CROSS-PRACTICE INITIATIVE

Identification for Development

OVERVIEW

Providing legal identity for all (including birth registration) by 2030 is a target shared by the international community as part of the Sustainable Development Goals (target 16.9). The World Bank Group (WBG) has launched the Identification for Development (ID4D) cross-practice initiative to help our client countries achieve this goal and with the vision of *making everyone count: ensure a unique legal identity and enable digital ID-based services to all.*

OBJECTIVES

Modern civil registries and robust civil identification systems are powerful tools in the fight against poverty, social exclusion and inequality. Identity management systems are key to improving public sector policies and delivering better public and private services. Above all, they help ensure that individuals can access their civic and legal rights.

The ID4D will support the strengthening of the civil and identification (legal) registries in order for these to guarantee the validity of the documents (certificates or identity cards) they issue.

The ID4D initiative has four objectives:

Enabling the operational environment of the legal (or foundational) registries to:

- Ensure that all adults have a robust form of legal identity; and
- Promote universal birth registration so that children can obtain legal identity.

Enabling the operational environment of the administrative (or functional) registries to efficiently and securely authenticate identities to:

- Ensure that civil identification systems are interoperable with social and other programs; and
- Facilitate citizens' access to economic opportunities including access to finance and employment.

The WBG launched ID4D in July 2014, recognizing the transformational potential of modern, 21st-century civil identification systems for improved delivery of basic services to the poor. ID4D is a joint initiative of the Health, Social Protection, Finance and Markets, Governance, Trade and Competitiveness, and Transport and ICT GPs, as well as the Gender CCSA, DEC, LEG, IFC, MIGA and CGAP.

ID4D brings together global knowledge and expertise across multiple sectors and countries to tackle fundamental development challenges. The group will also support relevant projects in collaboration with other donors and governments.

The WBG's interventions in the ID4D domain will be guided by a number of principles:

- Free birth registration of all children under one year of age;

- Free issuance of birth certificate;
- Universal coverage of civil registration and civil identification systems, particularly of marginalized groups;
- Systems using modern technology and integrated platforms for promoting e-ID enabled services (one-stop-shops and single windows);
- Robust legal frameworks, including respect for data protection and privacy; and
- Raising awareness on integrity of registries to ensure long-term accessibility and security of legal identity records.

The ID4D global data set developed in January 2015 revealed the following challenges:

- **Total unregistered population:** 1.8 billion (adults/voters; 25% of the world population)
- **Total unregistered births (0-4):** 217 million (76% in 10 extremely poor countries)
- **Total unregistered births (0-14):** 624 million   (750 m (0-16) according to UN 2013 report)
- Most of the unregistered population is found in the South Asia and Africa regions.
- **113 countries issued e-IDs** so far (35 countries are in the process) mainly for adults/voters.

APPROACH

The World Bank has financed more than 142 ID4D related investment projects (63 active, 23 pipeline, 56 closed) in 70+ countries within the last 30 years. About 10 out of 63 active projects in 40 countries are related to the improvement of **legal** registries (civil registries & national ID systems), and other projects support **functional** registries (e.g., beneficiary IDs, taxpayers, business registries, civil service/payroll).

Effective implementation and integration of legal identity solutions require attention not just to the technological features, but also to the legal, social and institutional contexts. Misuse of data, potential for exclusion and misconceived projects are some of the important risks

considered during the development of ID4D solutions.

PROGRAM ACTIVITIES
- **ID Management System Analysis** to establish a country-specific baseline for improvements and modernization schemes to operationalize SDG 16.9.
- **Raising awareness on ID4D legal / regulatory aspects**, and suggesting country-specific solutions on data protection, privacy and inclusiveness.
- **Operational support** to improve and integrate civil registration and identification, including legal and institutional frameworks, and expand e-ID enabled services through robust authentication services.
- Creation and dissemination of relevant **global knowledge products and data sets**.
- **Strengthening partnerships** with client countries and other development partners.

EXPECTED IMPACT

Universal legal identity through secure authentication mechanisms has the potential to transform society through improved distribution of resources and efficiency in both the public and private sectors.

- Cash transfers to pensioners (South Africa)
- Improved tax collection and loan repayments (Ethiopia)
- Cashless health insurance for households (India, Gabon)
- Payroll savings by eliminating public sector ghost workers (Nigeria)

Furthermore, robust identity management systems will provide valuable demographic information and vital statistics to enhance public sector decision-making capacity.

Legal identity is a necessary component of inclusive institutions supporting shared prosperity — and an important priority of the Governance Global Practice.