



4.3. Access to services

IDs are meant to establish not only legal identities but also to work as gateways to essential services, such as financial and social protection ones.[356](#) A government directive, on 7 April 2025, mandated that all public services be tied to the National ID Card issued by NIRA.[357](#) Reportedly, as of November 2025, more than 24 public and private sector services had integrated the system.[358](#) Among these, the National ID card would be mandatory for applying for passports, also abroad,[359](#) effective 1 September 2025;[360](#) for air domestic travels,[361](#) effective 1 March 2026;[362](#) for banking transactions, effective 1 September 2025;[363](#) for business services, effective 6 July 2025;[364](#) for driver's licenses, and vehicle registrations.[365](#) According to the WB NIRA support team, most banks are currently the biggest users – with, as of March 2026, over 23 000 electronic verification using ID for account opening and transactions – while other use cases are in business registration, education, and transport business.[366](#)

On 17 March 2026, Somalia's North-East State mandated all public and private service providers to require the national biometric ID issued by NIRA for access to services. The directive, taking effect on the same day, applied to various sectors including telecommunications, banking, government agencies, educational institutions, notaries and travel services, requiring identity verification through the federal system.[367](#)

- [356](#)

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WB, Task team for SCALED-UP and SPRING projects - NIRA ID program support implementation, Email exchange, 1 April 2026

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