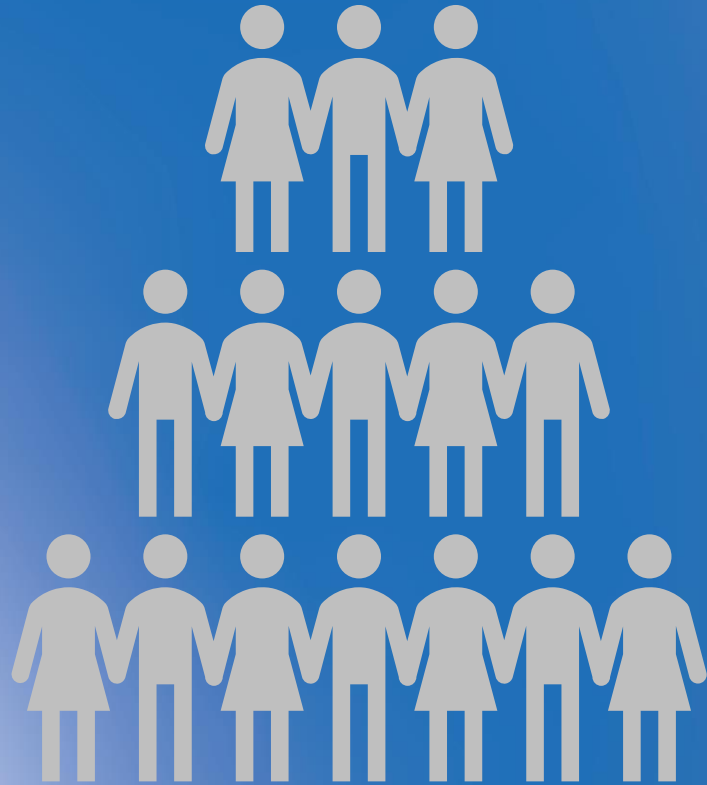
Nov 2025



**Online biometric registration expansion to reduce dependence on physical centers**

# Future Roadmap

Nov 2025



**15 million citizens enrolled by 2029** – ensuring no one is left behind



***"Somalia's National ID journey aims to empower every person with legal identity, ensuring access to services, rights, and full participation in society."***