

Selling solutions in all the wrong places

Biometrics in Africa

~~PRIVACY~~
~~INTERNATIONAL~~

“It could be used for surveillance...We can easily design a program for the ID card which enables surveillance of user’s internet activities or conversations on Skype...This is business, we sell to those who are interested. If I was approached by Iran I would sell to them.”

- CEO Softlock, a company who provided biometric technology to Mubarak’s Egypt funded by the Danish Aid Agency DANIDA

“...the interest of governments and international institutions in biometrics is growing... However these recommendations require special measures ensuring privacy. Indeed, in the Western world, the use of biometrics has been raising some privacy concerns... That doesn't seem to be the case on the African continent, where biometrics are regularly used...”

- Senior Vice President at Zetes who delivers to Cape Verde, Ivory Coast, DRC, Togo

Funding

Through the United Nations Democracy Fund, the UNDP has funded biometric voter registration in Benin, Cape Verde, the Comoros Islands, Democratic Republic of Congo, Sierra Leone, Togo, and Zambia.

World Bank funding for registration of the urban poor in Benin and Kenya.

USAID has funded biometric systems in Malawi and Guinea.

Public policy

In Mozambique the cost of the national identity cards contracted to Face Technologies was \$15 million.

The contract between Uganda and Muhlbauer group was €64 million.

The UNDP funded biometric voter registration in Sierra Leone cost \$60 million.

DRC

In support of the 2006 election process the international community donated \$460,000,000 to the DRC.

The UNDP oversaw the procurement process and two contracts were awarded to European companies to institute biometric registration.

Zetes was awarded the contract for 10,000 biometric registration kits, and Sagem was charged with removing duplicates in the system.

Required 25,000 local operators to carry out the registration process and the cost of the biometric kits alone was US\$40m. The total cost of the registration process was US\$101m.

Leaked report by Zetes recorded that there had been more than 700,000 double registrations on the system.

What can we do?

Work with funders so they understand risks.

Highlight how foreign aid funding is going to domestic companies.

Establish and require legal and technological frameworks for protecting individuals.

UNHCR case

Registration programme discerns who is or who is not a refugee, protects people.

Fingerprinting programme had significant faults.

DNA programme also in use.

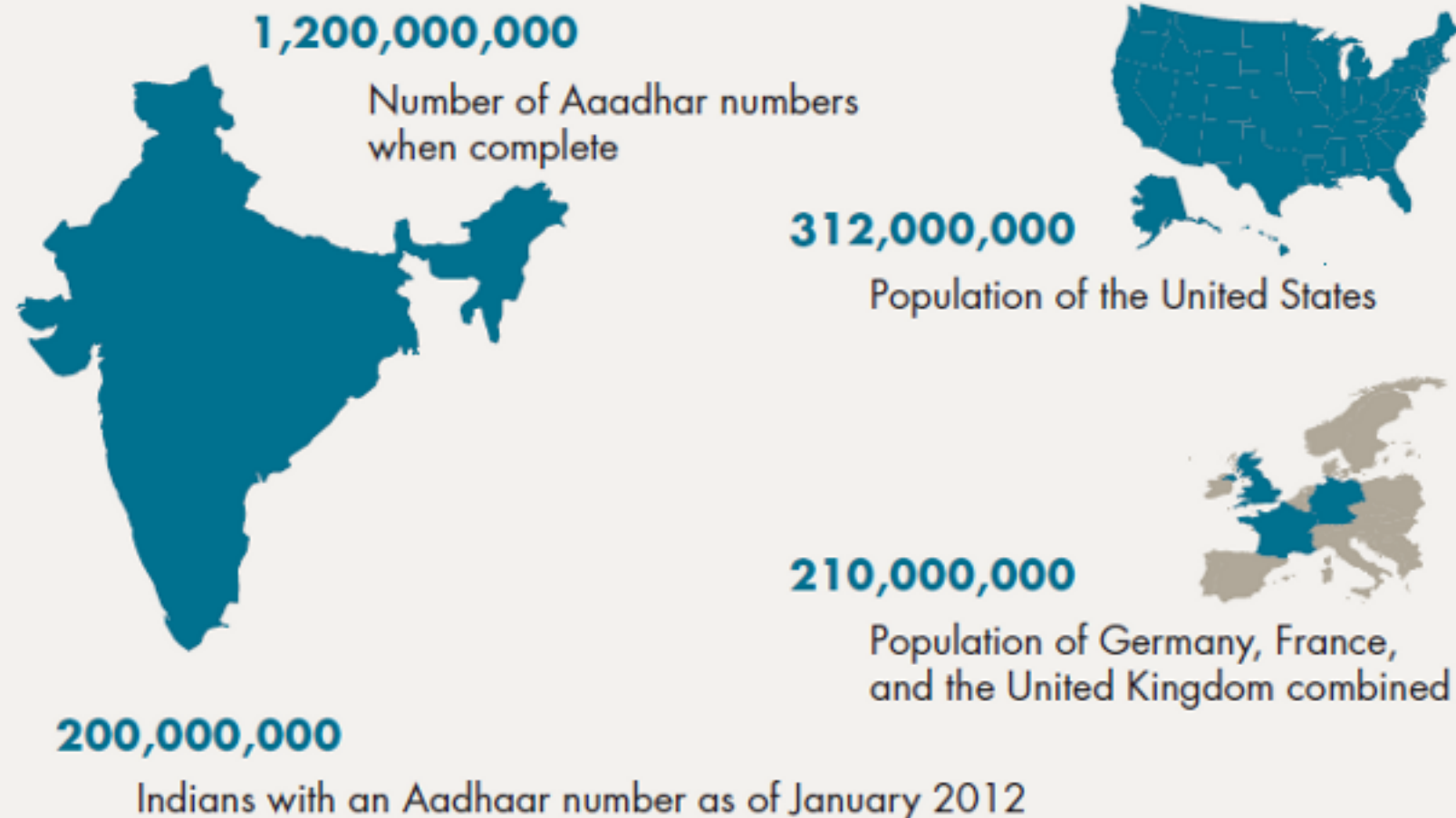
Security challenges.

Where are the appropriate safeguards?

Building a Biometric National ID: Lessons for Developing Countries from India's Universal ID Program

Alan Gelb and Julia Clark
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India's Universal ID Program by the Numbers



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