

REPORT ON GDC-NIPL COLLABORATIVE VISIT TO AFRICA



Democratic Republic
of Congo



Zambia



Mozambique



Seychelles

UNIFIED PAYMENTS INTERFACE



© GDC, 2022



Core IV-B, Fourth Floor, India Habitat Centre,
Lodhi Road, New Delhi-110 003, India; Ph.: +91-11-24682177-80, Fax: +91-11-24682173-74
E-mail: dgoffice@ris.org.in; Website: www.ris.org.in; www.gdcin.org

Report on GDC-NIPL Collaborative Visit to Africa

25 July - 5 August 2022



RIS

Research and Information System
for Developing Countries

विकाशशील देशों की अनुसंधान एवं सूचना प्रणाली

NPCI 
INTERNATIONAL

GDC
GLOBAL DEVELOPMENT CENTRE

Preface

Professor Sachin Chaturvedi

Director General, RIS

The spirit of *Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam* has guided India's relationship with fellow developing countries that are confronting multiple challenges related to development and reconstruction. In this context, the Global Development Centre (GDC), established at RIS is promoting development programmes and flagship missions advocated by developing countries for their possible replication and adoption among peer countries. This is in tune with the idea of a better world for an enriched and inclusive growth in the Global South.

GDC aims to institutionalize knowledge on development initiatives as part of knowledge sharing in Asia and Africa with the help of its institutional partners. It intends to explore and articulate global development processes within a micro framework to collate and assimilate learning processes of other countries for promotion of equity, sustainability and inclusivity based on multidisciplinary and multi-functional approaches. GDC recently concluded a collaborative visit with NPCI International Payments Limited (NIPL) to explore opportunities of collaboration with our partner countries from Africa by way of transforming payments across the globe with use of technology and innovation.

The present publication is an outcome report of the visit endorsing our mutual commitment and collective engagement for true accomplishment of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and Agenda 2030.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Ambassador Amar Sinha, former Secretary, Government of India, Chairman Advisory Committee, GDC and Distinguished Fellow, RIS to lead this initiative. I would also extend my thanks to our Indian Missions and High Commissions from Democratic Republic of Congo, Zambia, Mozambique and Seychelles to support the visits and endeavour. Further, I take the privilege to congratulate our partner NPCI International Payments Limited, represented by Mr. Nehal Shah, In-Charge, Middle East and Africa and Mr. Savin Shetty, Lead Business Development, Africa to make this initiative successful together with Mr Omegere John Patrick, GDC Resource Person, Africa, Ms Rituparna Banerjee and Mr Amit Arora, GDC Managers. We are hopeful that this publication would be able to serve as a useful reference for the future collaborations.

Sachin Chaturvedi

Context

Digital payment in India has achieved extra-ordinary growth over the years. India has emerged as the global epicenter for digital payments accounting for the highest number of digital transactions in the world – 25.5 billion transactions. Over 40 per cent of the world’s digital transactions happen in India. While cash transactions still make a significant percentage of the transactions, it is projected that 71.7 per cent of the total transactions will be digital by 2025.

The launch of Unified Payment Interface (UPI), RuPAY, etc. by the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) has been critical for driving digital payments. UPI provides a common payment platform for all digital payments in India. The system merges multiple bank accounts into a single platform (mobile application and USSD) enabling instant money transfer and merchant payment. This has been made possible through open banking system and use of openly defined set of Application Programming Interfaces (API) that allows seamless integration with other applications to facilitate payments through interbank retail payments.

In 2022, UPI processed 6.2 billion transactions in the month of July alone. With the capacity to process upto 1 billion transactions, the system has registered a Cumulative Annual Growth Rate of 160 per cent. In the financial year 2021, UPI

processed commerce having worth 130 billion, contributing to almost 33 per cent of India’s GDP. The key impetus for UPIs success in India includes progressive regulatory policies by Reserve Bank of India (RBI), high rates of phone penetration, financial literacy and digital literacy, among others.

Owing to the phenomenal success in India, UPI has the potential of transforming digital payments and financial inclusion in other developing countries. As such, GDC is facilitating engagements between NPCI International Payments Ltd (NIPL) and relevant authorities in Africa and other developing countries on possible adoption of UPI.

Leveraging on GDC-RIS’s institutional connect with organizations in the continent and working with Indian High Commissions in respective countries, GDC-RIS conducted a collaborative visit with NIPL in four African countries:

- Democratic Republic of Congo
- Zambia
- Mozambique
- Seychelles

The choice of countries visited was influenced by the high level of interest demonstrated during several virtual engagements and strong institutional linkages established by GDC and NIPL.

GDC-NIPL delegation

A delegation of three officials from GDC and NIPL travelled to the above-mentioned countries. The delegation comprised of the following:

- Mr. Nehal Shah – In-Charge Middle East and Africa, NIPL.
- Mr. Savin Shetty – Lead Business Development – Africa, NIPL.
- Mr. Omegere John Patrick- GDC Resource Person Africa (Based in Kampala, Uganda).

It is also worth noting that the GDC-NIPL delegation was strongly supported by officials from Indian High Commission/Embassy in the respective countries.

Objective of the Visit

The core objective of the visit was to share the NPCI proposal for the adoption of UPI and garner support for the acceptance of UPI and RuPAY cards in the respective countries visited. In addition to NIPL related engagements, GDC also aimed to utilize the visit to follow-up on the in-person workshop held at the Dubai Expo, 2020 and foster broader collaborations with relevant institutions in the countries visited. To this end, meetings and workshops were conducted with relevant institutions including Central Banks, Ministries of Finance, Ministries of Health, Payment Systems Operators, among others.

Country: Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC)

The Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) is the largest country in Sub-Saharan Africa, having a population of about 90 million people. With GDP of nearly

USD 54 billion, the country's economy grew at 5.7 per cent (2021 World Bank estimates) which is projected to increase to 6.4 per cent by 2023. Economic growth is mainly driven by the mining sector, particularly copper and cobalt. The country is exceptionally empowered with natural resources including cobalt, copper, gold, zinc, diamond, crude oil, etc.

To catalyze the process of economic development, the country's roadmap for financial inclusion 2015-2021 aims to increase percentage of adults with access to at least one formal financial service from 32 per cent (Fin Scope 2015) to 46 per cent in 2021. Fintech is playing a critical role in increasing financial inclusion.

Democratic Republic of Congo was the first country of the GDC-NIPL collaborative visit. During the visit (conducted from 24th July 2022 to 27th July, 2022), the following activities were taken up:

Meeting with Central Bank of DRC

The objective of the meeting was to discuss potential collaboration with the Central Bank to adopt UPI as a sovereign digital payment solution offered by India to DRC. The meeting was also very important because DRC currently holds the chair of African Central Banks which provides an avenue for connecting with all Central Banks in the continent. The Indian delegation was led by Mr. Dhruv Mittal, Second Secretary, Embassy of India, Kinshasa, who represented the Ambassador.

The officials from Central Bank of DRC were led by Mr. Willy-Luc Mwana, Chief of Staff, Governor's Office, representing the Governor. Other officials were:

- Mr. Luboa Ngovu, Director, Payment Systems.



GDC-NIPL team oriented Banque Centrale Du Congo on UPI digital payment platform

- Mr. Celestin Bofala Kekanga, Deputy Director, ICT.
- Mr. Kavena Lukau, Advisor Regional Cooperation and Technical Assistance.
- Mr. Beni Bungu Lab'nsik, Advisor in Charge, Monitoring the Maintenance of the Information System and the implementation of IT projects
- Mr. King Kiseka, Payment Systems Analyst.

Mr. Omegere John Patrick, GDC-Resource Person-Africa introduced the work programme of GDC and its key attributes of facilitating exchange of experiences and best practices among developing countries. Aligning with Sustainable Development Goals, the verticals of GDC include Agriculture & Nutrition, Health, STI & Digital Technologies and other emerging development issues like climate change, gender development, women's economic empowerment etc. as part of the Development Practices and New Frameworks. He further highlighted that it is in the context of UPIs success in India that GDC is collaborating with NIPL to project

UPI as a best practice on digital payments and financial inclusion and promoting its adoption in other developing countries.

During the meeting, a joint presentation on UPI was delivered by Mr. Nehal Shah and Mr. Savin Shetty, NIPL representatives. The presentation covered the origin of NPCI, India stack and the evolution of UPI, key milestones and notable contribution of UPI to India's GDP, UPI architecture, benefits to stakeholders, among others.

Most importantly, a dual proposal for the possible adoption of UPI and acceptance of UPI powered apps and RuPAY card were put forward to the officials from the Central Bank of DRC.

The officials from Central Bank of DRC greatly appreciated India's efforts to share its development solutions with other developing countries. Further, they expressed genuine interest and appreciation for the UPI platform especially its ability to provide instant, low cost, interoperable digital transactions and potential contribution to financial inclusion. They also raised questions relating to the co-existence of UPI with pre-existing payment platforms, data storage, and legal

status of NPCI in relations to the RBI, cost of the solutions etc. All the queries raised were replied to satisfaction of the participants.

Further, an invitation was extended to officials from the Central Bank of DRC to visit India for more detailed engagements with all stakeholders and practical exposure on the systems.

The team from the Central Bank of DRC welcomed the invitation and indicated that necessary arrangements would be made towards working in collaboration with the Indian High Commission.

As the next course of action, based on the discussions, the officials from the Central Bank of DRC would brief the Governor on the meeting. Subsequently, arrangements would be made for officials from Central Bank of DRC to visit India for the purpose of conducting a practical study on UPI and having discussions with other relevant stakeholders like the RBI. These would be followed by an NDA and MoU between the parties.

Meeting with Ambassador, Indian Embassy, Kinshasa

The purpose of the meeting was to keep the High Commission apprised on the activities in DRC. The meeting was attended by H.E. Ram Karan Verma, Ambassador, Indian Embassy in Kinshasa (also accredited to Gabon) and Mr. Dhruv Mittal Second Secretary, Embassy of India, Kinshasa.

During the meeting, the Ambassador was briefed on the outcomes of the meeting with the Central Bank of DRC and planned engagements with other stakeholders in DRC.

Further, GDC representative briefed H.E Ram Karan Verma on the GDC mandate

of sharing experiences and best practices arising from India's flagship programmes and other development interventions. GDC work programme was shared with him in detail.

The Ambassador appreciated efforts by GDC- RIS and NIPL to share India's development solutions with DRC. He promised to follow-up with respective government officials and provide support in subsequent engagements including facilitating planned visit by officials of the Central Bank of Congo to India.

Meeting with Hon. Jacques Kambala Tshilombo, Principal Advisor to the President, DRC

The objective of the meeting was to foster collaboration for potential GDC engagements and strongly advocate for digital payments in DRC. To this end, NIPL representatives briefed Hon. Jacques Kambala on the salient features of UPI like open banking system, use of open-source technology which ensure low transaction costs, instant payments, security through two factor payment authentication, among others and potential role of its contribution in financial inclusion in DRC. They also briefed Hon. Jacques on outcomes of the meeting with the Central Bank of DRC.

Hon. Jacques was impressed with the presentation on UPI and promised to take the matter with higher authorities and follow-up with the Central Bank for potential implementation of UPI in DRC. Additionally, he scheduled a meeting with the Special Advisor of Ministry of Finance.

Further, GDC- Resource Person- Africa briefed Hon. Jacques on GDC work of facilitating exchange of experiences and best practices among developing countries

and its key areas of work aligned with SDGs. He was further informed about GDC's keen interest to have a mutually beneficial collaborations with relevant institutions in DRC.

He assured the delegation of his full support for subsequent engagements. He promised to support GDC in connecting with relevant institutions for the implementation of its initiatives.

Meeting with Maître Paul-Djunga, Directeur de Cabinet du Ministre, Ministry of Health, DRC

The meeting was held at the Ministry of Health headquarters in Kinshasa. It aimed to foster mutually beneficial collaborations between GDC and Ministry of Public Health, Hygiene and Prevention (MOH, DRC). GDC representative outlined GDC's core mandate of facilitating engagements between institutions in India and their respective counterparts in other developing countries with the objective of enabling exchange of experiences, best practices and technologies.

Further, it was highlighted that previous activities in the areas of Health facilitated by GDC includes several bilateral sessions on digital vaccination platforms, fellowships programmes on public health management, webinar on vaccination roll-out and platforms, workshops on COVID-19 management, healthcare facility and management preparedness and response in the post-pandemic era, etc. A proposal was put forward to collaborate with the Ministry of Public Health, Hygiene and Prevention on mutually agreed aspects which may potentially include the following;

- Digital vaccination platforms and other digital health systems.



Meeting with Mr Maitre Paul-Djunga, Directeur de Cabinet du Ministre from Ministry of Health, DRC

- Traditional medicines.
- Health insurance.
- Child and maternal health.
- Facilitating access to affordable quality pharmaceutical and health facilities, among others.

Hon. Maître highlighted that the MoH, DRC is working to transform the health system in the country to ensure universal coverage of health services. As such, he said that the Ministry has prioritized digital health services especially with the recent adoption of a digital health investment roadmap, development of human resources, etc.

He commended GDC for its work and welcomed the proposal for partnership between MoH, DRC. He added that given the convergences between priorities of MoH DRC and GDC thematic focus, there is great

potential for collaboration. He proposed for a formal request of partnership from GDC to MoH DRC to which they would immediately respond.

Country: Zambia

Zambia is a landlocked country with a total GDP of USD 21 billion. The country's economy is mostly driven by agriculture, mining, tourism, and manufacturing sectors. As per the World Bank 2021 estimates, The Zambian economy is expected to recover by 3.3 per cent in 2021 following a historic contraction of 2.8 per cent in 2020. The recovery is driven by high copper prices, improved post-election market confidence, and continued recovery in agriculture.

With an estimated population of 18 million people, the country has a fast population growth rated @ 2.8 per cent per annum. Like other countries in the region, Zambia has one of the youngest populations in the world mostly settled in urban areas. As a result of the high concentration in urban areas, there is increasing pressure on jobs, healthcare, education, and other social services. As such Zambia's 8th National Development Plan (NDP) has prioritized interventions

on economic transformation and job creation; human and social development; environmental sustainability; and good governance environment.

Located in Southern Africa, Zambia was the second country visited during the GDC-NIPL visit in Africa. Engagements in Zambia were held between 28 and 29 July 2022. Below are details of the key activities undertaken;

Meeting with Indian High Commission, Lusaka

The purpose of the meeting was to brief the High Commissioner and officials of the High Commission on GDC activities and current engagement with NIPL to advocate digital payments. Further to this, the main aim was to augment the interests of the officials in Zambia on the potential of adopting UPI for expanding scope for Indian travelers' by accepting RuPAY cards as part of digital payments technology and for all financial transactions during their travel to Zambia. The meeting was attended by H.E. Ashok Kumar, High Commissioner of India to Lusaka and Special Representative to COMESA and Mr. Sudipta Roy, Second Secretary, Indian High Commission, Lusaka.



Team GDC and NIPL meeting Governor, Bank of Zambia and other Senior Officials of the Central Bank



Meeting with Ministry of Finance, Zambia

During the meeting, the High Commission was briefed on India's offer of UPI as a sovereign solution for enabling real-time, interoperable and low transaction costs retail payment system with potential for catalyzing financial inclusion in Zambia.

Further, the High Commission's office was oriented on efforts by GDC-RIS to share experiences and best practices from India's flagship programmes including the diverse areas of GDCs work programme. It was also shared with them regarding the details of previous engagements with officials from the Ministry of Health, Zambia including bilateral session on COWIN held on 1 April 2022 as a follow-up of the workshop held in March 2022 at the Dubai 2020 Expo.

The High Commissioner appreciated efforts by GDC-RIS and NIPL to share India's development solutions with Zambia, and promised full support in facilitating subsequent engagements and conducting follow-up with relevant authorities. He confirmed continued support to further promote UPI as part of India @75 Independence Day Celebrations

by publishing an article on UPI in the local newspaper of Zambia.

Meeting with Ministry of Finance, Republic of Zambia

- The delegation from the Ministry of Finance was led by Mr. Mulele Maketo Mulele, the Acting Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Finance, accompanied by the senior officials from the Ministry including:
- Asst. Director Economic Management
- Principal Economist
- Chief Accounts and Treasury Assistant
- Assistant Director, Payment Systems Department

Bank of Zambia was also represented in the meeting by Ms. Miriam Tembo Kamuhuza, Assistant Director, Payment Systems Department.

The Indian delegation was led by H.E Ashok Kumar, High Commissioner of India to Zambia accompanied by Mr. Sudipta Roy, Second Secretary (Pol, Com, Cul & Edu.) & Head of Chancery. The delegation comprised of officials from NIPL and representative from GDC-RIS.



Meeting with Mr Ashok Kumar, Indian High Commissioner to discuss possibilities of adopting UPI in Zambia

The aim of the meeting was to present to the Ministry of Finance a proposal for the adoption of UPI in Zambia. To this end, NIPL representatives delivered a detailed presentation on UPI covering the origin of NPCI, India stack and the evolution of UPI, key milestones and notable contribution of UPI to India's GDP, UPI architecture, benefits to stakeholders, among others. The presentation also highlighted unique features including open banking, instant payments, and security through two factor payment authentication, among others. Further, an invitation was extended to officials from the Ministry of Finance to visit India for more detailed interactions.

During the meeting, GDCs broad agenda of facilitating exchange of experiences and best practices among developing countries and insights on GDCs work in the area of Agriculture & Nutrition, Health, STI & Digital Technologies etc. was discussed by GDC representative.

Mr. Mulele appreciated India for its readiness to support Zambia's development process. He also indicated that the presentation on UPI highlighted the direction towards which Zambia aspires

to advance its digital payment systems and as such there is scope for collaboration and mutual learning. He highlighted Zambia's aspiration to enhance the level of financial inclusion by developing an instant and interoperable payment system, and that UPI may be a potential solution.

Additionally, there were also questions relating to risks associated with the system, revenue models, transaction costs, etc. which were satisfactorily replied by NIPL representatives.

In due course, the Ministry of Finance will bring in relevant institutions, particularly the Bank of Zambia with the possibility of adopting UPI in the country.

Meeting with Hon. Felix C. Mutati, Minister of Technology and Science

Chaired by H.E. Ashok Kumar, High Commissioner of India to Zambia, the meeting aimed to share the NPCI proposal for the adoption of UPI in Zambia as a sovereign solution for facilitating real-time interoperable digital payments and enhancing financial inclusion in the country.

During the meeting, NIPL representatives delivered a detailed presentation on UPI

covering the origin of NPCI, India stack, key milestones and notable contribution of UPI to India's GDP, UPI architecture, benefits to stakeholders, among others. The presentation also highlighted the use of open-source technology which leads to low transaction costs, UPI support for development of FinTech, transparency, tax collection, transfer of government benefits to citizens, etc. An invitation was extended to him for visiting India.

Hon. Mutati was very impressed with the presentation and he highlighted the following features of UPI that are of relevance to Zambia;

- Capacity to provide instant and secure transactions using QR codes.
- Low transaction costs.
- Ability to process high volume of transactions.
- Increased visibility of financial flows.

Hon. Mutati also welcomed the invitation to visit India. He promised to convene a meeting with all stakeholders to further discuss the matter, the outcomes of which would be communicated to the High Commission. Subsequently, a multi-stakeholder team would be constituted to visit India.

Meeting with Bank of Zambia

The meeting was led by Dr. Denny H. Kalyalya- Governor, Bank of Zambia. It was attended by Advisors, Directors, other senior officials from Bank of Zambia, officials from Indian High Commission in Lusaka, and delegates from NIPL and GDC-RIS.

The Governor indicated in the initial interaction that although financial inclusion was comparatively low in the country, the

recent Fin-Scope survey is showing positive trends in the financial inclusion (from 10 per cent in 2015 to 64 per cent in 2022).

The Governor emphasized that the Bank of Zambia has an ambitious goal of increasing financial inclusion to 100 per cent by strengthening the National Payment Systems. To this end, Bank of Zambia has developed a National Switch to Switch Payments locally, RTGS among other systems.

The Governor also highlighted initiatives such as SADC RTGS system, Pan African Payment and Settlement System, etc. which Zambia is part of. Further he emphasized the importance of interoperability in payment systems.

During the meeting, NIPL representatives provided insights on evolution of UPI and its notable achievements, contribution to India's GDP and evolving as a key instrument towards financial inclusion. Further, an invitation was extended to Bank of Zambia for an exposure visit to India.

The Governor expressed eagerness to work with NIPL on UPI and welcomed the invitation to visit India. He also directed the establishment of working group led by the Directorate of Payment Systems to lead technical engagements in order to complete formalities including MoU.

It was also agreed that a technical session between NIPL and officials from Bank of Zambia would be arranged the following day.

Workshop with Zambia Electronic Clearing House Ltd (ZECHL)

The Zambia Electronic Clearing House Limited (ZECHL) was established in 1999 to be the sole national inter-bank

clearing facility in Zambia. ZECHL is a non-profit company setup and equally owned by member commercial banks and the Bank of Zambia. ZECHL interbank provides clearing services to the payments' ecosystem for small value payments.

Led by Mr. Morgan Chishala, Chief ICT Officer (Who represented the CEO ZECHL), the meeting was attended by senior officials from ZECHL including Ms. Twaambo Chooka, Finance and Administration Manager, Mr Kabwita, Operations Manager, among others.

The purpose of the meeting was to share details on UPI and propose it's adoption in Zambia. A detailed presentation on the digital payments platform of UPI was given by NIPL representatives. A demo on how UPI works using WhatsApp Pay was showcased to the officials from ZECHL. Further, an invitation was extended to the officials to visit India for more detailed and practical exchange on the system.

The officials were very impressed with UPI features and welcomed the invitation to visit India. Post presentation an interactive session was held to the business model, security features, and costs, etc.

As a next course of action, the officials would brief the CEO of ZECHL on the outcomes of meeting, and in consultation with relevant stakeholders pursue future steps.

Country: Mozambique

Mozambique is country in Southern Africa with a GDP of USD 14 billion as of 2020 World Bank estimates. In 2021, the country's economy grew at 2.2 per cent which represents a rebound following the first COVID19 induced contraction in

three decades. The key sectors driving for the country's economy include agriculture, mining, tourism, among others. The country's growth prospects are positive with GDP expected to grow at 4.5 per cent in 2022, when it would surpass the pre-pandemic levels on the back of gas investments. The country has a total population of about 31 million of which two-thirds live and work in rural areas.

The country's National Development Strategy aims to "raise the living conditions of the population through the structural transformation of the economy, expansion and diversification of the productive base". The country's plan is pivoted on boosting industrialisation to improve the performance of other sectors and spur job creation. The plan prioritize development of human capital, development of productive base infrastructure research, innovation, and technological development in agriculture; livestock and fishing; energy, mineral resources, water resources management and ICTs; policy articulation and institutional coordination.

Mozambique was the third country of the GDC-NIPL collaborative visit. The visit was conducted from 31st July 2022 - 2nd August 2022. The following are the key activities conducted;

Meeting with Banco De Moçambique

Chaired by Mr Felisberto Dinis Navalha, General Manager, Banco De Moçambique, the meeting was attended by senior officials including Directors of Payment System and Oversight Department, ICT Department, among others.

The Indian delegation was led by H.E Ankan Banerjee, High Commissioner of India to Maputo who introduced the



Mr Ankan Banerjee, High Commissioner to India, Mozambique led GDC-NIPL team's meeting with senior officials of Banco de Moçambique

delegation and thanked officials from Banco de Moçambique for availing time for the meeting. The High Commissioner was accompanied by Mr. Sunil Kumar Sharma, Second Secretary (Pol & Com), Indian High Commission, Maputo.

The objective of the meeting was to share details on UPI and the proposal for adoption of UPI in Mozambique. NIPL representatives made a detailed presentation on UPI, focusing on India stack and the evolution of UPI, key milestones and contribution to India's GDP and financial inclusion. UPI as an enabler of financial inclusion was also emphasized.

The presentation also emphasized salient features of UPI i.e. the global connectivity, open banking, transparency, low transaction cost, and interoperability, among others. A demo on how UPI works using WhatsApp Pay was also presented to the officials from Banco De Moçambique.

Further, an invitation was extended to the officials to visit India for more detailed and practical exchange on the system.

Based on the presentation, officials from Banco De Mozambique highly appreciate UPI based payments. Mr. Felisberto indicated that UPI reflects an advancement in the direction that Banco De Moçambique aspires to achieve. According to them, it would be a very useful solution to tackle the informal economy.

As the next course of action, officials from the Banco de Moçambique would brief the Governor on the meeting, and subsequently, further engagements would be arranged.

Meeting with Mr. Victor Maiden Zimba, Director, Department of International Cooperation, Ministry of Health, Mozambique

Held on 2nd August 2022, the meeting had the dual objective of following-up of

the GDC workshop held in March at the Dubai 2020 Expo and establishing new areas for collaboration between GDC and the Ministry of Health Mozambique.

In his opening remarks, Mr. Victor appreciated GDC for inviting MoH Mozambique to the workshop held in March 2022, at Dubai Expo 2020. He shared that Dr. Selma Xavier, who represented the MOH Mozambique at the event, had presented a detailed report which was highly appreciated by the Minister of Health. He expressed MoH Mozambique's keen interest to engage in mutually beneficial engagements with GDC.

During the meeting, GDC representative shared GDC's interest to facilitate technical bilateral engagements between MoH Mozambique and National Health Authority (NHA), Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India. He also shared GDC's proposal to expand areas of collaboration to include the following and other priority areas set by MoH Mozambique;

- Traditional medicines
- Health insurance
- Child and maternal health
- Facilitating access to affordable quality pharmaceutical and health facilities, among others.

Mr. Victor welcomed GDC to have proposal for a technical bilateral session on digital vaccination and expanding areas for collaboration. He highlighted that the areas suggested by GDC, converge with the top priorities of MOH Mozambique. He shared that Hon. Dr. Alexandre Manguale, the Minister for Health has identified Health Insurance as his top priority and that he had



Meeting with Mr. Victor Maiden Zimba, Director, Department of International cooperation, Ministry of Health, Mozambique

been recently appointed as a special advisor on Health Insurance. Additionally, he shared that new department for traditional medicine is going to anchor the Ministry work in that sector. He reiterated MoH Mozambique is ready to engage with GDC to draw lessons from India on potential areas under health.

It was agreed that GDC would send a letter requesting for collaboration with MoH Mozambique after which a virtual meeting would be arranged involving the Minister and all Directors of relevant departments for further discussion. Subsequently, there would be an MoU paving way for collaborative engagements between GDC and MoH Mozambique.

Country: Seychelles

Seychelles is a small island country made of tropical 115 islands in the Indian Ocean off the East Africa. With a small population

of just about 100000, the country has the highest Gross Domestic Product (GDP) per capita in Africa, estimated at USD 11400 and is classified as a high-income country. The country's total GDP is estimated at \$12.3 billion (2020). Due to COVID19 induced restrictions, it was shrunk by -7.7 per cent in 2020 from growth rate of 3.1 per cent in the previous year. However, the country is recovering and growth rates are estimated at 7.9 per cent in 2022. With a high dependency on tourism, the economy of Seychelles is primarily services-oriented, led in recent years by Information and Communication Technology (ICT), fisheries, real estates' etc.

Seychelles is currently ranked 43rd in the world human capital index and is also the only country in the African region and the Indian Ocean to have attained a very high Development Index category in 2019. In terms of financial inclusion, the country has highly banked population of 94 per cent, the highest reported in Sub-Saharan Africa.

Despite significant progress, the country faces challenges in providing efficient social protection, access to quality education and skills development, and climate change adoption.

The country's National Development Strategies (NDS) 2019-2023 identifies three development priorities:

- Enhancing productivity
- Economic participation through human resource development
- Development of an efficient public sector.

Seychelles was the fourth country of the GDC-NIPL collaborative visit. The engagements in Seychelles were held between 3 August 2022 and 5 August 2022.

The following were the key activities:

Meeting with Indian High Commission

The objective of the meeting was to keep the High Commission informed of the



Interaction with Chairman, Seychelles Bankers Association alongwith Chief Executive, Bank of Baroda (Seychelles)



Engaging meeting with Mr Vikram Grewal, Second Secretary, High Commission of India, Seychelles

planned engagement and request for their support especially in conducting follow-up engagements. The meeting was attended by Mr. Vikram Grewal, Second Secretary (Projects) & HOC; delegates from NIPL and GDC-RIS.

During the meeting, the Second Secretary was briefed on planned engagements with different stakeholders with regards to UPI. He was also informed about the invitation extended to different officials from relevant departments to visit India for a practical exposure on UPI.

Further, he was oriented on GDC's broader mandate of facilitating engagements between India and other developing countries with the objective of sharing technology, experiences and best practices under various thematic verticals.

Mr. Vikram appreciated efforts by GDC-RIS and NIPL and promised full

support, especially in facilitating further engagements and visits by officials from Seychelles. He suggested to share the outcome of the meetings with the High Commissioner for furtherance.

Meeting with the Chairman, Bankers Association along with the Chief Executive of Bank of Baroda (BoB) at the BOB office

The Seychelles Bankers Association is a formal non-government association of licensed commercial banks (Al Salaam Bank, Bank Al Habib, Bank of Baroda, Bank of Ceylon, Barclays Bank, Habib Bank, MCB and Nouvobanq), as well as the Development Bank of Seychelles and the Seychelles Credit Union.

The objective of the meeting was to share detailed insights on UPI, and present a proposal for the adoption of UPI in



Meeting with Mr Patrick Payet, Secretary of State, Ministry of Finance, Seychelles on digital payments

Seychelles, acceptance of RuPAY cards for Indian Nationals of Seychelles travelling to India. To this end, a detailed presentation on UPI was made focusing on India stack and the evolution of UPI, key milestone and notable contribution of UPI to India's GDP and financial inclusion, UPI as an enabler of financial of inclusion, UPI architecture, and benefits to stakeholders, among others.

Mr. Philip Moustache welcome, Chairman Seychelles Bankers Association (SBA), welcomed India's proposal to share UPI with Seychelles. It was agreed that UPI proposal would be presented to all members of SBA during the next meeting where officials would be invited to make a presentation virtually.

Meeting with Ex-First Deputy Governor for Central Bank of Seychelles (CBS) and currently CEO of Nouvobanq

Founded in 1991 as a joint venture between the Government of Seychelles and Standard Chartered Bank, Nouvobanq has emerged as a leading financial institution in Seychelles.

The delegation met Mr. Christopher Edmond, CEO of Nouvobanq. It was very important to meet Mr. Christopher as he was

privy to previous discussions on possible adoption of UPI in Seychelles owing to his previous position as First Deputy Governor for Central Bank of Seychelles.

The objective of the meeting was to share more details on UPI and garner support for its adoption in Seychelles. To this end, a presentation on UPI was made detailing the salient features of UPI, key milestones and potential for complementing existing systems in Seychelles.

Mr. Christopher appreciated the presentation and stated the UPI capacity to provide low cost and interoperable digital payment aligns with the aspirations of Seychelles. He emphasized the need to have engagements with all stakeholders involved in the digital payments' ecosystem for smooth implementation. He promised to follow-up with the Payment Systems Department, Central Bank of Seychelles.

Meeting with Ministry of Finance, National Planning and Trade

The meeting was led by Mr. Patrick Payet Secretary of State, who welcomed the delegation to the Ministry and expressed eagerness to have mutually

beneficial engagements. He deliberated on the good relations between India and Seychelles which has culminated into some development projects and are being implemented with support from India's Lines of Credit (LoC).

He deliberated that to achieve the country's digitalization agenda, Seychelles has prioritized development of infrastructure across the country. He also shared that the country is currently implementing an electronic ID project expected to be concluded by the end of the year. He projected the country's plan to build connectivity across all banks.

GDC representative at the onset discussed about the mandate of facilitating engagements between India and other developing countries with the objective of sharing technology, experiences and best practices under different thematic verticals. He shared GDC's interest to have collaborations with the Ministry of Finance on mutually beneficial development initiatives.

During the meeting a detailed presentation on UPI was made covering India Stack and the evolution and architecture of UPI, how UPI has emerged as an enabler of financial inclusion, UPI's contribution to India's global leadership in digital payments, benefits to stakeholders etc. Further an invitation was extended to officials from the Ministry to visit India to see how the system works.

Mr. Patrick welcomed the invitation to visit India and appreciated the presentation

on UPI. He highlighted that being a country with a small population, Seychelles aims to digitalize processes for which efficient digital payments systems is critical. He expressed eagerness to have further engagements with NIPL.

As a next step, further documents detailing UPI functionality would be emailed to the Ministry of Finance. Subsequently, a virtual meeting involving all stakeholders in the payment systems ecosystem would be organized.

Conclusion

The visit to all four countries were very fruitful and it revitalized engagements between GDC-RIS, NIPL and relevant organizations on possible adoption of UPI in the countries visited. Building on the previous meetings, the in-person meeting imbibed new energy towards the partnership with the stakeholders interacted with. Follow-up activities have been agreed on with all key stakeholders.

Additionally, the visit was particularly vital for GDC to expand its areas of collaboration with different countries where GDC is already actively engaged but also as a follow up of the previous engagements in the health and financial inclusion sectors. In this light, the meeting with the officials from Ministries of Health and Finance brought future scopes of transfer of knowledge and technology with possibility of having MoUs as well.



RIS

Research and Information System
for Developing Countries

विकासशील देशों की अनुसंधान एवं सूचना प्रणाली

About RIS

Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS) is a New Delhi-based autonomous policy research institute that specialises in issues related to international economic development, trade, investment and technology. RIS is envisioned as a forum for fostering effective policy dialogue and capacity-building among developing countries on global and regional economic issues.

The focus of the work programme of RIS is to promote South-South Cooperation and collaborate with developing countries in multilateral negotiations in various forums. RIS is engaged across inter-governmental processes of several regional economic cooperation initiatives. Through its intensive network of think tanks, RIS seeks to strengthen policy coherence on international economic issues and the development partnership canvas.

For more information about RIS and its work programme, please visit its website: www.ris.org.in

About GDC

Global Development Centre (GDC) established at RIS aims to take the Indian development experience to other countries. The Centre will contribute towards evolving an alternative development paradigm anchored on the virtues of inclusiveness and sustainability. It strives to promote indigenous alternative development programmes/flagship missions advocated by India for their possible replication among its partner countries in Asia, Africa and Latin America.

GDC envisages institutionalising knowledge on India's development transformations and external cooperation. The Centre shall support India's efforts in creation of global public goods and help in establishing global relevance of India's development efforts. It will also help India learn from the experiences and development initiatives of other countries.

The broad thematic focus/verticals for research and advocacy under GDC include: Health, STI & Digital Technologies, Agriculture and Development Practices & New Frameworks.

For more information about GDC and its work programme, please visit its website: www.gdcin.org



Global Development Centre

Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS)

Core IV-B, Fourth Floor, India Habitat Centre, Lodhi Road, New Delhi-110 003, India, Telephones: 91-11-24682177-80,

Fax: 91-11-24682173-74. Email: dgoffice@ris.org.in

Websites: www.gdcin.org; www.ris.org.in



/GDCNewDelhi



GDC_NewDelhi