

# UNDP MODEL GOVERNANCE FRAMEWORK FOR DIGITAL LEGAL IDENTITY SYSTEMS

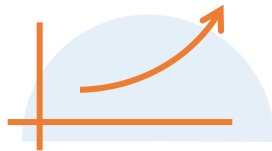
Presentation

March 2024



# Digital ID has proven an effective enabler for development, but we are not at SDG 16:9

The potential of digital ID...



**3 - 13% GDP growth**  
could be unlocked in individual countries by 2030 from the implementation of digital ID programs<sup>3</sup>

...and the work ahead for (digital) identity for everyone



**850 Mn people**  
do not have any official form of identification, and therefore have limited access to public services and economic mobility<sup>1</sup>



**16% more women than men**  
don't have access to ID resulting in limited legal status and access to asset ownership<sup>2</sup>

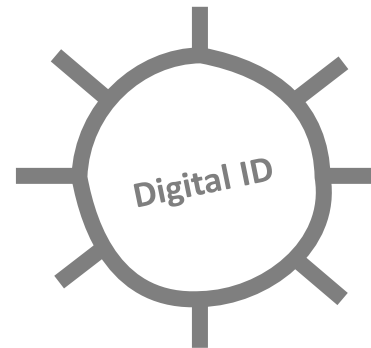
# But ID is hard to get right: Complexity is compounded by the many stakeholders and wide-ranging nature of ID programming

How are existing systems for **refugee status and stateless person** determination integrated into the digital legal ID?  
(Equality and non-discrimination)

How do rights to administrative appeal apply to **private sector bodies** involved in the ID system?  
(Accountability and the rule of law)

Has a **data protection impact assessment** been conducted (and if so, at what stage of the system development)?  
(Legal and regulatory framework)

Are there any **exemptions for the government** from data protection obligations? Are they accessible to the public?  
(Data protection and privacy)



What systems exist for the **coordination of initiatives** in relation to digital legal ID among different ministries and agencies?  
(Capable institutions)

Is the digital legal ID enrolment required by law to **access private services**; if so, which?  
(User value)

Is **information about the ID system** proactively published e.g. in an annual report?  
(Participation and access to information)

Do **procurement guidelines** include standards (e.g. on interoperability and data standards, level of technical documentation) to support changing vendors?  
(Procurement and anti-corruption)

# Recent examples of inadequate governance of identity systems

A court ruling found the ID card scheme's indefinite period of retention of biometrics unconstitutional.

Some articles point out that children are not able to access to schools due to the lack of ID cards despite the court ruling against such practice.

A court ruling prohibited the government from conditioning access to public services on national identity registration.

A court prohibited the private entities from requiring national ID cards for any service.

A court declared the country's national identification and registration act system that collected demographic, biometrics and biographic information unconstitutional and void.

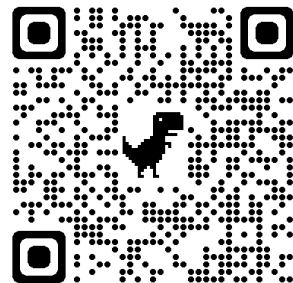
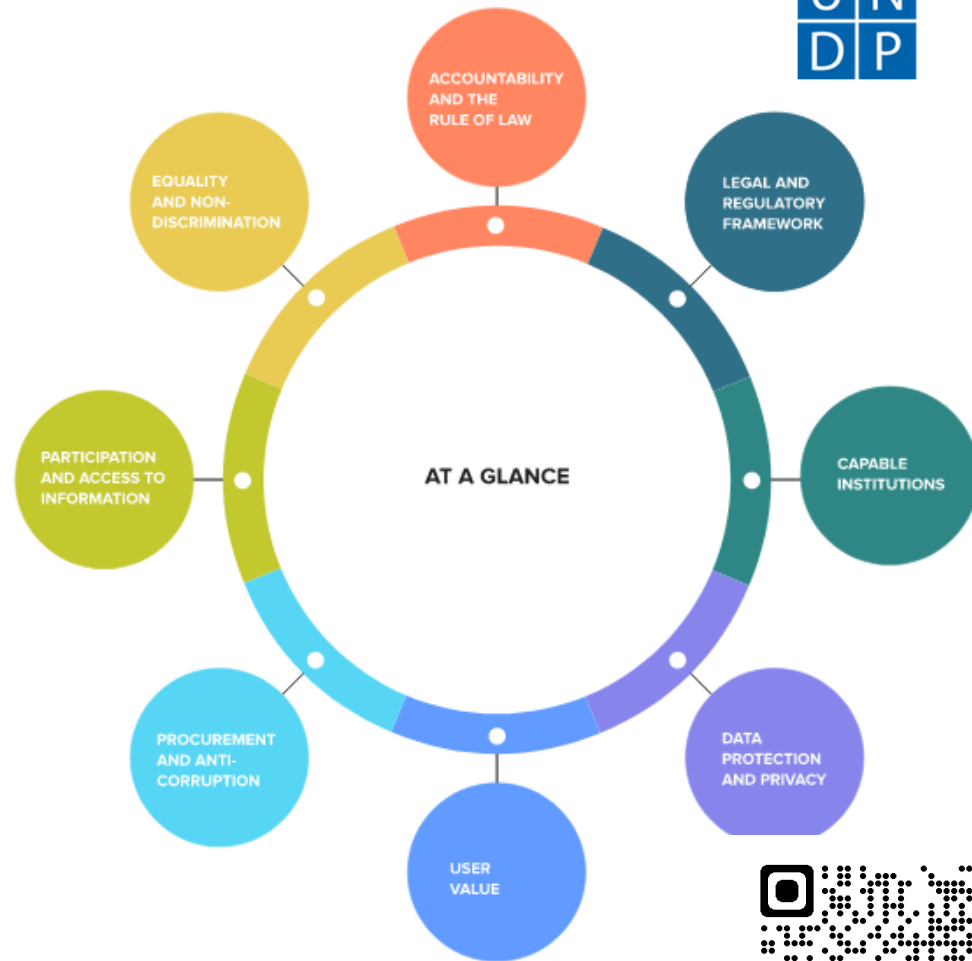
Some research show that channeling complaints or establishing dialogue with institutions in charge of managing digital legal identification systems is often difficult, especially where the national ID system is managed by the security sector.

# In summary

**Digital ID systems are rapidly being deployed**

But the appropriate **governance frameworks and models lag behind** the development of systems and technologies

**Further guidance and support is needed** on the governance of identity systems (particularly in the nexus of legal to digital identity)



<https://www.governance4id.org/>

# MODEL GOVERNANCE FRAMEWORK FOR DIGITAL LEGAL IDENTITY

Digital legal ID, a foundational digital public infrastructure, has the potential to catalyze digital transformation and development opportunities across countries.

However, without effective governance, digital legal ID systems risk perpetuating, and potentially exacerbating, the challenges seen in previous identity systems.

Therefore, UNDP has taken the initiative to draft a model governance framework.

This framework is intended to outline a normative model of the laws, policies and institutional arrangements that can help ensure the governance of digital legal ID systems is both inclusive and respectful of individual rights.

# UNDP Model Governance Framework for Digital Legal ID



- **Convergence between Legal Identity based on CRVS and Digital Identity (Approved model by ECOSOC)**
- **Based on 80+ existing literature (international standards, guidelines, research, etc.)**
- **Guiding governments to identify gaps in governance and strategic direction going forward by laying out normative standards**
- **Capturing the required institutional capacity to enable implementation of normative principles (incl. WB's principles on identification)**
- **Easily digestible by users with online framework and AI chatbot rather than a long report**

*Comprehensive Coverage of Digital Legal ID Governance with 8 high-level elements and 80+ sub-elements*

# How to use the framework?



## Prepare

- Study the Framework
- Identify valuable national use cases or purpose of the ID system
- Customize the framework to meet your needs (defining elements and anchor questions)
- Conduct desk-based research, and interviews with key informants to map the framework against your findings.

## Analyse

- Identify gaps in information and/or the need for further research.
- Use mapping information to do an analysis identifying strengths and weaknesses.

## Engage

- Convene a meeting of stakeholders to validate analysis, fill gaps in knowledge and generate recommendations for policy.
- Use analysis and workshop outcomes to generate an implementation strategy.



# De-risking through better governance: The UNDP Model Governance Framework\* for Digital Legal Identity Systems

## Illustrative overview



## 8 detailed categories

*High-level elements that are crucial for the robust governance system*

## Category context

*Helpful description and context to what each category contains*

## Anchor questions

*Key questions to pose in reviews, workshops, etc. on each category*

## Rights implications

*Explanation on how each element impacts on the lives of people from human rights perspectives*

## Example scenarios

*Some model example for each element that describes some of the ideal status*

\*The framework goes beyond tooling to include a lot of other aspects and avenues of support we will cover

# Case 1: Country X

