# SPOTLIGHT ON STATELESSNESS




Beneficiary carrying Core Relief Items (CRI) ©UNHCR/Juan Carlos Gonzalez

## Implementation of the Global Action Plan to End Statelessness 2.0

### Action 1. Resolve major situations of statelessness

In **Malaysia**, in a notable judicial development, on 26 November 2025, the Court of Appeal of Malaysia ruled that six stateless individuals spanning three generations of a family in Perak are Malaysians under the Federal Constitution.

On 1 July, the **Vietnamese** Nationality Law was amended and enforced to include clauses that facilitate the reacquisition of nationality for individuals who had to renounce their Vietnamese citizenship in order to acquire a new one. This amendment is particularly important for stateless Vietnamese women married to foreign nationals who renounced their Vietnamese nationality but

were unable to acquire their husband's citizenship.

Between July and December 2025 in the **Dominican Republic**, UNHCR's advocacy carried out in coordination with civil society organizations, enabled the issuance of Dominican birth certificates to 420 beneficiaries under Law 169-14 (Group B)—a category that grants special naturalization to individuals born in the country before 2007 to foreign parents without a residence permit. Of these, 330 individuals additionally obtained Dominican identity and electoral cards, thereby securing comprehensive civil documentation. The continued issuance of documentation during the second semester confirms the effective and sustained implementation of Law 169-14 by the Central Electoral Board (JCE) and consolidates pathways to full legal recognition. This progress enhances prospects for additional naturalized persons to finalize their recognition as Dominican nationals, reinforcing legal certainty and durable inclusion.

On 1 and 30 August, in **Thailand** UNHCR joined Deputy Minister of Interior in Chiang Mai and Kanchanaburi Province to kick off the implementation of the 2024 Cabinet Resolutions which seeks to accelerate pathways to nationality and permanent residence for long-term residents and their children born in the country. Since the implementation guidelines were issued on 30 June 2025, over 100,000 stateless individuals have already secured Thai nationality (13,626) or permanent residence (90,985). The latter permits them to apply for nationality in five years. This achievement not only restores legal identity and dignity but also unlocks access to rights for thousands of people who had lived in limbo for decades. UNHCR continues to provide technical and operational support, including IT equipment to sustain this momentum and ensure that no one is left behind.

In **Kenya,** on 5 and 6 December 2025, the Parliamentary Committee on Administration and Internal Security, supported by UNHCR and NGO partner Haki Centre, held a public participation exercise with Rundi and Rwandan stateless communities in Kwale, to update them on the progress on amendment of the Kenya Citizenship and Immigration Act. The amendment will provide a legal framework for registration of stateless individuals in Kenya. The Committee committed to push for an expedited process and make recommendations on interim measures for protection and access to services for stateless individuals pending their registration as citizens.

**Albania, Italy, Peru, Slovenia, Spain, Uruguay** and the **United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)**, joined the Global Alliance to End Statelessness, reaffirming their commitment to ending statelessness. The Global Alliance continues to grow and now brings together more than 180 members, including 28 governments, five UN agencies and 12 regional intergovernmental organizations, alongside numerous civil society and stateless-led organizations and academic institutions. Governments and other stakeholders can join online or through a letter submitted to the Global Alliance Secretariat, hosted by UNHCR, at stalliance@unhcr.org.



Government counterparts and international experts gathered in Issyk-Kul to exchange lessons on accession to the 1954 and 1961 UN Statelessness Conventions, supporting the Kyrgyz Republic's efforts to prevent statelessness and strengthen legal safeguards. ©UNHCR/Alisher

## Action 2. Ensure that no child is born stateless

On 15 August 2025, **Peru** adopted *Law No. 32421*, establishing a new Nationality Act that systematizes the criteria for acquiring nationality and maintains existing standards for nationality by birth. Notably, the law expressly recognizes nationality by birth for children adopted by Peruvian parents, thereby reinforcing safeguards against statelessness in line with the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness.

In December, **Hungary** adopted amendments to the Citizenship Act (Act CXXXVI of 2025) introducing strengthened safeguards to prevent statelessness at birth. The reforms establish a rebuttable presumption that children born to foreign parents who are left in healthcare institutions and registered as of "unknown nationality" will be considered Hungarian citizens,

unless proven otherwise. The amendments also clarify in law which children are considered to have been "left in a healthcare institution".



Presentation of a birth certificate to a child at a school in Guidan Roumdji, Niger ©Maradi Ciaud

On 19 December 2025, **Haiti's** Transitional Government issued a Presidential Order outlining key measures to advance the reform of the national civil registration system. The Order clarifies the functions of the National Identification Office (ONI), including the identification of individuals eligible for Haitian nationality by birth, the maintenance of the national register, and the issuance of National Identification Cards. It further introduces provisions to make birth registration mandatory and marks an important step toward the digitalization and modernization of civil registry records. UNHCR will continue engaging with government counterparts and civil society to anticipate and address implementation challenges, particularly in light of the multidimensional forced displacement crisis currently affecting Haiti.

On 20 November 2025 in **Canada**, Bill C-3 entered into force, amending the *Citizenship Act* to address long-standing gaps affecting so-called "Lost Canadians". The legislation aims to restore citizenship to individuals born abroad to Canadian parents who were themselves born outside Canada and who were previously excluded due to a 2009 restriction on citizenship transmission, which Canadian courts ruled unconstitutional in 2023. Bill C-3 provides for the automatic restoration of citizenship to affected individuals and establishes a new framework allowing citizenship by descent beyond the first generation, where the Canadian parent can demonstrate at least three cumulative years of physical presence in Canada prior to the child's birth or adoption. The reform strengthens safeguards against statelessness, particularly with respect to preventing statelessness resulting from legislative gaps.

In early 2025, the Republic of **Tajikistan** adopted a new Law on the State Registration of Civil Status Acts, replacing the 2006 law. The legislation establishes a unified framework for registering births, marriages, and deaths, introduces flexibility for late birth registration, and allows registration when parents or applicants lack identity documents, based on requests from medical or guardianship authorities. While certain operational details, such as births outside medical facilities and cases requiring judicial intervention, will be clarified through subordinate regulations, UNHCR and its partner continue legal advocacy to promote the formalization of clear procedures to enable timely birth registration, access to civil documentation, and the prevention of statelessness, aiming to ensure that every child in Tajikistan can obtain a birth certificate and legal identity.

In December 2025, in **Iran**, the Justice Department of Sistan and Baluchistan reported that despite 30,880 applications submitted under the 2019 law (permitting children born to Iranian citizen mothers and non-citizen fathers to apply for Iranian citizenship on a discretionary basis), only 23 children had received the Shenasnameh (identity booklet, which serves as the primary proof of citizenship). Authorities cited multi-layered verification procedures, security considerations, high prevalence of mixed marriages, and disputed nationality claims as key factors contributing to low approval rates in the province. According to a previous report in March 2025 by the National Organization for Civil Registration (NOCR), 31,032 Shenasnameh had been issued nationwide to children of Iranian mothers and non-Iranian fathers under the 2019 Nationality Law, out of more than 100,000 applications. While this reflects continued progress, implementation remains uneven, particularly in border provinces

On 1 September, **Burkina Faso** adopted a new Code of Persons and the Family introducing significant reforms on civil registration, identification and protection of stateless persons, and prevention of statelessness. The law improves access to civil registration by facilitating the issuance of civil status certificates to internally displaced persons and refugees whose births were not registered in their commune of origin. It also strengthens the identification and protection of stateless persons by: defining a stateless person; establishing a formal statelessness determination procedure; and guaranteeing equal treatment with nationals in several areas. It also provides for facilitated naturalization of stateless persons. On prevention, the Code strengthens

safeguards to prevent statelessness among foundlings by removing the requirement that a child be a "newborn". It also introduces additional measures to prevent statelessness later in life.

### Action 6. In migratory context, determine statelessness and protect stateless persons and facilitate their naturalization

On 15 December, **Peru** enacted Law No. 32527 granting the Executive Branch delegated legislative powers to establish a statelessness determination procedure. This measure represents a significant step toward fulfilling Peru's pledge made at the second Global Refugee Forum. UNHCR supported this process by providing technical inputs—based on its Model Law on Statelessness—to assist the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in drafting the corresponding legislative proposal.

In July 2025, the Government of **Guatemala**, through the Guatemalan Migration Institute (IGM), initiated discussions on addressing statelessness in the country following the identification of a legal gap, mainly regarding people born in Nicaragua. As part of this process, the Government formally requested technical feedback from UNHCR to a draft Bill on Statelessness. In response, UNHCR Guatemala provided legal and technical inputs, including a proposed draft law on the recognition and determination of statelessness, aimed at regulating the procedure in accordance with international standards and establishing a legal mechanism for identifying stateless persons and enabling their access to rights within a migratory context.

UNHCR **Algeria** identified 35 individuals across 11 family groups who self-declared as stateless. All cases are undergoing Refugee Status Determination (RSD) procedures. This cohort includes 17 children. These cases are being prioritised for legal counselling and documentation support to mitigate protection risks and ensure access to civil status procedures. This strengthens Algeria's contribution to regional efforts under the Global Action Plan to End Statelessness 2.0 by improving data and prioritizing high-risk profiles.

In November, in **Hungary**, UNHCR and the National Directorate-General for Aliens Policing (NDGAP) co-organized the annual capacity building event for 25 case officers from all NDGAP regional offices. Held within the cooperation framework on quality assurance in statelessness status determination, in place since 2013, the training focused on preventing statelessness at birth and reducing existing cases. It further strengthened quality decision-making and promoted the consistent application of good practices across regional offices.

In June - July 2025, in **Moldova,** UNHCR and the Law Center of Advocates supported three regional workshops on the social integration of stateless persons, organized by the Office of the People's Advocate in cooperation with the General Inspectorate for Migration in Chisinau, Cahul and Balti. The workshops promoted a coordinated approach to identifying and supporting stateless persons and persons at risk and featured the dissemination of a Practical Guide on the Referral of Stateless Persons. The initiative strengthened inter-institutional cooperation and referral mechanisms at national and local levels.



Colombian child being photographed for his Colombian passport in the Colombian Consulate in Chile. ©Proyecto de Nacionalidad - Manuela Campos

### Action 7. Ensure birth registration for the prevention of statelessness

In 2025, in **Algeria,** UNHCR and legal partners provided legal support to refugee and asylum-seeking parents facing barriers to birth registration, including assistance with document preparation and court accompaniment. This

intervention addressed cases of non-issuance of birth certificates, which is a significant legal issue among refugees in Algeria. By ensuring timely birth registration, these efforts prevent childhood statelessness and uphold the right to legal identity.

On 18 December 2025, the **Jordan** operation successfully engaged with the Ministry of Interior's Legal Department to provide an overview of the League of Arab States Declaration (LAS Declaration) on legal identity and belonging, which asserts every child's right to birth registration and nationality. The declaration also emphasizes equality before the law, the protection of children and women, and its alignment with international obligations and the Sustainable Development Goals. This engagement took place with the Head of the Legal Department of the Ministry of Interior at UNHCR premises, in the presence of the Refugee Affairs Coordinator and the legal service providers (Norwegian Refugee Council, Arab Renaissance for Democracy and Development, and Justice Centre for Legal Aid). This important gathering not only disseminated vital information on the LAS Declaration but also addressed persistent challenges related to civil documentation, setting the agenda for these issues to be discussed in a subsequent meeting with the Civil Status and Passport Department. This is key achievement for UNHCR and its legal partners that will have a direct positive impact on refugees.

In **Libya**, birth registration is mandatory at the Civil Registry, and the issuance of birth certificates is governed by Law No. 36 of 1968. However, refugee children especially those born out of wedlock face significant challenges in obtaining birth certificates because the primary responsibility for registering a birth with the civil registry lies with the child's father. Another significant challenge for refugees in Libya in accessing the civil registry system is their legal status. The majority of refugees enter the country irregularly, which is considered a violation of national law. This legal barrier often prevents them from registering vital events or obtaining official documentation. UNHCR continues to advocate with the Libyan authorities to ensure their official registration and issuance of birth certificates, helping to prevent the risk of statelessness, in the absence of official birth certificates, UNHCR issues its own certificates to these children.

From July to November 2025, UNHCR **Morocco** supported refugee and asylum-seeker families in overcoming challenges to ensure the registration of their children. A total of 66 new parents benefited from administrative and/or judicial assistance provided by UNHCR's legal partner to obtain birth documentation (notices and/or birth certificates) for their newborns. Additionally, UNHCR carried out advocacy and capacity-building initiatives to identify children at risk of statelessness in Morocco and secure their birth registration.

In 2025, UNHCR legal assistance program in **Syria**, aimed at supporting birth registration as a measure to prevent statelessness among children, supported the birth registration of 34 refugees and asylum-seekers and 8,387 returnee and IDP children through assistance before administrative bodies or via court interventions.

In October and November, UNHCR **Yemen** engaged with the Minister of Justice and the Minister of Labour and Social Affairs of the Internationally Recognized Government (IRG) to address systemic barriers to birth registration affecting refugee children born to a parent or parents without marriage certificate recognized in Yemen, in particular, children born to Christian refugee parents and those born as a result of rape. This sustained advocacy resulted in agreement to convene a high-level inter-ministerial meeting in 2026 aimed at identifying concrete solutions and enabling access to birth registration for affected children.

During the reporting period, to promote timely registration, UNHCR **Yemen** included the integration of birth registration awareness into routine service delivery, alongside the use of non-cash incentives, such as baby kits and school-related items. Between July and December, UNHCR and partners in Yemen supported the birth registration of more than 540 refugee and asylum-seeking children through legal counselling, assistance with document preparation, and interpretation services.

In September, UNHCR **Yemen** worked with the Civil Registry Authority of the Internationally Recognized Government (IRG) to address challenges in issuing birth certificates for refugees in Kharaz camp. The IRG implemented a new biometric system that had requirements, including documentation, that is not available to refugees. As an interim solution, the CRA agreed to continue issuing refugee birth certificates through its main office in Aden using the previous system until alternative arrangements are identified.

**Kazakhstan** adopted a legal amendment improving access to birth registration for children at risk of statelessness. An update to Article 187 of the Code on Marriage and Family now allows registration of children born outside medical facilities to mothers without identity documents, based on a certificate issued by a maternity organization and the mother's identity as recorded on the basis of her verbal statement if medical care is sought within five days after delivery. The amendment reflects sustained UNHCR engagement and national efforts, building on Kazakhstan's 2019 GRF pledge to improve access to birth registration regardless of parents' legal status.

In **Burkina Faso**, encouraging progress has been made in improving access to birth registration and identity documents. In the second half of 2025, 15,657 birth certificates were issued to people at risk of statelessness – including returnees, internally displaced persons and vulnerable host community members – bringing the total for 2025 to 25,846, of whom 13,440 are women. Regarding identity documentation, 14,459 individuals were registered by the National Identification Office, in collaboration with the Directorate General for the Modernization of Civil Status (DGMEC) and humanitarian partners, and 9,860 identity cards were delivered during the same period.

In **Niger**, between July and December, UNHCR and its partners identified 2,271 people at risk of statelessness in Maradi, Diffa, Niamey and Dosso – including refugees, internally displaced persons and host community members – through community-based awareness activities on the importance of civil registration. Those identified were referred to relevant mechanisms to obtain civil documentation. UNHCR and partners also supported birth registration efforts for those at risk of statelessness, resulting in the issuance of 3,000 birth certificates or declaratory judgments. In addition, UNCHR facilitated access to national identity cards for around 1,000 persons at risk of statelessness in Maradi and Diffa through mobile court hearings and administrative assistance.

The **Philippines**, with support from the Government of Japan and UNHCR, has provided birth registration to over 25,000 individuals at risk of statelessness in 40 priority municipalities in the Bangsamoro Region and Sulu in Southern Philippines.

Efforts supporting birth registration are also ongoing in **Chile**, **Tajikistan** and **Albania**.

### Action 8. Issue nationality documentation to those with entitlement to it to prevent statelessness

On 29 August 2025, **Colombia** released a draft Resolution to amend Resolution 10452 of 29 December 2023, introducing fee exemptions and facilitated procedures for recognized stateless persons. The draft provides that Resident Visas issued to stateless individuals will be exempt from payment and creates two additional exceptions: the waiver of fees for naturalization procedures and the establishment of simplified naturalization requirements for stateless persons recognized by the State.

In **Chile**, UNHCR, through its nationality project and in coordination with the Ministry of Education, strengthened efforts in 2025 to address cases of children erroneously registered as Children of Foreigners in Transit (HET). By December 2025, 120 such children had been identified within the public education system. Public education staff received training on nationality regulations, enabling them to provide parents with information and guidance on the process for rectifying birth certificates. In parallel, UNHCR provided specialized legal counselling and judicial representation to support the confirmation of Chilean nationality for affected individuals. Through a simplified administrative procedure for nationality determination and subsequent rectification of birth certificates, 10 children were able to confirm their Chilean nationality during the year. Despite this progress, more than 1,600 children and adolescents remain registered under the "HET" category nationwide.

On 15 October 2025, **Colombia** restructured its Ministry of Foreign Affairs through Decree 1081 of 2025, establishing the Vice-Ministry for Migration, Consular Affairs, and International Protection. Within this framework, the Directorate for Policy, Migration Affairs, and International Protection was created and mandated to coordinate the development and implementation of asylum and statelessness policies, as well as to oversee related administrative procedures. An Internal Working Group on Statelessness Determination was also established under this Directorate. This institutional reform strengthens Colombia's international protection architecture by enhancing coordination, elevating statelessness as a public policy priority, and improving the State's capacity to respond more effectively to the needs of stateless persons.

From July to December 2025, UNHCR **Yemen** supported the Civil Registry Authority of the

Internationally Recognized Government (IRG) by installing solar power systems to strengthen operational capacity and ensure uninterrupted issuance of identity documents. This support improved service continuity, reduced processing delays, and enhanced access to essential civil documentation for vulnerable populations. During the same period, UNHCR and partners supported 3,506 internally displaced heads of households to obtain identity documents, facilitating access to documentation for family members and related services.

In 2025, in **Syria**, UNHCR and partners provided legal counselling and awareness-raising to 248,512 refugee returnees and IDPs on procedures for documenting civil events and obtaining civil documentation. As the issuance of identity documents was suspended in Syria during 2025 and is expected to resume in 2026, individual and family civil extracts were accepted as alternative identity documents pending the resumption of ID card issuance.
Following the **Kyrgyz Republic's** 2021 pledge to issue machine-readable Convention Travel Documents (CTDs) to refugees and stateless persons, an Inter-Agency Working Group on CTDs supported review and finalization of the CTD specimen. Subsequently, a bylaw - to which UNHCR submitted recommendations - was endorsed, marking a significant step toward issuing CTDs in line with international standards. In December, UNHCR signed Contract with Kyzmat to develop an automated information system for processing CTD applications as well as statelessness determination procedures.

From July to December 2025, UNHCR's NGO partner "Right and Prosperity" in **Tajikistan** identified around 300 persons with undetermined nationality or lacking identity documents through outreach activities and provided legal counselling and assistance; these efforts resulted in 100 cases being resolved through acquisition of documentation.

As part of identifying solutions for the Sri Lankan Refugees in 2025, eight individuals born in **India** of Sri Lankan refugees were issued Indian passports as conformation of their Indian citizenship based on their birth in India. In addition, three Indian origin Tamils who were at risk of statelessness were issued Indian passports as formal confirmation of their Indian citizenship, based on the acknowledgment of the Indo-Sri Lanka passports previously held by them.

In September 2025 in **Ukraine**, UNHCR, together with the Mission of the President of Ukraine in the Autonomous Republic of Crimea, convened a stakeholder roundtable on preventing statelessness by ensuring access to documentation for residents of Crimea and other temporarily occupied territories.
Participants included key government institutions, the Ombudsperson's Office, the Free Legal Aid Centre, courts, and civil society. Discussions focused on birth registration, passports, and return certificates for those lacking valid Ukrainian documents. The outcome document will guide efforts to simplify access to documentation, prevent statelessness, and preserve links with Ukraine.

### Action 9. Accede to the UN Statelessness Conventions

Building on **Kyrgyzstan**'s interest to accede to the Statelessness Conventions, on 11–12 September 2025 in Issyk-Kul, UNHCR convened a workshop on accession to these Conventions. Experts from Georgia and Moldova shared lessons on legal reforms and inter-agency coordination with representatives of various Ministries and other entities of Kyrgyzstan.

As part of its technical support, UNHCR shared with the Government a detailed analysis of the extent to which its nationality law is aligned with both Statelessness Conventions. The workshop facilitated discussions on possible steps for the **Kyrgyz Republic** toward accession, underscoring how accession would consolidate progress achieved and help prevent the recurrence of statelessness.

### Action 10. Improve quantitative and qualitative data on stateless populations

In December 2025, the UNHCR **Jordan** prepared a comprehensive report tracing the evolution of civil documentation from onset of the Syrian crisis to the present. The report oulines the root causes of document deprivation, its implications for legal identity, key achievements in the documentation portfolio, and remaining challenges. It also highlights the critical importance of preventing statelessness by detailing measures undertaken to mitigate related risks. Once published, this report will serve as a key reference, offering a structured timeline that cover the evolution of civil documentation.

On 5 December 2025, the UN Country Team in **Malaysia** published its Research Paper Series on the Undocumented Population in Sabah, available online. The series seeks to enhance understanding of the situational context and background of undocumented persons, including their socio-economic conditions and the consequences arising from the absence of effective legal identity, which in turn gives rise to significant social and economic challenges.

Between March and October 2025, a nationwide mapping of undocumented and stateless persons was conducted in **Moldova** by UNHCR and its implementing partner the Law Center of Advocates, in cooperation with the Council of Europe and the General Inspectorate for Migration. Covering 582 settlements (69% of all, except the breakaway Transnistrian region), the exercise identified 409 undocumented persons, 250 stateless persons and 53 applicants for stateless status. Through quantitative and qualitative research, a study on legal, administrative and social barriers preventing access to documentation, highlighting key obstacles such as limited resources, complex procedures and lack of legal and informational support. The findings will inform policy and practical measures to prevent and reduce statelessness.

### Action 11. Ensure that stateless persons can enjoy their rights

On 28 November 2025, the **Costa Rican** Ministry of Foreign Affairs convened the fifth session of the Inter-Institutional Commission on Statelessness. Members reviewed and finalized the National Plan for the Attention of Stateless Persons and Individuals at Risk of Statelessness, aligning institutional commitments to support the effective integration of stateless people in the country. A key outcome was the Commission's decision to create a Child Protection Technical Working Group, bringing together institutions responsible for ensuring access to nationality for children and adolescents under state protection, with UNHCR requested to support its coordination. The Commission also endorsed the development of a Training of Trainers module to strengthen institutional capacity to identify and refer individuals at risk of statelessness, an initiative for which UNHCR will provide technical support.

UNHCR **Algeria** is advancing advocacy for legal identity and documentation: Building on Algeria's commitment to develop a national asylum law and an Office for Refugees and Stateless Persons, UNHCR will prepare technical inputs to ensure statelessness safeguards are embedded in future legislation.

From July to December, UNHCR **Morocco** organized two workshops in Casablanca and Tangier, training 47 civil registry officers on refugee protection and statelessness prevention.

On 26 November 2025, the Court of Appeal of **Malaysia** further affirmed that stateless persons may lawfully marry and register their marriages under Malaysian law, notwithstanding the absence of a national identity card. This landmark judgment clarified that the lack of an identity card does not preclude marriage registration, which is an issue with direct implications for children's ability to acquire citizenship. Importantly, this marks the first time the courts in Malaysia have explicitly recognised the right of stateless persons to marry, thereby removing a significant legal barrier that has contributed to intergenerational statelessness, particularly for children born to unmarried stateless parents.

In December 2025, in **Ukraine**, UNHCR for the first time provided winter cash assistance to stateless persons, persons of undetermined nationality, and people at risk of statelessness. This targeted assistance helped 546 most vulnerable families - already living in challenging conditions due to lack of any nationality and documentation - cover heating costs and keep their homes warm during the winter months.

In July 2025, in **North Macedonia**, the Basic Civil Court in Skopje issued a landmark judgment on the rights of unregistered persons, particularly affecting Roma communities. In November 2025, the Appellate Court upheld the ruling, making it final and affirming the state's responsibility for systemic failures in civil registration, which has led to systemic exclusion and discrimination against Roma and others listed in the "Special Civil Registry." These individuals have been issued identification documents that deny them equal access to rights and services in North Macedonia. The case, brought by the European Roma Rights Center and UNHCR Legal Aid Partner, the Macedonian Young Lawyers Association, challenged the non-implementation of the Law on Unregistered Persons. The final ruling requires urgent institutional reforms to ensure universal access to civil registration and personal documentation.

# Other country-level updates

In July 2025, UNHCR's, in coordination with the Judiciary in **Chile**, delivered a training session on nationality and the prevention of statelessness, with a focus on children's right to identity. The session reached 134 judges from 40 courts under the San Miguel Court of Appeals, primarily those specializing in family law. This engagement strengthened judicial capacity to identify and protect children at risk of statelessness within the national legal system.

In November 2025, as part of a joint initiative between UNHCR **Chile** and the Ministry of Education, informative materials (brochures and posters) regarding "Child of Foreigners in Transit" (HET) registration were produced and distributed across public schools in Chile. These resources were also shared with legal clinics and civil society organizations to improve the identification and prevention of statelessness among students.

In December 2025, **Peru** joined the Global Alliance to End Statelessness. Through these actions, the Peruvian State reaffirmed its commitment to the Global Compact on Refugees, international cooperation, and the consolidation of a modern, efficient, and people-centred protection system.

In September 2025, the **Guatemalan** Migration Institute (IGM) held a working meeting with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MINEX), the Ministry of the Interior (MINGOB), and UNHCR, with the purpose of presenting, analyzing, and discussing the proposed statelessness regulations. It was agreed to establish a legal working group to monitor and approve the regulations, and UNHCR was asked to provide advisory services on the matter.

In **Uruguay**, UNHCR continued its advocacy on citizenship, highlighting protection risks linked to the lack of recognition of nationality through various activities. Key actions included a workshop with parliamentarians, the dissemination of a short documentary, and the development of a paper on the right to nationality and the prevention and resolution of statelessness, contributing to increased institutional awareness and dialogue on nationality gaps and their impact on statelessness, in line with international standards.

From July to November 2025, UNHCR **Colombia**, in collaboration with the Internal Working Group on Statelessness (GIT-Apatridia) and the Internal Working Group on Refugees (GIT-Refugio), facilitated seven workshops for local authorities - reaching more than 400 participants - on identifying potential statelessness cases and referring them to the statelessness determination and refugee status determination procedures. In November 2025, over 60 administrative authorities in Cúcuta also received training on international protection and the procedure for recognizing statelessness.

UNHCR **Costa Rica**, in partnership with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, delivered fourteen workshops on statelessness to more than 500 participants from national and local institutions, including local governments, the Judiciary, and the National Police Academy. The sessions covered the legal framework of statelessness, regional and national trends, strategies for identifying and preventing risks, and Costa Rica's statelessness determination procedure. As a result, participating officials strengthened their technical capacity and now possess improved knowledge and practical tools to identify, prevent, and refer individuals at risk of statelessness, thereby reinforcing national protection mechanisms and institutional coordination.

In the **Dominican Republic**, Melissa - the most powerful tropical storm of the year - affected more than 60,000 people through severe rains and flooding. UNHCR activated its emergency hotlines and strengthened communication with community leaders in communities with populations awaiting a nationality solution. Thanks to core relief items (CRIs) prepositioned with the Civil Defense ahead of the hurricane season, 100 families received immediate support, while UNHCR assisted an additional 866 families (2,945 people) with CRIs complemented by the World Food Programme (WFP) food kits. Distributions were carried out with partners IDDI, OBMICA and JET, using stocks that included 6,500 solar lamps, 702 tarpaulins, 667 jerrycans, 1,700 mats, 347 kitchen sets and 32 fire retardant tarpaulins.

In November 2025, a dialogue seminar held in Beirut, **Lebanon** brought together parliamentarians, public officials, legal experts, and civil society actors to discuss a proposed Lebanese Nationality Law aimed at modernizing the century-old Decree No. 15 of 1925. The draft law - developed by UNHCR partner Ruwad

Houkouk in collaboration with legal experts and submitted to Parliament in June 2025 by four Members of Parliament - was presented as a coherent and constitutionally grounded alternative to the current fragmented framework. The proposed law seeks to consolidate nationality-related provisions currently scattered across multiple legal texts, reinforce constitutional principles of equality—particularly gender equality—and clarify procedures governing the acquisition, recognition, and loss of nationality. In doing so, it aims to reduce discretionary practices, prevent and reduce statelessness, and align nationality regulation with constitutional guarantees and international standards. Participants emphasized the importance of sustained dialogue-based advocacy and expanding parliamentary support as critical next steps to advance the proposal and strengthen the rule of law.

On 1 December 2025, **the Philippines** launched its updated National Action Plan to End Statelessness (NAP). Building on the gains of the past decade and in response to emerging needs, the Philippine Government has updated its NAP, ensuring that no one is without a nationality. The updated NAP is aligned with the Global Action Plan to End Statelessness 2.0 and reflects a whole-of-government and whole-of-society approach.

On 10 July 2025, the Public Forum and Official Launch of the Civil Society Network on Statelessness – **Philippines** (CSNSP) was held at the UP Law Center in Quezon City. The event officially launched the CSNSP as a platform uniting civil society organizations to complement government efforts in implementing the National Action Plan to End Statelessness. Over 15 civil society organizations renewed their commitment to the Network through a ceremonial pledge, witnessed by more than 100 participants from government, civil society, affected communities, and partners.

In **Papua New Guinea**, the Government invited UNHCR to share its technical advice on Constitutional reforms to align its citizenship framework with international standards, which were shared by UNHCR in December.

In **Burkina Faso**, UNHCR supported the Government, through the Directorate General for the Modernization of Civil Status (DGMEC), in establishing the “Civil Documentation and Legal Identity” working group to strengthen coordination on civil documentation. The group held its first session on 21 October 2025 under the leadership of DGMEC and the co-lead of the Protection Cluster. The platform facilitated discussions on the national civil status strategy and the Government’s priorities on civil documentation.

In **Mali**, following the adoption of Law No. 2025-006 of 22 May 2025 on the Status of Stateless Persons, awareness-raising sessions were held with judicial authorities, lawyers, human rights associations, and civil society. A workshop also advanced the establishment of the National Commission in charge of Stateless Persons. A draft decree is under review and validation before submission to the Minister of Justice for signature.

Between July and December 2025, UNHCR continued to advocate for solutions to emerging statelessness risks among children in **Zambia** after several minors lost their Indian nationality when their parents renounced it to acquire Zambian citizenship. Zambian law prevents children under 18 from applying for citizenship by registration. UNHCR has engaged the Government to explore options such as issuing passports or alternative documentation to ensure the children’s access to national services and has encouraged the authorities to liaise with the Indian High Commission to identify potential remedies to this protection gap.

On 31 December 2025, Eastern Africa Nationality Network (EANN) conducted a training for journalist bringing together journalists from different parts of **Kenya**, mainly Nairobi and the Coast region, alongside lived-experience voices and community paralegals to learn from each other and share best practices. The workshop highlighted the importance of reporting statelessness effectively to promote and accelerate joint action to end statelessness in Kenya and Eastern Africa.

In **Armenia**, in December 2025, UNHCR, Mission Armenia NGO, and the European Network on Statelessness co-hosted a meeting of the Inter-Agency Working Group on Statelessness to mark the launch of Armenia’s Statelessness Index. The Deputy Minister of Internal Affairs reaffirmed Armenia’s commitment to ending statelessness, highlighting recent legislative amendments that strengthen safeguards in renunciation and deprivation of nationality and have reduced the number of stateless persons. In the Index, Armenia received full scores for safeguards against statelessness in deprivation cases, adoption, and the application of ius sanguinis to children born abroad.

In December 2025, **Moldova's** new Law on Citizenship (No. 253/2025) entered into force, introducing stricter requirements for acquiring citizenship, including mandatory language and constitutional knowledge exams, enhanced screening, and revised procedures for acquisition and re-acquisition. The law also abolishes citizenship by recognition for certain long-term residents, including former Soviet citizens legally and habitually residing in Moldova as of 23 June 1990. As a result, access to citizenship has been significantly restricted, increasing the risk of statelessness and prolonged legal insecurity for some groups. These changes were adopted despite expert warnings about their potential negative impact on statelessness prevention. Moldova also introduced new fees for acquiring citizenship, significantly increasing costs for applicants, with no exemptions for statelessness persons, further restricting access to citizenship and heightening the risk of statelessness.

In December 2025 in **Poland**, UNHCR's partner Halina Niec Legal Aid Centre, organised the #Statelessnessweek, an information campaign raising awareness about the situation of stateless persons in Poland, clarifying common misconceptions, encouraging engagement and advocacy on policies to help reduce and prevent statelessness.

In November 2025 in **Ukraine**, UNHCR and partners convened authorities, experts, civil society, and minority representatives to examine documentation gaps and nationality-related protection risks affecting national minorities during the war. The discussion highlighted barriers to personal documentation and risks of statelessness, resulting in targeted advocacy messages to authorities. Addressing these risks is also key in the context of Ukraine's EU accession process.

# Global and regional updates

In September 2025, the **Latin American and Caribbean Council for Civil Registration, Identity and Vital Statistics** (CLARCIEV) led the regional campaign 'Latin American and Caribbean Civil Registration Week' under the slogan 'A region without invisible people: identity for all', aimed at safeguarding the fundamental right to identity and preventing statelessness. Implemented between 1 and 16 September in eleven countries - Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Honduras, Mexico, Panama and Peru - the initiative mobilized civil registry institutions to intensify mobile and field registration services in rural, remote and hard-to-reach areas with high levels of under-registration. Supported by UNHCR, OAS and UNICEF, the campaign responded to CLARCIEV's commitments under the 2023 Global Refugee Forum and the Global Alliance to End Statelessness and resulted in the registration of 32,177 births. The initiative demonstrated the collective capacity of national civil registries to deliver coordinated, high-impact documentation services without additional resources, strengthening legal identity and access to rights for populations most at risk of exclusion.
During the reporting period, UNHCR Regional Bureau for Middle East and Northern Africa (MENA) provided support to Hawaiti - MENA Statelessness Network to ensure their representation in global initiatives.

In October, the **Global Alliance to End Statelessness** marked its first anniversary during a side event of UNHCR's Executive Committee meeting, titled "Growing Membership, Strengthening Resolve." The event offered an opportunity to highlight notable progress and achievements by various countries, while reaffirming the importance of multistakeholder cooperation. In just over one year, the Alliance has developed into a dynamic platform of more than 180 members—including 28 States, 12 intergovernmental organizations, and a broad network of civil society and stateless-led organizations—united in their commitment to ensuring that no one is left without a nationality. That same month, UNHCR released the report "Leaving No One Behind: Statelessness and the Sustainable Development Goals," which underscores the urgent need to integrate statelessness into development initiatives. Ensuring the right to a nationality is widely recognized not only as a human rights imperative but also as a strategic investment in sustainable, inclusive growth, long-term stability, and resilient societies, a perspective that the report helps to reinforce.

In December, statelessness featured prominently at the **Global Refugee Forum Progress Review**. A linked event showcased effective reforms and strategies aimed at accelerating the implementation of the Multistakeholder Pledge on Ending Statelessness and advancing equal nationality rights for all. A dedicated side event

further explored the essential connection between legal identity and nationality, emphasizing that ending statelessness is a key step toward achieving SDG 16.9. By centering the perspectives of people with lived experience, the Forum created space for stateless individuals to share their journeys, the challenges they face, and the solutions they propose. As a result, statelessness gained high-impact visibility during this high-level global event.

The **Global Alliance to End Statelessness** continued to advance its three priority areas through a series of Knowledge Webinars that engaged more than 200 participants from governments, regional organizations, UN agencies, civil society, and stateless-led groups. These sessions brought together experts with lived experience and institutional actors as speakers and contributors. Building on these workstreams, a Regional Network Lab, organized by the European Network on Statelessness in partnership with Statefree, Apatride Network, and Family Frontiers, focused on promoting a collaborative, cross-sector approach to advancing the statelessness agenda, notably through the presentation of new advocacy guidelines. These events underscored the importance of dialogue, knowledge-sharing, and co-creation in shaping effective strategies to end statelessness.

In July, **UNHCR and the Organization for Security and Co-Operation in Europe (OSCE)** launched the report "Opening Doors for Children: Prevention of Childhood Statelessness. Good Practices in the OSCE Area" in Vienna in the presence of OSCE Ambassadors. The report is a joint publication between UNHCR, the OSCE High Commissioner for National Minorities (HCNM) and the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR). The aim of the report is to encourage OSCE participating States to adopt good practices to address and prevent childhood statelessness, ensure universal birth registration and implement other positive measures to protect stateless children. It summarizes the international legal framework relating to the prevention of childhood statelessness and provides examples of good practices from selected OSCE participating States.

In October, UNHCR participated in the European Migration Network (EMN) Platform on Statelessness meeting on "Statelessness in the EU Pact on Migration and Asylum: with focus on statelessness and vulnerability" in Luxembourg. The event emphasized the importance of taking statelessness into account in the implementation of the EU Pact on Migration and Asylum and highlighted the need for further guidance for Member States. UNHCR presented its key advocacy messages on statelessness and the EU Pact.

In November, UNHCR participated in the 105th Plenary Meeting of the European Committee on Legal Co-Operation (CDCJ) in Strasbourg. The meeting discussed the draft revised Recommendation CM/REC(2009)13 on the nationality of children and adopted the Council of Europe's Compendium of promising practices on access to nationality for stateless children. The Compendium was prepared by the CDCJ Limited Working Group on Migration (CDCJ-MIG), in which UNHCR participates as an expert.

The 14th **World Conference of the International Association of Refugee and Migration Judges** (IARMJ), held in November 2025 in Nairobi, brought together a diverse group of global stakeholders to examine key protection challenges. Discussions highlighted the intersection between statelessness and internal displacement. Participants noted that this intersection remains significantly underexplored in both academic literature and policy frameworks, despite the high global numbers of IDPs. The Conference underscored the need to reintegrate statelessness considerations into IDP frameworks and to strengthen nationality laws with safeguards against statelessness.

In February, UNHCR launched the **Central Asia** Key Terms Guide in seven languages to support journalists, students, NGOs, lawyers, and partners in using accurate and consistent terminology on statelessness and forced displacement across the region.




Representatives of the Philippine Government, civil society organizations and populations at risk of statelessness launched the updated National Action Plan (NAP) to End Statelessness. The version 2.0 of the NAP aims to lay out a more comprehensive and powerful roadmap to ensure that no one is left without a nationality. ©UNHCR/Jeselle Quan Fun

# Upcoming events

In 2026, UNHCR **Morocco**, in collaboration with its legal partner, the Moroccan Organization for Human Rights (OMDH), plans to organize two to three workshops on refugee protection and the prevention of statelessness, targeting approximately 80 civil registry officers.

CLARCIEV has confirmed that its 'Save the Date' for the **XXIII CLARCIEV Meeting** will take place in Tegucigalpa, Honduras, from 2 to 4 September 2026.