



Action 1



Action 2



Action 3



Action 4



Action 5



Action 6



Action 7



Action 8



Action 9



Action 10



Action 11

Global Action Plan to End Statelessness 2.0

For millions of people around the world, being stateless means that they are invisible, deprived of their most basic rights and unable to participate fully in the lives of their communities and societies. And while we have come a long way in the last decade in finding solutions for stateless people – in large part thanks to your commitment to the #IBelong Campaign – the road ahead is still long. Together, let us build on our successes, strengthen our resolve and renew our commitment to the objective of this Global Action Plan to End Statelessness: ensuring that everyone has a nationality.

FILIPPO GRANDI, UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES

Contents

Executive Summary	4
Introduction	6
Background	8
Enablers	10
Actions	13
Action 1. Resolve major situations of statelessness	14
Action 2. Ensure that no child is born stateless	16
Action 3. Remove gender discrimination from nationality laws	18
Action 4. Prevent denial, loss or deprivation of nationality on ethnic, racial, religious, political and other discriminatory grounds	20
Action 5. Prevent statelessness in cases of state succession	22
Action 6. In migratory context, determine statelessness and protect stateless persons and facilitate their naturalization	24
Action 7. Ensure birth registration for the prevention of statelessness	26
Action 8. Issue nationality documentation to those with entitlement to it to prevent statelessness	28
Action 9. Accede to the UN Statelessness Conventions	30
Action 10. Improve quantitative and qualitative data on stateless populations	32
Action 11. Ensure that stateless persons can enjoy their rights	34
Annex 1	36
Annex 2	37

Executive Summary

1. Overview

The Global Action Plan to End Statelessness: 2014–2024 was developed to support the UNHCR ten-year #IBelong Campaign to end statelessness.¹ Over the years, the Global Action Plan has proven to be an effective framework, guiding States and other actors in addressing statelessness. In response to evolving needs, UNHCR has now reviewed and updated the plan, resulting in the Global Action Plan to End Statelessness 2.0, developed in consultation with key stakeholders.

2. Objectives

The Global Action Plan establishes a global framework of 11 priority actions to be undertaken by States, with the support of UNHCR and other stakeholders, to:

- **resolve** existing situations of statelessness;
- **prevent** new cases of statelessness from emerging;
- better **identify** and **protect** stateless populations.

3. The 11 Actions to End Statelessness

To comprehensively address statelessness, States need to take one or more of the following 11 Actions to end statelessness. Because the causes, profile and magnitude of statelessness vary, not all Actions are required in all countries. Experience has taught us that eradicating statelessness requires a “whole of society” approach. A multi-stakeholder engagement by a diverse group of stakeholders is needed to support governments in accomplishing relevant Actions.

Action 1.

RESOLVE MAJOR SITUATIONS OF STATELESSNESS

Desired outcome:

- All major statelessness situations resolved.
- Law and policy reforms undertaken to ensure that stateless persons can acquire a nationality.

Action 2.

ENSURE THAT NO CHILD IS BORN STATELESS

Desired outcome:

- No reported cases of childhood statelessness.
- All States have a provision in their nationality laws to grant nationality to stateless children born in their territory.
- All States have a provision in their nationality laws to grant nationality to children of unknown origin found in their territory (foundlings).
- All States have a safeguard in their nationality laws to grant nationality to children born to nationals abroad and who are unable to acquire another nationality.

¹ UNHCR #IBelong Campaign to End Statelessness, <https://www.unhcr.org/ibelong/>.

Action 3.

REMOVE GENDER DISCRIMINATION FROM NATIONALITY LAWS

Desired outcome:

- All States have nationality laws that treat women and men equally with regard to conferral of nationality on their children.
- All States have nationality laws that treat women and men equally as regards acquiring, changing and retaining nationality.
- All States that had made reservations to Article 9 of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) have lifted their reservations.

Action 5.

PREVENT STATELESSNESS IN CASES OF STATE SUCCESSION

Desired outcome:

- No new cases of statelessness due to future situations of State succession.

Action 7.

ACTION 7. ENSURE BIRTH REGISTRATION FOR THE PREVENTION OF STATELESSNESS

Desired outcome:

- All children at heightened risk of statelessness are registered at birth, with key barriers effectively addressed.

Action 9.

ACCEDE TO THE UN STATELESSNESS CONVENTIONS

Desired outcome:

- All States are party to the 1954 Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons and the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness.
- The provisions of both Statelessness Conventions are incorporated into national laws.
- All existing reservations to both Statelessness Conventions are lifted.

Action 11. ENSURE THAT STATELESS PERSONS CAN ENJOY THEIR RIGHTS

Desired outcome:

- All stateless persons enjoy their fundamental rights irrespective of their (immigration) status.
- Stateless persons are included in national systems and can access basic services.

Action 4.

PREVENT DENIAL, LOSS OR DEPRIVATION OF NATIONALITY ON ETHNIC, RACIAL, RELIGIOUS, POLITICAL OR OTHER DISCRIMINATORY GROUNDS

Desired outcome:

- No States have nationality laws that permit denial, loss or deprivation of nationality on discriminatory grounds.
- Non-discriminatory nationality laws are effectively implemented.

Action 6.

IN MIGRATORY CONTEXT, DETERMINE STATELESSNESS AND PROTECT STATELESS PERSONS AND FACILITATE THEIR NATURALIZATION

Desired outcome:

- States identify stateless persons in migratory context through determination procedures that lead to a legal status that permits residence and guarantees the enjoyment of basic human rights.
- States facilitate the naturalization of stateless persons, including by reducing the required number of years of residence, lowering or waiving application fees, and ensuring that information on naturalization requirements is easily accessible.

Action 8.

ISSUE NATIONALITY DOCUMENTATION TO THOSE WITH ENTITLEMENT TO IT TO PREVENT STATELESSNESS

Desired outcome:

- No States have populations that are entitled to nationality under law but are unable to obtain documentary proof of nationality.

Action 10.

IMPROVE QUANTITATIVE AND QUALITATIVE DATA ON STATELESS POPULATIONS

Desired outcome:

- Quantitative and qualitative data on stateless populations is publicly available and accessible for all States.
- Data on stateless populations effectively informs and shapes policies and programs to address statelessness.

Introduction

In a world comprised of States, the problem of statelessness remains a glaring anomaly that has devastating impacts on the lives of millions of people around the world who live without a nationality.² In 2014, UNHCR launched an ambitious ten-year #IBelong Campaign to End Statelessness accompanied by the *Global Action Plan to End Statelessness: 2014-2024* outlining ten key actions to eradicate statelessness, which has helped States shape their responses and prioritize essential actions to address statelessness. Additionally, the document has also guided many States in the development of National Action Plans and in developing targeted strategies and achieving specific country-level goals and milestones.

To address evolving needs, UNHCR has reviewed and updated the Plan, resulting in the *Global Action Plan to End Statelessness 2.0* (Global Action Plan), developed in consultation with key stakeholders.³ This updated Plan aligns with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.⁴ With strong leadership and effective implementation of the Global Action Plan, statelessness can be eradicated, ensuring that everyone enjoys their right to a nationality.

THE GLOBAL ACTION PLAN INCLUDES ACTIONS TO:

- **resolve** existing situations of statelessness;
- **prevent** new cases of statelessness from emerging;
- better **identify** and **protect** stateless persons.

THE 11 ACTIONS TO END STATELESSNESS ARE:

- **Action 1.** Resolve major situations of statelessness
- **Action 2.** Ensure that no child is born stateless
- **Action 3.** Remove gender discrimination from nationality laws
- **Action 4.** Prevent denial, loss or deprivation of nationality on ethnic, racial, religious, political and other discriminatory grounds
- **Action 5.** Prevent statelessness in cases of State succession
- **Action 6.** In migratory context, determine statelessness and protect stateless persons and facilitate their naturalization
- **Action 7.** Ensure birth registration for the prevention of statelessness
- **Action 8.** Issue nationality documentation to those with entitlement to it to prevent statelessness
- **Action 9.** Accede to the UN Statelessness Conventions
- **Action 10.** Improve quantitative and qualitative data on stateless populations
- **Action 11.** Ensure that stateless persons can enjoy their rights

² The terms “nationality” and “citizenship” are used interchangeably throughout the Global Action Plan.

³ The original Global Action Plan to End Statelessness (2014-2024) was developed through extensive consultations with a broad range of stakeholders, including States, UN agencies, civil society organizations etc. For the Global Action Plan 2.0, UNHCR has conducted internal and external surveys and held online consultations with key stakeholders, such as regional and national civil society organizations, regional networks on statelessness, selected UNHCR country operations from all regions, (formerly) stateless persons, and representatives of stateless-led organizations.

⁴ Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, <https://sdgs.un.org/2030agenda>

Because the causes, profile and magnitude of statelessness vary, **not all Actions are required in all countries**. Indeed, in most cases, only some Actions will be relevant to address statelessness within specific country contexts. For this reason, the Actions presented in this Global Action Plan **are not in order of implementation, priority or importance**.

For each Action, the Global Action Plan refers to the relevant international standards and relevant Sustainable Development Goals. It provides context for each Action and detailed information on what needs to be done to achieve the outcome(s) of the

Action. It also outlines the support that UNHCR and its partners can provide.

A number of the Actions are interrelated. Therefore, achievement of the outcome(s) of one Action, could lead to partial achievement of the outcome(s) of another Action. For example, increasing the number of States parties to the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness under Action 9 could also lead to those States adopting or improving provisions in their nationality laws to ensure that no child is born stateless pursuant to Action 2.

WHAT'S NEW IN THE GLOBAL ACTION PLAN 2.0?

New Action Added

Based on the feedback received during the consultations, some minor amendments have been made to some of the Actions. However, one new Action, No 11, has been added to Global Action Plan 2.0. This follows feedback from the stakeholders who emphasized the importance of highlighting the **rights of stateless persons**. This Action ensures that stateless persons can enjoy their fundamental rights, regardless of immigration status, and that they are included in national systems. This Action also emphasizes the importance of ensuring that stateless persons can enjoy their rights, including ensuring that the 2030 Agenda's commitment to "leave no one behind" is also applied to stateless persons.

Two new sections introduced: Enablers and Emerging issues

The updated Plan features a set of **enablers** designed to support implementation by enhancing coordination, promoting learning, encouraging multi-stakeholder engagement and expanding partnerships.

Additionally, the Plan addresses **emerging issues**, such as the link between climate change and statelessness and the risks and opportunities posed by digital identity management systems for stateless persons.



In 2021, Chiao Wu and her five children's stateless status was resolved, and they became Thai citizens. For each of them, resolving statelessness led to different opportunities, such as employment and access to education, and lifted legal hindrances.

© UNHCR/Ploy Phutpheng

Background

Causes and consequences of statelessness

A stateless person is someone who is not considered to be a national by any State under the operation of its law.⁵ Millions of people worldwide⁶ continue to suffer the privations and indignity of being denied nationality. Statelessness may occur for a variety of reasons, including discrimination against particular ethnic or religious groups or on the basis of gender; the emergence of new States, transfers and changes of territory between existing States (State succession); and gaps and conflicts in nationality laws. Lack of birth registration can lead to risks of statelessness.

Whatever the cause, statelessness has serious consequences for people in almost every country and in all regions of the world. Stateless persons are often denied enjoyment of a range of rights such as access to identity documents, employment, education and health services. Statelessness can lead to forced displacement just as forced displacement can lead to statelessness. It can also contribute to political and social tensions. The exclusion and denial of rights to large populations because they are stateless can impair the economic and social development of States.

International and regional legal framework on statelessness

Under international law, States set the rules for acquiring, changing and withdrawing nationality. At the same time, the discretion of States regarding nationality is limited by obligations under international treaties to which they are a party, customary international law and general principles of international law. The 1954 Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons is the cornerstone of the international protection regime for stateless persons.⁷ Specific obligations relating to the prevention and reduction of statelessness are established under the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness.⁸

In addition, a range of human rights instruments recognize the right to a nationality, albeit with varying formulations. These instruments include: the Universal Declaration of Human Rights; the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights; the International Convention on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination; the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women; the Convention on the Rights of the Child; the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families; and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. Regional human rights instruments also address the issue of statelessness, reinforcing

⁵ Article 1, 1954 Convention Relating to the Status of Stateless Persons, UN General Assembly, Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons, United Nations, Treaty Series, vol. 360, p. 117, 28 September 1954, <https://www.refworld.org/legal/agreements/unga/1954/en/32744>

⁶ At the end of 2023, UNHCR's statistical reporting counted 4.4 million stateless people. This figure includes both people who were stateless or of undetermined nationality. The 4.4 million is based on data covering 95 countries which was reported to UNHCR by governments or collected from other sources such as quantitative and qualitative studies by UNHCR and its partners. The number of countries providing statistics on stateless populations to UNHCR has increased slightly during the last decade. Approximately half of all countries do not report any data on statelessness, including many countries with known large stateless populations. Additionally, some countries only report statistics for parts of the known stateless population in the country. The true global stateless population is therefore expected to be considerably larger. The global stateless population figure is updated annually and published in the UNHCR Global Trends report, which is released every year on Global Refugee Day in June.

⁷ UN General Assembly, Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons, United Nations, Treaty Series, vol. 360, p. 117, 28 September 1954, <https://www.refworld.org/legal/agreements/unga/1954/en/32744>. For the updated list of State parties, please see here: https://treaties.un.org/Pages/ViewDetails.aspx?src=TREATY&mtdsg_no=V-3&chapter=5&Temp=mtdsg2&clang=en

⁸ UN General Assembly, Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness, United Nations, Treaty Series, vol. 989, p. 175, 30 August 1961, <https://www.refworld.org/legal/agreements/unga/1961/en/20424>. For the updated list of State parties, please see here: https://treaties.un.org/Pages/ViewDetails.aspx?src=TREATY&mtdsg_no=V-4&chapter=5&clang=en



Kenya. Statelessness. Birth Registration. © UNHCR/Charity Nzomo

the right to a nationality and providing mechanisms to prevent or reduce statelessness. Instruments such as the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child and the 2024 Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Right to a Nationality and the Eradication of Statelessness in Africa, the American Convention on Human Rights and the European Convention on Nationality all strengthen protection of the right to nationality for all individuals. The Global Action Plan is based on the standards contained in these international and regional treaties.⁹

The key principle of international law underpinning the work on ending statelessness is the principle of non-discrimination and equality, which is part of international law and firmly embedded in many key international human rights treaties.¹⁰ In this respect international law prohibits any discrimination and guarantees all persons equal and effective protection against discrimination on any grounds such as race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status. Discrimination on the grounds of ethnicity, race, religion or language is a recurrent cause of statelessness globally. Gender discrimination in nationality laws remains a significant form of discrimination, whereby women in some countries are still unable to pass their nationality to their children on an equal basis with men. More needs to be done to ensure that all minority groups enjoy the right to a nationality without discrimination and that gender discrimination is removed from nationality laws.

The Sustainable Development Goals and addressing statelessness

The vast majority of the world's stateless persons live on the lowest rungs of society, in terms of socioeconomic opportunities, political participation and social inclusion. Therefore, the overarching aim of the 2030 Agenda¹¹ "to reach the furthest behind first" and "leave no one behind"¹² clearly applies to those who experience the many negative consequences of not being recognized as citizens of any country.

There are also specific SDGs and related targets that contribute towards preventing and reducing statelessness. These are referenced below for each Action and notably include SDG 5, Target 5.1, which relates to the elimination of gender discrimination, and SDG 10, Target 10.3, which refers to ensuring equal opportunity and reducing inequality, including by eliminating discriminatory laws, policies and practices.

SDG 16, Target 16.9 calls upon States to provide legal identity for all, including birth registration. Given that nationality is a basic characteristic of legal identity, meeting Target 16.9 is also essential to efforts to prevent and to resolve statelessness. The UN Legal Identity Agenda is therefore a useful framework for the UN system at country level to work towards legal identity for all.¹³

⁹ The reference to the relevant international standards is listed under each Action, while Annex 2 provides a reference to the relevant regional standards.

¹⁰ See Article 2 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights; Article 26 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights; Article 2(2) of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights; the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination; Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women; Article 2 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child; Article 5 of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities; Articles 1 and 7 of the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families.

¹¹ Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, <https://sdgs.un.org/2030agenda>

¹² "Leave no one behind" is the central, transformative promise of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its Sustainable Development Goals, see <https://unsdg.un.org/2030-agenda/universal-values/leave-no-one-behind>

¹³ See para. 61, United Nations Country Team Operational Guidelines Implementation of the United Nations Legal Identity Agenda, 2020, <https://unstats.un.org/legal-identity-agenda/documents/UNCT-Guidelines.pdf>

Enablers

A number of enablers have been identified that can support the successful execution of this Plan. The enablers below support coordination, foster learning and exchange, strengthen multi-stakeholder engagement and help expand partnerships.

Working with persons with lived experience of statelessness

The involvement of stateless persons and communities is a key enabler for successfully carrying out the 11 Actions in the Plan. The expertise and experience of persons with lived experience of statelessness is crucial to establishing stronger and more systematic engagement with persons with lived experience of statelessness, ensuring that their voices are not only heard but actively influence policy decisions that impact upon them and their community.

Joining the Global Alliance to End Statelessness

A wide range of actors and stakeholders need to be involved in implementing the GAP Actions.¹⁴

The Global Alliance can serve as an important enabler. At national level, Alliance members can come together and also mobilize others into forming a broader coalition (or country chapter) to address statelessness in a more coordinated manner. The Global Alliance has a specific focus on accelerating pledge implementation. At regional and global level, the Alliance will facilitate collaboration and learning through the exchange of practical knowledge and experiences that can inform national-level reforms.

As a multistakeholder platform, the Global Alliance to End Statelessness unites governments, regional organizations, UN agencies, stateless-led organizations, civil society, faith-based groups, academia and others, in pursuit of the shared vision of “a world free from statelessness”.¹⁵

Developing and implementing National Action Plans to End Statelessness

Developing and implementing National Action Plans (NAPs) to End Statelessness (see Annex 1, which provides a template) is an important enabler in addressing statelessness at the national level. NAPs provide a structured, country-specific roadmap for achieving the outcomes set out in the Global Action Plan, outlining detailed strategies, targets, and milestones for accomplishing selected Actions. To ensure the plans are comprehensive and effective, they should be developed through a government-led, consultative process that includes all relevant Ministries and Departments, UNHCR, other UN agencies, development partners, national institutions, civil society, (formerly) stateless persons and stateless-led organizations. This collaborative approach ensures ownership by a broad range of stakeholders and that national efforts are aligned with global initiatives while being tailored to the specific context of each country. Periodic reviews of their NAPs to assess progress, adapt strategies, and maintain momentum toward the eradication of statelessness.

¹⁴ In 2021, UNHCR published an evaluation of two decades of its work on statelessness. It recommended setting up a multi-stakeholder platform of actors committed to ending statelessness. See “Evaluation of UNHCR-led initiatives to end statelessness” ES/2021/03, <https://www.unhcr.org/media/evaluation-unhcr-led-initiatives-end-statelessness>

¹⁵ Global Alliance to End Statelessness was launched on 14 October 2024 at the High-Level Segment on Statelessness in Geneva, Switzerland, see <https://statelessnessalliance.org/news/global-alliance-launched-at-high-level-segment-on-statelessness/>

Including statelessness in development plans and initiatives

Eradicating statelessness is critical to the fundamental premise of the Sustainable Development Agenda to “leave no one behind”. Besides contributing to achieving the SDGs, positioning statelessness as a development issue is also crucial to galvanizing broader support for comprehensively addressing statelessness. This includes embedding statelessness-related goals and actions within national development plans as well as other development frameworks.¹⁶ This is an important starting point but should also result in statelessness being prioritized in national policy agendas and budgets and thereby ensure that efforts to end statelessness are comprehensive, coordinated and effectively implemented. Regionally and globally, it is essential to incorporate statelessness into partnerships and collaborations with development agencies in order to ensure that development programs and initiatives contribute to preventing and resolving statelessness.

Better data on statelessness – the International Recommendations on Statelessness Statistics

Action 10 highlights the importance of ensuring that quality data on statelessness is available. The International Recommendations on Statelessness

Statistics (IROSS)¹⁷, endorsed by the UN Statistical Commission in 2023, can support efforts to improve data on statelessness. They offer national statistical offices a comprehensive road map for systematically incorporating statelessness into national censuses, surveys and administrative data systems. This, in turn, leads to more informed policy decisions and more effective strategies to address the issue and strengthen the quantity and quality of global data on statelessness.

Engaging in global and regional statelessness-related initiatives

Engagement in global and regional initiatives is an important enabler in ending statelessness. The Global Refugee Forum¹⁸, in particular, offers a unique platform for States and other stakeholders to announce new pledges and advance the implementation of existing ones, reinforcing accountability and promoting progress at all levels. A number of regional initiatives implemented and advanced by regional intergovernmental organizations focus on strengthening civil registration services and¹⁹ developing model laws,²⁰ regional action plans²¹ and regional standards.²² These initiatives are also very effective in advocating for and supporting the implementation of the 11 Actions.

¹⁶ “United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework Guidance”: <https://unsdg.un.org/resources/united-nations-sustainable-development-cooperation-framework-guidance>

¹⁷ “The international recommendations on statelessness statistics (IROSS)”: <https://egrisstats.org/recommendations/international-recommendations-on-statelessness-statistics-iross/>.

¹⁸ Global Refugee Forum, see <https://www.unhcr.org/about-unhcr/overview/global-compact-refugees/global-refugee-forum>.

¹⁹ See Asian and Pacific Civil Registration and Vital Statistics Decade (2015–2024), <https://crvs.unescap.org/crvs-decade>.

²⁰ A regional model law on statelessness determination, the protection of stateless persons and naturalization was prepared with support by UNHCR and endorsed by the technical level experts of the Economic Community of West African States and the Economic Community of Central African States: ECOWAS, ECCAS, UNHCR, “Regional model law on the determination of statelessness, the protection of stateless persons and the facilitation of their naturalization”, UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), May 2023, <https://www.refworld.org/legal/modellaw/unhcr/2023/en/124310>.

²¹ See, for example, Abidjan Declaration and Action Plan on the Eradication of Statelessness; Banjul Plan of Action on Eradicating Statelessness; Brazil Declaration and Plan of Action; Arab Declaration on Belonging and Legal Identity.

²² UNHCR lauds African Union move to address statelessness across the continent, see: <https://www.unhcr.org/news/press-releases/unhcr-lauds-african-union-move-address-statelessness-across-continent>.

²³ UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), “Statelessness and climate change factsheet”, 29 October 2021, <https://www.refworld.org/reference/tools/unhcr/2021/en/123945>

Emerging issues

CLIMATE CHANGE AND STATELESSNESS

The risk of statelessness can increase when people move, including during displacement caused by climate change and disasters. People who are already stateless face specific and heightened risks in the context of climate change and disasters, because of pre-existing vulnerabilities. Therefore, specific efforts are needed to include stateless persons in climate action, to strengthen their protection and resilience.²³ Climate-change-induced displacement can also increase the risk of affected people becoming stateless; therefore risk mitigation is essential, including by ensuring that nationality laws include safeguards to prevent statelessness (in line with Actions 2 and 3) and that people have access to civil registration and nationality documentation (in line with Actions 7 and 8). These actions are therefore critical in areas that are more prone to climate-induced adversity. In addition, information about the risks of statelessness and practical steps to prevent and reduce it needs to be incorporated into all planning documents, policy guidelines and information on climate change, disasters and displacement. It is essential to ensure that practical measures, plans and policies designed to mitigate, respond to and adapt to the impacts of climate change and disasters provide adequate protection for stateless persons, including in terms of access to services and disaster relief. Further research, exchanges and collaboration are required to better understand and effectively address the impacts of climate change on the risks of statelessness and stateless persons.

RISKS AND OPPORTUNITIES WITH THE ROLL-OUT OF NEW DIGITAL IDENTITY MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS

National initiatives to establish new biometric and digitized identity management systems offer opportunities to eradicate statelessness by identifying individuals who are stateless, of undetermined nationality or simply unable to prove their nationality and referring them for administrative or legal assistance to explore how their situations can be resolved. Nevertheless, these initiatives also present risks of further exclusion if the registration of these individuals is simply rejected. These risks need to be addressed with appropriate legal safeguards, robust data protection frameworks and good governance and rule of law frameworks, as well as predictable referral pathways to address the situation of individuals with unclear nationality status, together with effective legal remedies and independent oversight to challenge decisions on nationality status.

UNHCR will continue to negotiate with States and other actors and advocate for regulatory frameworks and other relevant measures that can effectively contribute to preventing and resolving statelessness and protecting stateless persons in the context of digital identity management systems.

11 ACTIONS TO END STATELESSNESS



Za Beda, 27, a stateless Rohingya woman from Myanmar's Rakhine State. UNHCR continues to advocate for the fundamental human rights of the Rohingya people in Myanmar. © UNHCR/Reuben Lim Wende

ACTION 1: Resolve major situations of statelessness

DESIRED OUTCOME

- All major statelessness situations resolved.
- Law and policy reforms undertaken to ensure that stateless persons can acquire a nationality.

Context

Most stateless persons have never crossed borders and are living in their “own country”.²⁴ Their predicament exists in situ, that is, in the country of their long-term residence, in many cases the country of their birth. For these individuals, statelessness is often the result of problems in the framing and implementation of nationality laws. Many of these situations are linked to non-inclusion of specific groups in the body of

citizens at the time of independence, sometimes for discriminatory reasons. These situations have generally persisted for decades. A number of States have recognized the negative impact of these situations lingering on for decades and have taken steps to resolve such situations. They have shown that the key factor is political will but that relatively simple low-cost reforms can have an immediate and permanent impact.

What needs to be done?

The most cost-effective way of resolving these statelessness situations is through changes to legislation or government policy, including one-off measures to

recognize as nationals those populations previously excluded. Rules for conferral of nationality can be changed so that all stateless persons resident within the

²⁴ The phrase “own country” is taken from Article 12(4) of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and used in line with its interpretation by the UN Human Rights Committee.

territory are considered nationals. Certain criteria can be established, such as having been born on the territory or having resided there since before a particular date, or having parents or grandparents who meet these criteria.

Requirements and procedures for naturalization can also be simplified to make it easier for stateless persons to acquire nationality, for instance by reducing the required number of years of residence or by reducing or eliminating application fees.

How can UNHCR support?

- Advocate and provide technical advice for the reform of nationality laws, policies and procedures to permit stateless persons to acquire nationality.
- Deliver operational support to governments, parliaments, civil society, stateless-led organization and stateless populations, including through activities to bolster State and civil society capacity. These might include:
 - providing the State with support for nationality campaigns, including by sharing existing good practices;
 - supporting the deployment of mobile teams to ensure that all sectors of the population have access to procedures;
 - building support for long-term solutions through dialogue, reconciliation and confidence-building, wherever statelessness is due to discriminatory social attitudes.

RELEVANT INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS

- Article 15, Universal Declaration of Human Rights
- Article 7, Convention on the Rights of the Child
- Article 32, 1954 Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons
- UNHCR Executive Committee, Conclusion on identification, prevention and reduction of statelessness and protection of stateless persons, N.106 – entire document
- UN Human Rights Council, Human Rights and arbitrary deprivation of nationality: Resolution / Adopted by the Human Rights Council 11 July 2014, A/HRC/RES/26/14

RELEVANT SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

- SDG 1. End poverty in all its forms everywhere.
- SDG 10. Reduce inequality within and among countries.
- SDG 16. Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels.



When Ulpan moved from Uzbekistan to Kazakhstan as a young woman, she lost essential identity documents and found difficulties proving her identity and nationality to access basic services for herself and her children. Through help from UNHCR's partner Legal Center for Women's Initiatives, Ulpan has eventually able to document her status as a stateless person, then eventually gain citizenship and rights for her family. © UNHCR/Frederic Noy

ACTION 2: Ensure that no child is born stateless

DESIRED OUTCOME

- No reported cases of childhood statelessness.
- All States have a provision in their nationality laws to grant nationality to stateless children born on their territory.
- All States have a provision in their nationality laws to grant nationality to children of unknown origin found on their territory (foundlings).
- All States have a safeguard in their nationality laws to grant nationality to children born to nationals abroad and who are unable to acquire another nationality.

Context

The majority of the world's stateless persons have lacked nationality since they were born. There are two main reasons for this: (a) their parents were stateless and (b) they were born in a country with a nationality law that does not confer its nationality on children born on its territory even if this means that they are left stateless. In a number of other cases, children become stateless when they are born

abroad and, consequently, their parents' nationality cannot be conferred upon them under the law of their parents' State of nationality. Children may also become stateless when they have been abandoned or separated from their family and their nationality cannot be ascertained. Some such children are refugees.

What needs to be done?

One of the most important safeguards to prevent statelessness is to ensure that nationality laws allow children born in the territory of a State to acquire the nationality of that State if they would otherwise be stateless. This safeguard is the cornerstone of efforts to prevent statelessness and is set out in the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness.

The importance of this safeguard is reinforced by standards included in the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, with respect to the right of every child to acquire nationality. States are only required to grant nationality to children born on their territories who cannot acquire any other nationality.

To implement this safeguard, States need to take steps to ascertain whether a child born on the territory and whose nationality is unclear has acquired the nationality of another State. If not, the State in which the child is born is required to grant its nationality so that the child is not left stateless. In accordance with the principle of the best interests of the child, it is recommended that States automatically grant their nationality to children in such situations.

Nationality laws also require a safeguard to grant nationality to children born to nationals abroad who would otherwise

be stateless. Another important provision to be included in nationality laws is the rule that foundlings (children of unknown parentage) are to be presumed to be nationals of the State in which they are found.

In order to implement Action 2, it is important to improve birth registration to prevent statelessness among children, as envisaged under Action 7, and to ensure coordination between civil registration authorities and authorities responsible for nationality matters.

How can UNHCR support?

- Raise awareness of the safeguards used to prevent statelessness among children and how these are to be implemented, including in the refugee context.
- Advocate and provide technical advice for the reform of nationality laws, policies and procedures, to permit children who would otherwise be stateless to acquire nationality.
- Work with UNICEF and civil society organizations active in the area of child rights to build awareness and disseminate information on preventing childhood statelessness.
- Explore other opportunities for joint action with UNICEF in line with the UNHCR-UNICEF Strategic Collaboration Framework.²⁵
- Support initiatives by the legal community to ensure the grant of nationality to children who would otherwise be stateless, including through strategic litigation. Build the capacity of legal professionals and the justice sector on statelessness and nationality issues.
- Advocate for law and policy measures to enable children to access key health, education and other services while their nationality status is being resolved.
- Mobilize a broader engagement on ending childhood statelessness, including through the Global Alliance to End Statelessness.

RELEVANT INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS

- Article 24, International Convention on Civil and Political Rights
- Article 7(1),(2) Convention on the Rights of the Child
- Articles 1,2,4 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness
- Article 18(2) Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities
- Article 29 International Convention on the protection of the rights of all migrant workers and members of their families
- UN Human Rights Council, the Right to a Nationality: Women and Children, 16 July 2012, A/HRC/RES/20/4 – entire document

RELEVANT SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

- SDG 3. Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages.
- SDG 4. Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all.
- SDG 10, Target 10.3: Ensure equal opportunity and reduce inequalities of outcome, including by eliminating discriminatory laws, policies and practices and promoting appropriate legislation, policies and action in this regard.
- SDG 16, Target 16.b: Promote and enforce non-discriminatory laws and policies for sustainable development.

²⁵ In 2023 UNHCR and UNICEF signed a new Strategic Collaboration Framework, which also outlines key areas of collaboration to prevent and resolve childhood statelessness, inter alia, under the Framework. The framework commits both organizations to a series of goals on the inclusion of children in national systems – with specific commitments to education, child protection, water and sanitation, social protection and data, and the elimination of childhood statelessness, all by 2030. For more information, see here: <https://www.unhcr.org/about-unhcr/our-partners/un-and-international-institutions/international-organizations/unicef-unhcr>.



Formerly stateless lawyer fighting for the rights of stateless people, Neha Gurung. © UNHCR/Susan Hopper

ACTION 3: Remove gender discrimination from nationality laws

DESIRED OUTCOME

- All States have nationality laws that treat women and men equally with regard to conferral of nationality on their children.
- All States have nationality laws that treat women and men equally as regards acquiring, changing and retaining nationality.
- All States that had made reservations to Article 9 of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) have lifted their reservations.

Context

Gender discrimination in nationality laws can have far-reaching consequences on all aspects of family life. When women are unable to pass on their nationality to their children because of discriminatory laws, if the children are also unable to acquire nationality from their father then they are rendered stateless.²⁶ This can happen where the father is stateless, unknown, or unable or unwilling to complete administrative

requirements to confer his nationality or to obtain documentation to prove the nationality of the child. Such laws are in breach of Article 9(2) of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women. States that deny women equal rights to men to acquire, change or retain nationality are in breach of Article 9(1) of that Convention.

²⁶ For more information, see UNHCR, "Background note on gender equality, nationality laws and statelessness 2024", 8 March 2024, <https://www.refworld.org/reference/themreport/unhcr/2024/en/147696>. UNHCR publishes an updated version of this document every March.

What needs to be done?

Laws that prevent women from conferring nationality to their children on an equal basis to men need to be reformed to prevent statelessness among children. Such reforms can be enacted with retroactive effect to ensure that those left stateless under previously discriminatory laws are able to acquire a nationality. Lifting reservations to Article 9 of the Convention on

the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women will also help to achieve the outcome resulting from this Action. Gender discrimination that prevents women from acquiring, changing and retaining nationality on an equal basis with men needs to be eliminated to protect women from statelessness and unwanted changes to their nationality status.

How can UNHCR support?

- Advocate and provide technical advice for the reform of nationality laws, policies and procedures, to ensure equality between women and men in nationality matters. Where possible, use Constitutional reform processes as an opportunity to achieve these objectives.
- Work with UN Women, UNICEF, OHCHR, IPU and civil society members of the Global Campaign for Equal Nationality Rights, including through initiatives and workstreams implemented by the Global Alliance to End Statelessness.
- Support initiatives by the legal community to promote the equality of women and men in nationality matters, including through strategic litigation aimed at achieving legislative reform or ending the discriminatory application of nationality laws. Build the capacity of legal professionals and the justice sector on statelessness and nationality issues.

RELEVANT INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS

- Article 15, Universal Declaration of Human Rights
- Article 24, International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights
- Article 7, Convention on the Rights of the Child
- Article 9, Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women
- UN Human Rights Council, Human Rights and arbitrary deprivation of nationality: Resolution / Adopted by the Human Rights Council 11 July 2014, A/HRC/RES/26/14
- UN Human Rights Council, the Right to a Nationality: Women and Children, 16 July 2012, A/HRC/RES/20/4 – entire document

RELEVANT SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

- SDG 5. Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls.
- SDG 10. Reduce inequality within and among countries.
- SDG 16. Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels.



In Antsahabe, Madagascar, a stateless individual shares their experiences and challenges caused by living without access to documentation and reflects on the exclusion that forces him to live on the edges of society. © UNHCR/Graham Pote

ACTION 4: Prevent denial, loss or deprivation of nationality on ethnic, racial, religious, political and other discriminatory grounds

DESIRED OUTCOME

- No States have nationality laws that permit denial, loss or deprivation of nationality on discriminatory grounds.
- Non-discriminatory nationality laws are effectively implemented.

Context

Discrimination on the grounds of ethnicity, race, religion, language or disability is a recurrent cause of statelessness. In fact, the majority of the world's known stateless populations belong to minority groups. Instances of statelessness due to the denial, loss and deprivation of nationality on discriminatory grounds continue to occur in a range of countries. These include

situations of mass deprivation of nationality on the grounds of ethnicity or race during recent decades. In some instances, the individuals and groups affected have crossed international borders and become refugees. Given its particular impact, statelessness arising from gender discrimination is dealt with under Action 3.

What needs to be done?

This Action requires that State authorities refrain from denying people nationality, or depriving them of it, on discriminatory grounds such as ethnicity, race,

religion, language or disability. To ensure that this does not happen, States can introduce non-discriminatory provisions in their Constitutions and nationality laws.

There needs to be adequate supervision of compliance with such provisions, including through complaints

mechanisms and the possibility of judicial review and restitution of nationality.

How can UNHCR support?

- Promote international standards relating to non-discrimination, the right to nationality and the prohibition of arbitrary deprivation of nationality.
- Identify situations of direct or indirect discrimination that have led or could lead to individual or mass denial or deprivation of nationality.
- Undertake timely interventions with relevant government ministries and parliaments to prevent future instances of denial, loss and deprivation of nationality or, if it has already occurred, to ensure restitution of nationality in accordance with Action 1. This includes advocating and providing technical advice for the reform of nationality laws that have provisions permitting denial, loss or deprivation of nationality on discriminatory grounds. Where possible, use Constitutional reform processes as an opportunity to achieve these objectives.
- Coordinate with other UN Agencies and regional human rights bodies to intervene in instances of denial, loss and deprivation of nationality on discriminatory grounds.
- Provide affected populations with information, legal advice and legal aid, assist with monitoring the restitution of nationality and the implementation of reformed nationality laws.

RELEVANT INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS

- Article 15, Universal Declaration of Human Rights
- Article 26, International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights
- Article 2, Convention on the Rights of the Child
- Article 5, Convention on the elimination of racial discrimination
- Article 9, 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness
- Article 18, Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities
- UNHCR Executive Committee, Conclusion on identification, prevention and reduction of statelessness and protection of stateless persons, N.106 – entire document
- UN Human Rights Council, Human Rights and arbitrary deprivation of nationality: Resolution / Adopted by the Human Rights Council 11 July 2014, A/HRC/RES/26/14
- Article 9, Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women
- UN Human Rights Council, Human Rights and arbitrary deprivation of nationality: Resolution / Adopted by the Human Rights Council 11 July 2014, A/HRC/RES/26/14 – entire document
- UN Human Rights Council, the Right to a Nationality: Women and Children, 16 July 2012, A/HRC/RES/20/4 – entire document

RELEVANT SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

- SDG 10. Reduce inequality within and among countries.
- SDG 16. Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels.



Tens of thousands of stateless people, many of whom were made stateless by the dissolution of the Soviet Union, will benefit from Uzbekistan's new law which confirms their right to citizenship. © UNDP/Mirfozil Khasanov

ACTION 5: Prevent statelessness in cases of state succession

DESIRED OUTCOME

No new cases of statelessness due to future situations of State succession.

Context

Emergence of new States and transfers of territory between existing States (State succession) have led to mass statelessness on numerous occasions. State succession occurs where there is:

- transfer of one part of the territory of a State to another State;
- separation of part of the territory of a State and formation of one or more new States;
- dissolution of a State and formation of two or more States.

In the case of separation or dissolution, although most individuals automatically become citizens of newly independent States when nationality legislation is adopted, large numbers can be left stateless. Migration movements before and at the time of independence, as well as discrimination against marginalized ethnic and social groups, may create particular risks of statelessness. Transfers or exchanges of territory between States can have similar results.

What needs to be done?

Statelessness as a result of State succession can be prevented through a coordinated approach to nationality by the concerned States and the implementation of simple safeguards in nationality laws. For example,

upon transfer of territory from one State to another, the original nationality of the affected population may not be withdrawn unless it is clear that they have acquired the nationality of the other State involved.

How can UNHCR support?

- Identify possible situations of State succession before they occur, in collaboration with other UN Agencies.
- Contact the authorities of all relevant States and territories, discuss potential causes of statelessness and offer technical and operational support.
- Promote cooperation between the authorities of the States and territories concerned and advocate for the adoption of agreements and legislation that will avoid statelessness.
- Take measures for the restitution of nationality in accordance with Action 1 if statelessness occurs despite the efforts described.
- Advocate with the authorities (jointly with other stakeholders) on the importance of having standards on avoiding statelessness resulting from loss and deprivation of nationality, which are based on the international standards set in the 1961 Convention.
- Engage other UN Agencies and regional bodies, as well as members of the Global Alliance to End Statelessness in advocacy for safeguards to prevent loss of nationality if this causes statelessness.

RELEVANT INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS

- Article 15, Universal Declaration of Human Rights
- Articles 7,8,9, 10, 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness
- UNHCR Guidelines on Statelessness No. 5: Loss and Deprivation of Nationality under Articles 5-9 of the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness, HCR/GS/20/05, 2020 – entire document
- UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), Expert Meeting – Interpreting the 1961 Statelessness Convention and Avoiding Statelessness resulting from Loss and Deprivation of Nationality (“Tunis Conclusions”), 2014 – entire document
- UNHCR Executive Committee, Conclusion on identification, prevention and reduction of statelessness and protection of stateless persons, N.106 – entire document
- UN Human Rights Council, Human Rights and arbitrary deprivation of nationality: Resolution / Adopted by the Human Rights Council 11 July 2014, A/HRC/RES/26/14 – entire document
- International Law Commission Articles of Nationality of Natural Persons in Relation to the Succession of States – entire document

RELEVANT SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

- SDG 10. Reduce inequality within and among countries.
- SDG 16. Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels.



John has been recognized as stateless in the UK and tells UNHCR about his daily life and his experience of applying for statelessness leave there. © UNHCR/Katie Barlow

ACTION 6: In migratory context, determine statelessness and protect stateless persons and facilitate their naturalization

DESIRED OUTCOME

- States identify stateless persons in migratory context through determination procedures that lead to a legal status that permits residence and guarantees the enjoyment of basic human rights.
- States facilitate the naturalization of stateless persons, including by reducing the required number of years of residence, lowering or waiving application fees, and ensuring that information on naturalization requirements is easily accessible.

Context

Most stateless persons remain in the country of their birth. However, statelessness can also occur in migratory situations, for example “expatriates who lose or are deprived of their nationality without having acquired the nationality of a country of habitual residence”²⁷. Stateless migrants comprise a minority of the global stateless population, but many are not recognized as stateless and face serious human rights problems such as prolonged or repeated detention and destitution. Often, no State will grant them legal residence and the authorities of their country of origin will not re-admit them. Although some States have introduced mechanisms to determine whether a migrant is stateless, positive determinations do not necessarily lead to a

legal status that permits residence, enjoyment of basic human rights and facilitated naturalization.

In a migratory context, a statelessness determination procedure (SDP) serves to identify stateless persons and ensure that they are granted the rights that they are entitled to until they acquire a nationality. However, for stateless populations who remain in their “own country” – referred to as “in situ populations” – solutions are best found by pursuing targeted nationality campaigns or verification efforts rather than resorting to SDPs to establish statelessness status (See Action 1).

²⁷ See para. 1, UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), “Handbook on protection of stateless persons”, 30 June 2014, <https://www.refworld.org/policy/legalguidance/unhcr/2014/en/122573>.

Article 32 of the 1954 Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons requires States Parties to make the naturalization process as accessible as possible to stateless persons. While SDPs provide a route to ultimately resolving statelessness through acquisition of nationality, facilitating naturalization means modifying the requirements and processes to make it simpler for

stateless persons to become nationals. This can be done by implementing fast-track procedures, reducing or waiving requirements relating to residence, income and language, or exempting applicants from fees and documentation requirements. Ensuring effective access to naturalization procedures is crucial and information about these requirements should be readily available to the public.

What needs to be done?

The 1954 Convention establishes a regime to protect the rights of stateless persons. The 1954 Convention requires States to establish procedures to determine who is stateless within their territory, including those in detention who cannot be expelled. This determination permits stateless migrants to acquire secure legal residence, which in turn allows them to enjoy basic human rights and accumulate the number of years of residence necessary for naturalization. In addition, officials who may come in contact with stateless persons or those with undetermined nationality should be trained to identify potential applicants for statelessness status and refer them to appropriate channels. Efficient referral mechanisms should be established to support this process.

Naturalization procedures and requirements need to be amended to make it easier for stateless refugees and migrants to acquire nationality, for instance by reducing the required number of years of residence or lowering or waiving application fees. Information on naturalization requirements needs to be easily accessible.

States can take such measures even if they are not party to the 1954 Convention. Evidence shows that establishing statelessness determination procedures does not increase the migration of stateless persons into the territory of States with such procedures.

How can UNHCR support?

- Advocate and provide technical advice to relevant ministries and parliaments for the establishment and improvement of determination procedures and protection regimes.
- Provide training to increase the capacity of relevant government agencies to undertake statelessness determination.
- Support the establishment of screening processes to improve identification of stateless persons detained for immigration-related purposes and secure the release of such persons from detention pending a decision on their status consistent with the 2014 Monitoring
- Immigration Detention: Practical Manual.²⁸
- Promote naturalization as a solution for stateless migrants and refugees and emphasize the need to adopt facilitated procedures that take into account their special needs.
- Organize study visits by concerned governments to States with well-established determination procedures, including through cooperation opportunities offered by the Global Alliance to End Statelessness.
- Encourage States that are not already party to the 1954 Convention to accede in accordance with the activities set out under Action 9.

RELEVANT INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS

- Article 15, Universal Declaration of Human Rights
- 1954 Convention relating to the Status of Stateless persons – entire treaty
- UNHCR Handbook on Protection of Stateless Persons – entire document
- UNHCR, Draft Articles on the Protection of Stateless Persons and the Facilities for their Naturalization, 2017
- UNHCR Good Practices Paper – Action 6: Establishing Statelessness Determination Procedures to Protect Stateless Persons, 2020 – The Good Practices Paper complements the Handbook on Protection of Stateless Persons; however, the Handbook remains the authoritative UNHCR guidance on the issue and should be disseminated and cited as such.

RELEVANT SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

- SDG 10. Reduce inequality within and among countries.
- SDG 16. Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels.

²⁸ UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), UNHCR, Association for the Prevention of Torture (APT) and the International Detention Coalition (IDC), “Monitoring immigration detention: practical manual”, 2014, <https://www.refworld.org/policy/opguidance/unhcr/2014/en/99608>.



Burundian refugee and mother-of-three, Evangelina Bukuru, poses for a photograph with her mother and baby at their home in Nyarugusu refugee camp. Evangelina benefitted from a UNHCR initiative to secure Tanzanian birth certificates for her children to protect them against statelessness. © UNHCR/Anthony Karumba

ACTION 7: Ensure birth registration for the prevention of statelessness

DESIRED OUTCOME

All children at a heightened risk of statelessness are registered at birth, with key barriers effectively addressed.

Context

Individuals can be at risk of statelessness if they have difficulties proving that they have links to a State. Lack of birth registration can create such a risk. This is because birth registration attests to where a person was born and who their parents are – key pieces of information needed to establish which country's nationality they can acquire. As a result, birth registration is important for achievement of the outcomes under Action 2.

In some countries, children may not be registered because registration procedures are complex, because documentary and other requirements are difficult to fulfil, or because civil registration offices are not accessible to all due to distance and associated costs. Specific groups may face particular problems, especially children born out of wedlock (including as a result of gender-based violence), nomadic populations and children of non-citizens, including refugees and migrants. Proof that parents are married can also influence

whether a child can be registered at birth and whether it acquires a nationality; many civil laws either exclude women from being able to register the births of their own children in all situations, or permit them to do so only under exceptional circumstances.

Low levels of birth registration can be difficult to correct subsequently, either because procedures for delayed birth registration have not been established or because they are lengthy, costly and complex and therefore inaccessible. Because nationality is generally acquired on the basis of each State's nationality law, lack of birth registration on its own does not usually make people stateless. UNHCR will continue to work with UNICEF and other partners to gather more data on gaps in law and policy relating to birth registration that create heightened risks of statelessness (also relevant under Action 10).

What needs to be done?

States, with the support of others, need to identify populations at heightened risk of statelessness due to lack of birth registration and address legal and practical barriers to registration. Promoting birth registration within these groups is key and this can be achieved by improving access to procedures, deploying mobile registration teams and linking

birth registration to other public services like health care and education. States should also collaborate with partners such as UNICEF and the World Bank to enhance civil registration systems. Additionally, legal aid and awareness campaigns can help stateless persons or those at risk of statelessness to navigate the registration process.

How can UNHCR support?

- Help States to identify populations for whom lack of birth registration creates a heightened risk of statelessness, as well as legal, procedural and practical obstacles to registering births, including those encountered at community level.
- Promote birth registration among populations identified as being at heightened risk of statelessness, including by facilitating access to procedures at community level, deploying mobile teams to address existing deficits and ensuring interoperability between birth registration and other public programs such as those relating to childbirth, maternal and infant care, immunization and education.
- Complement the efforts of UNICEF, UN regional commissions, UNFPA, WHO, UNDP, the World Bank, regional development banks and bilateral donors, including in the context of the UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework, to promote and provide technical support for birth registration and to improve civil registration and vital statistics systems.
- Support the provision of information, legal aid and documentation campaigns to assist stateless persons and persons at risk of statelessness with applications for birth registration.
- For populations which are not otherwise of concern, UNHCR will only become engaged where it is likely in the specific context that nationality may be questioned, giving rise to a heightened risk of statelessness.

RELEVANT INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS

- Article 15, Universal Declaration of Human Rights
- Article 24, International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights
- Article 7, Convention on the Rights of the Child
- Article 18, Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities
- Article 29, International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of their Families
- UNHCR Executive Committee, Conclusion on identification, prevention and reduction of statelessness and protection of stateless persons, N.106 – entire document
- UNHCR Executive Committee, Conclusion on Civil Registration, N. 111 – entire document
- UN Human Rights Council, Human Rights and arbitrary deprivation of nationality: Resolution / Adopted by the Human Rights Council 11 July 2014, A/HRC/RES/26/14 – entire document
- UN Human Rights Council, the Right to a Nationality: Women and Children, 16 July 2012, A/HRC/RES/2014

RELEVANT SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

- SDG 3. Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages.
- SDG 4. Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all.
- SDG 16. Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels.



North Macedonia. Valentin Rakip was stateless because his mother didn't register his birth, and his father didn't acknowledge paternity. After a 12-year legal battle, he finally received nationality and can start building the life he always dreamed of. © UNHCR/Robert Atanasovski

ACTION 8: Issue nationality documentation to those with entitlement to it to prevent statelessness

DESIRED OUTCOME

No States have populations that are entitled to nationality under law but are unable to obtain documentary proof of nationality.

Context

Individuals may be left stateless because they cannot acquire documents that prove their nationality, even if they are entitled to nationality under the country's nationality law. Denial of nationality documentation

leading to statelessness can occur due to discrimination against particular groups. Existing information indicates that this is a major cause of statelessness.

What needs to be done?

It is vital that those who are entitled to nationality receive nationality documentation. Procedures to obtain such documentation must be accessible, affordable and implemented in a non-discriminatory

manner. Cumbersome, lengthy procedures and onerous requirements for applicants are to be avoided.

How can UNHCR support?

- Help States to identify populations for whom lack of nationality documentation creates a heightened risk of statelessness, as well as legal, procedural and practical obstacles to the issuance of nationality documentation to those who are entitled to it.
- Advocate and provide technical advice for reforms of laws, policies and procedures to ensure that everyone entitled to nationality under the law acquires documentary proof of nationality.
- Promote accessible and uniform procedures for issuing nationality documentation.
- Provide governments with technical support in issuing nationality documentation to populations at risk of statelessness.
- Support public information campaigns to raise awareness of procedures for obtaining nationality documentation, particularly among populations at risk of statelessness.
- Support the provision of legal aid to assist individuals at risk of statelessness with applications for nationality documentation.

RELEVANT INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS

- Article 15, Universal Declaration of Human Rights
- Article 16, International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights
- Article 18, Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

RELEVANT SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

- SDG 10. Reduce inequality within and among countries.
- SDG 16. Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels.



UN High Commissioner for Refugees Filippo Grandi delivers his keynote remarks during the 'Orientation Session for Displaced and Stateless Participants' at the Global Refugee Forum 2023. © UNHCR/Pierre Albouy

ACTION 9: Accede to the UN statelessness conventions

DESIRED OUTCOME

- All States are party to the 1954 Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons and the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness.
- The provisions of both Statelessness Conventions are incorporated into national laws.
- All existing reservations to both Statelessness Conventions are lifted.

Context

The 1954 Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons and the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness are key international treaties designed to ensure that every person has a nationality and that stateless persons enjoy a basic set of human rights. The Statelessness Conventions do not stand alone but complement a much broader range of international legal standards, in particular those contained in human rights treaties.

The 1954 Convention establishes minimum standards of treatment for stateless persons in respect of a number of rights. These include, but are not limited to, the right to education, employment and housing. Importantly, the 1954 Convention also guarantees stateless persons a right to identity and travel documents and to administrative assistance. The 1961 Convention establishes an international framework to ensure the right of every person to a nationality. It requires that States establish safeguards in their nationality laws to prevent statelessness at birth and later in life.

What needs to be done?

More States should accede to both Statelessness Conventions. Increasing the number of States party to the 1954 Convention is closely linked to Action 6, as it requires the establishment of determination procedures and legal frameworks for the protection

of stateless persons. Increased accession to the 1961 Convention is essential to address gaps in nationality laws that can lead to statelessness, in particular those set out in Actions 2 and 5.

How can UNHCR support?

- Advocate with relevant ministries and parliaments to highlight the benefits of acceding to the Statelessness Conventions, highlighting pledges to accede, commitments made by States in the context of the Universal Periodic Review of the Human Rights Council and UN human rights treaty body recommendations where relevant.
- Highlight the value of the Statelessness Conventions in multilateral forums, including at the Global Refugee Forums and through new opportunities provided by the Global Alliance to End Statelessness.
- Provide technical advice on formalities for accession as well as on the necessary steps for implementation of the Statelessness Conventions.

RELEVANT INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS

- UN General Assembly Resolutions of particular relevance to Nationality and Statelessness: A/Res/68/141 of 18 December 2013
- Other examples available at: <http://www.refworld.org/docid/4c49a02c2.html>
- The right to a nationality: equality in nationality rights in law and in practice, A/HRC/RES/53/16, 2023 – para. 13

RELEVANT SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

- SDG 16. Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels.
- SDG 17. Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development.



Ferghana Valley Lawyers Without Borders, headed by Azizbek Ashurov, set up mobile legal clinics to help stateless people gain nationality and even reached remote communities on horseback. In 2019, Kyrgyzstan became the first country in the world to solve all known cases of statelessness, and Ashurov won the 2019 UNHCR Nansen Refugee Award. © UNHCR/Chris de Bode

ACTION 10: Improve quantitative and qualitative data on stateless populations

DESIRED OUTCOME

- Quantitative and qualitative data on stateless populations is publicly available and accessible for all States.
- Data on stateless populations effectively informs and shapes policies and programs to address statelessness.

Context

Measuring statelessness is complicated given that stateless persons often live in precarious situations on the margins of society. Frequently, stateless persons are not only undocumented but also ignored by the authorities and uncouned in national population and administrative registries and population surveys. Most even go uncouned in population censuses.

Quantitative data and qualitative analysis are essential for States to adequately respond to statelessness and to enable UNHCR to fulfil its mandate, as well as to measure

progress in implementing the Global Action Plan. These should include: an assessment of the scale of the situation in terms of magnitude and geographical spread; the profile of the affected population (including its demographic composition with data disaggregated by sex and age); an analysis of the causes and impacts of statelessness (including in terms of civil, political, economic, and social rights), and an overview of obstacles to and potential for solutions. Implementation of this Action will provide additional information relating to other Actions.

What needs to be done?

Data on the scale and situation of stateless populations can be gathered using a range of methods, including analyses of civil registration data, population censuses, targeted surveys and studies.

Establishing determination procedures in accordance with Action 6 will lead to new data in countries hosting stateless migrants. Strengthening civil registration and vital statistics systems in accordance with Action 7 will also contribute to the availability of quantitative data.

The 2023 International Recommendations on Statelessness Statistics (IROSS) adopted by the United Nations Statistical Commission provide guidance on the production, coordination and dissemination of statistics on statelessness to improve the quality of these statistics at national level and, in turn, strengthen globally consolidated data.

The IROSS recommendations were developed by the Expert Group on Refugee, IDP and Statelessness Statistics (EGRIS) and reflect the perspectives of countries affected by statelessness according to members of civil society and international experts. The recommendations provide

countries with clear guidance on how better to include stateless persons in their national statistical systems and thus improve official statistics on this group; specifically, the recommendations provide:

- a standardized definition of statelessness for the purposes of statistical measurement and harmonization of statelessness data;
- basic data tabulations and indicators for collecting statelessness data;
- recommendations on sustainable development goal indicators that are relevant for stateless persons;
- an assessment of traditional and non-traditional data sources and methods, as well as recommendations to improve statelessness data captured through these approaches;
- recommendations for improving national, regional and international statistical coordination as a means to strengthen data on stateless persons;
- guidance in building national statistical capacity to further improve collected data.

How can UNHCR support?

- Advocate for inclusion of questions relating to nationality and statelessness in population and housing censuses and other population surveys through discussion with national statistical offices, in coordination with UNFPA and UN regional commissions and the World Bank.
- Advocate with States on the benefits of gathering national data on stateless persons and those with undetermined nationality, including for the purposes of registration, documentation, delivery of public services, maintenance of law and order and development planning, and provide technical assistance in this regard.
- Undertake and support targeted surveys and studies, including participatory assessments involving stateless individuals and groups, to establish the scale of statelessness and the situation of stateless and at risk populations.
- Gather, analyze and share with governments the available data on stateless and at-risk populations collected by civil society actors.
- Facilitate the exchange of good practices regarding statelessness data, including through the Global Alliance to End Statelessness.
- In connection with the above undertakings, raise awareness and support the implementation of the International Recommendations on Statelessness Statistics.

RELEVANT INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS

- UN General Assembly Resolutions of particular relevance to Nationality and Statelessness: A/Res/68/141 of 18 December 2013
- Other examples available at: <http://www.refworld.org/docid/4c49a02c2.html>
- UNHCR Executive Committee, “Conclusion on identification, prevention and reduction of statelessness and protection of stateless persons, N.106” – entire document
- The international recommendations on statelessness statistics (IROSS), 2023 – entire document

RELEVANT SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

- SDG 10. Reduce inequality within and among countries.
- SDG 16. Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels.



“There is no word that can describe how I feel right now. I feel happy, I feel excited but above all, I feel honoured to be the first person from my community to graduate from the university. It’s something that I take pride in,” says Nosizi Dube. Nosizi is a member of the Shona who are formerly stateless – the first person from the Shona community in Kenya to join university and has just graduated with a bachelor’s degree in economics. © UNHCR/Charity Nzomo

ACTION 11: Ensure stateless persons can enjoy their rights

DESIRED OUTCOME

- All stateless persons enjoy their fundamental rights irrespective of their (immigration) status.
- Stateless persons are included in national systems and can access basic services.

Context

Stateless persons face significant roadblocks in their daily lives, making it difficult – sometimes even impossible – for them to access education, health care and social security benefits, secure employment, or to get married. Stateless persons are generally denied enjoyment of a range of human rights and prevented from participating fully in society. Additionally, stateless persons are often at risk of arrest or detention, forced eviction, expulsion and even trafficking, due to their lack of legal status or restrictions associated with their legal status.

The 1954 Convention Relating to the Status of Stateless Persons defines who a stateless person is and, along with applicable standards of international human rights law, establishes a set of minimum rights that stateless persons should be granted. The rights set out in the 1954 Convention are not limited to individuals who have been recognized as

stateless following a determination made by a State or by UNHCR; instead, the rights afforded to an individual under the Convention are linked to the nature of that person’s presence in the country. These rights include property rights, the right of association, the right of access to the courts, the right to gainful employment, the right to education, the right to social security, the right to freedom of movement and the right to identity and travel documents. In addition to the 1954 Convention provisions, the treatment of stateless persons under a State’s national law must align with other international human rights standards: most human rights apply to everyone, regardless of nationality or immigration status, including stateless persons.²⁹ Furthermore, the principle of equality and non-discrimination generally prohibits discrimination based on the lack of nationality.³⁰

²⁹ Please see Human Rights Committee, *General Comment No.15 (The Position of Aliens under the Covenant)*, 11 April 1986, <http://www.unhcr.org/refworld/pdfid/45139acfc.pdf> and Human Rights Committee, *General Comment No. 31 (The Nature of the General Legal Obligation Imposed on States Parties to the Covenant)*, CCPR/C/21/Rev.1/Add.13, 26 May 2004, <http://www.refworld.org/docid/478b26ae2.html> Please see also the UN Sub-Commission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights, Special Rapporteur on the rights of non-citizens, *Final Report*, E/CN.4/Sub.2/2003/23, 26 May 2003, <http://www.unhcr.org/refworld/pdfid/3f46114c4.pdf> Please note though that full enjoyment of human rights is facilitated by the possession of a nationality, hence the need for specific protection for stateless persons in the form of the 1954 Convention.

³⁰ Please see, for example, Articles 2(1) and 26 of the ICCPR

The overarching aim of the 2030 Agenda “to reach the furthest behind first” and “leave no one behind” clearly applies to those who experience the many negative consequences of not being recognized as citizens of any country. The social and economic exclusion of stateless persons has impacts not only upon the stateless themselves, but also on their families and communities and the State itself. The COVID pandemic demonstrated that the exclusion of population groups from national health services creates public health

risks for surrounding communities; exclusion from education deprives a State of access to a potential pool of trained talent and potential contributions in taxation and skills. In extreme cases, the multigenerational exclusion of stateless persons can create threats to the stability of society itself, and to international peace and security. It is clear that the Sustainable Development Goals cannot be achieved without addressing the situation of stateless persons.

What needs to be done?

Pending a definitive solution to their statelessness, i.e. the grant of nationality, States need to ensure that stateless persons can fully exercise their human rights. States should align their national laws, policies and practices with international human rights standards, such as the 1954 Convention Relating to the Status of Stateless Persons. This includes granting stateless persons access to services like health care, education, employment and others.

Stateless persons and those at risk also need to be included in the development planning of States, while development agencies and others need to support States in these efforts. Efforts to achieve inclusive national systems and services must consider stateless persons and those at risk of statelessness.

How can UNHCR support?

- Advocate with States to align national laws with the 1954 Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons and other international human rights standards, to ensure that stateless persons are able to exercise their human rights and access services, including health care and education, and employment opportunities.
- Provide national authorities with technical assistance and capacity-building to strengthen their capacity to identify stateless persons and ensure that their rights are respected and that they have access to services.
- In support of States’ efforts on development, work with other UN agencies and development actors to ensure that stateless persons and those at risk of statelessness are included in development planning and programming, and advocate for stateless persons and those at risk of statelessness to be included in national systems.
- Conduct awareness-raising and information campaigns in collaboration with governments and civil society, including stateless-led organizations, to inform stateless persons of their rights and the services available to them.
- Facilitate dialogue and exchange of good practices between States, to ensure that stateless persons enjoy their rights, including through the Global Alliance to End Statelessness.

RELEVANT INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS

- 1954 Convention Relating to the Status of Stateless Persons
- Universal Declaration of Human Rights
- International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights
- International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights
- Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities
- UNHCR Executive Committee, Conclusion on identification, prevention and reduction of statelessness and protection of stateless persons, N.106 – entire document

RELEVANT SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

- SDG 1. End poverty in all its forms everywhere.
- SDG 3. Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages.
- SDG 4. Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all.
- SDG 8. Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all.
- SDG 10. SDG 10. Reduce inequality within and among countries.
- SDG 16. Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels.

Annex 1

Sample Template National Action Plan to End Statelessness

National Action Plans to End Statelessness (NAPs) provide a structured, country-specific road map for achieving the outcomes set out in the Global Action Plan, outlining detailed strategies, targets and milestones for accomplishing selected Actions. To ensure that the plans are comprehensive and effective, they should be developed through a government-led, consultative process that includes all relevant ministries and departments, UNHCR, other UN agencies, development partners, national institutions, civil society, (formerly) stateless persons and stateless-led organizations. This collaborative approach ensures ownership by a broad range of stakeholders and that national efforts are aligned with global initiatives while being tailored to the specific context of each country.

OVERVIEW:

[The overview sets out:

- a summary of the purpose of the National Action Plan;
- the methodology used to develop the National Action Plan (including any consultations with stakeholders);
- the specific Actions selected and reasons for selection; and
- any monitoring and evaluation mechanisms.]

ACTIONS:

Action: [Select one of the Actions from the Global Action Plan.]

National Context: [A brief description of the historical and current context of the problem that the Action will address as well as any existing circumstances that might facilitate implementation of the Action and any obstacles to its accomplishment.]

ACTION

STARTING POINT	GOAL	MILESTONES
[Describe the current situation that the Action will address.]	[Describe the final result and the date by which it will be achieved.]	[Describe the intermediary result (Milestone(s)) that will support the achievement of the Goal and the expected date by which each Milestone will be achieved. Each Action may have several Milestones.]
	Performance Indicator: [Define a performance indicator for the final result.]	
ACTIVITIES	RESPONSIBLE AUTHORITY	SUPPORT FROM UNHCR/ OTHER STAKEHOLDERS
[Describe the Activities that will be undertaken to achieve the Milestones (one per box).]	[Describe the authorities responsible for implementing the Activities.]	[Describe the type of support the UNHCR and other stakeholders will provide for each Activity.]

Action: [Select one of the Actions from the Global Action Plan.]

National Context: [A brief description of the historical and current context of the problem that the Action will address as well as any existing circumstances that might facilitate implementation of the Action and any obstacles to its accomplishment.]

ACTION

STARTING POINT	GOAL	MILESTONES
[Describe the current situation that the Action will address.]	[Describe the final result and date by which it will be achieved.]	[Describe the intermediary result (Milestone(s)) that will support achievement of the Goal and the expected date by which each Milestone will be achieved. Each Action may have several Milestones.]
	Performance Indicator: [Define a performance indicator for the final result.]	
ACTIVITIES	RESPONSIBLE AUTHORITY	SUPPORT FROM UNHCR/ OTHER STAKEHOLDERS
[Describe the Activities that will be undertaken to achieve the Milestones (one per box).]	[Describe the authority/ies responsible for implementing the Activities.]	[Describe the type of support UNHCR and other stakeholders will provide for each Activity.]

Please repeat the tables above for each additional Action.

STANDARD	Relevant action
AFRICAN CHARTER ON THE RIGHTS AND WELFARE OF THE CHILD	
Article 6 3. Every child has the right to acquire a nationality. 4. States Parties to the present Charter shall undertake to ensure that their Constitutional legislation recognize the principles according to which a child shall acquire the nationality of the State in the territory of which he has been born if, at the time of the child's birth, he is not granted nationality by any other State in accordance with its laws.	2, 7
AMERICAN CONVENTION ON HUMAN RIGHTS	
Article 20 1. Every person has the right to a nationality. 2. Every person has the right to the nationality of the State in whose territory he was born if he does not have the right to any other nationality. 3. No one shall be arbitrarily deprived of his nationality or of the right to change it.	1, 2, 4
AMERICAN DECLARATION OF THE RIGHTS AND DUTIES OF MAN	
Article 19 Every person has the right to the nationality to which he is entitled by law and to change it if he so wishes, for the nationality of any other country that is willing to grant it to him.	1
EUROPEAN CONVENTION ON NATIONALITY	
Article 6 1. Each State Party shall provide in its internal law for its nationality to be acquired ex lege by the following persons: a. children one of whose parents possesses, at the time of the birth of these children, the nationality of that State Party, subject to any exceptions which may be provided for by its internal law as regards children born abroad. With respect to children whose parenthood is established by recognition, court order or similar procedures, each State Party may provide that the child acquires its nationality following the procedure determined by its internal law b. foundlings found in its territory who would otherwise be stateless. 2. Each State Party shall provide in its internal law for its nationality to be acquired by children born on its territory who do not acquire at birth another nationality. [...] 4. Each State party shall facilitate in its internal law the acquisition of its nationality for the following persons: [...] g. stateless persons and recognized refugees lawfully and habitually resident on its territory.	1, 2, 6
COUNCIL OF EUROPE CONVENTION ON THE AVOIDANCE OF STATELESSNESS IN RELATION TO STATE SUCCESSION	
Article 2 Everyone who, at the time of the State succession, had the nationality of the predecessor State and who has or would become stateless as a result of the State succession has the right to the nationality of a State concerned, in accordance with the following articles. Article 3 The State concerned shall take all appropriate measures to prevent persons who, at the time of the State succession, had the nationality of the predecessor State, from becoming stateless as a result of the succession.	5

Annex 2

Key regional standards

page 2/2

STANDARD	Relevant c action
COMMONWEALTH OF INDEPENDENT STATES CONVENTION ON HUMAN RIGHTS AND FUNDAMENTAL FREEDOMS	
Article 24 1. Everyone shall have the right to citizenship.	1-8
COVENANT ON THE RIGHT OF THE CHILD IN ISLAM	
Article 7 1. A child shall, from birth, have the right to a good name, to be registered with authorities concerned, to have his nationality determined and to know his/her parents, all his/her relatives and foster mother. 2. States Parties to the Covenant shall safeguard the elements of the child's identity, including his/her name, nationality, and family relations in accordance with their domestic laws and shall make every effort to resolve the issue of statelessness for any child born on their territories or to any of their citizens outside their territory. 3. The child of unknown descent or who is legally assimilated to this status shall have the right to guardianship and care but without adoption. He shall have the right to a name, title and nationality.	2-7
ARAB CHARTER ON HUMAN RIGHTS	
Article 29 1. Everyone has the right to nationality. No one shall be arbitrarily or unlawfully deprived of his nationality. 2. States parties shall take such measures as they deem appropriate in accordance with their domestic laws on nationality, to allow a child to acquire a mother's nationality, having due regard, in all cases, to the best interests of the child.	1, 3, 4
ASEAN HUMAN RIGHTS DECLARATION	
Article 18 Every person has the right to a nationality as prescribed by law. No person shall be arbitrarily deprived of such nationality nor denied the right to change that nationality.	1-8
ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES, RESOLUTION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY, AG/RES. 2826 (XLIV-O/14), PREVENTION AND REDUCTION OF STATELESSNESS AND PROTECTION OF STATELESS PERSONS IN THE AMERICAS, 4 JUNE 2014	
Entire document	6, 7
PROTOCOL TO THE AFRICAN CHARTER ON HUMAN AND PEOPLES' RIGHTS RELATING TO THE SPECIFIC ASPECTS OF THE RIGHT TO A NATIONALITY AND THE ERADICATION OF STATELESSNESS IN AFRICA	
Entire document	1-11

For millions of people around the world, being stateless means that they are invisible, deprived of their most basic rights and unable to participate fully in the lives of their communities and societies. And while we have come a long way in the last decade in finding solutions for stateless people – in large part thanks to your commitment to the #IBelong Campaign – the road ahead is still long. Together, let us build on our successes, strengthen our resolve and renew our commitment to the objective of this Global Action Plan to End Statelessness: ensuring that everyone has a nationality.

FILIPPO GRANDI, UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES



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