

FaydaPass

Decentralised Trust Platform — Ethiopia's Journey from Foundational ID to Verifiable Credentials

May, 2026

Ethiopia in Digital Identity

From Foundational ID to Decentralised Trust

▀ Ethiopia is in transition — not yet production-grade VC. This is our architecture & journey.

130M

Population

43M+

Enrolled in FaydaID

120+

Relying Parties

2M+

Auth Transactions / Day

Rural Majority

Majority live in rural areas — offline-first is a core requirement, not an edge case.

Growing Connectivity

Internet & smartphone penetration still growing — solutions must work for citizens without either.

FaydaID — Our Anchor

Biometric foundational ID. 43M+ enrolled. Over 2M auth transactions per day. National scale, not a pilot.

FaydaEncode

Offline QR auth via Claim 169 (CBOR/COSE). Verifies card authenticity + holder identity — no internet needed.

Now transitioning → FaydaPass Decentralised Trust Platform

Trust Architecture & The Transition

Why transition?

High Availability and Scalability · Privacy & Convenience · Offline Capability · Cost reduction

3 Pillars of the Architecture

FaydaID — Root of Trust

- Biometric anchor for the entire ecosystem
- Every wallet claim cryptographically bound to a proven identity
- Not just claimed — proven
- FaydaPass is a functional extension of the national ID strategy

Trust Service Infrastructure

- Trusted List: approved issuers & verifiers with policies, billing & tariffs
- National PKI
- Trusted Registry: DID Documents, public keys, revocation lists

METADATA ONLY — never stores resident personal data

Standards & Protocols

- **OpenID4VCI** — credential issuance
- **OpenID4VP** — credential presentation
- **SD-JWT** — selective disclosure
- **mdoc / CBOR/COSE** — offline & proximity

Enabling Relying Parties – The Minimalist Adapter

“If onboarding relying parties is complex, the ecosystem will not scale”

The Two Problems

1. Diverse legacy systems

Varies Issuing entities run different technologies and databases — no single integration path fits all.

1. Expertise gap

Most institutions lack internal expertise in SSI, W3C standards, or DIDComm — and cannot be expected to gain it before joining.

→ **The Answer**

Minimalist Adapter

- › Lightweight plugin in RP’s own environment
- › Connects to existing legacy systems
- › Speaks OpenID4VCI / DIDComm on the other side
- › No deep SSI or crypto knowledge required
- › Local startups can build & distribute adapters

Legacy System

Bank / Ministry
University / Telco



Minimalist Adapter

OpenID4VCI · DIDComm
W3C · SD-JWT



VC Ecosystem

Issue · Verify
Selective Disclose

Sustainability, Sovereignty & Global Alignment

Revenue & Governance : *Who pays for trust?*

- › The ecosystem needs a deliberate revenue model - key for self sustainability .
- › Billing & tariff configuration must be built into the core trust infrastructure.
- › Offline verification must also be tracked and accounted for — not a billing blind spot

Technology Ownership

- › Long-term sustainability requires internal engineering capacity to operate and evolve this DPI
- › Enable local startups and developers to build on top of open protocols
- › A platform built on open standards can grow beyond any single implementation

Global Alignment

- › Aligning with eIDAS 2.0 as architectural reference
- › Adopting W3C DIDs, SD-JWTs, OpenID4VC, OpenID4VP
- › Designing for future-proof, cross-border interoperability
- › A credential issued in Ethiopia should ultimately be verifiable anywhere



National ID
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Thank You!



Id.gov.et