

# Civil Registration as the Foundation for Digital Public Infrastructure and Digital Legal Identity Systems in Africa

## Africa CRVS Day 2025 Webinar

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**WORLD BANK GROUP**

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# Global Civil Registration and Vital Statistics

## Scaling up Investment Plan 2015–2024

MAY 28, 2014

**At that time, it was estimated that:**

- more than 100 developing countries did not have functional CRVS systems
- US\$3.82 billion was required for scaling up and sustaining CRVS systems in 73 countries

**Since then, countries have made some progress with the integration of CRVS and Identity systems becoming the norm**

## Major collaborative effort:

- World Bank Group Open Learning Campus in partnership with the Korea Ministry of Strategy and Finance
- Global CRVS Group (including UNIECA APAI CRVS)

### The High-level Launch of the State-of-the-art CRVS eLearning Course May 23, 2017 | Seoul, Republic of Korea



**Available in English, French and Spanish that  
has been taken by over 7,000 people from  
over 150 countries**

<https://www.worldbank.org/en/olc/course/34651>

# Partner Organizations



Empowered lives.  
Resilient nations.







**This paper presents a one-World Bank Group (WBG) framework for understanding and implementing DPI to accelerate safe and inclusive digital transformation**



## Digital Public Infrastructure

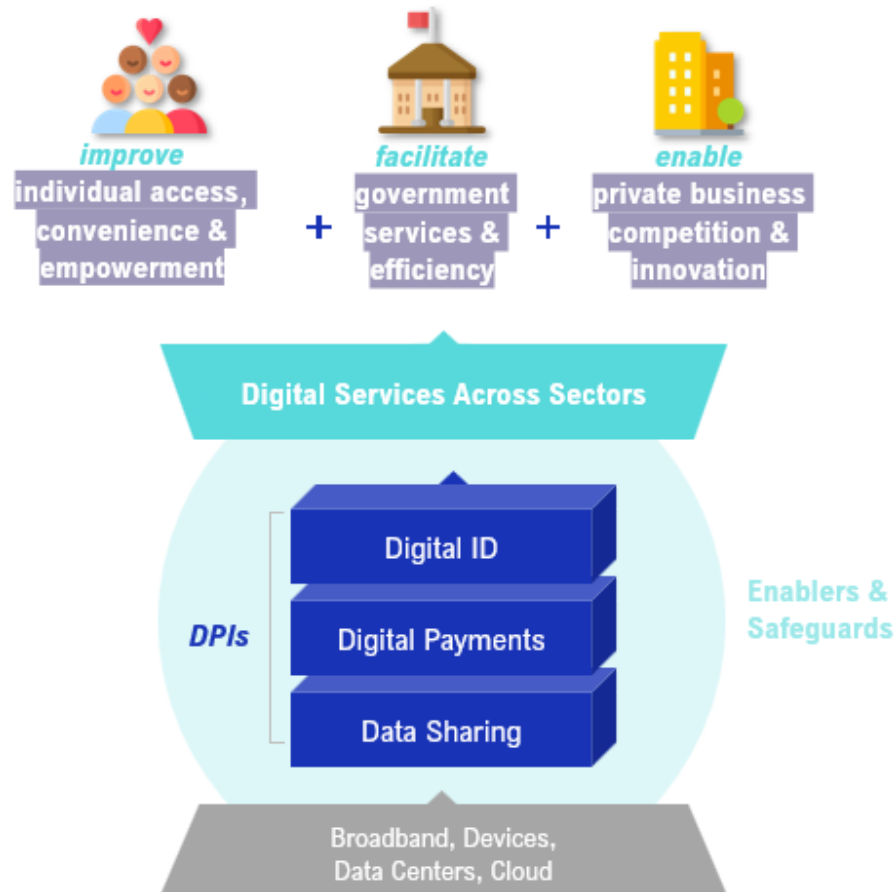
Software systems & platforms that provide ...

**Foundational, digital building blocks for the public benefit.**

### Defining Characteristics of DPI Approach:

- ✓ *Foundational*: essential functions for digital transactions and services, whole-of-society approach
- ✓ *Building blocks*: interoperable, modular & minimalist, reusable across sectors
- ✓ *Public benefit*: inclusive, user-centric & privacy-protecting by design

→ Can be provided by public or private sector



**DPI is an approach to digitalization focused on creating “foundational, digital building blocks designed for the public benefit.”**

# WBG Support to Countries in Africa

	Country Name	Identity System	Civil Registration
1	Angola	✓	✓
2	Benin	✓	
3	Burkina Faso	✓	
4	Central African Republic	✓	
5	Chad		✓
6	Congo, Republic of	✓	
7	Cote d'Ivoire	✓	
8	Ethiopia	✓	
9	Gabon	✓	
10	Gambia	✓	✓
11	Guinea		✓
12	Lesotho	✓	
13	Liberia	✓	
14	Madagascar	✓	✓
15	Malawi	✓	
16	Morocco	✓	
17	Mozambique	✓	✓
18	Niger	✓	
19	Nigeria	✓	
20	Rwanda	✓	
21	Somalia	✓	
22	Togo	✓	
23	Tunisia	✓	
24	Uganda	✓	

# A functional digital CRVS system is a foundational system for identity

- An individual's biographic information such as name, sex, date & place of birth and assigns a unique identification number (UIN) is recorded through civil registration to establish a legal identity.
- The Identity system typically adds other attributes of the individual, such as photograph, signature, and biometrics (e.g., fingerprint, facial recognition, iris scan, retinal scan) to prove one's identity
- The data link between digital CRVS and Identity systems is possible through the UIN assigned to everyone at birth. This UIN is used on various legal and other documents that people receive during their lifetime.
- An integrated digital CRVS and Identity system allows access to a wide range of essential services



# WBG Support for a Transformative Journey of Mass Birth Registration and Health Insurance in The Gambia



During a short seven-month period (from August 1, 2022 to February 28, 2023), more than half of the population of The Gambia, nearly 1.17 million people of all ages, was registered and issued birth certificates and national health insurance cards with a unique national identification number.

# The Gambia eCRVS in Use Since August 2022

- Prior to 2022, civil registration process in The Gambia was manual, paper-based
- Innovative approach of eCRVS issuing both birth certificate and health insurance card for Gambians
- The 2021 National Health Insurance Act requires Gambians and non-Gambians (who have lived in The Gambia for more than six months) to have health insurance
- However, eCRVS could not be used to print health insurance cards for non-Gambians
- Thus, in October 2024, the WBG supported the procurement of a perpetual license Identity system software that is integrated with eCRVS to allow printing of health insurance cards for non-Gambians

# Digital CRVS and Identity system for producing other types of cards

The integrated system can also be used to produce the following cards:

- National ID card
- Driver's license
- Resident permit
- Non-Gambian ID card
- Voter registration card

Thank you

