



# NIRA

NATIONAL IDENTIFICATION & REGISTRATION AUTHORITY  
HAY'ADDA AQOONSIGA IYO DIIWAANGELINTA QARANKA

## MONTHLY e-MAGAZINE



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**Abdiwali Ali  
Abdulle (Timacadde)**  
Director General, NIRA

## IDENTITY, YOUTH AND THE FUTUR



**WORLD ID DAY**



# Foreword from the Director General

It is my pleasure to welcome you to the September edition of NIRA's Monthly e-Magazine, under the theme: **"Identity, Youth, and the Future."**

This has been a month of real progress for Somalia's National ID. Thousands of people continue to register each month, and the numbers keep rising as awareness grows. Since the official launch in September 2023, NIRA has registered nearly half a million people nationwide. To sustain this momentum, we have invested in card printing facilities, continue to spread awareness and expanded registration center countrywide. Services have also been extended to 30 Somali embassies abroad, and the National ID is now integrated with education, banking, passports, business licensing, and domestic travel, ensuring that it becomes a central tool for access to opportunities and essential services for every Somali citizen.

We also know that building trust requires openness. At NIRA we place great importance on transparency through listening, answering questions, and engaging with citizens. Over the past weeks we have held several forums and participated in events to engage with community members, leaders, and youth, creating opportunities for dialogue on why the ID matters and how it strengthens inclusion.

This edition highlights some of those moments: Somalia's participation in World Identity Day, which connected our efforts to a global movement for legal identity, and the Benadir University forum, where students shared their perspectives on access and trust. Each of these events reflects not only the milestones achieved but also our ongoing efforts to bring people into the conversation.

As NIRA's leadership, we believe youth have a vital role to play in this journey. They are not only embracing digital identity but also spreading awareness, building trust, and helping us reach every Somali. Their voices, along with the engagement of communities everywhere, give us confidence that the Somali National ID will serve generations to come.

I invite you to explore this month's magazine, which captures these important milestones, as we continue to strengthen Somalia's National ID system and ensure it serves every citizen.



**Abdiwali Ali  
Abdulle (Timacadde)**  
Director General, NIRA

## Somalia Celebrates World Identity Day

On 16 September 2025, Somalia proudly joined the global community in celebrating World Identity Day. This year's theme, **"My ID, My Umbrella,"** was chosen to reflect how a secure identity provides protection, inclusion, and empowerment for every citizen

Across Mogadishu, NIRA organized awareness campaigns, posters, and short video messages that highlighted how the National ID connects Somalis to education, healthcare, banking, and government services. The campaign emphasized that identity is not a privilege, but a right that safeguards dignity and creates opportunity.



NIRA's Director General, Abdiwali Ali Abdulle (Timaacadde), reminded citizens that: **"This day reminds us that legal identity is more than a card or a number. It is the key to dignity, opportunity, and inclusion. Here in Somalia, we are committed to ensuring that no citizen is left invisible, excluded, or forgotten."**

This year's commemoration also aligned Somalia with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) Target 16.9, which calls for legal identity for all by 2030. As part of this global commitment, NIRA is expanding registration capacity both inside Somalia and abroad, with services extended to 30 Somali embassies to include the diaspora.

For Somalis, World Identity Day was not just a symbolic celebration but a reminder of the collective journey toward universal identity, where every Somali, wherever they live, can step under the umbrella of inclusion and national recognition.

## Youth Forum at Benadir University

On 23 September, NIRA and Benadir University hosted a well-attended Youth Forum titled **"Youth Voices on the National ID: Engaging Students in Conversations on Identity, Access, and Trust"**



The forum opened with remarks from Deputy DG Abdirahman Said Ahmed, who highlighted the National ID's is essential for accessing fundamental services such as education, healthcare, banking, and other critical needs. He called on Somali university students and young people to play an active role in raising awareness and encouraging nationwide registration.

Benadir University's Rector, Prof. Mohamed Mohamud Hassan "Biday," highlighted that his institution was the first university to host a NIRA registration center, and urged students to contribute to public awareness efforts to help achieve the goal of registering all Somali citizens.

The program also featured presentations by NIRA officials, who briefed students on the Authority's mandate, the importance of legal identity, and the broader benefits of the National ID. This was followed by an open discussion where students engaged directly with NIRA representatives, raising questions on registration, data protection, and the digitalization of identity services in Somalia.

## NIRA at Dan Qaran's Third Anniversary Exhibition



The National Identification and Registration Authority (NIRA) marked a strong presence at the Federal Government of Somalia's Dan Qaran Third Anniversary celebrations and the 2022–2025 Performance Exhibition, showcasing major progress in rolling out the National ID system.

President Hassan Sheikh Mohamud, Prime Minister Hamse Abdi Barre, Deputy Prime Minister Salah Ahmed Jama, and other Ministers visited NIRA's booth, where Director General Abdiweli Ali Abdulle (Timacadde) and Deputy DG Abdirahman Said Ahmed presented a report on achievements and future priorities. The country's leadership praised NIRA's progress and urged the team to intensify nationwide registration.

Since the official launch in September 2023, NIRA has registered nearly half a million people and built the infrastructure to sustain operations, including card printing facilities, registration centers, 550 enrollment kits, five million high-security ID cards, and trained personnel.

The Authority has also extended services to 30 Somali embassies and integrated the ID with education, banking, passports, business licensing, domestic travel, and other essential services. To further strengthen access, NIRA rolled out digital innovations such as the eAqoonsi App, Hubiye Platform, and Certificate Delivery System (CDS), ensuring secure, efficient, and reliable identity services.

## President's Speech: The National ID as a Cornerstone

At the Federal Government's "Dan Qaran" third anniversary, President Hassan Sheikh Mohamud described the National ID as a unifying tool that brings Somalis closer to their country and its services. He emphasized that the card is not only proof of identity but also the key that opens doors to opportunity and participation.

The President explained that each citizen receives a unique number that lasts a lifetime, ensuring permanent recognition and security. With this identity, Somalis are able to access vital services such as education, healthcare, banking, passports, and business licenses. Without it, he noted, many of these essential services remain out of reach, making the ID a foundation for opportunity and inclusion.

He also reflected on the ID as the official marker of Somali nationality. Speaking the Somali language alone, he said, is not enough to prove citizenship. The National ID provides the legal confirmation that ties every individual to the Somali state, strengthening both personal dignity and national unity.

Underscoring the urgency, the President added: **"Without an ID you cannot travel—not just by plane, even by car. The National ID is your official identity and the key to the country's services. Don't wait for tomorrow—register today and get your National ID; it is your right and your future."**



## Heliwaa District ID Center Opens

NIRA inaugurated its newest registration and issuance facility in Heliwaa District, Mogadishu on the 22nd September, making it the 15th ID center in the capital.



The ceremony was officiated by NIRA's Deputy Director General, Abdirahman Said Ahmed, together with Benadir Deputy Governor for Security and Political Affairs, Mohamed Ahmed Dirie (Yaboo), and Heliwaa District Commissioner, Abdifatah Mohamed Hared.

The establishment of the Heliwaa center represents another important milestone in NIRA's efforts to bring services closer to communities. Residents of the district will now have access to registration and issuance of the Somali National ID within their locality, reducing the burden of traveling long distances for this essential service.

Speaking at the launch, both the Deputy Director General and the District Commissioner urged the people of Heliwaa to take full advantage of the new facility and register for their National ID.

They underlined that the National ID is not only vital for accessing services such as education, passports, healthcare, and banking, but also provides a lifelong Unique Identity Number that secures every Somali's legal identity.

In his closing remarks, the Deputy Director General acknowledged the heavy turnout at existing NIRA centers and appealed for public patience as demand continues to grow. He reaffirmed NIRA's commitment to expand registration capacity by opening additional centers to ensure that every Somali citizen can exercise their right to a secure legal identity under the principle of **"Your ID, Your Right."**

## Looking Ahead: Somali National ID Conference 2025

**NIRA will host the Somali National ID Conference on 24–25 November in Mogadishu**, bringing together government leaders, development partners, civil society, and the private sector to reflect on progress and look ahead to the future of identity in Somalia.

The conference will provide a platform to share experiences from registration efforts, highlight new digital tools, and discuss how to ensure services reach all communities, including those in remote and vulnerable areas. It will also explore how the National ID connects to essential services such as education, healthcare, banking, and business.

The event aims to build a national consensus around the role of the ID in uniting Somali citizens and strengthening institutions. It will be an opportunity to align efforts, deepen collaboration, and set priorities for the next phase of the rollout.



For NIRA, the November conference is both a chance to take stock and a moment to chart the road ahead. The event is expected to set the tone for shaping Somalia's identity system in the years to come.



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