



National ID
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Ethiopia's Digital ID Ecosystem; Challenges, Opportunities and Lessons

Digital ID and Interoperability Conference, The Gambia

Identity is the new collateral



National ID Program - Background

Why Digital ID?

- Current ID issued by lowest administrative unit- not foundational, analogue, vulnerable to fraud and not traceable.
- eKYC and Authentication needs at financial institutions, digitalization of government services, need to prevent fraud and double benefit in social protection program.
- DID key enabler of digital transformation and digital economy- Digital Strategy 2025.
- Recognized under the National Payment System Strategy and the National Financial Inclusion Strategy.

✓ Objective

- Issue a Unique Identifier that will serve as the Primary Proof of Identity to Access Services
- Build a Sustainable Digital ID supporting all Use-Cases
- Issue Digital ID to 90 Million Residents by 2026

✓ Status

- ID law enacted on March 2023 *Ethiopian Digital Identification Proclamation 1284/2023*
- Over 1.4 Million Digital ID credentials
- Integration public and private institutions. i.e. Ministry of Revenues, Financial Service Providers, Ministry of Education
- Available in over 180 locations in revenue offices and banks
- Collaborations on progress with development partners



Digital ID Proclamation 1284/2023 – Sneak Peek



- Inclusion primary principle (Leave NO ONE behind!)
 - resident based
 - free registration
 - proof exception
 - disability exception
 - minors exception
- Data minimization and sensitive data
- Privacy by design
- Data protection
- Criminal liability

FAYDA Platform



- **Modular Open Source Identity Platform based on MOSIP**
- **Made by International Institute of Information Technology, Bangalore India**



- **Accepted as Digital Public Goods.**
- **Digital Public Goods Alliance - UNDP, UNICEF**



- **Open Standards**
 - ✓ **Avoids Vendor lock ins**



- **Scalable and Customizable**
 - ✓ **Scale Up/Down**
 - ✓ **Country Context**

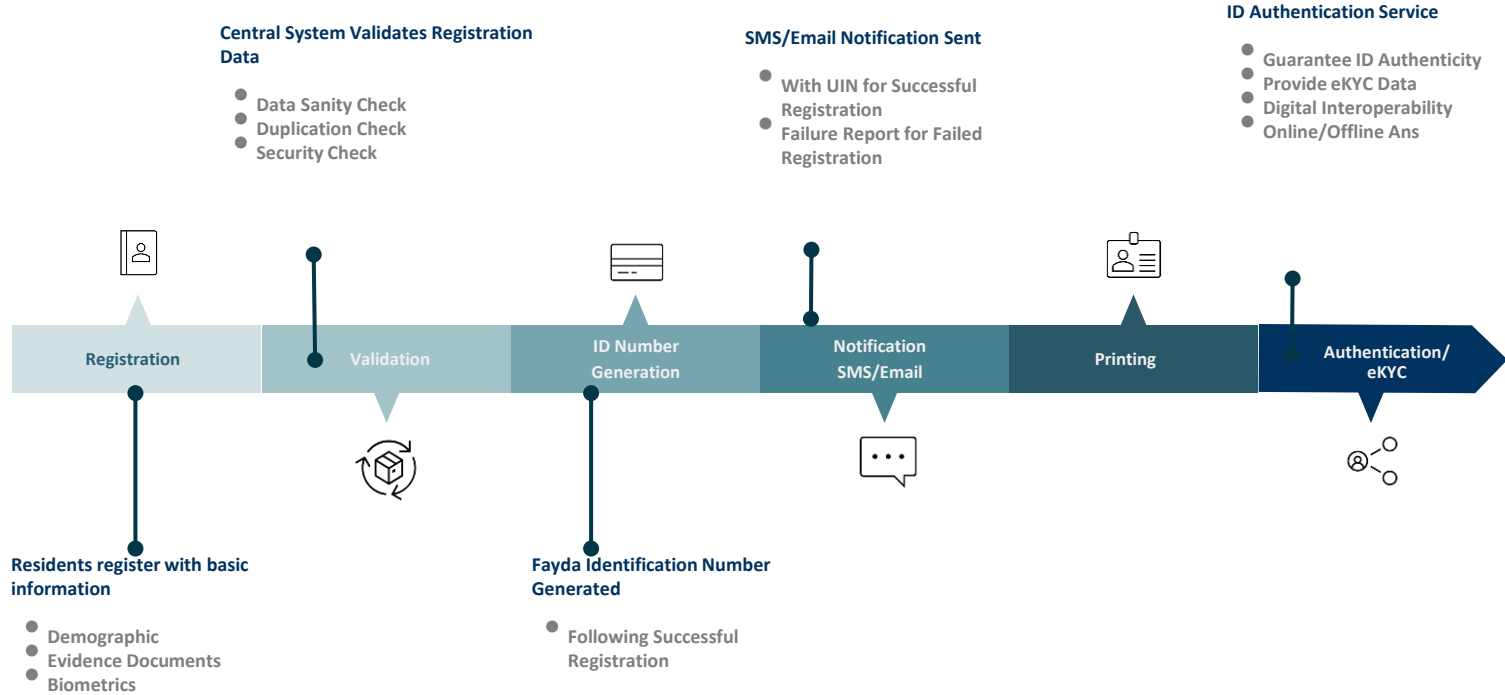


- **Data Privacy**
 - ✓ **Minimal Data Collected**
 - ✓ **Data is encrypted at all times**

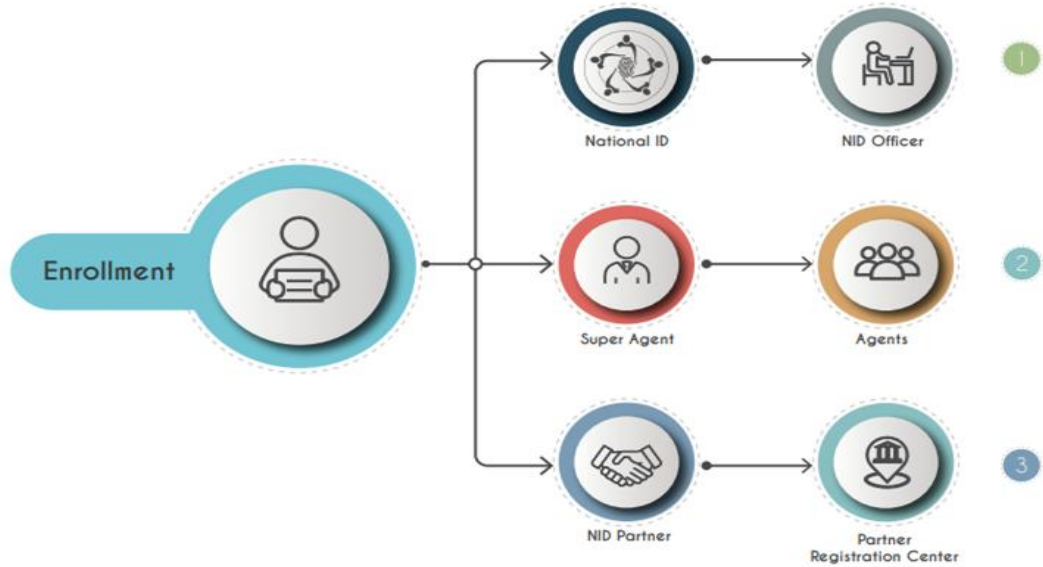


- **Manageable**
 - ✓ **Easily maintenance**
 - ✓ **Monitoring and auditing**

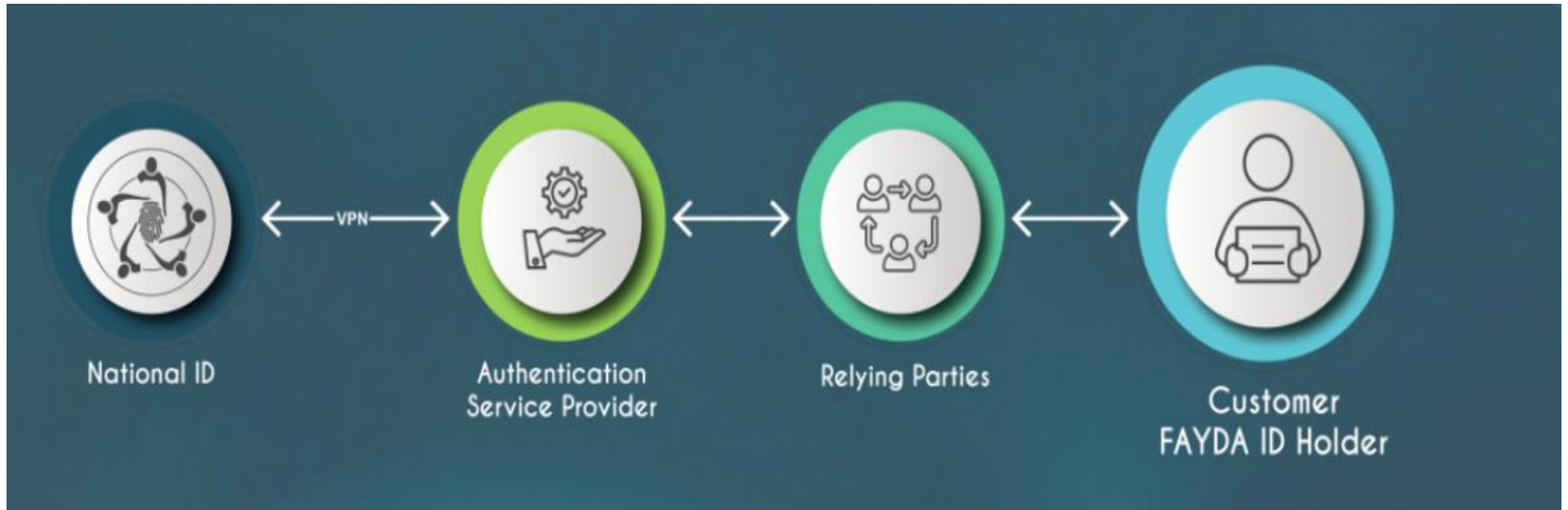
Process Flow



Enrollment Ecosystem



Authentication Ecosystem





Pilot Summary

- Identity is proved using functional ID
- Ease of getting Fayda ID
 - Minimal Data Collected
 - Free of Charge and inclusive of all
- Use-case Centered

1.4 M

Total Registrants

100 K

Pilot Registration

22 K

rPSNP Registrants

4

Regions

Opportunities and Outcomes



Beneficiary Identification and Targeting

- Help the PSNP accurately identify beneficiaries, ensuring that aid is targeted towards those who need it most



Reduce Duplication of Efforts

- Help avoid duplication of efforts and resources, such as when different programs unknowingly support the same individuals or families



Farmer Support

- Digital IDs could be used to manage the distribution of agricultural inputs like seeds, fertilizer, and farming equipment



Food Security Program

- Distribute food aid or manage enrollment in nutrition programs



Opportunities and Outcomes cont'd



Education and Training

- Register beneficiaries for education and training programs, whether for children's schooling or adult vocational training.
- Identify who is accessing these services could help to identify gaps and improve program design.



Access to Healthcare Services

- Access healthcare services, such as vaccinations or check-ups. This could be used to monitor health trends within the beneficiary population and inform public health initiatives.



Accelerate Digital Economy

- Income generation for governments
- Utilize DPGs and open sources



Financial Inclusion

- Open bank accounts, apply for microloans, or receive direct cash transfers. This could help to reduce reliance on informal and often risky forms of credit and improve financial resilience.

Challenges

- ✔ Low Level of Infrastructure
- ✔ Low digital Literacy especially in the rural areas
- ✔ Aligning all government priorities and strategies to reduce effort duplication
- ✔ High budget demand



Lessons Learnt



- Identify pain points of service providers and customers
- Find selling points to other government agencies and partners
- Compliance with human rights standards
- Pilot with the marginalized and vulnerable group of people
- Consider both offline and online options for authentication
- Take critical issues into account- gender and digital divide





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Thank You

