

GPECS II 

Global Project
for Electoral Cycle Support II



Empowered lives.
Resilient nations.

**UN Activity in Support of ID Management:
why support to one register should be
integrated with support to all
SDG #16.9 – “*provide legal identity for all,
including birth registration by 2030.*”**

Niall McCann

Lead Electoral Advisor

United Nations Development Programme

UNDP & Elections

- UNDP is the United Nation's development agency and active in more than 170 countries/territories worldwide
- UNDP provides support to elections upon recommendation of the Under-Secretary General of Political Affairs, who is the UN electoral focal point
- Between 2013-2015, UNDP provided some form of electoral assistance to 68 countries
- Support, in many countries, includes support on voter registration



Sixty-eighth session

Item 69 (b) of the provisional agenda*

Promotion and protection of human rights: human rights questions, including alternative approaches for improving the effective enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms**Strengthening the role of the United Nations in enhancing the effectiveness of the principle of periodic and genuine elections and the promotion of democratization****Report of the Secretary-General***Summary*

The present report describes trends and significant issues in electoral assistance provided to Member States by the United Nations system over the past two years. Compared to the previous two-year period, the number of Member States receiving electoral assistance increased slightly to 59.

The report notes progress in strengthening coherence and coordination within the United Nations system, under the auspices of the focal point for electoral assistance. It also discusses cooperation with non-United Nations organizations. The report identifies ways to continue strengthening internal and external coordination, including through the integration of United Nations electoral assistance in mission settings.

With respect to gender equality in elections, the report notes that although there has been a steady increase in the share of women in parliaments worldwide, the global rate of elected women remains low and their participation in politics still falls far short of expectations. The report discusses the activities of the United Nations system in promoting the political participation of women and in supporting the efforts of Member States to meet their international obligations and commitments.

SG concerns:

*“I remain concerned about the...**introduction of technologies...that may be too costly** for receiving countries to maintain in the long run...The success of an election and the use of technology is not...straightforward. Investments...need to be carefully considered. New technology may be best introduced as a solution to problems that might hinder the credibility of the process or the acceptance of results, **not as an end in itself.**”*

UNDP biometric voter registration

support:

- Approximately 13 countries;
- In excess of \$50m;
- Nearly all vendors present at ID4Africa 2016;
- Combined hardware and software systems;
- Capture of digital thumbprints for biometric enrollment;
- Capture of digital photo for appearance on VR card, usually issued on the spot.







UNDP biometric voter registration

support:

- Demand has traditionally come from independent EMBs, with government support, vendor push and donors willing to fund;
- EMB requests supported by law, e.g. *“The NEC will oversee the compilation of a register of voters”* or *“Responsibility for the finalization of the voter’s register will lie with the NEC.”*
- Under-developed pop registration forcing EMBs to go beyond mandate – not just *“Are you entitled to vote?”* but also *“who are you?”*.⁹

Concerns during first 12 years of BVR support?

- Under-budgeting of diffuse costs (transport, logistics, communications);
- Lack of national IT capacity, including field personnel...
- ...which leads to significant foreign influence, and political sensitivities;
- **Single use systems, used once;**
- **Limited linkages with wider foundational population registration.**
- **LOST OPPORTUNITY.**

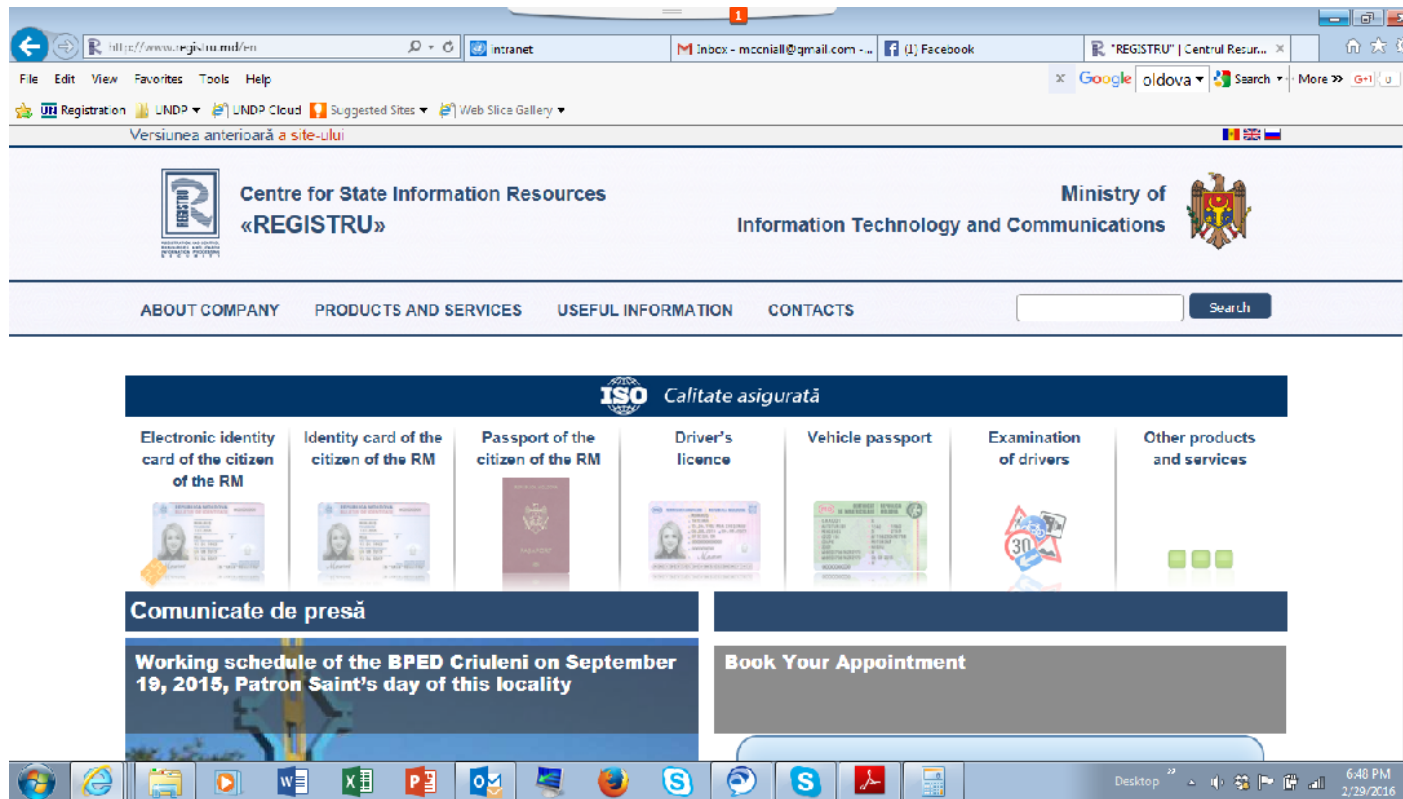
Recent trends?

- Member States requesting *varying* levels of support for national ID card systems (e.g. Malawi, Sierra Leone, Zambia, Moldova, Afghanistan);
- Often involves building linkages between responsible ministries and EMBs, and sometimes using existing BVR equipment procured for electoral processes.

Challenges? It requires, among others:

- **holistic** government vision for CRVS +NID integration (as per Mia Harbitz advice);
- coordinated intl response (where asked);
- policy consistency and shared principles, e.g. ID4D + APAI-CRVS;
- As Raj Mitra noted...” **coordinated approach of various ID development approaches from World Bank, UN system, donors and others.**”

Moldova



United Kingdom

HOME » NEWS » UK NEWS » TERRORISM IN THE UK

It's time to bring back national ID cards

At a time of terrorist plots, illegal immigration, and what it means to be 'British', isn't it time to look again at this hastily abandoned idea?

3K 0 13 3K Email

National Identity Card Specimen

123456789
Johnson Alan Arthur
M
British Citizen
17-05-1950
27-07-2009
31-07-2009
London

4 Stages to a Heart Attack

Your first audiobook is free ▶

Stories

Desktop 11:51 AM 3/4/2016

United States?

The screenshot shows a web browser window displaying an NBC News article. The address bar shows the URL <http://www.nbcnews.com/politics/2016-election/trun>. The article title is "Donald Trump's Plan for a Muslim Database Draws Comparison to Nazi Germany" by VAUGHN HILLYARD, dated NOV 20 2015, 9:27 AM ET. The article features a video player with a yellow play button and a caption: "Trump Wants Database to Track Muslims 1:32". To the right of the video is an advertisement for Mapquest with the text "Entirely Predictable So you don't have to be." and a "Download the app" button. The browser's taskbar at the bottom shows various application icons and the system tray with the time 11:37 AM on 3/4/2016.

http://www.nbcnews.com/politics/2016-election/trun

intranet Donald Trump's Plan for a ...

File Edit View Favorites Tools Help

Google rtabase Search More G+ 404

Registration UNDP UNDP Cloud Suggested Sites Web Slice Gallery

POLITICS

NOV 20 2015, 9:27 AM ET

Donald Trump's Plan for a Muslim Database Draws Comparison to Nazi Germany

by VAUGHN HILLYARD

SHARE

- Share
- Tweet
- Share
- Email
- Print
- Comment

▶ Trump Wants Database to Track Muslims 1:32

advertisement

Entirely Predictable So you don't have to be.

mapquest

Download the app

FROM THE WEB Sponsored Links

CHANGE BY BUSINESS SIZE

Desktop 11:37 AM 3/4/2016

Who else is engaged?



UNICEF:

- Birth registration and child vaccination registration programming.
- 85 countries.
- No position on national ID systems.
- ***Potential elimination of paper birth certificate*** a concern.

UNFPA:

- Reproductive health;
- Infant mortality;
- Combating child marriages.

UN Women:

- Legal identity empowers women, but can aggravate gender inequality;
- Work to eliminate anti-women laws for CR (e.g. the need to declare the name of the father before a child is registered).

UNSD (part of UNDESA):

- Since 1953;
- **Scope ends at the civil register and census.**
- Secretariat for the Global CRVS Group.
- 8-volume **Handbook on CRVS.**
- No position on national ID cards.
- “Unlikely that a consensus would emerge.”
- Death just as important as birth.
- Investment could be better spent institutionalizing strong civil registration systems.

OHCHR:

- Pro ID as attributing legal rights to individuals.
- No **disenfranchising or denial of service to the Rights' Holders by the Duty Bearers** but ID systems create new risks.
- HRBA – calls for disaggregation of data by parameters such as ethnicity.
- If the NPR becomes the source, it could lead to the expansion in the scope of NPR, where governments could justify the collection, storage and personalization of sensitive data related to ethnicity, religion, etc..

UNHCR:

- Process PII, e.g. 2m iris records of Syrians in Jordan.
- **Data ownership, control and sharing:** concerns of who owns and controls collected data.
- **Children:** biometrics and ‘children shopping.’
- **Mandate to end statelessness – UNHCR needs to intervene to facilitate birth registration:** involves significant amount of politics related to legal consequences of birth registration and nationality.
- **Pressure to give access to data for security reasons:** to country of departure, country of settlement and various anti-terrorism and anti-crime organizations.. 22

General findings (1):

- Various ‘points of entry’ => no system-wide position relative to ID management beyond basic CRVS.
- No uniform vocabulary for ID management, what is “Legal Identity”?
- 16.9 indicator is inadequate.
- Plenty of jurisprudence on rights, but little vision on operational frameworks.
- Serious concerns about death registration.
- Identification agenda is technologically driven, and there are mixed views on the use of biometrics in registration exercises. Game changer or distraction?

General findings (2):

- Identity registers/cards tools of individual empowerment, but with caveats. Subject to abuse, single point of failure, profiling, surveillance.
- Can empower women but need pro-women policies.
- Need for transparency and national debate.
- PII and data protection policy fractured.
- There are concerns regarding data disaggregation in the context of identification systems.

General recommendations (1):

- Clarify agency roles, and adopt a common vocabulary for identity management;
- Define legal identity and how to provide it;
- Assess developmental impact, including a rights-based approach, but with policy regarding unacceptable data in ID registers;
- Standardize DP policy;
- Build risk model for ID systems and develop recommendations for safeguards;
- Conduct impact studies on women to refine ID systems policy to ensure it is pro-women;
- Evaluate investments in identity systems.

General recommendations (2):

- Advocate sustainable systems as opposed to one-off campaigns or solutions;
- Promote awareness of linkage to CRVS as well as systematic death registration to ID system integrity;
- Promote ID solution strategies anchored on standards-based or open non-proprietary architectures;
- Pay attention to institutional frameworks, and business models, from the perspective of sustainability;
- Encourage digital migration as a matter of policy, but maintain paper systems;
- Who 'owns' the associated data.

Final recommendation:

- *Anything short of establishing a universal, continuous and permanent registration system, which also results in reliable vital statistics, should, according to UNSD, not be supported.*

Some of the next steps?

- *UN Agency engagement;*
- World Bank engagement;
- Private sector engagement;
- Research, research and more research
(privacy, DP, freedom of information, identity).