

Status of Country Implementation of the UN Legal Identity Agenda in Kenya

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Agenda: Implementation during the pandemic"**

Kenyan Context

- Since 2005, the Government of Kenya (GoK) has progressively worked towards establishing a harmonized approach to the registration of persons and identity management in Kenya.
- In 2019, the National Integrated Identity Management System (NIIMS) – dubbed the “Huduma Namba” - was launched.
- NIIMS is a national programme for the establishment of an integrated biometric population database that will be the “single source of truth” on persons’ identity data.
- To enable this, a high-level co-ordination mechanisms was established with the Inter-Ministerial Co-ordination Committee being set up, Chaired by Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of Interior & Co-ordination of National Government.

Kenyan Context

- The government has also made great strides in strengthening the legal framework:
 1. Enactment of the Data Protection Act, 2019;
 2. Registration of Persons (NIIMS) Regulations 2020 and the Data Protection (Civil Registration) Regulations, 2020;
 3. Draft Huduma Namba Bill, 2020 and its regulations - which will be the anchor law for the implementation of the national integrated identity management system
 4. Development of the the National Civil Registration and Identity Management Policy, 2020
- To oversee the protection, privacy and confidentiality of personal data as per Data Protection Act, 2019, the Government has recently appointed a Data Commissioner

Kenya as a Pilot Country for UN LIA

- In 2019, Kenya was selected as a pilot country for operationalizing the United Nations Legal Identity Agenda – and officially endorsed during the Fifth Conference of African Ministers responsible for Civil Registration and Vital Statistics in October 2019 in Lusaka, Zambia.
- In December 2019, the UNECA conducted a Rapid Assessment of the countries' preparedness to implement an integrated civil registration, vital statistics and identity management system - aligned to the UN LIA principles and recommendations.

Kenya as a Pilot Country for UN LIA

- UNECA noted that Kenya was prepared for the implementation of the LIA but needed to improve on
 - Legal framework
 - Interoperability of systems by
 - Improving on the coordination of various actors in ID management
 - Advocacy and communication

Status of the Implementation of UN LIA in Kenya

- In August 2020, implementation of the UN LIA through consultative and engaging process between the GoK and the UN Resident Coordinator's Office.
- The UN, through UNDP and UNICEF, sought high-level clearance and commitment from the Ministry of Interior and Coordination of National Government (MICNG) to implement the “Legal Identity for All Project”.
- The MICNG in November 2020, responded through the UN Resident Coordinator's Office, and shared with the UN the Government priorities and areas of possible collaboration.

Status of the Implementation of UN LIA in Kenya

- A high-level meeting between the Government of Kenya and the UN was held and a technical team constituted to discuss further the priorities and develop a workplan.
- The team identified the need for development of an operational framework to articulate the roles of all the actors in the establishment of the integrated civil registration, vital statistics and identity management system.
- The framework is under development and is conceptualizing the linkages between the different systems and identifying the gaps in enabling integration.
- During the ongoing COVID-19 response, like many other countries, Kenya experienced huge data gaps to inform the true burden of the COVID-19 disease. The Government and its partners are collaborating to conduct rapid mortality surveillance, **in order to establish the excess mortality in Kenya.**

Resource Mobilization

- The Government of Kenya wishes to sincerely thank the UN, Development Partners and collaborating Governments for their technical and financial support. Specifically, we acknowledge support from:
 1. The Government of Japan that funded the Kenya's "Legal Identity for All Project" with **USD 850,000** through UNDP Kenya.
 2. The Government of Switzerland who have committed **USD 54,000** to the implementation of the UN LIA project seed activities.
- The funds are supporting automation of the civil registration system; enabling integration of the identity management systems, facilitating the legal review process and enabling demand creation for registration.
- Your support also enabled engagement and coordination of various actors, a process aimed at enabling collaboration and integration.
- Finally, our development partners, we assure you that the Government of Kenya is fully committed to implement the newly launched NIIMS/Huduma Namba Initiative within the UN LIA principles and recommendations.