

**Flygtningenævnets baggrundsmateriale**

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| <b>Bilagsnr.:</b>               | <b>515</b>                                                                                                           |
| Land:                           | Ukraine                                                                                                              |
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## Highlights

- **Colombia**, issued a new Resolution regulating the Statelessness Determination Procedure (SDP). The SDP guarantees for applicants to legally stay in the country, access to formal employment throughout the process, as well as facilitated naturalization, and protection for stateless individuals
- **Viet Nam's** new Identification Law mandates personal IDs for all stateless individuals, certifying their legal residency and facilitating naturalization.
- **Iraq** has simplified the process through which Farsi Kurds, a population which has historically experienced statelessness in Iraq, can have their Iraqi nationality confirmed.
- **Thailand** launched the 'Change for Good' initiative, which aims to address statelessness by providing identity cards to 5,000 individuals by the end of 2024. The initiative's goals are to register stateless individuals, process nationality applications for those entitled, and handle permanent residence applications.
- **Global:** Congratulations to the University of the Philippines that won the 2024 Jessup Maw Moot Court competition which this year focused on statelessness and nationality rights. Thanks to the competition thousands of law students from more than 100 countries have gained a deeper understanding of statelessness and nationality rights.

# Implementation of the Global Action Plan to End Statelessness

## Action 1: Resolve existing major situations of statelessness

In March, **Viet Nam**'s Ministry of Justice assessed the Yen Bai and Son La border provinces, home to a significant minority population, to identify vulnerable groups, including stateless individuals and those of undetermined nationality. This aligns with the Prime Minister's Decision 402/CP-TTG, implementing the Global Compact for Safe Migration, and the amended Identification Law, effective on 1 July 2024, which mandates personal identification documentation for all stateless persons and those of undetermined nationality, certifying their legal residency, a crucial step towards naturalization.

In February 2024, in **Kenya**, UNHCR is reviewed and provided technical feedback on a proposed amendment of the Kenya Citizenship and Immigration Act, aiming to establish a registration process for remaining stateless persons in the country.

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

In **Iran**, the Forensic Medicine Organization is now equipped with DNA Test Kits used for lineage verification for children of Iranian women born to foreigners who lack birth certificate. As per the 2019 Nationality law amendment, these children can obtain Iranian nationality. In the absence of other proof of biological relationship between the mother and child, DNA evidence is acceptable.

Following the 2023 amendment of **Moldova**'s Citizenship Law No. 1024, specifically Article 11 (C), which allows children born on the territory of Moldova who would otherwise be stateless to be granted Moldovan nationality, the Law Centre of Advocates (CDA) is supporting three cases that could fall under the new provisions. As no implementation procedures currently exist, both the Public Services Agency and the IGM have received requests from CDA for clarification regarding the procedure for handling such cases and are currently in the process of setting up a distinct procedure.

## Action 3: Remove gender discrimination in nationality laws

On 25 March 2024, **Malaysia** introduced the Citizenship Amendment Bill 2024, which would enable Malaysian women with foreign spouses to confer nationality to their overseas-born children. While some provisions are not in line with international standards, two of these were removed based on technical advice from UNHCR. However, another three provisions that are not aligned with international standards remain: No safeguard to protect against statelessness for foreign wives who wish to leave their marriage after acquiring citizenship; Reduction of the age limit for citizenship applications, from 21 to 18, under "special circumstances"; and Removal of automatic citizenship for children of permanent residents, such as indigenous stateless persons. The Bill will be debated in the next House of Representatives session, from late June to mid-July 2024.

## Action 6: Grant protection status to stateless migrants and facilitate their naturalization

In March, **Japan**'s Immigration Services Agency (ISA) published its amended [guidelines](#). The revisions include a provision for considering the lack of nationality or citizenship, and inability to be deported, as factors favoring the regularization of irregular stayers through special permission. The Guidelines also aim to stabilize the legal status of individuals whose Japanese nationality may be retroactively nullified, due to the discovered contradictions in their recognition of parentage by Japanese nationals, as clarified in the recent Nationality Act amendment. The Guidelines contribute to the protection of stateless persons and reduction of statelessness in Japan.



MOIFAR state Minister H.E Saadad Aliyo and MR Ogle, the Jubba-land minister of Interior in their opening remarks of the capacity building workshop in Kismayo. © MOIFAR/ABDIKANI

On 22 February, in **Belgium**, the Parliament voted a law on a residence permit for stateless persons. UNHCR welcomes the equal treatment of stateless persons and refugees/beneficiaries of subsidiary protection when it comes to family reunification as well as the five-year validity of the initial permit to unlimited stay. However, UNHCR expressed concern that the law, by introducing conditions and admissibility criteria which could potentially weaken the protection of stateless persons in Belgium, as it limits the access to a residence permit.

On 22 April, a delegation from **Somalia's** Ministry of Interior, Federal Affairs, and Reconciliation visited Kismayo in Jubba-land State to strengthen inter-ministerial relations, update on the revision of the nationality law and the implementation of a digital CRVS system. An introductory workshop for local authorities designated to address statelessness issues was also held.

On 28 December, in **Colombia**, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, issued the [Resolution 10434/23](#), regulating the Statelessness Determination Procedure (SDP). The SDP benefitted from UNHCR's "[Draft Articles on the Protection of Stateless Persons and the Facilities for their Naturalization](#)". The SDP includes guarantees for applicants to legally stay in the country, access to formal employment throughout the process, as well as facilitated naturalization, and protection for stateless individuals.

On 21 February, the **Dominican Republic's** Central Electoral Board (JCE) published the [Resolution 13-24](#), establishing a procedure for receiving, processing and transcribing birth records of foreign-born children, regularized and naturalized under the provisions of the National Plan for the regulation of foreign persons in an irregular migratory situation. This provides a path for special naturalizations under Law 169-14, enabling individuals who fall under Group B of the Law to obtain a Dominican ID, affirming their nationality.

On February 22 and 23, in **Mali**, the draft law on the status of stateless persons, validated by the Interministerial Committee for the Fight against Statelessness, was presented and defended before the Permanent Legislative Commission (PLC). The PLC approved the Draft law, a draft decree establishing the National Commission in charge of Stateless Persons, and a procedural guide for determining the status of stateless persons. These will be presented for validation in the June inter-ministerial meeting and are set for adoption by the National Transition Committee in October.

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

On 5 March in **The Philippines**, UNHCR delivered the keynote at the 2024 National Convention of Civil Registrars which was attended by over 1,000 attendees. The speech provided an overview of UNHCR's work on statelessness and birth registration, and its partnership with the Philippine Association of Civil Registrars. Concurrently, UNHCR, UNICEF, the Ministry of Social Services and Development, and partners from the Provincial Social Welfare and Development Office of Lanao Del Sur discussed a birth registration initiative in the province, securing commitment from Wao municipality for a pilot project.

Between January and March 2024, in **Algeria**, UNHCR identified and referred several persons for legal aid for support with late birth registration and the issuance of birth certificates, thereby reducing risks of statelessness to those supported.

On 29 February and 2 March, in **Serbia**, during a national event, singer Zejna Murkic, supporter of UNHCR's efforts to eradicate statelessness, emphasized the importance of accessing birth registration and nationality, urging at-risk individuals to contact relevant authorities.

In **Yemen**, UNHCR and partners supported the birth registration of more than 100 refugee and asylum-seeking children, through the provision of legal counselling and assistance, preparation of supporting documents and provision of interpretation services. UNHCR continues to identify unregistered children for support in obtaining birth registration. Legal counselling was also provided to almost 1,000 IDPs, with a primary focus on access to civil status documentation, and almost 750 households were supported in accessing identity documentation, a prerequisite for other family members accessing documentation. UNHCR and partners also conducted over 100 awareness-raising sessions attended by more than 1,500 people which covered a range of topics relevant to the prevention and reduction of statelessness, including how to access identity documents and birth registration.

Between January and March, in **Venezuela**, UNHCR supported four registration and documentation brigades in the States of Amazonas, Apure, and Bolivar, facilitating late birth registration for 478 children and 5 adults, with 339 of them belonging to indigenous communities.

## Action 8: Issue nationality documentation to those with entitlement to it

In **Tajikistan**, UNHCR partner, [Chashma conducted a series of community briefings in two districts of Khatlon](#) region and held working meetings with the Passport Registration Service staff of the Ministry of Internal Affairs in Kulyab City to disseminate information on legal provisions pertaining to documentation and citizenship issues.

On 26 January, in **Thailand**, the Wiang Heang District Office in Chiang Mai, in collaboration with government agencies and non-governmental organizations, launched the 'Change for Good' initiative, which aims to address statelessness by providing identity cards to 5,000 individuals by the end of 2024. The cards, issued after civil registration, bear a name, surname, date of birth, and a 13-digit number indicating the individual's status as Thai, stateless, or migrant. The initiative's goals are to register stateless individuals, including G-students<sup>1</sup>, process nationality applications for those entitled, and handle permanent residence applications.

On April 23, in **Iraq**, the Ministry of Interior [issued a directive](#) simplifying the process through which Faili Kurds, a population which has historically experienced statelessness in Iraq, can have their Iraqi nationality confirmed. As a result of the directive, legal and administrative barriers previously faced by this population group have been removed, including requirements such as the need to be legally classified as foreigners and requiring verification of their records by multiple local authorities). The directive has the impact of ensuring that this population is treated in line with other Iraqi citizens on issues relating to citizenship and access to civil documentation. The Faili Kurds are one of the population groups in Iraq that has progressively been able to acquire nationality since the adoption of the 2006 Nationality Law, thereby resolving their statelessness situation.

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<sup>1</sup> Stateless children who have been enrolled in a government school under the Office of Basic Education Commission, Ministry of Education (MOE). They have never been registered in the national civil registration system and do not have the 13-digit identity numbers. Therefore, the MOE assigned them a "G" code to be used for school registration and budgeting purposes.

In **Mauritania**, the Government [extended the enrollment exercise](#) launched in July 2023 to mid-February 2024 to enable nationals who missed the first deadline (31 December 2023) to have an opportunity to be enrolled and receive documentation. The Government reported that over 609,000 persons, including populations at risk of statelessness, were registered through simplified and expedited procedures by the end of the exercise. Good practices employed for the exercise included reduced evidentiary requirements and mobile missions to isolated locations.

On 23 February, in **Ukraine**, the Cabinet of Ministers passed Resolution [194](#), <https://zakon.rada.gov.ua/laws/show/en/194-2024-n?lang=uk> as a pilot project to issue temporary certificates of Ukrainian citizenship to citizens of conflict or temporarily Russian-occupied territories. From 21 March, eligible recipients include: those who have lost their ID or passport and children. On February 27, advocacy efforts by partner NEEKA, led to reduced administrative fees for ID reissuance in [Mukachevo](#) and [Kropyvnytskyi](#), benefiting e.g. orphans and children deprived of parental care, large families, persons over 80 years old, homeless persons, Soviet passports holders. Similar measures were adopted in ten territorial communities in the Kirovohrad and Cherkasy regions<sup>2</sup>.

Between February and April, UNHCR and partner NEEKA [opened](#) a third Roma community centre (hub) in Berehove city, Zakarpatska, and a new center in Mukachevo. The refurbished hub offers multifunctional spaces for Roma communities, focusing on women and girls. Services include literacy and Ukrainian language classes, vocational training, gender-based violence awareness, and civil rights education. Regular visits by UNHCR

and partners' [mobile teams](#) provide legal and psychosocial support. The first Roma hub, opened by partner Nehemiah in Uzhhorod in December 2022, also serves the significant Roma minority in the Zakarpatska region. [The 2023](#) Ombudsman for Human Rights' report estimates 10,000 undocumented Roma in Zakarpatska. A pilot project initiated in June 2023 by the Ombudsman, the Council of Europe, UNHCR, NEEKA, Chirikli in Mukachevo aims to support documentation of members of the Roma community. By December 2023, 271 Roma dossiers were processed, with 62 Roma receiving documents. From January to March 2024, 83 Roma were counselled and, 5 received IDs.

From January to March, in **Burkina Faso** the General Directorate for the Modernization of Civil Status and UNHCR, held meetings with local actors on delivery of civil documentation for internally displaced and vulnerable individuals, while scoping and sensitizing these populations. In total, 234 people participated in these meetings, including 37 women. This led to the collection of data for hearings for the issuance of birth certificates and the collection of basic documents for national identity cards. During this period, 4103 declaratory judgments were made for birth certificates, and 7426 people were enrolled for national identity cards across various regions.

### **Action 10: Improve quantitative and qualitative data on stateless populations**

From 21 to 23 March, in Kericho, Kenya, UNHCR and NGO partner Haki Centre trained 14 community ambassadors from the Rwandan stateless community on Citizens Generated Data for a community self-register. The exercise, conducted from 25 March to 8 April, enhanced quantitative data on Kenya's stateless persons and supported evidence-based advocacy.

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2 Golovanivska, Horodyshchenska, Gurivska, Dolynska, Malovyskivska, Kanivska, Korsun-Shevchenkivska, Oleksandrivska and Oleksandriyska.

## Mobilizing governments and civil society

On 31 January, in **Kazakhstan**, UNHCR held two lectures at the Law Enforcement Academy, training nearly 50 prospective prosecutors on international standards on the protection stateless persons, legal frameworks, access to justice, and the constitutional mandate to oversee authorities' compliance. On 16 and 17 February, UNHCR served as judges for the Central Asia contest in the Jessup moot court competition, involving 11 teams from Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, and Uzbekistan, focusing on the right to political expression and states obligations under international conventions.

From 11 to 21 March, in **The Philippines**, UNHCR and the Senate President Pro Tempore Loren Legarda hosted a photo exhibit, "*Resilient Spirits: Capturing Courage, Celebrating Strength, Inspiring Inclusion - An Odyssey of Women and Girls in Finding Hope Away from Home*" to highlight the resilience of forcibly displaced and stateless women and girls, and the importance of rights-based measures. At the launch, government representatives, IDP leaders, civil society, and the UN Country Team pledge to ensure inclusion. Senator Legarda urged the Senate to pass the Rights of IDPs bill and enact legislation on forced displacement and statelessness, gaining support from fellow senators.

From 29 January to 2 February, in **Kenya**, the Regional Bureau for the East and Horn of Africa and the Great Lakes Region attended a Workshop organized by the Africa Programme for Accelerated Improvement of Civil registration and Vital statistics (APAI-CVRS) in Nairobi on Developing Implementation Guidelines to Improve CRVS Systems. The workshop attended by government representatives, UN agencies and Civil Society Organizations, aimed to identify barriers to vital events registration in Africa, assess existing technical resources, improve digitalization guidelines for CRVS systems, and strategize on regional support for digitalization efforts.

On 28 March 2024, in Mogadishu, **Somalia**, the Ministry of Interior, Federal Affairs, and Reconciliation held a workshop on Prevention of Statelessness, reviewing challenges, initiatives, and the ongoing constitutional revision process. It emphasized the need for collaboration to safeguard citizens' rights.

In March, UNHCR issued a [note](#) following **Belgium's** withdrawal of nationality of children who had acquired it under article 10 of the Belgian Nationality Code (BNC), mirroring the 1961 Convention's article 1. The note emphasized the principle of ensuring best interests of the child, the need for a fair and efficient procedure to determine statelessness or nationality, and that nationality withdrawal must not render a child stateless and requires a comprehensive individual assessment. The note also outlined key requests to authorities regarding the implementation of article 10 BNC.

On 8 February, UNHCR in **Bosnia and Herzegovina** shared [comments on the Federation BiH's Draft Law on Changes and Amendments to the Law on Extrajudicial Procedure](#), advocating for exception to expert use when other evidence is available, free exemption for stateless individuals and those at risk of statelessness, and free legal aid during time and place of birth determination procedures. On 12 February, UNHCR's free legal aid partner shared an initiative for amending Bosnia and Herzegovina's free legal aid laws, advocating for inclusion of stateless individuals and those at risk of statelessness as beneficiaries. Consequently, on 21 February, Una Sana Canton Assembly adopted these amendments to the cantonal Law on Free Legal Aid, effective 1 April 2024.

On 06 March, in **North Macedonia**, USAID, the US Embassy, and UNHCR convened a coordination meeting with partners, donors, and civil society organizations to address statelessness, focusing on practical actions and ongoing communication. UNHCR held bi-weekly meetings with Roma NGOs to discuss naturalization procedures for statelessness persons and birth registration for unregistered individuals, and continues to work with 199 stateless persons. On 22 March, UNHCR made a presentation on Statelessness for students of the Refugee Law Clinic at the Iustinianus Primus Law Faculty, explaining its occurrence and legal remedies.

On 29 February, in **Serbia**, UNHCR and the Roma musician Zejna launched a social media video to raise awareness on statelessness within the general population. On 29 February and 2 March, Zejna competed in the *Song for Eurovision* national musical contest, broadcasted on national television RTS. During show interviews, Zejna communicated relevant messages to the Roma community at risk of statelessness to contact state authorities and UNHCR for solving their problems with personal documents.

On 23 January, in the **United Kingdom**, UNHCR and the UK Government and stakeholders discussed the UK Government's updated Statelessness Determination Procedures (SDP) guidance, which includes changes to its Immigration Rules that removed family reunion rights for stateless persons and made the application process more challenging. UNHCR provided feedback on the casework guidance, met with the Home Office, and successfully advocated for changes aligning the guidance with UNHCR's principles.

In Q1 2024, in **Algeria**, following the completion of the 2023 Training of Trainers (TOT), the Ministry of Justice instructed participating magistrates to capacitate junior magistrates on topics covered during the TOT, including on stateless persons' rights, state obligations relating to statelessness and the importance of access to documentation. Efforts are now ongoing to raise awareness amongst officials and prevent statelessness through improved access to civil documentation.

On 31 January 2024, in **Lebanon**, UNHCR and partner Frontiers Rights, in cooperation with the Union for Protection of Children in Lebanon, held a roundtable with juvenile judges, personal status judges, and public prosecution judges. The discussion covered: (a) the role of juvenile judges in birth registration and nationality issues, and in protecting children in social care institutions, especially in relation to their right to a nationality, and (b) the role of personal status judges and public prosecution judges in protecting children in general and those neglected by their families in particular, in addition to presenting a proposal for a more inclusive and effective civil registration law. The discussion yielded a list of recommendations to address existing challenges.

On 7 March, the UNHCR **MENA** Regional Bureau, the Global Campaign for Equal Nationality Rights (GCENR) and the MENA Statelessness Network (Hawiati) co-organized an online consultation in the MENA region. Over 35 representatives of around 20 organizations from across the region, including participants from CSOs, NGOs, UN agencies, academic/research institutions and other experts attended the meeting. Consensus was reached for 2024 plans, priority issues and recommendations, including improved access to civil registration, the amendment of discriminatory nationality laws and policies, improved information about statelessness in specific MENA contexts and the importance of continued multi-stakeholder efforts.

On 26 March, in the **MENA** region, GCENR, UNICEF, UNHCR and UN Women co-hosted an online event, "Gender Equal Nationality Laws: Essential to Sustainable Development in MENA". Diverse actors from across the region including government officials, UN agencies, CSOs and affected individuals attended the meeting. Speakers emphasized that the SDGs cannot be achieved without advancing gender-equal nationality rights and the universal benefits of enshrining gender equality in nationality laws.

From 08 to 19 January, in the **Republic of Congo**, the Ministry of Education's Directorate of Non-Formal Education and Special Education conducted civil registration awareness activities in 14 schools across 9 districts of Brazzaville. The activity educated 14,237 students and distributed 100 leaflets on statelessness and 30 posters on birth registration in French and Lingala, aligning with one of the 8 pledges made by the Government in 2019. On 18 January, a community radio campaign was launched in Boundji, Cuvette, reaching an estimated 47,000 people across 29 villages, and Télévision Alima de Boudji produced a TV program on statelessness in rural areas, featuring young secondary school students.



In the Democratic Republic of Congo, a young girl gets her birth certificate, during an outreach by local officials, UNHCR and partners to facilitate late birth registration. © UNHCR/Clarisse Fatouma Koundouno

In February, the **Democratic Republic of Congo** registered 1,278 children, including 609 girls and 669 boys, of which 512 were internally displaced children, 457 were repatriated children, and 309 were children from host communities. This activity aligns with one of the pledges made by the Government during the 2019 High Level Segment.

In March and April, in Washington DC, **United States of America**, the 2024 [Jessup Law Moot Court](#) competition, with focus on statelessness and nationality rights, saw participation from 674 law schools across 100 countries. UNHCR and the stateless-led U.S. civil society group [United Stateless](#) presented on statelessness to the 148 finalist teams from 85 countries. The University of the Philippines triumphed and won the competition. A significant benefit of this year's competition is that thousands of law students around the world now have a deeper grasp of statelessness.

On 6 March, the University of Oxford hosted an [online seminar](#) featuring Interamerican Commission on Human Rights (IACHR), UNHCR and the Institute on Statelessness and Inclusion, discussing the IACHR's 2023 [Resolution on nationality and statelessness](#), aimed at guiding States, civil society organizations, international organizations, and other relevant stakeholders in complying with international obligations on these issues.

From 26 to 28 March, **Burkina Faso**, the 13th Tripartite Commission for Voluntary Repatriation of Malian refugees in Burkina Faso to Mali took place. During the meeting, Burkina Faso, Mali and UNHCR pledged to reduce the risks of statelessness among Malian refugees. They committed to issue birth certificates for refugee children born in Mali. To materialize this commitment, the Embassy of the Republic of Mali in Ouagadougou symbolically issued 10 certificates. This initiative, aimed at preventing statelessness and promoting rights, will be continued via consular missions in collaboration with the National Commission for Refugees and UNHCR.

On January 26, the **Regional Bureau for West and Central Africa** presented the 2023 regional study on risks of statelessness in West and Central Africa. Over 60 stakeholders, including government officials, UNHCR partners, CSOs, and donors, attended the virtual meeting. The study provides criteria to identify individuals and groups at risk of statelessness, evidence to inform advocacy, resource and stakeholders mobilization, and actions to prevent and mitigate risks of statelessness. This study will be translated, published online, and used to prioritize statelessness risks in target countries, including Niger and Burkina Faso.

## Training and awareness raising

In **Australia**, UNHCR held a training session on statelessness in Canberra for three senior immigration officials from the Solomon Islands to deepen their understanding of statelessness and strategies for its prevention and resolution. The session led to discussions about prioritizing the implementation of a framework to address statelessness, after advancements in its national asylum system.

In **Turkmenistan**, on 31 January, UNHCR and the Red Crescent Society co-hosted the hybrid event in Ashgabat, titled “Principles of Patriotism and Humanism”, focusing on international cooperation and highlighting Turkmenistan’s contributions as a State Party to Statelessness Conventions.

In March, UNHCR co-chaired the **Asia-Pacific Regional Workshop on Implementing Guidance on Inclusive CRVS Systems with a Focus on Forced Displacement, Statelessness and Children on the Move**. Collaborating with UN-ESCAP, EGRIS, UNICEF, WHO, IDAC, and the Regional Support Office for the Bali Process, the workshop clarified the international law framework for universal birth and marriage registration, emphasizing inclusive CRVS’s role in the 2030 Agenda. EGRIS and ESCAP presented the International Recommendations on Statelessness Statistics (IROSS), discussing civil registration and statelessness, as well as practical measures for including refugees, stateless people, and hard-to-reach groups in CRVS systems. Bangladesh, Cambodia, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Laos, Nepal, Malaysia, Sri Lanka, Timor-Leste, Viet Nam and the Philippines reaffirmed their commitment to SDG Target 16.9, ensuring “legal identity for all, including birth registration” by 2030.

In **Yemen**, UNHCR and partners organized training sessions and workshops attended by more than 200 officials from different entities. The sessions covered statelessness and the importance of birth registration as a key measure for statelessness prevention, among other issues related to the prevention and reduction of statelessness.

In **Jordan**, from 28-29 February, 18 participants from the Civil Status Department and Ministry of Social Development, as well as some other judges and lawyers, participated in a training at which these topics were integrated. The topics of legal identity and the prevention of statelessness continue to be integrated into trainings conducted by the UNHCR with key interlocutors.

On 25 January, UNHCR, in collaboration with the CARICOM Implementation Agency for Crime and Security (IMPACS), delivered an online training on the intersection between International Human Rights Law and Refugee and Statelessness Protection Law to 135 Caribbean government officials of immigration, law enforcement and border security from 15 countries and overseas territories.



UNHCR Philippines, in collaboration with the Office of Senate President Pro Tempore Loren Legarda opened the photo exhibition with a ribbon cutting ceremony in the Senate on 13 March 2024. UNHCR Philippines Head of National Office Maria Ermina Valdeavilla-Gallardo was joined by the representatives from the Office of Senator Legarda, Acting Chief Justice Ramon Paul Hernando and the Resident Coordinator and Humanitarian Coordinator of the UN in the Philippines Gustavo Gonzalez. ©UNHCR/Gia Luga

## Media impact of the Campaign

In **Central Asia**, 2023, UNHCR launched a contest title “[Sustainable development and addressing statelessness in Central Asia](#)”, inviting journalists and media across the region to delve into statelessness. The winning projects, realized in 2024, include: Manshuq Media’s Instagram series on [\(1, 2 & 3\)](#) stateless persons in **Kazakhstan**; Maral TV’s multimedia content ([articles](#), [radio programs](#), [video stories](#), [posts](#) and [TikToks](#)) on statelessness in the **Kyrgyz Republic**; UzTrend’s [articles](#) and [interview](#) on statelessness in **Central Asia** and **Uzbekistan**; Farogat Khurramova’s informative illustrations in **Uzbekistan** (in [Russian](#) and [Uzbek](#)); and Shoyira Nusratova’s [article](#) on three stateless women in **Uzbekistan**.

In **Iran**, UNHCR’s ongoing awareness campaign on birth registration and naturalization is disseminating extensive information through public platforms, including UNHCR Iran website, Instagram pages, and the [Iran Help Page](#).

In **Kazakhstan**, UNHCR partner, the Kazakhstan International Bureau for Human Rights (BHR), launched the social media video screening in Almaty’s metro, to raise awareness about statelessness and the right to citizenship, inviting those struggling with legal identity issues to contact BHR for assistance.

From 11 to 21 March in **The Philippines**, [UNHCR](#) and [Senate President Pro Tempore Loren Legarda](#) hosted [a photo exhibit](#) highlighting the [resilience of displaced and stateless women and girls](#), with pledges for inclusion from government, IDP leaders, civil society, and the UN Country Team.

On 19 February, in **North Macedonia**, UNHCR’s partner Macedonian Young Lawyers Association’s leading statelessness lawyer, Aleksandra Efremova, gave an interview for the national broadcaster’s TV programme Prikazna. Social media posts were distributed on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#) to boost the viewership. During the Nansen award nomination, social media was used to motivate organizations and individuals to nominate their heroes, including those working to end statelessness in North Macedonia ([Post 1](#), [post 2](#), [post 3](#), [post 4](#)). The play “Look at me, I’m flying!”, featuring stories of refugees, asylum seekers and stateless individuals, was performed on 13 March at the Macedonian National Theatre, with social media invitations extended to followers ([Post 1](#), [post 2](#)).



On the occasion of Mother's Day in the Arab region, 21 March 2024, UNHCR and GCENR published a social media post highlighting the importance of equal nationality rights for men and women.

In **Serbia**, leveraging Zejna's influence within the X community, the [initial video](#) sparked further media engagements. These videos quickly reached 100,000 individuals on social media on the first day. The [campaign's visibility](#) received a substantial boost, as both competition evenings consistently attracted over one million viewers.

On 26 March, in **MENA**, GCENR, UNHCR, UNICEF and UN Women released a [video](#) in Arabic describing the impact of gender-discriminatory nationality laws, the importance of addressing such inequalities, and the significance of equal nationality rights to achieve the SDGs. On 21 March, Mother's Day in the Arab region, UNHCR and GCENR published a social media post highlighting the importance of equal nationality rights for men and women.

In **Niger**, an awareness-raising spot on statelessness and nationality, translated into French, Hausa, Fulfuldé, Zarma and Tamachek was broadcast on the community radios Sudji, Tchintchiya, Dar es Salaam and Barou of Ayorou, Abala, Téra and Ouallam, disseminating information on nationality procedures.

## Recent and planned events

### In April and May in Turkmenistan

On 30 April, 1 and 2 May, UNHCR will conduct a series of events in Ashgabat: a seminar on asylum and statelessness for the State Migration Service; a seminar on identification of vulnerable stateless people in detention places and border areas for the Ombudsperson's Office staff; and a training on nationality and statelessness for judges.

### In May in The Philippines

UNHCR, UNICEF and the Ministry of Social Services and Development will conduct birth registration activities in Zamboanga City and Bongao Tawi-Tawi from 21 to 24 and 27 to 30 May respectively. This initiative, in collaboration with the municipalities of Lamitan in Basilan, Indanan in Sulu and Simunul in Tawi-Tawi aims to train partners and aligns with the Philippines' National Action Plan to End Statelessness and the UNHCR-UNICEF Joint Strategy to Ending Childhood Statelessness.

### **In May in Uzbekistan**

From 13 to 17 May in Tashkent, **Uzbekistan**, UNHCR will host a series of events: an information session on statelessness and asylum for the Ombudsperson's Office (13 May); a session on statelessness for the Staff of the Center for Advanced Training of Lawyers at the Ministry of Justice (14 May); a session on statelessness for staff of the regional offices of the Ombudsperson (15 May); a technical workshop on prevention of statelessness through birth registration for the Ministry of Justice (16 May); and the Central Asian Conference on Ensuring Birth Registration to Prevent Statelessness in collaboration with the National Human Rights Centre (17 May).

### **In May in Iraq**

UNHCR and UNICEF will conduct a workshop in **Iraq** for members of the Protection Platform and civil society actors to strategize on ending childhood statelessness and advocate for amendments to the 2006 Nationality Law. UNHCR and UNICEF will organize a subsequent workshop for relevant government entities on recommended amendments to ensure gender-equal nationality rights to prevent new cases of statelessness from emerging.

### **In June and July in the Regional Bureau of Southern Africa**

In June 2024, the Southern African Nationality Network (SANN) will release a quarterly newsletter in partnership with Lawyers for human rights (LHR).

In July 2024, a Southern African Development Community (SADC)-UNHCR regional meeting with Member States Officials and focal points will discuss the progress and achievements of the IBelong campaign.

In July 2024, in partnership with the University of Cape Town, a 5-days online training on statelessness for representatives of civil society and governments in Southern Africa to discuss actions towards the eradication of statelessness.

### **In 2024 in The Americas**

The 40th Anniversary of the Cartagena Declaration was launched in Geneva during the 2023 Global Refugee Forum, initiating a series of thematic consultations across the Americas throughout 2024. Focusing on Protection, Solutions and Inclusion, and climate change-induced displacement, the Cartagena +40 process represents a valuable opportunity to reaffirm regional commitment to prevent statelessness and protection of stateless populations, promoting key topics in the Declaration and 10-year Plan of Action, with events culminating in late 2024.

### **In June in Burkina Faso**

June 2024, in Ouagadougou, a workshop will be held to review the prioritization of affected population groups and their risk of statelessness.

### **In September**

UNHCR and the Peter McMullin Center for Statelessness will mark the 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the 1954 Convention on the Status of Stateless Persons in a webinar. The global panel will focus on the protection of the rights of stateless persons.

## **Campaign Resources**

Want to support the Campaign? Take a look at our [#IBelong website](#) and post a digital banner on your website, mobilize your social media contacts by sharing one of our posts, download and post our

Twitter cards or embed a short video that explains statelessness. Videos, photo essays and web stories can be found on our [#IBelong stories page](#). Legal resources are available on [Refworld](#).