



**DIGITAL INFRASTRUCTURE
FOR DEVELOPMENT**

ID4DEVELOPMENT IN THE DIGITAL AGE

Presented

By

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INTROCUCTION

- An irresistible wave of globalization is sweeping the world. Modern technology is hemming countries together extensively, deeply and intensely. The gulf between nations (i.e., social, political, economic, etc.) is fast shrinking. No country is capable of escaping the trend.
- The extent, depth, and the intensity of the intra- and inter-state interactions necessitate proactive, creative and effective programs to manage the system. The establishment of the ID4D Movement is a global attempt to reign on the fast evolving development. Hence the universal call for a legal, secure, reliable, and verifiable Identification System (ID System).

OUR RESEARCH

- The ID4Africa Movement is the Continental variant of the global movement. Our research is a national (Somalia) attempt to align our ID policy, principle, and technical specifications with the African movement. As such, it is less theoretical than practical in its approach. It stems from a practical experience we, the authors, have gained during our attempts to establish a national identification (ID) system and its implementing institution in Somalia.

IMMEDIATE MOTIVE FOR THE ID PROGRAM

- Somalia's economy is heavily dependent on financial remittances—from inside and outside the country. The remittance companies need to know who is patronizing them at any given time, i.e., the sender and receiver. They are nationally and internationally bound by the principle of Know Your Customer (*KYC*).
- During business transactions, customers are required to prove their identity by presenting a legal, secure and verifiable personal ID. Unfortunately, in Somalia customers are not able to meet the *KYC* requirement since the country does not issue these documents. In essence, Somalia is a quintessential an "*ID Dark Zone*."

OBJECTIVES OF THE RESEARCH

- The primary objective of this study is two-fold:
- First, to highlight the importance of the digital ID and Development; and
- Second, to expose the connection between the ID4D and the digital technology.

RATIONALE FOR THE DIGITAL ID

- To design and implement an ID system that meets the multifaceted identity challenges faced by the country. Top among these challenges is the threat against the flow of remittance, the lifeline of the Somali economy.
- Due to the lack of *KYC* compliance, some international banks are threatening to close the “*Hawala*” (remittance) accounts, while many others have already shut down accounts owned by Somali remittance firms. Our focus was therefore on how to save the flow of remittances, together with the banking institutions, by actively complying with international remittance standards, such as those pioneered by the Western Union and MoneyGram.

TYPES OF DIGITAL IDs

There are two types of digital IDs, namely foundational and functional IDs.

- Everyone within the state boundary is entitled to a foundational ID.
- Functional ID can issued as a privilege.

TECHNICAL CHALLENGES

- Somalia's current identity ecosystem is large. Unfortunately, the system is low performing. The following are some of the reasons:
- Relic of History. The system is heavily influence by the colonial system of foglio di familia.
- Fragmentation. Somalia does not have an ID system. Each part is in a silo.
- Burden of Tradition. Somali names (people and geographic locations) are not standardized.

BUSINESS RULES

Business rules refer to the rules that determine the type and amount of information that is collected. They include the following:

- The names (and how many?) to collect;
- Other attributes to collect (gender, age, ethnicity, residence, etc.); and
- The size (number of fields?) to collect.

CONTENTS OF THE DIGITAL ID

Each ID system collects personal data. No ID should collect data that is harmful to the bearer. For instance:

- The bearer's clan must not be collected.
- The bearer's ideology must not be collected.

NATIONALITY

The foundational digital ID4D must not discriminate non-citizens. It must capture the whole population within the national boundary.

PROPOSED SOLUTION

Initiating Local ID Movement

- The ID Program needs grassroots support.
- The remittance companies, banks, civil society, and INGOs are ready for mobilization.
- A campaign must be waged to coalesce the top leadership in the sala bureaucracy.
- The message must be circulated that simply states, “What is good for the civic public is also good for the primordial public”—i.e., your constituents.

PROPOSED SOLUTIONS (Cont.)

Input and Consultation with Local ID Stakeholders.

- Building or starting a new public institution, such as the ID system, requires sufficient consultations with stakeholders and a vast civic education.
- The local input and consultation communicate sense of community ownership.

PROPOSED SOLUTIONS (Cont.)

Support from the International Community

- The support of international community (whether bilateral or multi-lateral) is extremely important.
- Their help comes in three ways, i.e., as material resources, as a technical know-how, and as a political support.
- All three are indispensable for the successful execution of the ID Program.

STRATEGIC IMPLEMENTATION

- The ID Program is essentially a technical matter.
- It should be shielded, as much as possible, from politics.
- Wide public consultation and civic education must run parallel with it.
- Public ownership must be secured for the Program.

CONCLUDING REMARKS

- The presentation outlines the challenges and potential solutions associated with the establishment of an ID system Somalia.
- It is based on practical observation of the Somali milieu.
- Therefore, the paper is less theoretical than technical.
- Technology is very crucial to the establishment of the system.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- From the onset, the ID Team must make it clear to the public that what they offer are foundational numbers and IDs, not functional ones.
- The Team must explain that these are breaching numbers and documents that facilitate the production and issuance of functional numbers and documents.
- Finally, they must ensure that the foundational numbers and ID cards have no cost or other precondition.
- All residents in the country must be enrolled once their personal identity is verified.



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Thanks