Guidance document
on measuring stateless populations[1]

(Temporary release)

Commissioned by

Field Information and Coordination Support Section (FICSS)
Division of Programme Support and Management (DPSM)

in collaboration with

Statelessness Unit
Division of International Protection (DIP)

UNHCR Geneva

May 2011

[1] This document was drafted by Lucy Gregg, Researcher. Any questions pertaining to this document should be addressed to stats@unhcr.org.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 What is statelessness and why do we need this guide?

A stateless person is someone who is not recognized as a citizen of any State. Statelessness has a devastating impact on the lives of individuals as possession of nationality is essential for full participation in society and a prerequisite for the enjoyment of the full range of human rights. Statelessness occurs for a variety of reasons. In some cases, people become stateless as a result of the complex, technical operation of citizenship laws. But in others, statelessness arises as a result of discrimination against particular ethnic groups or specifically against women and/or their children. While some regions have larger stateless populations than others, every state and continent is affected by statelessness.

UNHCR has been protecting stateless persons since it began operations in 1950 with its role and responsibilities to address statelessness expanding over the last 60 years. A series of UN General Assembly resolutions has confirmed UNHCR's mandate to address statelessness through a four-pronged approach that was developed by UNHCR's Executive Committee. This requires UNHCR to work with governments, UN agencies, and civil society through the following activities:

1. *Identification*: Gather or 'map' information and data on statelessness to include the scale of the problem and the profile of the population affected
2. *Prevention*: Address the causes of statelessness by for example adopting safeguards in nationality laws and promote accession to the 1961 Convention
3. *Reduction:* Support legislative changes and improvements to procedures to allow stateless people to acquire a nationality and help individuals take advantage of these changes
4. *Protection*: Intervene to help stateless people to enjoy their rights and promote accession to the 1954 Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons.

UNHCR has estimated that up to 12 million people in the world are stateless. However, UNHCR does not have complete record on the numbers and situations of stateless populations worldwide. In many cases, only a loose estimate and understanding of the scale and nature of the phenomenon exists. UNHCR's Executive Committee has made a call for the agency to undertake and share research "to promote increased understanding of the nature and scope of the problem of statelessness, to identify stateless populations and to understand reasons which led to statelessness" and to "establish a more formal, systematic methodology for information gathering, updating and sharing"[2].

This guidance document aims to improve the skills and capacity of UNHCR staff and partners in mapping stateless populations. It highlights potential sources of data and methodologies which may be used in a range of country contexts and suggests best practice scenarios. It is to be used as a toolkit when initiating new research into stateless populations and it is hoped that it will better enable UNHCR staff and partners to undertake reliable and comprehensive information gathering as well as data collection and analysis on stateless populations worldwide.

In principle, this document exposes the steps and procedures which have to be kept in mind when designing data collection projects. Given the intentionally limited scope of this document, UNHCR staff are not necessarily expected to plan and execute all stages of the data collection cycle themselves. Instead, expert advice offered by statisticians, demographers or social scientists should be sought when embarking on such a project. Terms detailed in the glossary on page 24 are highlighted as italics throughout the document.

---

[2] Executive Committee '*Conclusion on Identification, Prevention and Reduction of Statelessness and Protection of Stateless Person,*' No. 106 (LVII) 2006, paras. (c) and (d). For a more detailed overview of UNHCR's mandate on statelessness, *see UNHCR Action to Address Statelessness: A Strategy Note* http://www.unhcr.org/4b960ae99.html.

2. AIMS, OUTCOMES AND CHALLENGES

2.1 What are the main aims of measuring stateless populations?

The main aim is to determine or estimate the number of stateless people living in a country as well as their geographical spread, and in doing so to expose the scale and magnitude of the problem. Included in this process should be the aim of examining the demographic composition of the people affected, by investigating their characteristics and situations. This might for instance include a gender and age breakdown of the affected population and their level of access to basic services. Further in-depth research may aim to expose the causes of statelessness and the contributing factors leading to the phenomenon, as well as an understanding of the obstacles to solutions.

2.2 What could be the outcomes of measuring stateless populations?

The primary outcome of a mapping study is to highlight where protection gaps exist for stateless populations and what these might be. This will help to encourage uniformity about the problem within countries and between regions. It will also facilitate greater recognition of the issue through awareness raising among stakeholders such as governments and NGOs as well as among stateless individuals and communities themselves. The results of a mapping project may also be used to determine the better allocation of resources to deal with statelessness, as well as to inform advocacy for government target setting to facilitate the prevention and reduction of statelessness in the longer-term. This for example might include suggesting where a government should establish a birth registration programme or where a citizenship advice centre should be located.

2.3 What are the challenges of measuring statelessness?

The mapping of stateless persons in any country can be complicated due to a number of reasons. Statelessness is often an unfamiliar concept among both agencies and individuals themselves. Recently, UNHCR has sought too develop a clearer definition of what it means to be a 'stateless person'[3], while some past research has categorised as stateless individuals or populations who do not meet the 1954 Convention definition of a stateless person.

Whether someone is stateless is generally determined on the basis of laws and practice of a State. Only to a lesser extent can it be directly determined on the basis of what someone says about his/ her situation in a survey questionnaire or interview. This means that data gathered through profiling exercises often needs to be carefully analysed and cross-checked before it can be concluded that the individuals identified are stateless. For instance, a common challenge when measuring statelessness through population census is that persons identify themselves as stateless even though they have a nationality or say that they have citizenship when in fact they do not.

Only a few States have proper registration systems in place for stateless persons. Unlike the case of displaced persons, it is also not common for UNHCR and other UN agencies to register stateless persons.

Additionally, many individuals who might be stateless may intentionally avoid registration and statistical coverage[4]. As a population that can be highly dynamic and fluctuate in size enormously, they may also move in and out of official statuses[5]. In other situations, identification of stateless persons could unintentionally expose them to undesired government interference, making them reluctant to participate in any future profiling exercises. This, for instance, is the case in situations

[3] UNHCR, *Guidance Note on the Definition of Stateless Persons in International Law* (forthcoming)
[4] Tapinos, G. (1999) Clandestine Immigration: Economic and Political Issues, in OECD (ed.) *Trends in International Migration 1999*, OECD publications: Paris. pp 229-251.
[5] Bloch, A. (2007), Methodological Challenges for National and Multi-sited Comparative Survey Research, Journal of Refugee Studies, 20 (2): 230-247.

where stateless persons live as irregular migrants in a country and risk being detained or expelled if they are identified. Gaining access to data and to stateless communities can also be politically sensitive, in particular where their statelessness results from discrimination and/or deprivation of nationality. It is therefore important to gain government consent prior to undertaking research, but not always a prerequisite.

Lastly, a mapping project can be financially burdensome so must be carefully planned and budgeted for.

3. RECOMMENDED STAGES OF YOUR RESEARCH

When beginning research into stateless populations, it is important to consider three stages of your research: the preparation phase (Stage 1), the data collection phase (Stage 2) and finally the analysis and reporting phase (Stage 3).

3.1 STAGE 1: Preparation

3.1.1 What are my key questions?

The first step should begin by defining the objectives of your research, which should include consideration of the following key questions alongside each other:

Why am I undertaking this study?

One or more different objectives should be set out at the beginning of your study in order to help you decide which research methods will be best to use. Objectives may for example be;

- to find out the number of stateless people in a country,
- to seek out where stateless people live and details of their characteristics/circumstances
- to explore what are the causes and consequences of being stateless
- to determine what solutions might be available for these people

↑↓

Who am I studying?

It is essential to consider the scope of your research project and the groups of people it will cover. This should include a discussion about whether you will seek to include stateless persons only or also include those individuals with undetermined citizenship and those at risk of statelessness and those with disputed citizenship[6]. This discussion will vary by country and/or situation.

↑↓

How do I find out about these people?

A preliminary understanding of your target population including about their culture, social lives, geographic distribution, attitudes and way of life is very important. To find out more about your research subjects, it is recommended that you identify ‘key informants’. These are individuals who are targeted because they can provide an accurate and important perspective on the setting and context as well as identify other sources of information. These might include community leaders, government officials, NGO workers or academics etc. who might become project stakeholders.

[6] This area will not be discussed in this paper. For guidance please see expert conclusions at: http://www.unhcr.org/refworld/pdfid/4d9022762.pdf http://www.unhcr.org/4cb2fe326.html

3.1.2 What is a desk review and how should I perform one?

As a general rule, it is recommended that the identification of statelessness should begin with a 'desk review'. This is a process which assesses the current situation in relation to statelessness in your country by analysing multiple sources of data already available to you. Secondary sources must be reviewed first in order to see if they can be adapted, reprocessed or reused before undertaking any of your own *primary data collection*.

1. Secondary data collection

This is the information that is already available to you such as existing statistics or policy documents.

→

2. Primary data collection

This is any information you will collect first hand for example surveys or focus groups (see section 3.2).

A desk review requires assessment of three main sources of secondary data, namely; legislation, research, and statistics. It is primarily utilised to look at information which already exists in order to reduce the resources needed for primary research and to prevent duplication.

A. What legislation already exists?

- What principal legislation exists in relation to nationality and statelessness in my country?
- Is my State party to the 1954 and/or the 1961 Statelessness Conventions?
- Does the government of my country have its own definition of stateless persons?
- Which administrative institutions in my country have responsibility for stateless persons?

B. What research already exists?

- What previous work on statelessness in my country has been done by NGOs, research institutions, academics or even other UN agencies etc.?
- What can I learn from these?

C. What statistics already exist?

- Are stateless populations already identified by a procedure in my country and has some data analysis already been done?
- Do existing administrative data sources such as censuses, surveys, civil registries (such as birth or voter registers), residence registries or social service agencies include any data on stateless people?
- Who has responsibility for collecting this data and where should I be looking to find it? If a table of data you need is not available publicly, but you know what the data items are, make a special request to obtain it through a local statistics office.

D. Which individuals and organisations relevant to my study should I be involving in the planning and process?

This preparation phase should provide answers to the following questions:

Do I have information gaps and if so, what are they?
What are my questions for investigation?
Who are my stakeholders?

3.2 STAGE 2: Primary data collection

3.2.1 What approach should my methodology take?

If you have identified that there are specific *information gap*s in your country and you have developed questions for investigation, it will be time to start thinking about undertaking *primary data collection* in order to fill these gaps. Both *qualitative* and *quantitative* methods should be considered for your primary data collection. The differences, as well as the strengths and weaknesses of each of these methods are highlighted in the table below.

	Qualitative	**Quantitative**
Features of this method	• These research methods utilise mostly words and look at the perspective of the world through the eyes of the research subjects • Research addresses the substance of the problem with a focus on the reasoning, motivations, attitudes and behaviours of the people being studied	• These research methods utilise mainly numbers and disaggregation • Research is divided into clearly defined factors or variables which can be used to accept or reject an hypothesis
Examples of this method	• Focus groups, semi-structured interviews, participatory assessment and life histories.	• Censuses, surveys, *Delphi method*, surveillance methods
Advantages of this method	• Can be used to understand complex phenomena using in-depth analysis by looking at the causes and consequences of the problem • Seeks a comprehensive knowledge of the issue	• Produces a representative sample as it tends to cover a large number of people • As long as the research is designed well, this method can produce unbiased results which can be seen as objective
Disadvantages of this method	• The subjective nature of this method leads to difficulties in establishing the reliability and validity of the approaches and information. • It is very difficult to prevent or detect researcher induced bias • Scope can be limited due to the in-depth, comprehensive data gathering required and data is therefore most often not considered representative	• Tends to provide numerical descriptions rather than detailed narrative and generally provides less elaborate accounts of human perception • Can cost a lot due to the high level of resources needed, and requires significant planning because the numbers of people covered can be large

Typically the best research designs utilise a mixed method approach which integrate a combination of both qualitative and quantitative methods[7]. This recognises the complementary nature of the two approaches and it means that quantitative methods can be enhanced with qualitative methods and vice versa. By itself for example, a quantitative method can perhaps determine where most stateless people live, but has limited explanatory power. Therefore, combining quantitative findings with a qualitative insight will greatly increase the reliability and credibility of the research. Examples of potential combination options depending on your project context and objectives will therefore be discussed as scenarios in section 5 later in this paper.

[7] Bryman, A. (2006) 'Integrating Quantitative and Qualitative Research: how is it done?' Qualitative Research, Vol. 6, No. 1: 97-114

3.2.2 What quantitative data could I collect for my study?

Census and surveys are the quantitative methods which are most likely to be used in the context of measuring statelessness.

a. Census data

A census is a full count or 'snapshot' of all people in a particular geographical location at a specific moment in time, either in the place where they are found or at their legal place of residence. Official censuses are conducted by governments every 5-10 years depending on the country. They produce accurate and comprehensive information about the whole population and they can be useful in providing a *sampling frame*. This is a source from which reliable and up to date details of all the people in your target population can be drawn. A recent census therefore can be very useful for selecting samples from which to undertake surveys.

A separate census could be designed and carried out by UNHCR and partners in particular areas of a country in order to study statelessness. However, because censuses can be expensive, another simpler approach for UNHCR field offices to find out more about statelessness might be to collaborate with the government over their next official national census. It is recommended by UN statisticians that 'provisions should be made in order to obtain separate data for stateless persons'[8]. This means that if a government or other authority is planning a national census[9] where questions are being developed, it presents an important opportunity for UNHCR to:

1) lobby for the inclusion of separate questions relating to statelessness, and/or the inclusion of new categories within answer options. This means new data on the problem can be obtained (for example, by giving individuals the choice to tick a 'stateless' rather than 'other' category box in relation to their citizenship).
2) lobby for the classification/coding of answers to specifically include stateless persons as a separate category. This means analysis of stateless persons can be undertaken during the processing of collected data.

National census planning usually takes place months, even years in advance so it is important to initiate this process as early as possible (ideally at least one year in advance). UNFPA is the relevant partner for work on population censuses at the country level and UN Economic Commissions establish general guidance for States on population censuses[10].

b. Survey data

A survey differs from a census because it aims to collect data from a population by only utilising a sample. Rather than aiming to include every single member of the relevant population, this means the number of cases studied is limited by creating a subset of a population. Official surveys are conducted by some governments throughout stages of the year, often producing quarterly statistics which cover different parts of people's lives by theme, including information for example on the labour market, access to services or even people's travel across borders and through ports. A separate survey could be designed and carried out by UNHCR and partners in particular areas of a country in order to specifically study statelessness.

---

[8] As outlined in the *Conference of European Statisticians Recommendations for the 2010 Censuses of Populations and Housing*, see http://www.unece.org/stats/publications/CES_2010_Census_Recommendations_English.pdf

[9] For global census dates see: http://unstats.un.org/unsd/demographic/sources/census/censusdates.htm

[10] As per *UNHCR Action to Address Statelessness: A Strategy Note, p.8, see* http://www.unhcr.org/4b960ae99.html

3.2.3 What types of questions should I be asking when undertaking a survey or census?

- *Questions* <u>*directly*</u> *relevant to statelessness*

Questions that have traditionally been used in official censuses in relation to citizenship could be used in your study and are said to provide information on the number of *de jure* stateless persons in the country[11]. For example, citizenship is directly addressed by asking: '*what is your nationality*?' or '*how would you describe your nationality?*' Individuals may respond by self-declaring as 'stateless' or self-declaring as having 'no citizenship'. This means a total number of stateless people present in the country could be obtained relatively easily.

However, this type of data does present some problems in regard to statelessness. Firstly, data collected in this way becomes outdated very quickly. Secondly, where an individual self-declares as stateless, this declaration may be based on a limited understanding of the concept of statelessness and may therefore lead to inaccurate results which either undercount or over count the number of stateless persons. For example, some individuals may identify themselves as stateless when they are not and others may consider that they hold a nationality when they do not, or vice versa. To counter this, questions on what evidence or documentation (passport, birth certificate, citizenship certificate or other identification documentation) individuals possess to prove their citizenship or origins can potentially help correct or interpret results from self-identification. Thirdly, in many countries, stateless persons live on the margins of society perhaps because they experience a combination of problems such as living irregularly in the territory or being subject to discrimination[12]. They therefore may be reluctant to come forward to be counted, or to reveal their personal circumstances, because of concerns about how their information will be used. In the past, unfortunately population data has even been misused in certain countries to make specific segments of the population stateless through being denationalized.

Although most stateless persons have not migrated internationally, questions on migration are of great importance for understanding the profile of the stateless population. Questions on country or place of birth and country of birth of parents as well as the range of questions on residence all provide indicators as to the possible causes of statelessness. These questions also reveal the nature of links that stateless persons may have to the country where the research is being undertaken or to other countries, thereby providing guidance to policy makers on potential solutions through possible acquisition of nationality on the basis of birth, descent, residence or marriage. Past or present concentration of stateless persons in specific localities may point to specific causes of statelessness, for example inadequate administrative procedures at the local level or failure to prevent statelessness upon State succession when the locality in question passes from the sovereignty of one State to that of another.

- *Questions* <u>*indirectly*</u> *relevant to statelessness*

Given the problems mentioned above, the inclusion of questions to enable cross-checking of data should be considered when designing your census or survey. This can be achieved through the use of *proxies*. These are questions which indirectly signify statelessness. They may be better suited to situations where asking directly about someone's statelessness may be too politically sensitive to enable an objective response or where self-declaration of statelessness may not be reliable (as previously discussed). Alternatively, if it is known that members of a certain ethnic group are ordinarily stateless, questions to ascertain a respondent's membership in the group may serve as an indicator of statelessness. Therefore, the use of *cross-tabulation* is recommended i.e. when two or more variables are overlapped with each other through a statistical test. Through cross-tabulation, it is possible to identify individuals who exhibit a number of key factors which indicate statelessness, thereby increasing the likelihood that they are indeed stateless. For example, by cross-tabulating the variables of ethnic group, access to birth documentation and possession of ID

---

[11] Conference of European Statisticians organized in Geneva on *13-15 May 2008* '*Difficult to measure census topics'*

[12] Discrimination may be the very reason why such persons are stateless, e.g. through the discriminatory application of nationality laws.

card against each other, a more accurate picture of statelessness is available to UNHCR for analysis. For instance, an individual may belong to a specific ethnic group which is known to experience problems with obtaining citizenship rights, they may not have birth documents to present *and* they may say they have had problems with obtaining an identity card. This person is much more likely to fit into a group of individuals affected by statelessness.

This process can however have its disadvantages. It could potentially over count or over represent statelessness as it may capture individuals who are not stateless, but whose circumstances simply suggest they might be. In this situation *triangulation* can be used to help cross examine and double check results. This process involves utilising three different sources of data to determine the answer to a question; this could for example be a combination of qualitative and quantitative methods utilised in your study. This approach assumes that if two of three data information sources produce similar answers, more confidence can be assigned to the findings. If all results clash in all three data sources, it could be concluded that the research question needs to be reframed or for the *methodology* to be reconsidered.

3.2.4 Which sampling methods are best suited to research into stateless populations?

The importance of *sampling* should not be underestimated because it determines who your research results will apply to, whilst good sampling methods will provide results with the credibility and reliability needed when advocating for government action. It is important therefore to give full consideration to the sampling strategy to be used in your data collection and to select the most appropriate methods.

Simple *random sampling* is a method whereby every individual member of a population has the same probability of being selected as any other individual member. This approach can be contrasted with *non-random sampling* which unlike random sampling, does not give all cases in the population an equal chance of falling into the sample. Random sampling tends to be more precise and enables conclusions to be adopted from the research which can be attributed to the wider population that is results can be extrapolated to the entire population. Non-random sampling is useful for identifying hidden groups but this method presents problems of bias, and therefore cannot be used as easily, to represent issues within a whole population. The complexity and magnitude of research needed for a statelessness study may require the adoption of advanced sampling techniques. For that purpose, it is highly recommendable to consult or recruit a technical expert such as a statistician or social researcher who will be able to advise you, but this section will simply give a flavour of options available, by providing a basic overview of the main methods which could be utilised.

a. Stratified Sampling

This is a random sampling method that works well for populations with a variety of attributes because it involves classifying the population into non-overlapping smaller groups called *strata*, based on the population's shared attributes or characteristics. From these strata, a sample is chosen which consists of participants in the same proportions as they appear in the population. For example, if you choose age as an important variable for your study, and 25% of a total population's members are less than 30 years old, this will be reflected in the age stratum chosen, by ensuring that 25% of its research subjects are also less than 30 years old. These subsets of the strata are then pooled to form a random sample of research participants.

A stratified sample has the advantage of providing great precision and because of this it often requires a smaller sample than other techniques, which saves time and resources. It also helps guard against having an unrepresentative sample by producing a sample that is proportional to the overall population. This means that the results found within the sample can be inferred to the wider population by for example, producing an estimate of people affected with statelessness by extrapolating survey results, or might mean enabling the acceptance or rejection of a particular hypothesis. However, the disadvantage of this stratified sampling method is that it requires a 'sampling frame' to be available such as that drawn from a census as discussed earlier. Without this frame of information, stratified sampling would be difficult. It should be noted also that the more your sample is stratified, the smaller your strata get. This may lead to problems with regard to representatives of the stratum, i.e. if you have only a few individuals per stratum.

b. Cluster Sampling

This is another random sampling method that is particularly useful in situations where 'natural' groupings are evident within a population. Using this technique, the entire population of interest to your study is divided into clusters and a random sample of these clusters is chosen. The sample is generally identified in stages, by first sampling at the highest level e.g. randomly sample towns, then sampling from subsequent levels in turn, so within the selected towns, sample villages, then within these, sample households, until the final stage is reached. For example, to conduct interviews or questionnaires with stateless people, it might make sense to randomly select a sample of villages in geographic locations where key informants (see page 3) have notified you of their existence. Depending on your research objectives, these clusters could perhaps even be compared with a 'control group' using clusters from geographic locations where expert input has informed you that the stateless population is likely to be much lower.

This technique is particularly useful where no list of the elements within a population is available and therefore cannot be selected directly and where well-defined clusters exist. Cluster sampling has the advantage of significantly reducing cost when the population elements of relevance to your study are scattered over a wide area, because it significantly reduces the travelling time needed between units. However, cluster sampling will have a larger *sampling error* and therefore usually requires a much greater sample size than stratified sampling in order to achieve the same precision.

c. Snowball sampling

Snowball sampling is a form of non-random sampling. Snowball sampling involves asking interviewed members of the relevant population to nominate other individuals who could also be interviewed on the same topic. This process serves to provide access to those persons who would otherwise be difficult to contact through a process of chain referral and may rely on the support of local organisations such as NGOs to help identify local people. This involves trust being built up between the researcher, NGO (or other intermediary) and the interviewee, with the NGO acting as an advocate or verifier of the project[13]. This approach assumes that the selection of subjects stops once it has reached its saturation point; identified whereby the same information is brought up repeatedly during interviews, meaning further investigation will not bring anything new to answering the research questions.

Whilst this snowball method is good for helping identify the most hidden individuals it unfortunately has its disadvantages. It can be biased because respondents volunteering for the sample can create a self-selection error e.g. those who are more confident are more likely to come forward, and the process may therefore exclude those isolated from particular knowledge networks[14]. Efforts must therefore be made to reduce over-reliance on one network by utilising multiple independent 'starting sources', the more initial points from which to snowball, the more likely the sample will not share characteristics and experiences, and will better reflect the nature of the population from which the sample is being drawn[15]. This form of non-random sampling should however be treated with caution when utilising the results. This is because, whilst making every effort to ensure a diverse sample, the representativeness of the results cannot be guaranteed, so it may be harder to make general conclusions about the wider population if that is what your research objectives call for. This technique may therefore be better suited for smaller research

[13] Atkinson, R. and Flint, J. (2001) Accessing Hidden and Hard to Reach Populations: Snowball Research Strategies. Social Research Update, 33

[14] Bloch, A. (2007), Methodological Challenges for National and Multi-sited Comparative Survey Research, *Journal of Refugee Studies*, 20 (2): 230–247

[15] Bloch, A. (1999), Carrying out a Survey of Refugees: Some methodological considerations and guidelines *Journal of Refugee Studies*, Volume 12. No. 4

projects which are simply seeking to gain an indication of statelessness and the associated problems in a country.

3.2.5 What practical steps might I need to consider when undertaking a census or a survey?

1) **Consultation with stakeholders**

- A preliminary discussion should take place with relevant community leaders in order to secure their approval and establish their involvement, if any, in the data collection. Community leaders may sensitise local people and manage expectations of the research, which means they might be willing to encourage participation of residents. This process will help build a sense of ownership over the research for local residents and participants
- A preliminary discussion should take place with government policy makers in order to reduce political sensitivities and lay the groundwork for future advocacy and utilisation of research results
- A concept note or Terms of Reference should be developed and refined together with all stakeholders, including an explanation of the phenomenon, what you hope to study, specific tasks and a timeline

2) **Finance and staffing**

- A financial plan will need to be set out from the beginning with extra amounts added as a contingency. For example it is recommended that a 10% increase on sample size is planned for, to account for 'sample replacement' where samples are unusable, or where households are no longer present.
- Recruitment of team leaders, supervisors and enumerators to undertake data collection as well as staff for data entry and coding after your data collection will be needed. Training will also be needed for all these individuals, which could potentially cover several days for a big research project. This will involve both UNHCR and partners.
- Planning for statistical analysis softwares (such as SPSS) should be envisaged.
- Depending on the complexity of the data collection exercise, development of a database may have to be planned for.

3) **Data analysis planning**

- This needs to be done *before* you start to collect the data to ensure that the questions you ask and the categories you use for your answers will give you the information you want in order to answer your research objectives and enable you to present the information in a way which will best suit your aims.
- A *data analysis plan* should be used to clearly identify the specific statistical tests that will be used to examine the information you collect. For example, for each research objective you have identified, in your plan you will need to decide if you will use *parametric* or *non-parametric tests* to find an answer.

4) Ethical considerations

- Anonymity – for example this issue could arise when needing to identify individual households to reduce duplication during the analysis stage. However, people are often reluctant to provide names because of protection or other concerns and if they do provide any information which might identify them this could mean they are more likely to give false answers. This issue can easily be reconciled by using house numbers rather than names, whilst each questionnaire should be given a unique number which identifies them for any future follow up.
- Consent – consideration needs to be given to the development of consent forms and to what level of consent each individual may be asked for. For example, on top of basic consent which enables an interview to take place, individuals might be willing to share their stories at events or in the media during the advocacy process. This might require an additional signature and different wording in the consent form. Other issues such as gender matching for female participants need to be considered when asking individuals for an interview.
- Protection - if protection-related problems arise during the research, such as an individual being arrested for lacking ID, a plan for dealing with these immediately and intervening as appropriate will be required. This might for example include making local referrals, sharing information with other agencies or experts or providing legal assistance to individual cases with specific needs.

5) Research instruments/tools

- Questionnaire development will need to be undertaken with all relevant partners, and questions must reflect the concept note already developed. Questions need to be context-specific and understood by all people involved, even potentially individuals in the communities themselves who decide they would like to help in the data collection process.
- Questions should have clarity and simplicity by avoiding leading questions and double negatives and should be minimised to reduce questionnaire fatigue and cost.
- Double-barrelled questions such as "Were you and your parents born in this country?" should be avoided.
- Questions should be asked at appropriate levels of measurement, i.e. the national, community, household or individual level. For example, it will be best to avoid asking individual level questions in a survey designed for the household level, i.e. a household level question ('*how many people in your household are married*?') rather than an individual level question ('*who in your household is married*?').
- A field manual will need to be developed which will work alongside your questionnaires to include details such as how to code the answers, as well as the exact format required when enumerators are filling in the forms. This is necessary to reduce errors.
- A statistics expert who also understands the protection mandate of UNHCR should be given time to help you develop your questions and manual.

6) Translation and Pilots

- Translation of materials including questionnaires, field guides, concept notes and terms of reference will need to be undertaken if you are or will be working with people speaking different languages. It is recommended that 'back translation' is used for this, a process of translating a document that has already been translated into a foreign language back to the original language. This should preferably be done by an independent translator.
- Several pilot runs in all the languages needed for your study, should be undertaken in order to test the understanding and format of questions.

3.2.6 Which qualitative data methods could I use for my study?

In order to gain a deeper understanding of the causes of statelessness and the potential solutions, it will be essential to consult the individuals affected in a more in-depth way and to listen to them through utilising qualitative techniques. Participatory approaches in qualitative research are recommended by UNHCR. The principles underlying participatory approaches are outlined in several UNHCR publications which essentially advocate that beneficiaries of UNHCR activity must be involved from the outset in the measures taken to meet their protection and assistance [16]. The right of individuals to participate in decisions on matters that affect their lives are enshrined in human rights instruments and UNHCR policy and guidelines, in particular the Agenda for Protection[17].

Participatory assessment is a process used by UNHCR in order to build partnerships with individuals in any community to promote meaningful participation through structured dialogue[18]. It includes holding separate discussions in the community in order to gather accurate information and jointly analyse the specific protection risks faced as well as the underlying causes, to understand the capacity of community members and to hear their proposed solutions. It helps mobilise communities to take collective action to enhance their own protection and forms the basis for the implementation of a rights and community-based approach. Some of the key techniques proposed in a participatory assessment will now be briefly highlighted in order to inform your research with communities affected by statelessness.

a. Key Informants

As mentioned in section 3.1.1, key informants are an important starting point for finding out more about your research subjects. These are individuals who can provide an accurate and important perspective on the setting and context and might for example include community leaders, government officials or NGO workers residing in the local area. They will need to be informed about your research intentions and the purpose of your research. They may be able to help engage local people in your work by acting as an advocate for your project and will be able to explain the potential outcomes of your research, thereby managing the expectations of local people. They may also be able to help you find safe and comfortable spaces to undertake interviews and discussions, so that non-participants in the research do not intervene unnecessarily.

b. Focus group discussions

A focus group is a group discussion which is formed by choosing individuals who do not necessarily know each other on the basis of common characteristics such as gender, age, ethnicity etc. Focus group discussions should be structured around a few key questions that can be adequately covered in the time period allotted. Each group should have no more than 10 individuals at a time with one facilitator and one note-taker, along with an interpreter if needed. The facilitator will need to allow 2 hours for each group and in general all discussions should be undertaken over a two to three week period. Focus groups are most useful when needing to explore and analyse group responses to a topic of common concern but are inappropriate for sensitive topics particularly when involving personal accounts. Meeting with groups of individuals affected by statelessness will be useful for gathering numerous views simultaneously as well as to observe the interchanges between and among different participants.

---

[16] For more information on participatory approaches, see: *UNHCR Manual for Applying a Community-based Approach:* http://www.unhcr.org/publ/PUBL/47ed0e212.html and the *UNHCR Handbook for Self-Reliance* http://www.unhcr.org/44bf40cc2.html

[17] See *Agenda for Protection*, UNHCR, October 2003, Goal 3, Objective 4; Goal 5, Objective 7 and Goal 6.

[18] The *UNHCR Tool for Participatory Assessment in Operations*: http://www.unhcr.org/450e963f2.html

c. Semi-structured discussions/interviews

Semi-structured discussions or interview are conducted in the same way as focus groups but with a smaller number of people (perhaps 3-4) or just one individual in an informal and conversational way by using open-ended questions. They can be conducted with families, households, or groups of people known to each other, all with similar concerns. Semi-structured discussions are suited for analysing problems that will not easily emerge in a larger group discussion as well as to obtain personal, sensitive or confidential detailed information.

d. Participatory observation and spot checks

Participatory observation is a way of looking at the situation or behaviour of people so as to compare it with what people report. It is a useful means of obtaining a better picture of the protection situation, particularly of aspects that are difficult for participants to verbalise[19]. Observations can be carried out at locations where UNHCR or partners deliver services and can be combined with spot checks and informal chats to glean a better idea of what individuals think about their situation. These methods tend to provide complementary information to previous more in-depth discussions and help visualise particular problems.

3.2.7 Should I use a combination of these qualitative techniques?

It is **r**ecommended that you use several different qualitative methods at different times because this will allow you to obtain various perspectives on the protection risks stateless communities are exposed to, and to crosscheck your understanding of them for your research. For example, you could organise several semi-structured discussions, and then talk to a few people individually later to obtain more details, and then walk through a community or district afterwards and pose a few questions to individuals to check how widespread the problem is. Comparing results from individuals and groups who represent the diversity of the community and using different methods to do this is called again the process of *triangulation* (mentioned in section 3.2.3) and is an important means of checking the reliability of the information gathered and of validating your understanding of the problem.

[19] The *UNHCR Tool for Participatory Assessment in Operations, see* http://www.unhcr.org/450e963f2.html

3.3 STAGE 3: Analysis and Reporting

3.3.1 How will I analyse my data?

After collecting your data you will need to undertake detailed data analysis, an operation where quality control and supervision is crucial to ensure reliable and accurate results. The following areas will need to be considered in turn:

1) **<u>Data coding/entry</u>**: This is the transformation of your questionnaire data into another format that computer software (such as Microsoft Excel) can understand. The questionnaire results will first need to be transformed into codes if not already done so by the enumerators in the field, and then these codes entered into a spreadsheet. Data quality must be guaranteed by adhering to standardised and consistent procedures for data entry with clear instructions. This will all take staff time and resources. As an alternative, data collection through the use of mobile phones is becoming increasingly common. This approach has several advantages which include the avoidance of data having to be re-entered into a numerical form, therefore saving time and money spent on staff and training in order to do this. Mobile data entry is also easy and comfortable for participants whilst they can also be reached wherever mobile reception is available. These reasons often enable hard-to-reach groups access to surveys where they might otherwise be missed. Mobile data collection however, could require the help of technical experts and equipment and could therefore become expensive to initially set up.

2) **<u>Data editing</u>**: Quality and validation checks will need to be undertaken so that errors can be found and removed from the data. Data editing or 'cleaning' is the activity aimed at detecting and correcting both coverage errors (when a sample or unit is missed) and content errors (when mistakes are made, for example, if someone who is very young is accidentally recorded as having a higher degree). Original questionnaires will need to be referred back to if necessary, and corrections made accordingly or missing data noted. This will also take staff time and resources.

3) **<u>Data analysis</u>**: This is the process of transforming and modelling your data in order to highlight useful information and suggest conclusions. Advanced computer software (such as CSPro or SPSS) may be needed in order to analyse your data and highlight trends to help answer your research objectives. It will be important to think about how to pay for and access this computer software and if you will need expertise to help with its use. Universities or research institutes in your region may be able to provide some advice and support. Methods to make your data more representative of the wider population may be needed for your data analysis. These might for example include *extrapolation* (where trends in the data are extended past the last known point, and an estimate made of the value) or *weighted calculations* (where each variable in the data does not contribute equally to the final result, but instead some data are adjusted to contribute more than others). This will require more advanced statistical analysis and may need the input of an expert.

4) **<u>Data evaluation</u>**: You should consider undertaking a *post-enumeration survey* (PES) no more than one month after your data collection activity is completed. This is a survey undertaken to check and evaluate your results. The PES results are compared with your own data collection results, enabling estimates to be made of coverage and content errors. The PES allows deficiencies in the *methodology* to be uncovered so adjustments can be made to any future research. It is generally recommended that your data collection is reliable where a difference of less than 5% between the original data collected and the PES is apparent.

5) **<u>Data Archiving</u>**: Your data will need to be kept and stored for a set period of time for use over the longer term if necessary or if you need to refer back to it, perhaps for advocacy purposes. Your project's approach to this might need to be informed by advice set out in your country's data protection laws.

3.3.2 How should I report my findings?

Once you have obtained, entered, and analysed data from your study, the next step is to share the results. The different audiences who might be interested in the findings will have different requirements. Some may need to know details, while others will prefer a simple overview. Feedback from the report findings will therefore need to take several forms which might involve communication with the following stakeholders:

1) **Communities**
   The participants involved in your study must be informed of the overall findings of the research, the resulting actions both short and long term as well as any limitations experienced. This could be done by revisiting community structures. Information can be disseminated by community leaders and/or, particularly for larger populations through using a simple, easy-to-read research summary which is translated when required.

2) **Government**
   The research findings might benefit from being presented to the government for advocacy purposes. This might take the form of an official written report which could even be communicated before a report is published publicly in order to give the government time to digest the findings and consider their policy position in a prepared response.

3) **Donors**
   The process, findings and limitations of your research will need to be relayed back to the funders of your study, in a form outlined in your funding agreement organised at the start of your project.

4) **UNHCR Headquarters**
   The FICSS and Statelessness Unit should be kept informed of the results of the data collection. This should include feedback on any limitations the data may have and any suggestions for future work needed to improve data quality.

4. WORKING WITH PARTNERS ON DATA COLLECTION

UNHCR's work with partners is vital throughout the whole process of any research because partners provide local expertise and knowledge which is crucial to the success of any research. These partners might be so-called 'implementing partners' who are funded by UNHCR to carry out work on our behalf. Alternatively, they may be known as 'Operational Partners'. The latter institutions do not receive funding from UNHCR but play a major role in operations and may also be key stakeholders in research on statelessness[20]. Partners may include international or local NGOs, community groups or research institutions for example. The role of these partners in research on statelessness will be dependent on the needs of your research and their available capacity. This will vary by country. Any work with partners should take a three-stage approach starting with the emergence of the project through a 'conception' stage, moving onto the process of data gathering or project 'implementation' and then post-implementation by working together on 'data analysis and dissemination'. These stages are outlined below, highlighting likely areas of responsibility for both UNHCR and partners at each phase of the research. It is important to keep in mind that for the below outline to apply, it is assumed that UNHCR has been the driving force behind the process. If UNHCR is just one actor out of many, then the outline below may not necessarily be precisely applicable.

[20] See more on UNHCR's work with partners in *Working Together*
http://www.unhcr.org/pages/49c3646c296.html

4.1 Conception

UNHCR

- Convening partners/stakeholders
- Providing leadership in facilitating meetings which help obtain common agreement on the research objectives, hypotheses, and methodology
- Drafting Terms of Reference (ToR) for the study and a concept note, being very clear on the project aims
- Facilitating agreement on the scope of the project (including both geographic and content)
- Providing expert input on questionnaire design and *data analysis plan*
- Providing training to implementing partners on UNHCR's protection mandate
- Supporting and financing the training of local people if needed
- Liaising with government about the research to promote buy-in

Partners

- Brainstorming and designing concept note and ToR with UNHCR to gain local approvals
- Initiating the planning of the methodological design and ethical issues which need consideration.
- Recruitment and training of local enumerators
- Initiating the planning of sampling size and methods
- Promoting the issue among local people to enable sensitisation to the project

4.2 Implementation

UNHCR

- Supervision to ensure consistency with ToRs and concept note
- Undertaking field visits to provide support where needed

Partners

- Deployment of enumeration teams and questionnaires
- Undertaking pilots and pre-testing activities
- Daily supervision of field work
- Organising the translation and interpretation of documentation for loc al people
- Organising sample replacement activities
- Management of quality control with regard to coding and inputting of data into questionnaires through spot checks and supervision

4.3 Data analysis and dissemination

UNHCR

- Ensuring consistency with the original concept note
- Ensuring consistency with the original *data analysis plan* and provision of expert input from a statistician if required
- Ensuring that the report is protection-oriented as per UNHCR's mandate
- Providing feedback from the preliminary analysis to government and donors
- Longer-term advocacy with government agencies any negotiation associated with utilising the findings
- Managing the longer-term use of the research findings for UNHCR programme work
- Support multiple dissemination activities through media channels where appropriate

Partners

- Ongoing coding and data entry of questionnaires – this may include the recruitment of staff and coordination of office space for staff and data storage
- Undertaking data analysis based on the original analysis plan and gaining buy-in from local technical experts
- Financing of computer software when required
- Assessment of data quality through conducting evaluation activities such as a *Post-Enumeration Survey*
- Reporting of findings back through community/NGO/research networks
- Incorporating feedback from the community back into the research

5. SCENARIOS

The following hypothetical scenarios may provide assistance in envisaging research approaches to statelessness in your country and help you to select the best methods for your research. The previously discussed aims of research into stateless populations are important when looking at the potential scenarios in which stateless populations may exist. These aims can be divided into two distinct but equally important categories:

I. Estimating the number of stateless people living in a country, their geographic locations and their demographic composition
II. Exposing the causes of statelessness and the contributing factors leading to the phenomenon, as well as an understanding of the obstacles to solutions

As highlighted in section 3.2.1, the aims in category I on the whole will best be answered using quantitative methods, whilst the aims in category II will ordinarily most comprehensively be answered using qualitative methods. But as mentioned earlier, both methods are complementary and not mutually exclusive.

The research methodologies used to achieve these aims will vary dependent on the country context in which the population is found. Stateless populations in some countries are found as <u>visible</u> and relatively static groups which exist due to a range of causes such as the failure to register children at birth, or discrimination due to race or ethnicity [21]. Conversely, in other countries, stateless persons remain more <u>hidden</u> and dispersed often as a result of migration, with the problem predominantly concerning migrants or descendants of migrants in urban settings. These two situations could either encompass <u>small</u> stateless populations, constituting perhaps just one to two thousand people. Or alternatively these situations could relate to <u>large</u> stateless populations composed of hundreds of thousands of people. Consequently, four potential scenarios present themselves.

These four contrasting scenarios will each call for a different combination of methodologies, in order to address the aims associated with categories I and II in every situation. Methods discussed in this paper are recommended below as combinations (with the corresponding section numbers included) in order to give an idea of how each scenario might be tackled. It must be pointed out that these combinations are only suggestions which can be adapted to suit the needs of different country contexts as required.

[21] Nationality Rights for All: A Progress Report and Global Survey on Statelessness
http://www.refugeesinternational.org/policy/in-depth-report/nationality-rights-all

5.1 SCENARIO A: a large, visible stateless population

Key questions must first be developed (see 3.1.1) to help set the objectives for your study.

A **desk review** (see 3.1.2) must then take place, where secondary data is collected and reviewed. This is done in order to address whether information on the number of stateless persons living in your country, their geographic locations and their demographic composition already exists (category I as detailed on the previous page) and whether the causes of statelessness and the contributing factors and obstacles to solutions have already been studied (category II as detailed on the previous page).

For a large, visible population it could be useful to become involved in any **national census** already planned to take place, because this could provide a comprehensive count of the stateless population if the correct questions and categories are included (see 3.2.2a).

Information gaps must then be highlighted before deciding that primary data collection is necessary to answer all your research objectives.

Before undertaking primary data collection, **practical considerations** should first be addressed (see 3.2.5) and then **key informants** (see 3.2.6a) could be used to identify specific geographical locations most relevant to the target research subjects.

A **quantitative method** (see 3.2.1) namely a **survey** (see 3.2.2b) could then be undertaken in these areas using **cluster sampling** (see 3.2.4b) in order to identify areas to sample. A survey will help determine the demographic composition of the population. In a second step, information collected on the number of people could be **extrapolated** to create an overall figure relating to the total stateless population. These steps will primarily help to answer objectives associated with category I above but could also be useful in addressing category II.

Qualitative methods (see 3.2.1) such as **focus groups** (see 3.2.6b), **participatory observation** and **spot checks** (see 3.2.6d), could be undertaken within these clusters in order to collect more detailed data relating to the causes of statelessness, the contributing factors and obstacles to solutions. This will primarily help to answer objectives associated with category II.

5.2 SCENARIO B: a large, hidden stateless population

Key questions must first be developed (see 3.1.1) to help set the objectives for your study.

A **desk review** (see 3.1.2) must then take place, where secondary data is collected and reviewed. This is done in order to address whether information on the number of stateless persons living in your country, their geographic locations and their demographic composition already exists (category I) and whether the causes of statelessness and the contributing factors and obstacles to solutions have already been studied (category II).

Information gaps must then be highlighted before deciding that primary data collection is necessary to answer all your research objectives.

Before undertaking primary data collection, **practical considerations** should first be addressed (see 3.2.5). Then, in circumstances where a 'sampling frame' exists (see 3.2.2a), such as a recent census, a **quantitative method** (see 3.2.1) namely a **survey** (see 3.2.2b) could be undertaken using **stratified sampling** (see 3.2.4a).

A survey will help determine the demographic composition of the population and its geographic location. Information collected on the number of people could be **extrapolated** to create an overall figure relating to the total stateless population. This process will primarily help to answer objectives associated with category I but could also be useful in addressing category II.

Where no 'sampling frame' exists, **key informants** (see 3.2.6a) could be used to find out information about the population and/or **quantitative methods** (see 3.2.1) could be used to analyse **administrative data** sources such as immigration statistics or household registration. This could for example include use of a statistical package such as SPSS to produce tables and graphs which illustrate numbers, trends and patterns in the data on stateless persons.

Following this, **snowball sampling** (see 3.2.4c) could be used to identify individuals who would be willing to participate in research using **qualitative methods** (see 3.2.1) such as in **focus groups** (see 3.2.6b). This research process will help to collect more detailed data relating to the causes of statelessness, the contributing factors and obstacles to solutions. This will primarily help to answer your objectives associated with category II.

5.3 SCENARIO C: a small, visible stateless population

Key questions must first be developed (see 3.1.1) to help set the objectives for your study.

A **desk review** (see 3.1.2) must then take place, where secondary data is collected and reviewed. This is done in order to address whether information on the number of stateless persons living in your country, their geographic locations and their demographic composition already exists (category I) and whether the causes of statelessness and the contributing factors and obstacles to solutions have already been studied (category II).

Information gaps must then be highlighted before deciding that primary data collection is necessary to answer all your research objectives.

Before undertaking primary data collection, **practical considerations** should first be addressed (see 3.2.5) and then **key informants** (see 3.2.6a) could be used to identify specific geographical locations most relevant to the target research subjects.

Cluster sampling (see 3.2.4b) could be used within these locations to identify where to undertake a **quantitative method** (see 3.2.1), namely a **census** (see 3.2.2a) which would seek to include all individuals in the sample areas.

A **census** will help determine the demographic composition of the population as well as an overall count of the total stateless population. This process will primarily help to answer objectives associated with category I but could also be useful in addressing category II. It may however be challenging to assure that the total stateless population will be included in the census. A **survey** may therefore be considered as an alternative.

Interested individuals taking part in this census could be asked on the census form for their consent to re-approach them in the near future in order to take part in **qualitative methods** (see 3.2.1) such as **semi-structured interviews or discussions** (see 3.2.6c). This research process will help to collect more detailed data relating on causes of statelessness, the contributing factors and obstacles to solutions. This will primarily help to answer your objectives associated with category II.

5.4 SCENARIO D: a small, hidden stateless population

Key questions must first be developed (see 3.1.1) to help set the objectives for your study.

A **desk review** (see 3.1.2) must then take place, where secondary data is collected and reviewed. This is done in order to address whether information on the number of stateless persons living in your country, their geographic locations and their demographic composition already exists (category I) and whether the causes of statelessness and the contributing factors and obstacles to solutions have already been studied (category II).

As part of the desk review, **quantitative methods** (see 3.2.1) could be used to analyse **administrative data** sources such as immigration statistics or household registration. This could for example include use of a statistical package such as SPSS to produce tables and graphs which illustrate numbers, trends and patterns in the data on stateless persons.

Where these administrative data sources do not enable the stateless population to be easily identified and analysed, **advocacy to improve these statistics in the future** could be adopted.

This might for example include **advocating for inclusion of a stateless category** in government datasets where it does not currently exist, or if it does exist, advocating for the inclusion of more detailed categories currently not recorded, such as the gender of those recorded as stateless**. Involvement in an official national census** could also be considered to obtain this required detail (see 3.2.2a)

Information gaps must then be highlighted before deciding that primary data collection is necessary to answer all your research objectives

Key informants (see 3.2.6a) could subsequently be used to help facilitate **snowball sampling** (see 3.2.4c). This can be done to identify individuals who would be willing to participate in **qualitative methods** (see 3.2.1) such as **semi-structured interviews or discussions** (see 3.2.6c). This research process will help to collect more detailed data relating to the causes of statelessness, the contributing factors and obstacles to solutions. This process will primarily help to answer your objectives associated with category II.

6. GLOSSARY

Cross-tabulation	A table which can be created enabling a researcher to see how two or more variables interrelate with each other
Data analysis plan	A plan produced before data collection which details all the areas needed to be covered in the data analysis stage of a project. This might for example include which statistical tests will be applied to the data and how data will be presented
Delphi method	A qualitative data collection method which brings together a group of experts where no majority opinion is initially disclosed but where an overall consensus is eventually sought
Demographics	The characteristics of a human population commonly including factors such as age, gender, ethnicity, employment status etc
Disaggregation	To convert general overall figures such as a country's total population into its component parts such as age and gender, by breaking it up or separating it
Extrapolation	To infer or estimate by extending or projecting known information outside the observed or measured range, as can be done in the analysis stages of a research project
Information gap	The space which exists between existing research and data collection undertaken in the past, and the information required to answer current project objectives
Methodology	Techniques associated with the procedures used to collect, store, analyse and present information as part of a research process
Parametric tests	Statistical tests applied to data that has a normal distribution (this is where data produces a classic bell-shaped curve on a graph)
Non-parametric tests	Statistical tests applied to data that is not based on normal distribution but instead used to look at differences between two independent populations or samples.
Post-enumeration Survey	A survey undertaken shortly after initial data collection activity in order to check and evaluate the results. Results are compared enabling estimates to be made of coverage and content errors.
Primary data collection	The gathering of original, fresh data which does not already exist. This might include producing and undertaking questionnaires for example.
Secondary data collection	The gathering of information which already exists, for example this might include looking at existing reports or statistics that have been collected in the past
Proxies	An indicator used as a stand-in when particular variables cannot be measured, for example a particular ethnic group may be likely to suffer from statelessness. This ethnicity could serve as an indicator of statelessness when no other data are available
Qualitative	A type of research methods which utilises mostly words and looks at the perspective of the world through the eyes of the research subjects focusing on people's attitudes, behaviours and motivations
Quantitative	A type of research method which utilises mainly numbers and disaggregation
Sampling	The selection of a subset of individuals from within a population in order to gain knowledge enabling wider conclusions to be drawn about the population at large
Sampling error	The error caused when data has been collected from a sample of the population as opposed to the whole population. This error tends to be lower the larger the sample used

Sampling frame	A list of all the elements and details of a population which provides a basis from which to sample, one example would be a recent census
Random sampling	A method whereby every individual member of a population has the same probability of being selected as any other individual member
Non-random sampling	A sampling method that does not give all cases in the population an equal chance of falling into the sample, but makes pre-determined judgements about the types of groups it needs to cover.
Self-identification	A subjective declaration of belonging based on a person's conception of their individuality or group affiliations
Triangulation	The cross examination of information from two or more sources in order to double check results
Weighted calculations	A statistical process which adjusts data in order to reflect the greater or lesser value or proportion of different elements of a population. In this instance, some elements of a dataset will therefore contribute more to the overall data analysis than others

7. FURTHER READING

General reading on data collection methods, including sampling methods

Atkinson, R. and Flint, J. (2001) *Accessing Hidden and Hard to Reach Populations: Snowball Research Strategies*. Social Research Update, 33 http://sru.soc.surrey.ac.uk/SRU33.html

Argyrous, G. 2005. *Statistics for Research, with a guide to SPSS* (2nd edition). (London: Sage).

Biernacki, P. and Waldorf, D. (1981) *Snowball Sampling: Problems and Techniques of Chain Referral Sampling*, Sociological Methods and Research 10(2): 141-163.

Bloch, A. (1999) Carrying out a Survey of Refugees: Some methodological considerations and guidelines *Journal of Refugee Studies*, Volume 12. No. 4 http://jrs.oxfordjournals.org/content/12/4/367.full.pdf

Bloch, A. (2007), *Methodological Challenges for National and Multi-sited Comparative Survey Research*, Journal of Refugee Studies, 20 (2): 230–247

Brouwer, A. (2003) *UNHCR: Statelessness in a Canadian Context: A discussion paper* *http://www.unhcr.org/refworld/country,,,RESEARCH,CAN,,405f07164,0.html*

Bryman, A (2008) Social Research Methods; Third Edition (Oxford: OUP)
Craig, G., Adamson, S. et al. (2010) *Mapping rapidly changing ethnic minority populations, a case study of York*, York: Joseph Rowntree Foundation. http://www.jrf.org.uk/sites/files/jrf/ethnicity-population-change-york-full.pdf

COMPAS (2006) *Changing Lives? Methods, Participants and Lessons Learnt:* *http://www.emn.lt/uploads/files/20_document_1_151012.pdf*
De Vaus, D (2001) *Surveys in Social Research*. (5th edition). (London: Routledge)

Hedrick, Terry Elizabeth, Leonard Bickman and Debra J. Rog (1993) *Applied Research Design: A Practical Guide*. Newbury Park, (CA: Sage Publications, Inc)

Hynes, T (2003) *The issue of 'trust' or 'mistrust' in research with refugees: choices caveats and consideration for researchers*. New Issues in Refugee Research, Working Paper No. 98. Geneva: UNHCR. http://www.unhcr.org/3fcb5cee1.pdf

Kalton, G. and Anderson, D. (1986) *Sampling Rare Populations*, Journal of the Royal Statistical Society 149(1): 65-82. http://www.jstor.org/pss/2981886

Neuman Lawrence, W (2002) *Social Research Methods: Qualitative and Quantitative Approaches* (5th Edition) (UK: Allyn & Bacon)

Mourão, S and Okada, K (2010) *Mobile Phone as a Tool for Data Collection in Field Research* World Academy of Science, Engineering and Technology http://www.waset.org/journals/waset/v70/v70-43.pdf

Pinkerton C, McLaughlan G and Salt, J. (2004) *Sizing the Illegally Resident Population in the UK* Home Office Online Report 58/04 London: Home Office http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs04/rdsolr5804.pdf

Quevedo, M. (2010) *Mapping refugee and migrant communities in the UK: ICAR Resource Guide* http://www.icar.org.uk/12915/resource-guides/mapping-refugee-and-migrant-populations-in-the-uk.html

General Reading on Statelessness

UNHCR Action to Address Statelessness: A Strategy Note
http://www.unhcr.org/4b960ae99.html

UNHCR, Expert Meeting - The Concept of Stateless Persons under International Law (Summary Conclusions), May 2010
http://www.unhcr.org/refworld/docid/4ca1ae002.html