A unique digital identity from birth and for a lifetime

Civil registration as the foundation for digital identification systems
An estimated 1.1 billion people around the world are without any proof of identity.

450 million are in the ESCAP region...including 145 million who are children.
73.5 million new bank accounts
472.5 million linked bank accounts
BISP recipients were female heads of household, often without ID. CNIC required to obtain BISP cash transfers in Pakistan. 94% increase in women with ID. Female beneficiaries now control cash expenditure.
Insurance coverage improved from 73% to 98% in 3 years.
Thailand

Fiscal savings: fraud reduction in subsidies
✓ Removed 8% duplicates
✓ Savings between US $29-59 million

Uganda

Fiscal savings: civil service
✓ Removed 4.5k ghost workers
✓ Saved US $6.9 million
A cross-sectoral initiative to help countries to realize robust, inclusive and responsible digital identification systems

To enable all people to access services and exercise rights

And to create a digital foundation for the public and private sectors to offer more, better and new services
How ID4D works

**Country and regional engagement**
- ID and CR projects in 12 countries worth >$500m
- >$500m in new projects being prepared, including regional mutual recognition projects in East and West Africa
- Assessments, technical assistance and capacity-building in 28 countries

**Global convening and platforms**
- Principles on ID for Sustainable Development, now endorsed by 20 organizations
- High-level Council, chaired by World Bank CEO and UN Deputy Secretary-General
- South-South knowledge exchange
- Minimum ID standards for developing countries

**Thought leadership and analytics**
- Global ID4D dataset
- Digital ID Toolkit
- Country case studies, e.g. India, Thailand, South Africa
- Thematic case studies, e.g. financial inclusion, healthcare, education, forced displacement
- Impact evaluations
**Success factors**

- **Political Will & Coordination**
  - Ownership from the highest levels; cross-sectoral cooperation

- **Unique digital identity from birth**
  - Integrating CR and ID to maximize benefits and sustainability

- **Minimalist Approach to Identification**
  - Digital ID as a foundation; other services and data built on top

- **Inclusive Registration**
  - Non-discrimination; special efforts to register the marginalized

- **Linkages to Development Uses**
  - Link digital ID with services to incentivize adoption

- **Standards based, open Approach**
  - Avoid vendor lock-in; Develop digital ID as a platform

- **Robust Legal & Regulatory Framework**
  - Safeguard mandates, privacy, and data protection
Why integrate civil registration and digital identification

As digital identification systems (e.g. national IDs) become more critical for governance and service delivery, their effectiveness and sustainability depend on being seamlessly linked with universal and timely civil registration.

A digital identification system is only as useful as its underlying database (e.g. national population database) is complete and accurate (e.g. for elections).

Integration with birth and death registration facilitates continuous accuracy and coverage of the digital identification system and removes the need for periodic mass enrolments.
The enrolment challenge: Stock vs. Flow

However, there is a need for different approaches to enrolling who is alive today and who should be enrolled after a digital identification system is introduced.

The stock
The existing population who need to be enrolled into the digital identification system
If there has been no/weak civil registration, they could be enrolled directly

The flow
Babies who are born in the future and need to be enrolled into the digital identification system
Can be enrolled through continuous birth registration
The ideal relationship between civil registration and digital ID (in flow state)

**Birth registration**
- Establishes key biographic facts of a child and creates their record in the NPD
- Uniqueness ensured with national ID number(s) of the parent(s)
- Unique ID number issued
- May link child with parents in the NPD to create a family/household

**Death registration**
- Identification of the deceased
- Notification to deactivate or remove the record in the NPD

**Marriage registration**
- Opportunity to create a family/household

Digital ID system: National Population Database
Creation of a digital ID

It is critical that national ID numbers are issued from at time of birth registration.

A newborn’s unique ID number becomes their unique digital identity, which could be later supplemented with their own biometrics to facilitate authentication (e.g. India and Peru at age 5; Thailand at age 7) and the issuance of a card.

Before a child becomes of age to add biometrics to their record and to have a national ID card, their parents’ digital ID(s) could be used for authentication.
Institutional models of integrating civil registration and digital ID

1. Fully-integrated (One System)
   - BR is enrollment into NPD
   - Unique ID number issued at birth registration
   - Biometrics added to record & card issued at appropriate age
   - One responsible agency

2. Linked
   - Data exchanged or verified for enrollment into NPD
   - Unique ID number issued at birth or another age (e.g. 16 or 18)
   - Requires interoperability and reliable connectivity
   - Biometrics collected & card issued by NPD at appropriate age
   - Often separate agencies

3. Fragmented
   - Individuals required to bring physical breeder documents for enrollment into NPD
   - Unique ID number issued at enrollment
   - Biometrics collected & card issued at NID age
   - Often separate agencies
Points for consideration by the Regional Steering Group

Make policy and technical recommendations to ESCAP member States on integration of civil registration and digital identification

Given the importance of digital identification for development and regional integration, consider making a proposal in the mid-term review to expand the ‘Get Every One in the Picture’ initiative to also cover digital identification

Examine the definition of ‘legal identity’ (SDG 16.9) and its current indicator to ensure maximum applicability