CR +
National ID

“Securing identity in a secured way”

Raj Gautam Mitra
United Nations Economic Commission for Africa

ID Management Conference
Seoul, South Korea
23-25 September 2014
Why National ID?

• To provide citizenship to individuals in a country

• To provide secure legal Identity using correct biographic, strong biometrics, unique id number supported by reliable technology – guaranteeing ‘right to identity’

• To help governments to provide efficient services

• To provide identity to individuals to legally and formally interact with state, companies and others individuals.
Can National ID alone guarantee secured identity?

No

• Civil Registration is the foundation to National ID – it provides legal breeder documents

• CR and National ID need to be treated as sub-systems of one big system that provides Legal Identity
Legal Identity begins at birth with biographic information collected through Civil Registration System.

Identity strengthens with biometrics information collected through national id system.

Identity ends at death, but not its legal effects, so death information collected through Civil Registration must be linked with National ID.
Policy, Law and Governance

• Need for one policy on CR + National ID with clear statement on purpose (include privacy!)

• Need for a law on National ID that provides for linkages between CR and National ID

• Need for Governance to coordinate exchange of information between the two systems
Processes, Technology and Services

- Need for simplification of process for improvement of access
- Need to make appropriate choice of technology to ensure interoperability
- Need for efficient ID Management for better services for citizen including e-services
APAI-CRVS and National ID

Africa Programme on Accelerated Improvement of Civil Registration and Vital Statistics (APAI-CRVS) is being currently implemented under the policy guidance of African Ministers responsible on CR

Need for a clear articulation on the importance of linkage between CR and National ID

Need for a clear strategy on advocacy on CR+ National ID – to reach beyond the CRVS constituency

Need to ensure the CR system is built on platform that is inter-operable
Challenges in Africa in rolling out CR+ National ID

- CR and National ID are at different levels of development
- CR and National ID not linked or loosely linked
- Institutional challenges
- Non-existent or incomplete Civil Registration System
- ‘Closed’ technology – challenges of interoperability
- Lack of policy and/or law linking these two systems
- Capacity challenges
- National ID has more political and donor support
- No international guidance manual available
Some questions

✓ How can a National ID database built – in one stroke or gradually?

✓ How can National ID database and CR database be synchronized?

✓ Should National ID database be used only for the purpose of security and identity?

✓ Can and should this be used for other purposes such as election list, social grants etc? What are the implications on the design of the system?

✓ Should the National ID database have address or location of residence of individuals in the National ID database? Is it possible to update these variables?
End-point

- Secured identity isn’t only about technology or biometrics
- Identity management need a comprehensive approach

The “weakest link in the chain" can sometimes turn out to be most important
“Securing identity in a secured way”

CR+ National ID

Thanks!