Verifiable Digital Identity: Empowering public sector beneficiaries

Using the Cardano blockchain to support trusted digital interactions

The need for universally verifiable credentials

The digital world is grappling with a breakdown of trust. Online information is becoming increasingly unreliable, leading to **a surge in fraud and impersonation, which is amplified by artificial intelligence (AI)**. As a result, humanitarian organizations face a growing need to verify the authenticity and trustworthiness of aid recipients. However, traditional verification processes are labor-intensive, error-prone, and inconsistent, leading to security risks and a lack of verifiable digital approvals.

The Tadamon Accelerator for Food Security is one such program that faces the challenge of monitoring the **legitimacy of Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) and tracking the status of applications**, which hinders the program's goal of transparent development assistance. This issue is not a generalized identity problem, but a specific barrier to scaling the program's reach and impact.

The lack of a trusted, verifiable source and a system to monitor CSO verification directly impacts the ability to effectively support CSOs providing services to vulnerable populations. To address these specific verification challenges, **the program intends to develop a scalable and replicable solution by leveraging Veridian**, the Foundation's digital identity platform and wallet.

Industry
- Public Sector
- Civil Society Organizations (CSOs)
- Digital Identity

Size
Digital Identity Solutions:
- USD 39.07 Billion (2025)
- USD 98.64 Billion (2030)
- CAGR 16%[1]

The challenge
- Inconsistent verification
- Labor-intensive processes
- Unverifiable digital approvals
- Ineffective legitimacy monitoring
- Inefficient application tracking

The solution
- Tamper-resistant records
- Verifiable digital identity
- Scalable verification process
- Portable CSO identity
- Secure digital signing

"We are confident that this partnership will strengthen our collective presence in OIC Member Countries and empower, inspire, and connect CSOs in their mission to improve the socio-economic well-being of marginalized communities."[2]

Robert Pasicko
UNDP Program Coordinator

Solution

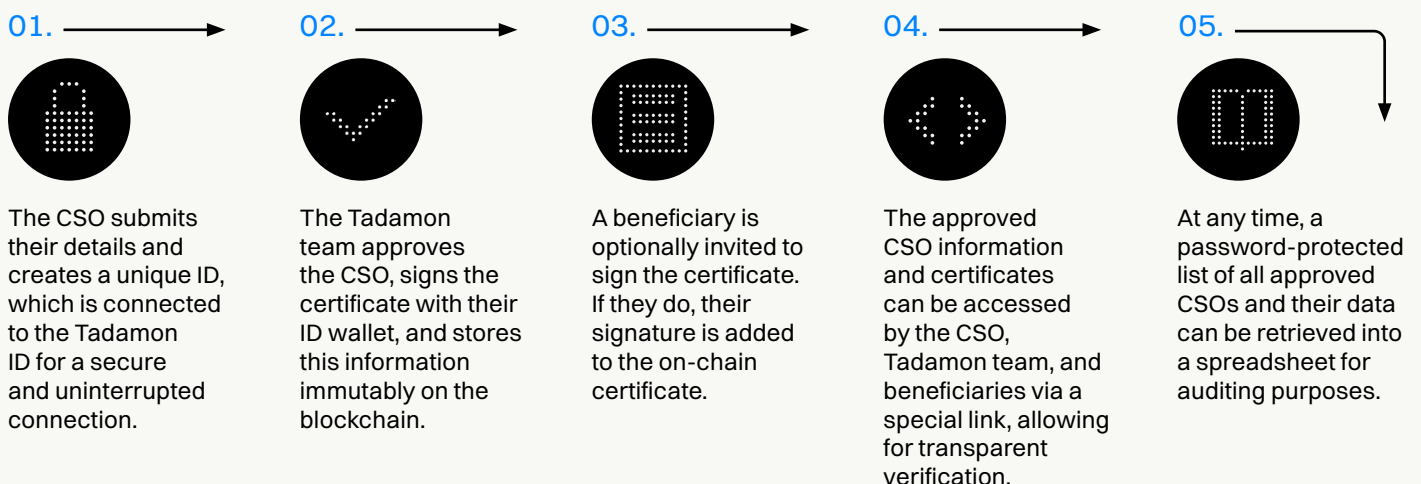# Scaling trust in Civil Society Organizations

The **Empowerment for Poverty Reduction Program (Tadamon)** is a collaborative initiative sponsored by the Islamic Solidarity Fund for Development (ISFD), managed by the Islamic Development Bank (IsDB), and implemented in partnership with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and other key stakeholders. Launched in 2020, **the program supports civil society organizations (CSOs) in serving vulnerable groups** across 57 IsDB member countries.

With over 5,200 registered CSOs, Tadamon faces a growing need to scale its reach while ensuring the authenticity and trustworthiness of each organization. To help address this issue, the program **collaborated with the Cardano Foundation to develop a pilot that explores the use of verifiable credentials for CSOs** participating in the [Tadamon Accelerator for Food Security](#). This initiative not only enhances the transparency of grant distribution but also empowers local CSOs with a verifiable and portable digital identity, which is key for efficient project implementation.

Beyond this initial phase, the Veridian platform represents a complete, scalable solution that can support Tadamon's broader goals. **The model has the potential to be extended to other programs within the UNDP**, other UN agencies, and humanitarian organizations, which could create a more efficient and trustworthy ecosystem for development assistance.

Solution Walkthrough

TADAMON

01. → **02.** → **03.** → **04.** → **05.**

The CSO submits their details and creates a unique ID, which is connected to the Tadamon ID for a secure and uninterrupted connection.

The Tadamon team approves the CSO, signs the certificate with their ID wallet, and stores this information immutably on the blockchain.

A beneficiary is optionally invited to sign the certificate. If they do, their signature is added to the on-chain certificate.

The approved CSO information and certificates can be accessed by the CSO, Tadamon team, and beneficiaries via a special link, allowing for transparent verification.

At any time, a password-protected list of all approved CSOs and their data can be retrieved into a spreadsheet for auditing purposes.

Results

A verifiable future for public sector organizations

Expanded CSO database
Tadamon aims to create the world's largest interactive CSO database by 2029.

Reduced fraud risk
Digital identities significantly reduce fraud and impersonation risks, fostering a trustworthy environment.

Accelerated verification process
Streamlined verification and on-chain records significantly reduce the time and effort required for CSO verification.

Enhanced transparency
Immutable on-chain records provide transparency and real-time monitoring of applicant status.

Empowered organizations
CSOs can present verified credentials seamlessly, expanding opportunities and fostering an equitable ecosystem.

Portable digital identity
Veridian unifies DID standards, providing CSOs with a portable and interoperable identity that can be used across platforms.

CARDANO Advantages

Proven resilience
Demonstrated security and reliability support continuous operation

Scalable network
Future-proof infrastructure supports platform growth without sacrificing performance

Secure data
Robust architecture protects sensitive data, minimizing the risk of breaches or fraud
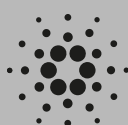
Sustainable operations
Energy-efficient consensus and ethical governance align with sustainability efforts
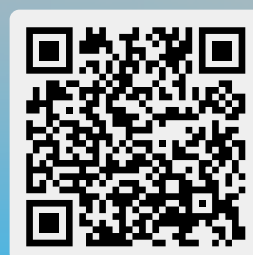
Sources
[1] Grand View Research, Digital Identity Solutions Market Size, Share & Trends Analysis Report
[2] Tadamon announces partnership with Cardano Foundation for the advancement of blockchain technology for social good

Contact us

Cardano
Foundation

The Cardano Foundation is an independent, Swiss-based not-for-profit advancing Cardano as a public digital infrastructure across a wide range of industries.

cardanofoundation.org