



Somali Digital Identity Playbook



Building Somalia's National Digital Identity Ecosystem for
Inclusive Service Delivery

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ID4Africa 2026

Building Digital Identity
Infrastructure for Africa's Future

Building Somalia's National Digital Identity Ecosystem for Inclusive Service Delivery

Chapter 1

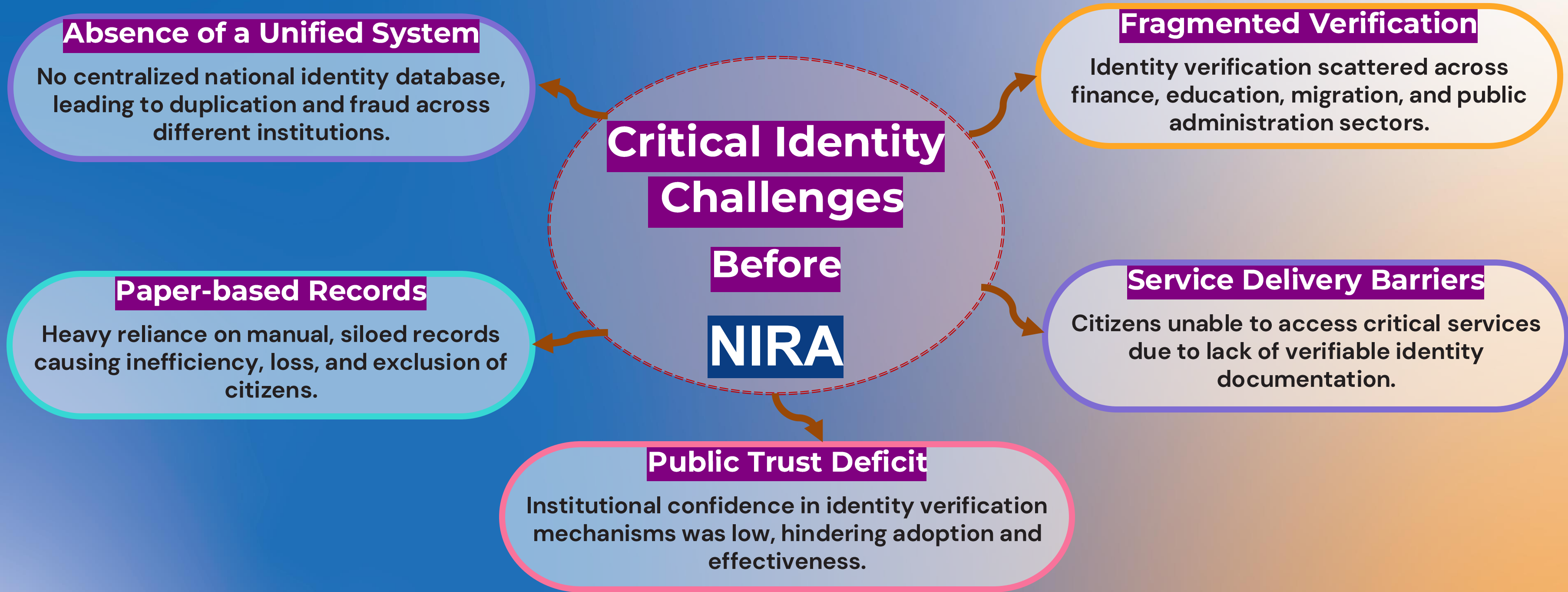
Empowering Citizens, Securing Interactions,
Enabling Limitless Opportunities

Mr. Abdiweli Ali Abdulle

Director General

National Identification & Registration Authority (NIRA)

The Identity Challenge: Fragmentation and Exclusion



Key Insight: Digital identity is foundational for state-building, economic development, and public trust.

NIRA's Strategic Vision: Three Core Objectives

1

Inclusive Legal Identity for All

Provide a trusted, inclusive, and verifiable legal identity for all citizens and legal residents, ensuring no one is left behind.

2

Secure Digital Verification

Enable secure, standardized digital identity verification for seamless service delivery across public and private sectors.

3

Interoperable Digital Ecosystem

Establish an interoperable platform that integrates government agencies, financial institutions, and development partners.

These three pillars work together to create a comprehensive digital identity ecosystem that serves all Somali citizens.

Design Principles & Implementation Strategy

GOVERNANCE

Legal Framework

Operations governed by the Identification & Registration Act and Data Protection Act.

NIRA Authority

Central body established under Law No. 009 (March 2023) for system management.

Oversight

Independent Data Protection Authority (DPA) ensuring privacy compliance.

DESIGN PRINCIPLES

Privacy-by-Design

Data protection built into the technical fabric and operational workflows.

Interoperability & Neutrality

Adopting international standards to avoid vendor lock-in and maintain flexibility.

Scalability

Architecture designed to support the goal of 15 million citizens by 2029.

IMPLEMENTATION

Policy Development

Legal framework establishment and institutional readiness.

System Implementation

Technology deployment and platform development.

Pilot Deployments

Risk-managed pilots to validate use cases and build confidence.

National Expansion

Scaled rollout across all Federal Member States and remote regions.

Progress to Date and Early Results

1.4M+

REGISTERED

As of March 2026

47%

FEMALE ENROLLMENT

Advancing Gender Inclusion

OPERATIONAL INFRASTRUCTURE

- 70 Registration Centers established nationwide
- 52 Fixed Sites in major urban centers
- 20 Overseas Centers for diaspora registration
- 18 Mobile Teams reaching remote regions

EARLY IMPACT & RESULTS

- Operational Readiness of foundational platform
- Fraud Reduction via biometric de-duplication
- \$1.2M Annual Savings in Accountant General services
- Mandatory ID for inter-state travel and banking

Foundational ID Mass Registration Campaign Pilot Launched:

AUGUST 2025

Progress to Date and Early Results ...

PUBLIC SECTOR INTEGRATION

Ministry of Education

Digital credentials for students and staff; verification for academic records.

Ministry of Transportation

Secure verification for driver licenses and vehicle registration systems.

Civil Service Commission

Unified identity verification for government employees and payroll management.

Accountant General

Online signature services and secure financial transaction authorization.

PRIVATE SECTOR INTEGRATION

Banking & Finance

Enhanced KYC compliance and secure customer onboarding for financial institutions.

Telecommunications

Mandatory SIM registration and identity verification for mobile services.

Microfinance Institutions

Improved credit scoring and identity assurance for small-scale lending.

Notaries & Legal Services

Digital document authentication and identity verification for legal transactions.

100+

SERVICES INTEGRATED

Implementation Challenges and Strategic Responses

01 Inter-Institutional Coordination

Coordinating across multiple government agencies and private sector partners with varying priorities.

Strategic Response

Established robust governance frameworks and regular high-level stakeholder engagement forums.

03 Public Trust and Awareness

Building citizen confidence in digital systems and data privacy in a complex social environment.

Strategic Response

Launched nationwide awareness campaigns emphasizing "Your ID, Your Right" and data protection laws.

02 Legacy System Integration

Integrating with existing fragmented and often manual identity systems across different sectors.

Strategic Response

Adopted a phased integration approach with rigorous data cleaning and migration planning.

04 Institutional Capacity

Addressing technical and administrative gaps within the newly established authority.

Strategic Response

Leveraged strategic partnerships with NADRA and World Bank for knowledge transfer and training.

KEY LESSONS LEARNED

Technology is the enabler, but **governance and trust** are the true foundations of success.

A **phased rollout** allows for critical learning and system adjustments before national scaling.

Public-private integration is essential for creating immediate value and utility for the citizen.

Scaling for Impact: The Path to 2029

2026 - 2027

❖ Near-Term Priorities

- ❖ Expand enrollment to all Federal Member States and remote regions.
- ❖ Launch online biometric registration to reduce physical center dependence.
- ❖ Integrate with health and social protection service platforms.

2027 - 2028

❖ Medium-Term Goals

- ❖ Enable full digital access to government services via National ID.
- ❖ Expand private sector integration for e-commerce and fintech.
- ❖ Establish identity services for Somali diaspora communities.

2028 – 2029

❖ Long-Term Vision

- ❖ Achieve universal coverage of the eligible population.
- ❖ Realize a fully integrated, paperless digital public ecosystem.
- ❖ Position Somalia as a regional leader in digital identity.

STRATEGIC TARGET: 15 Million Registered citizens by 2029



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Chapter 2

CRVS's Lifecycle Identity Management and UN Alignment

Mr. Abdikani Wehlie
Director General

Civil Registration and Vital Statistics (CRVS) Authority

Context: Rebuilding Somalia's CRVS and National ID Systems



- Somalia's Civil Registration system collapsed in 1991 with the central government, leading to widespread destruction of records and services.
- For nearly three decades, the absence of a central government resulted in fragmented civil registration, leaving most of the population without official vital records.
- Outdated legal frameworks (1953-2013) for civil registration were inadequate for Somalia's modern federal governance and digital service needs.

National CRVS Policy – Strategic Priorities

Recognizing the challenges of fragmented and outdated civil registration systems, in August 2021, the **Federal Government of Somalia adopted the National CRVS Policy** to transform civil registration into a **modern, robust, digital, and unified national service.**

- The policy promotes a **holistic approach** to:
- Registration of **all vital events**
- Production of **reliable vital statistics**
- Strengthening the **legal identity system from birth to death**



National CRVS key Strategic Priorities



Strengthen the Legal and Policy Framework:

- President of Somalia signed the **CRVS Law No. 46 (Jan 2026)**
- Establishes **CRVS Directorate (CRGD)** and governance structure
- Enables **digital registration, interoperability & secure data sharing**
- Ensures **inclusive and accessible services**

Build Institutional and Operational Capacity:

- National CRVS Directorate established
- Decentralized system across **federal, state, and district levels**
- Registrars appointed → **nationwide service delivery**

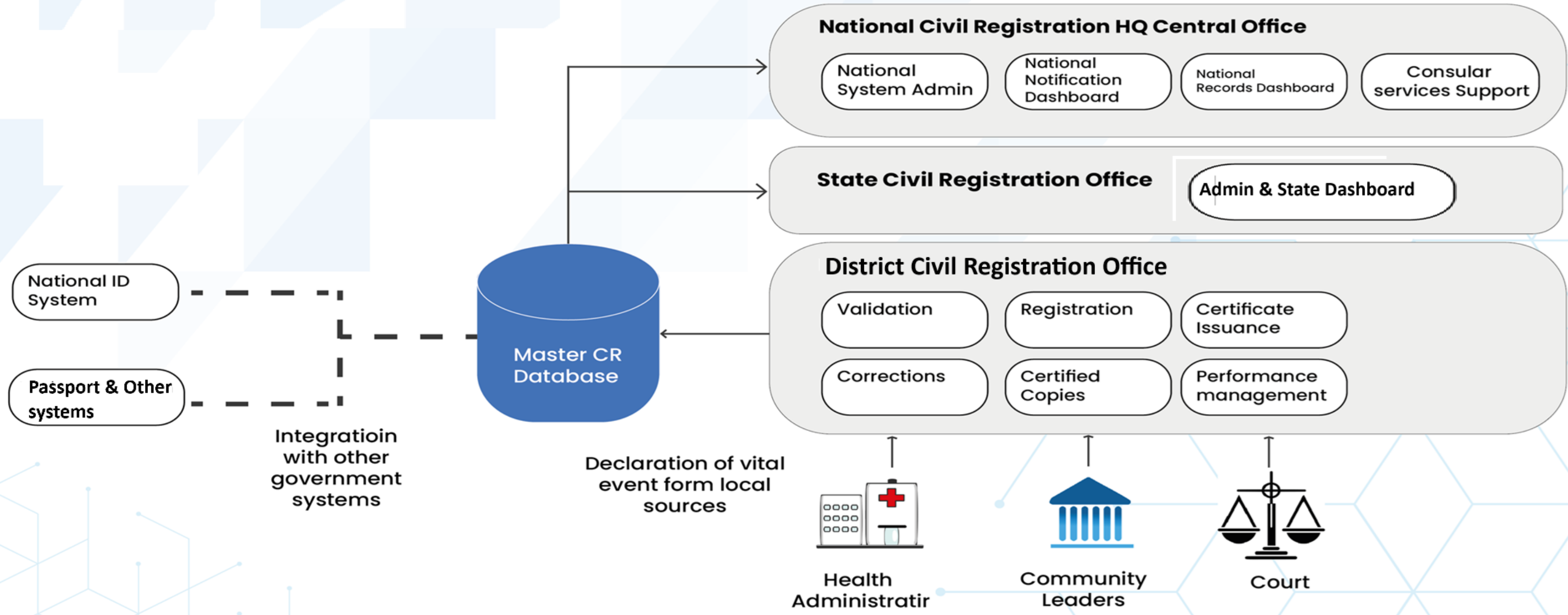
Digital System Rollout:

- National system built on **OpenCRVS**
- Tested via **Proof of Concept (PoC)**
- **Approved (Nov 2023) → Pilot launched (Oct 2024)**
- Implemented in **20 districts nationwide**

Integration With the national ID system



CRVS





CBS

BANKIGA DHEXE EE SOOMAALIYA
البنك المركزي الصومالي
CENTRAL BANK OF SOMALIA

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Chapter 3

The Importance of Unified National ID for the Financial Sector

Abdullahi BIHI
Managing Director
Somali Payment Switch

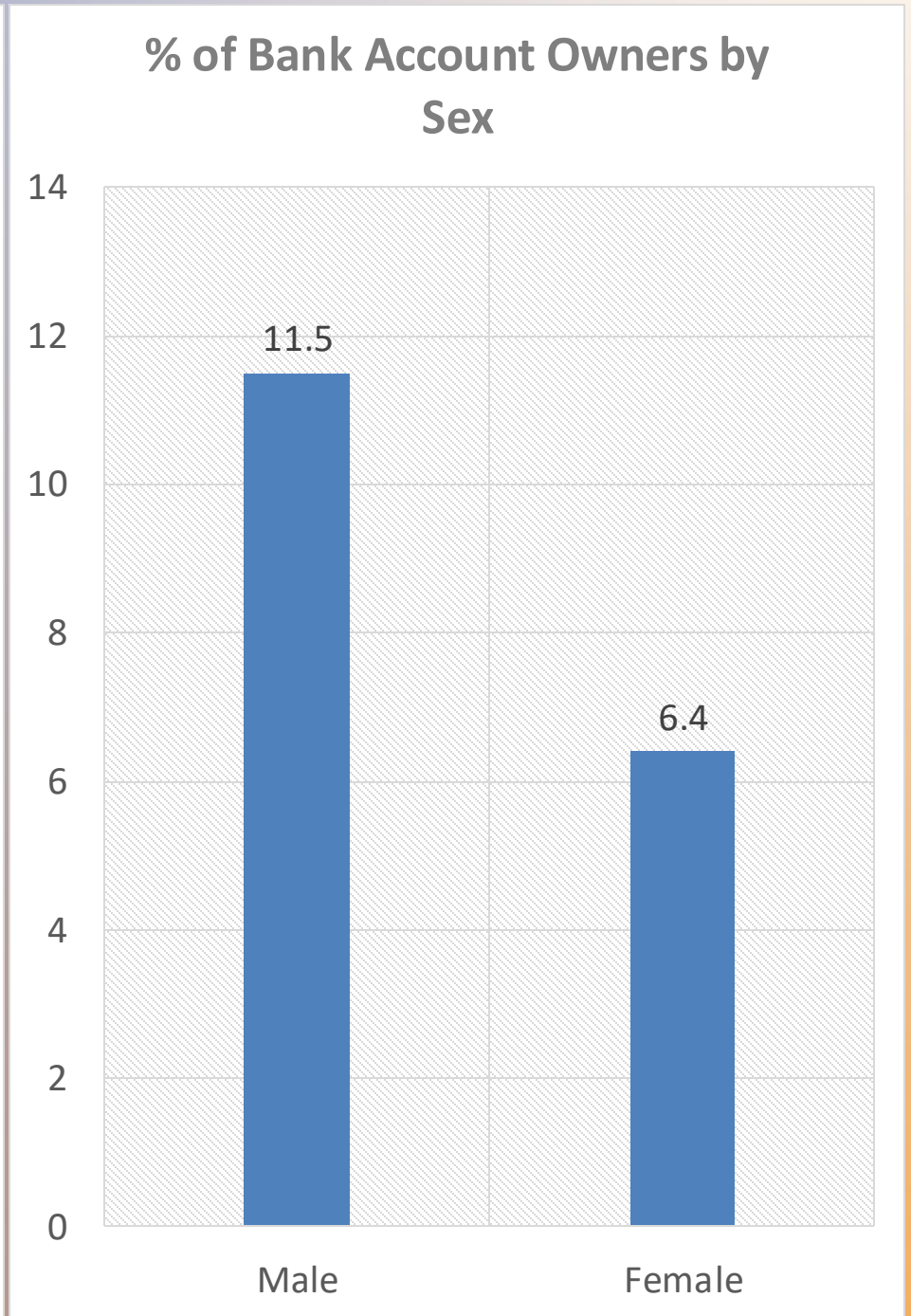
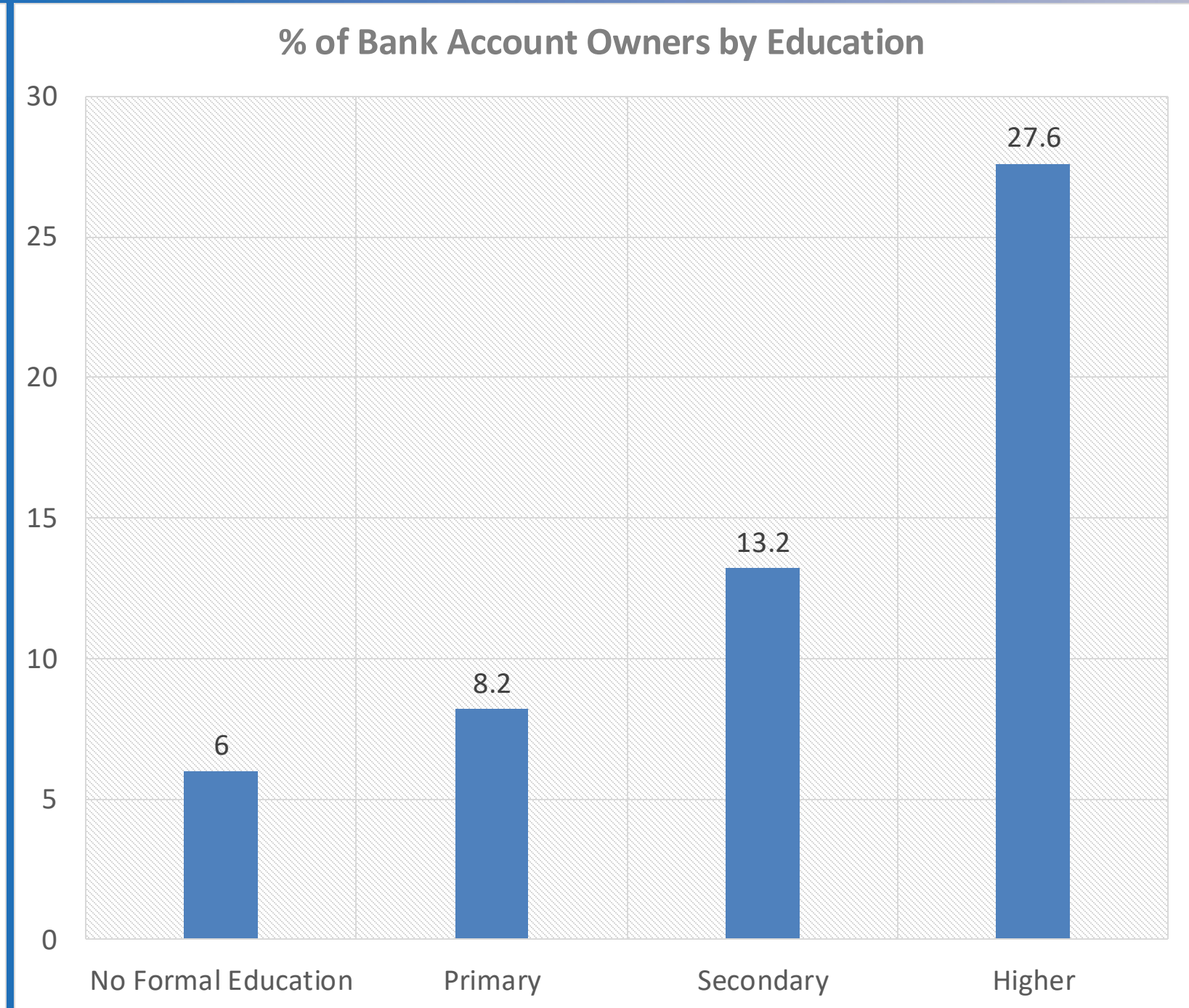
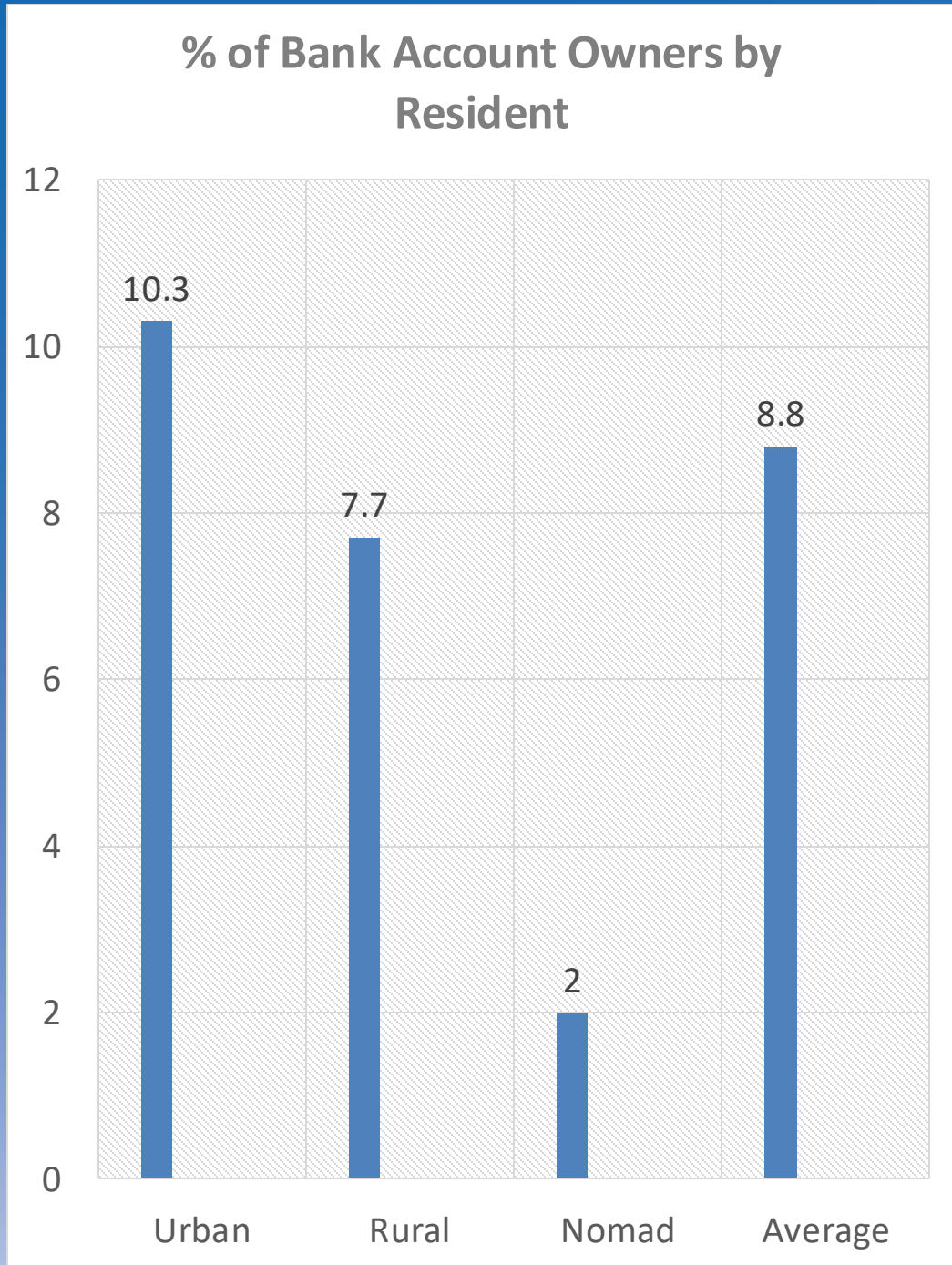
The Identification Landscape Before the National ID

Government issued ID ownership by sex, age group, and place of residence

Background characteristics	No ID	Passport	Any other form of ID
Sex			
Male	84.7	4.9	10.4
Female	86.5	2.9	10.7
Age group			
15-19	92.5	1.5	6.1
20-24	85.2	3.2	11.7
25-29	83.3	4.7	12.0
30-34	82.9	4.0	13.1
35-39	84.6	3.9	11.4
40-44	83.6	3.9	12.5
45-49	80.9	6.2	12.9
50-54	81.3	6.1	12.6
55-59	80.3	7.1	12.6
60-64	82.0	6.2	11.8
65-69	83.7	7.5	8.8
70-74	84.1	6.0	9.9
75-79	87.7	10.8	1.5
80+	86.7	6.2	7.2
Place of residence			
Rural	88.6	1.3	10.1
Urban	83.1	5.3	11.5
Nomadic	93.8	0.2	6.0
Total	85.5	3.9	10.6

Source: Somalia Integrated Household Budget Survey, 2022

Bank Account Ownership



Source: Somalia Integrated Household Budget Survey, 2022

The Positive Side of Financial Inclusion



Nearly three-thirds (85.0 percent) of the population aged 15+ own a cell phone. However, they do not meet the required eKYC.



One in five households (20.7 percent) received remittances from someone living outside the household.



About quarter of rural and urban residents (22.2 percent) received remittances, compared to 10.8 percent among nomadic households.

The integration of National ID into KYC (Know Your Customer) frameworks and supervisory systems.



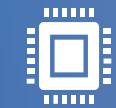
CBS Board has issued eKYC regulation in Nov 2024.



CBS Signed MOU with NIRA in Oct 2024.



CBS has witnessed the collaboration agreement between NIRA and SBA, now all banks have NIRA desk for ID registration



CBS mandated the use of NIRA ID for Account opening and updating existing accounts effective from Sep 1, 2025. so far about 20 thousand verification were made since September.



All banks now integrated to NIRA platform.

Immediate Benefits of NIRA ID to the financial sector

Financial Access and Financial Deepening

Access to correspondent banking relationship

Adequate Compliance (KYC)

Easy Implementation of Regulations and Technology

- Inward and outward transfers
- Credit Reference and collateral registry
- eKYC Regulation
- Agent Banking
- Supervisory Technology

Digital Innovation



THANK YOU

