

Preventing and Resolving Statelessness Through Collective Action

The role of UNHCR, the Global Alliance to
End Statelessness and its members

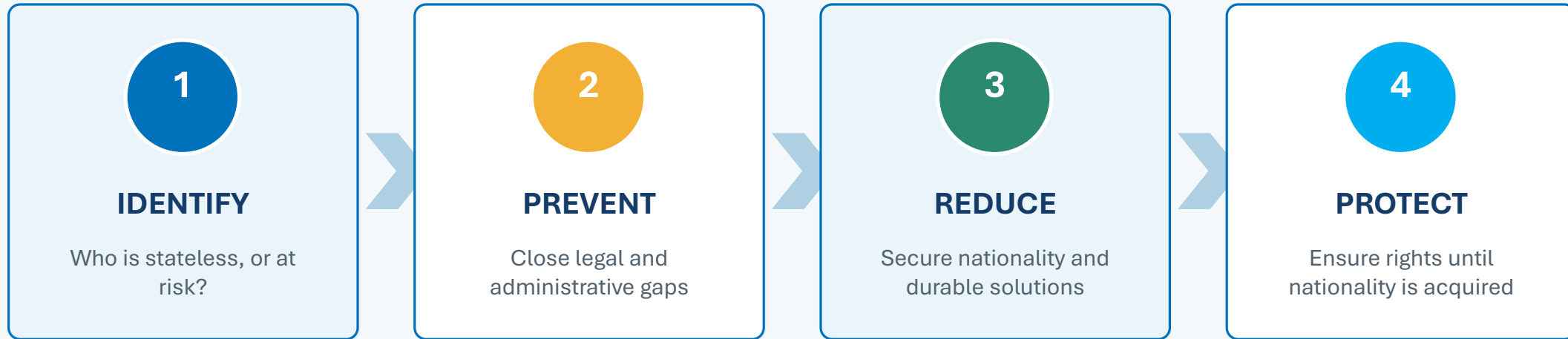
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UNHCR and statelessness

A global mandate covering identification, prevention, reduction and protection



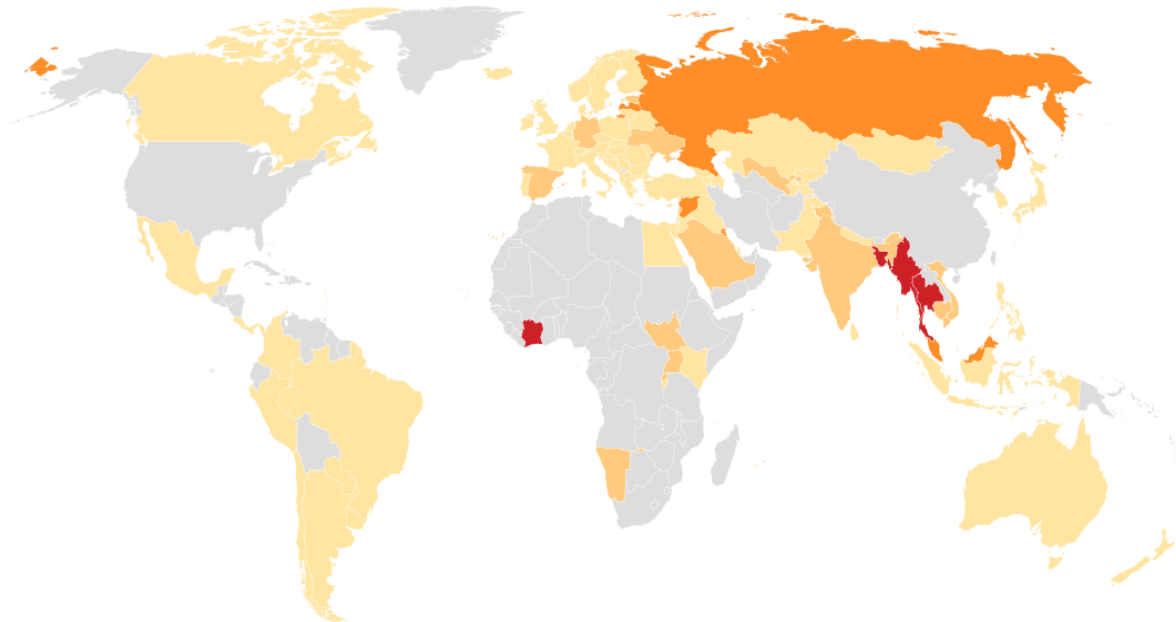
• **Stateless Person – a person who is not considered a national by any State under the operation of its law.**

• **Nationality is an enabling right. Without it, people can face barriers to education, healthcare, lawful work, freedom of movement, banking, property and family life.**

Statelessness – a global issue

4.5 million persons
known to be stateless

Number of stateless persons



Top 10 countries (*reported in UNHCR's annual statistics*)

Bangladesh (Rohingya) 1,200,000

Côte d'Ivoire 930,000

Thailand 610,000

Myanmar 520,000

Latvia 167,000

Syria 160,000

Malaysia 134,000

Kuwait 92,000

Russian Fed. 90,185

Cambodia 75,000

• *Source: UNHCR Global Trends report 2025, covering 100 countries*

How statelessness arises

Different causes, but civil registration often determines whether nationality can be proved

Discrimination

Nationality laws or practices exclude minorities or discriminate on grounds such as sex or descent.

Legal gaps

Conflicting laws, weak safeguards, State succession or changes in borders leave people without nationality.

Displacement

Refugees, migrants and cross-border populations may lack documents or face registration barriers.

**Birth not registered
or certificate
unavailable**



**Identity, birthplace or
parentage becomes
harder to prove**



**Higher risk of exclusion
and, in some cases,
statelessness**

Important distinction: lack of birth registration does not automatically make a child stateless but puts the child at higher risk of statelessness.

Why a Global Alliance to End Statelessness and why now?

Statelessness is solvable, but only through coordinated action



Global Alliance to End Statelessness - Multi-stakeholder platform led by UNHCR



Vision

A world without statelessness, where everyone enjoys the right to a nationality with no discrimination.

- **Launched** at the UNHCR ExCom (2024)
- **Strategy**: Convene, Capacitate, Catalyze Change
- **Members**: States, Regional org., Civil society & stateless-led org, UN, Faith-based, Academia, etc.
- **Governance**: Secretariat (**UNHCR**), Advisory Committee
- **What the Alliance does**:
 - ✓ Elevates statelessness and mobilizes collective action;
 - ✓ Advocates for law reforms ->Thematic priorities - childhood statelessness, discrimination, protection and access to rights;
 - ✓ Promotes implementation of pledges and good practices;
 - ✓ Amplifies the leadership of people with lived experience;
 - ✓ Facilitates partnerships, learning and peer exchange.



www.statelessnessalliance.org

The Global Alliance offers multiple ways to stay involved and contribute to the cause:



**The Solutions Seekers
Programme,**

which accelerates pledge implementation and solutions at the country level through capacity building, collaboration, and the development of National Action Plans.

Online Marketplace



Regional Network Labs

that facilitate the sharing of expertise, ensuring continuous learning and the development of context-specific strategies.

Knowledge Hub



Thematic Working Groups

focused on addressing childhood statelessness, discrimination in nationality laws, and the rights of stateless persons, promoting best practices and advanced solutions.

Forum on Statelessness

Our Members

A diverse and growing global coalition working together to end statelessness



Global Alliance to
End Statelessness



200

Total Members



28

Governments



12

Inter-governmental
Organizations



5

UN Agencies



130

Civil Society and
Stateless-led Organizations



8

Academies

States

From all regions of the world

Albania	Australia	Brazil	Canada	Chile
Cameroon	Costa Rica	Côte d'Ivoire	Denmark	Ecuador
Italy	Kenya	Lesotho	Montenegro	North Macedonia
Norway	Philippines	Republic of Congo	Republic of Moldova	Republic of Peru
Slovenia	Spain	Sweden	Thailand	Turkmenistan
			and many more...	
United Kingdom	Uruguay	Zambia	and many more...	

Regional organizations

African Union	Council of Europe	Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS)
International Commission on Civil Status (ICCS)	OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights	International Development Law Organization (IDLO)
Latin American and Caribbean Council of Civil Registry, Identity and Vital Statistics (CLARCIEV)	League of Arab States	Organization of American States (OAS)
OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities	International Conference on the Great Lakes Region (IGGLR)	Pan-African Parliament

UN & other international organizations

UNHCR	UNICEF	UNFPA
OHCHR	UN Women	Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU)

Global Action Plan to End Statelessness 2.0

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



What solutions look like in practice

Legal reform, documentation and accessible procedures must work together

Asia

Kyrgyzstan conducted a countrywide mapping campaign, identified more than 13,700 stateless and **resolved all cases in 2019**.

Turkmenistan implemented a National Action Plan on Ending Statelessness, endorsed by the President; legal reform, including through ensuring universal birth registration; enactment of statelessness determination procedure with a pathway to permanent residency and nationality -> **eradicated statelessness in 2024**

Philippines - outreach in remote and conflict-affected communities enabled **21,000+ people to obtain birth certificates** and formal recognition, including among traditionally excluded populations

Africa

Kenya - Nationality was granted to members of the Makonde, Shona and Pemba communities.

Latin America

Colombia - Over 140,000 children have benefitted from the Primero la Niñez measure since 2019 (nationality safeguard for children born to Venezuelan parents who would otherwise be stateless)

Regional approaches

Regional standards and peer cooperation can move national systems together.

The **African Union Protocol on the Right to Nationality** and Latin American civil-registration cooperation show how regional institutions can frame common commitments while countries implement them.

Regional spotlight - CLARCIEV: regional cooperation translated into registration and legal identity



REGIONAL ACTION

Latin American and Caribbean Civil Registry Campaign

“A region without invisible people: Identity for all”

2025

11 countries joined the first regional campaign

32,000+

people gained access to legal identity

2026

second campaign, from August 3 to August 16, 2026, brought together **16 countries**

321,680

people gained access to birth registration and IDs

SEGUNDA CAMPAÑA

CIFRA TOTAL SEGUNDA CAMPAÑA



**LATINOAMÉRICA
Y EL CARIBE**

UNA REGIÓN SIN INVISIBLES

IDENTIDAD PARA TODOS Y TODAS

321.680

TOTAL INSCRIPCIONES DE NACIMIENTO

270.147

TOTAL IDENTIFICACIÓN

51.533

TOTAL INSCRIPCIONES E IDENTIFICACIÓN REALIZADAS POR PAÍS

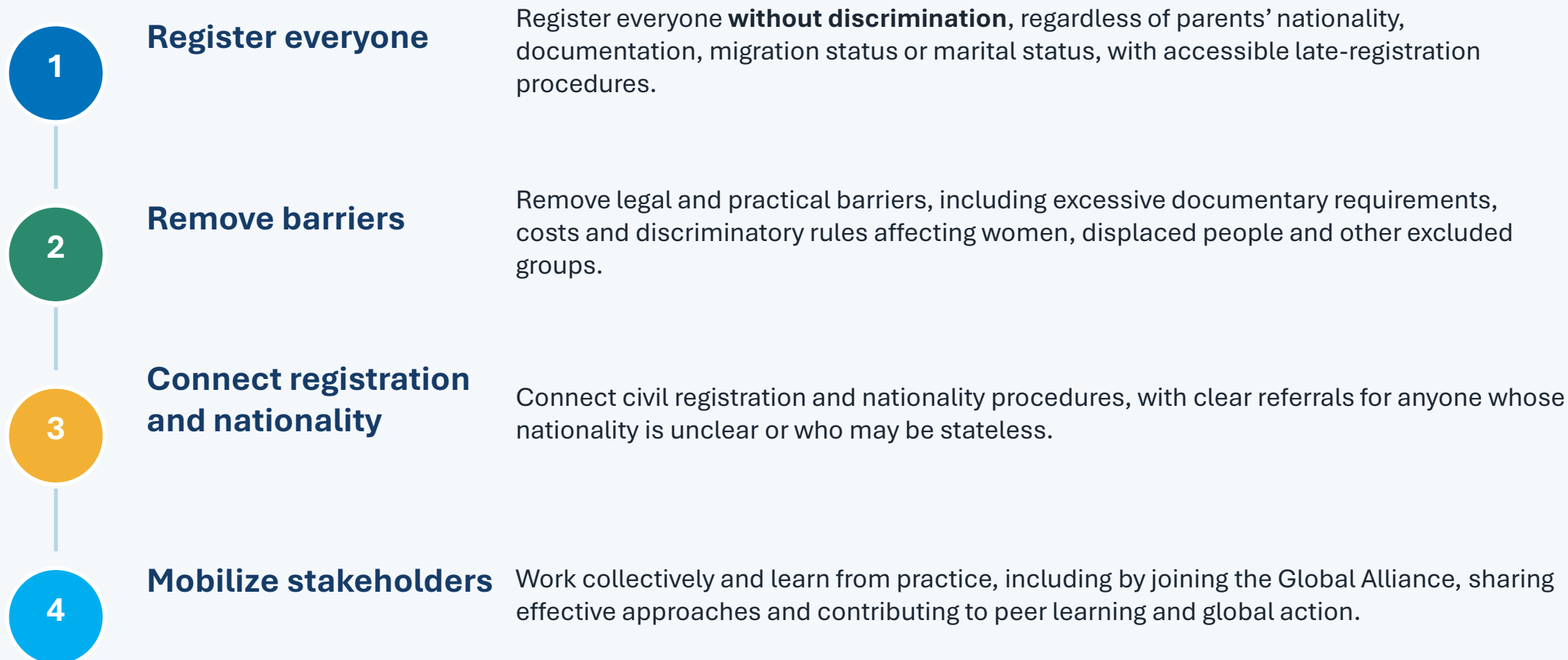
 Guatemala Inscripciones 228 Identificación 84	 El Salvador Inscripciones 2.571 Identificación 296	 Chile Inscripciones 2.151 Identificación 363	 Perú Inscripciones 2.618 Identificación 3.932	 Panamá Inscripciones 4.692 Identificación 2.854	 Haití Inscripciones 1.762 Identificación 223	 Argentina Inscripciones 8.494 Identificación 42.795	 República Dominicana Inscripciones 237 Identificación 557	 Bolivia Inscripciones 1.033 Identificación 652	 México Inscripciones 7.821 Identificación 230.066	 Honduras Inscripciones 228 Identificación 84	 Colombia Inscripciones 2.571 Identificación 296	 Costa Rica Inscripciones 2.151 Identificación 363	 Ecuador Inscripciones 2.618 Identificación 3.932	 Brasil Inscripciones 4.692 Identificación 2.854
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 **URUGUAY**
APOYA LA CAMPAÑA

CLARCIÉV



Recommendations and call to action



No child should be left without birth registration and certificate.

No person should be left unable to prove a nationality.

No institution can solve statelessness alone.

Join the Global Alliance and contribute to collective efforts to prevent childhood statelessness and securing permanent solutions to statelessness.



Thank you