Identification Programs and Development

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Outline

• Status of ID and programs in developing countries
• The diverse architecture of ID programs
  – Robustness, Coverage, Integration
  – Integration: birth <-> population registries
  – Integration: foundational <-> functional IDs
• Priorities looking forward
  – Cost effectiveness and sustainability
  – Data privacy and protection
• Maximizing ID benefits and managing risks
Status of ID Programs

More countries are implementing National ID (NID) and similar programs

- Spurt in ID programs since 2000 especially in developing countries

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NID Initiatives</th>
<th>Pre 2000</th>
<th>Post 2000</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>High-Middle Income</td>
<td>55</td>
<td>39</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Low-Middle Income</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>52</td>
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</tbody>
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- Yet around 1.8 billion people may not have a NID-type credential or a birth certificate
  - Usually poorer and excluded
  - About half of them are children who have not been registered at birth
Different Starting Points

• We can consider ID systems in three dimensions:
  – Are the credentials robust?
  – How high is coverage of the IDs?
  – Is the ID system integrated?
    • Applications: social protection, finance, pensions, elections
    • And is the NID grounded in strong civil registration (coverage of births, deaths?)

• Some countries are strong in these dimensions and can build on what they have. Others do not have well-developed civil registration and/or national ID systems and must start almost from the beginning
Some Countries: Too Many Systems

- NID programs not based on strong civil register need a parallel population register
- Also many functional programs with their own ID systems
  - Elections, pensions, social protection........
  - Coverage may be higher than the National ID
- To be useful and updated ID systems have to be used!
  - Linking to individual ID and updating is a challenge

Updating by Application

Updating the register requires the use of the ID to deliver services
Factors Driving ID Patterns

**Demand Side**

- Security concerns post 9/11
- Elections
  - Over 38 low and middle income countries use biometric voter rolls (IDEA)
- Need to rationalize government subsidies, programs
  - At least 400 million beneficiaries of transfer programs; fuel subsidies $1.9 trillion (WB, IMF)
- Commercial applications: eID -- services, financial access, KYC

**Supply Side**

- Biometric technology. Most recent programs use biometrics (finger, face, iris). Upgrading to multi-biometrics to ensure uniqueness as well as authenticate.
- ICT – remote transactions, perhaps smartcards

**Fragmented Institutions**

- Ministries and agencies in countries
  - Seek to protect own programs
  - May benefit from technology procurements
- Support from “mission – driven” donor/partner community
Some ID Architectures

Dimensions: Robustness, Coverage, Integration

Peru – all three. Pakistan, Indonesia - less so. Philippines- high birth registration but disconnected system.
Towards Better Systems

It depends on the starting point. And architecture can reflect social choice and political reality especially integration.

But most countries are moving towards more integrated systems and using ID number to consolidate data around individual.

• One significant example: Aadhaar programs in India.
  – Over 830 million people enrolled
  – Remote biometric authentication. No ID cards
  – Open standards-based architecture

Only about half of all countries have data privacy laws. A framework to ensure that data are protected and to provide clear rules and accountability becomes especially vital as ID becomes more integrated.

• Strong relationship: data privacy laws and democracy
Cost-Effectiveness and Sustainability

Integrated system with continuous registration/enrolment have cost advantages

- NID enrolments – around $4 - $8 per head
  - India UID - $1.16 to date

- Functional programs vary
  - Elections including voter registration: $7 - $20 per head
    - Maybe one third technology costs
    - Unsustainable if one-off

Commercial ID model based on delivery of ID services?

- Pakistan example NADRA
- Cross-subsidize to get high enrolment

Incentivize demand through link to benefits

- South Africa, Peru, Pakistan, India, others
Development Benefits and Risks

**Benefits**

- Large potential savings: payroll, pensions, subsidy reform
- Inclusion of marginalized groups (Peru, Pakistan...)
  - Financial inclusion through transfers, etc (India..)
- Time and cost savings via e-Government (Estonia, Kenya..)

**Risks:**

- Exclusion, including from national status (DR-Haiti)
  - Documented statelessness (10 million) only part of the concern
  - Issue for many countries in Africa
- Privacy and surveillance especially with integrated systems
  - Data-Privacy laws and accountability
- Political economy limits on applications
  - Especially those that confront the interests of elites (Pakistan..)
Conclusion

• Both security and development are driving strengthened identification systems
• Demand is key: must harness to sustain systems
• Technology can help countries “leapfrog”
  – But still need to strengthen civil registration to provide firm basis for system and strengthen life-cycle identity from birth
• Integrate for effectiveness and cost-effectiveness but manage risks
• THANK YOU