

Building Sustainable Digital ID Capacity in Africa

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Building Sustainable Digital ID Capacity in Africa

MOSIP Connect, Morocco - Feb 2026



UPANZI
DIGITAL PUBLIC INFRASTRUCTURE
NETWORK

**Carnegie
Mellon
University**
Africa

MSC
MicroSave Consulting

Imagine Africa Went Fully DPI Overnight...



image: freepk.com

Who will maintain, upgrade and secure the DPI?

Are we ready to reap all the promised benefits of DPI?

Upanzi Network

Africa-based network of engineering research labs that is working towards a secure and resilient digital transformation on the continent.

Carnegie Mellon University

Open Digital Technology Laboratory

- Design
- Implement
- Experiment
- Demonstrate

جامعة الزخوين
FUNDATION OF
AL AKHAWAYN
UNIVERSITY

LASPO

Carnegie Mellon University Africa

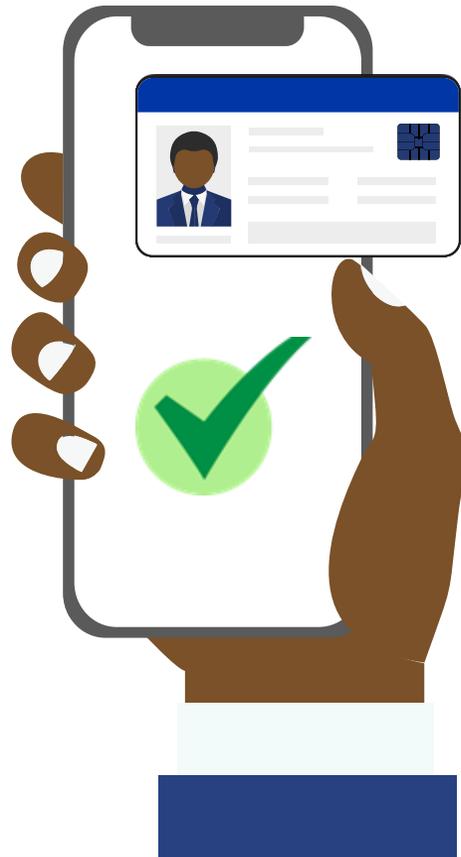
UNIVERSITY OF THE WITWATERSRAND
JOHANNESBURG

- Knowledge co-Creation
- Solution co-Designing
- Technology Transfer
- Capacity Building
- Lab Replication

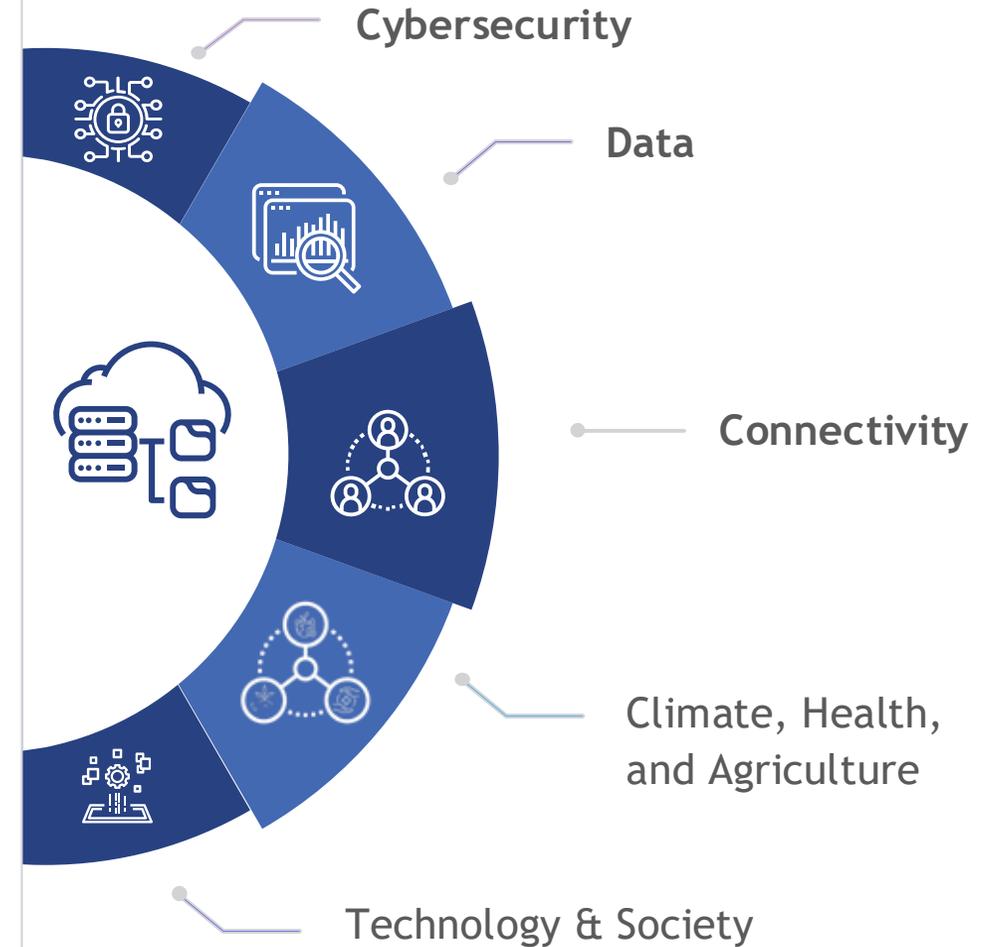
Focus Areas of the Upanzi DPI Network

Digital ID

- Cross-Border interoperability
- *MOSIP* ID Platform
- Verifiable credentials
- Events Biometric Authenticator
- Bias in biometric devices
- ID and Data Policies
- Enhancing ID registration and user grievance management

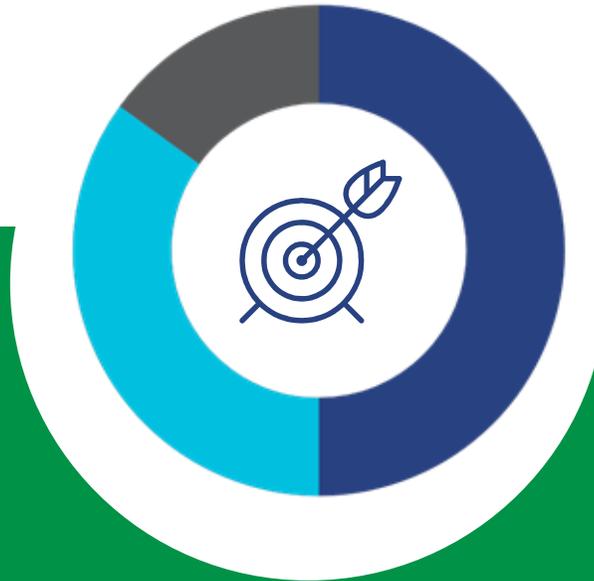


Digital Public Infrastructure



Hackathon for Building Capacity and Use-cases

The success and impact of a national digital ID program are dependent on its use cases and not simply on its national roll-out and coverage.



There needs to be a grassroots local knowledge capacity that understands both digital ID and the nuances of their respective countries' challenges and culture.

Without a local contextually aware capacity, Africa will forever rely on external support for this crucial public infrastructure.

Zero operational use-cases of digital ID in agriculture and only three in education and healthcare.

Hackathon Cycle



Launch



Idea Submission



Prototyping



Regional Semis



Continental Finals



Community



Education, Mentorship, Opportunity



2025 At a Glance



Undergraduate, graduate or doctoral levels students from eligible countries.

(At least one participant in the team must be a female.)

20+
Countries
participated

600+
Participants

80+
Ideas submission

30%
Female participation

Key Use-cases from the Africa Digital ID Hackathon 2025



Agriculture
and Climate
Change



Healthcare



Access to
Public Services



Cities and
Public
Transport



Education
and
Employment



Property and
Asset
Management



Finance
and
Telecom

Life After The Hackathon



Placed 1st and 2nd in N.Africa

Placed 2nd in Africa

جامعة الأخوين
AL AKHAWAYN UNIVERSITY

Digital Innovation Laboratory



Completed internships

Won Best Paper at Sth IEEE Cist

Conference Paper

NourID+:A Digital Energy Identity Framework for Efficient Subsidy Allocation in Morocco

October 2025

DOI: 10.1109/CIST5886.2025.11224106

Conference: 2025 IEEE 8th Congress on Information Science and Technology (CIST)

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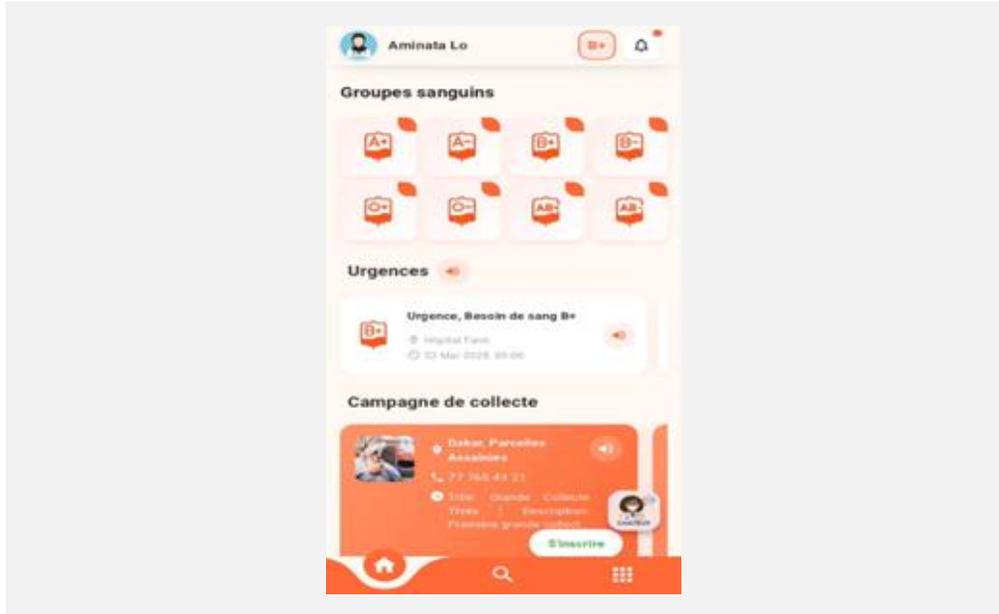


The Upanzi Network at CMU-
Africa

Senegal - RETRO

Problem Statement

- Blood shortages across Africa limit healthcare systems' ability to handle emergencies
- Senegal has only 6 donors per 1000 people (WHO recommends 10)
- Poor coordination between donors and blood banks worsens crisis situations



LifeLink is a digital platform connecting blood donors to banks, using secure ID to streamline donations and alert compatible donors during emergencies.



Digital ID in our solution enables secure authentication, controlled information sharing, and access to rewards with verified partners.



Educational approach breaking blood donation taboos through local language support and voice interfaces (in development), making the service highly accessible across African communities.



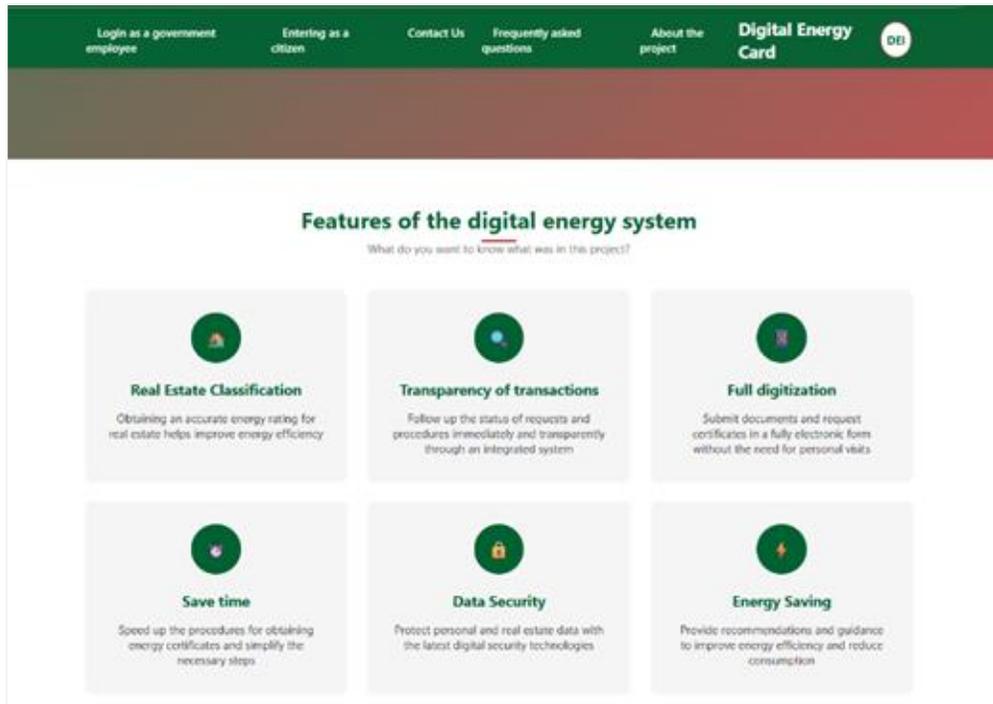
Future integration of predictive analytics to anticipate blood shortages, enabling healthcare facilities to plan proactive collection campaigns before critical situations arise.

Team NourID+

Problem Statement



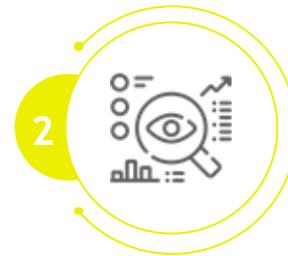
- Unified Energy Tracking
- Smart Monitoring & Alerts
- Subsidy Access & Sustainability



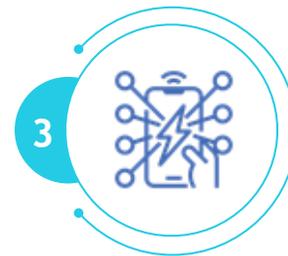
Solution Overview



Enables accurate tracking of energy consumption for every registered property through a unified Digital Energy ID.



Provides real-time monitoring and intelligent alerts to help SRMs optimize energy use across homes and farms.



Links verified energy data to subsidy programs, promoting transparency and supporting Morocco's green energy goals.

Africa Digital ID Hackathon 2026

