



I BELONG
No longer invisible.
No longer stateless.

Mobilizing governments and civil society

On 14 and 15 December UNHCR organized the first **High-Level Officials Meeting** which was an opportunity for States and other stakeholders to take stock of progress since the first Global Refugee Forum in 2019 and to maintain the momentum towards achieving the objectives of the Global Compact on Refugees. Four new pledges on statelessness were submitted by States at the event. These include a pledge by the United States to adopt a statelessness definition and establish a statelessness determination procedure, a pledge by Belgium to provide legal status and the right of residence to stateless people, a pledge from Burundi to ensure the protection of people at risk of statelessness and, finally, a pledge by Eswatini to ensure the issuance of civil documentation to those with an entitlement to it. In the lead-up to the High-Level Officials Meeting UNHCR organized on 4 November a **thematic stocktaking event on “Accelerating Progress to End Statelessness”**. The event was an opportunity

for States to prepare for the HLOM. Panellists and a wide range of stakeholders, including States, regional organizations, UN Agencies, civil society and affected individuals delivered short remarks regarding the progress they have made towards addressing statelessness since the High-Level Segment on Statelessness and Global Refugee Forum in 2019. A total of 299 participants from 96 countries attended the event.

On 30 November, UNHCR and UNICEF convened a **meeting for the members of the Coalition on Every Child’s Right to a Nationality** to renew the momentum of the Coalition and increase member engagement. The meeting included a discussion of the key challenges faced by members in working toward the objectives of the Coalition; support that is required to overcome these challenges; approaches for increasing the effectiveness of the Coalition and; avenues for continued engagement of coalition members.



High Commissioner Filippo Grandi gives his final remarks at the High-Level Officials Meeting in December 2021. © UNHCR/Mark Henley

On 29 October, DIP published a [factsheet on the risks of statelessness associated with migration and displacement in the context of climate change](#). The factsheet broadens the existing understanding of risks of statelessness in the context of climate change and elaborates on the impact of climate change on stateless populations.

Events were organized across the globe to commemorate the 7th anniversary of the #IBelong Campaign. On 3 November in **Turkmenistan**, UNHCR delivered an online lecture on nationality and statelessness for the SDG Youth Ambassadors and university students. In **Togo**, UNHCR and the National Assembly organized an information session on statelessness for 80 Members of Parliament on 5 November, which was an opportunity to advocate for the acceleration of law reform to remove sex discrimination from the nationality law. In **Zambia**, the Office of the Commissioner for Refugees, the National Registration Passport and Citizenship Office and UNHCR organized a ceremony in Lusaka to distribute birth certificates. During the event, which was attended by various media houses, the government emphasized the importance of birth registration and identity documents.

On 7 December, in **East Africa**, UNHCR organized a side event on the margins of its regional dialogue on refugee protection with the East African Community and Intergovernmental Authority on Development to launch UNHCR's report "[Citizenship and Statelessness in the Horn of Africa](#)". The report identifies the risk factors in law, policy and practice that give rise to statelessness and provides an overview of the groups at risk of statelessness in Djibouti, Somalia, Eritrea and Ethiopia.

On 10 December, in **South Sudan**, members of South Sudan's Statelessness Working Group on Statelessness have [commenced discussions](#) on the reform of the Citizenship Act with a view to introducing safeguards to prevent statelessness. This aligns with a pledge made by the government of South Sudan at the 2019 High-Level Segment on Statelessness to introduce such safeguards.

In October 2021, in **Somalia**, the Ministry of Interior, Federal Affairs and Reconciliation established the Department of Civil Registration and Vital Statistics. The new Department is tasked with accelerating and supporting the development of the civil registration system and the production of vital statistics contributing to the prevention of statelessness.

On 19 November, in **Southern Africa**, Lawyers for Human Rights conducted a virtual training for members of the judiciary on adjudicating nationality rights. The training aimed at building the capacity of judges to address statelessness and to share developments in international and regional jurisprudence on statelessness.

On 29 and 30 September, also in **South Africa**, the Southern African Nationality Network and UNHCR co-hosted a [virtual civil society engagement meeting](#) on the eradication of statelessness in Southern Africa. The event was attended by civil society organizations from across the region and aimed at strengthening the role of civil society in addressing statelessness. The participating organizations developed a draft action plan to support states in the Southern African Development Community (SADC) in their efforts to eradicate statelessness. The organizations also submitted an [appeal to SADC states](#), calling on members to accede to the UN Statelessness Conventions and to adopt a regional action plan on statelessness.

From 2 to 4 November, in Lomé, **Togo**, the Commissions of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and the Economic Community of Central African States (CEMAC), with UNHCR organized a regional gathering of governments and UNHCR focal points to discuss a draft model law on statelessness determination procedures and protection of and solutions for stateless people. Once finalized, the model law will support the efforts underway in ten countries in the regions covered by the Commissions to adopt dedicated statelessness determination procedures. The organization of the event is in line with ECOWAS' commitment in the 2017 Banjul Plan of Action to facilitate the implementation of the 1954 Convention in West Africa. The gathering was covered by various media outlets, including [Africa News](#), [Africavi](#) and [Agence Société Civile Médias](#).

On 9 and 10 September, in **Burkina Faso**, UNHCR participated in the review of the existing legal framework governing civil registration in the country to ensure that the revised legal framework will reflect commitments made by the Government to strengthen its civil registration system to prevent statelessness. It is anticipated that a new law will be adopted in 2022.

From 7 to 9 December, UNHCR and the Ministry of Justice of **Guinea** organized a workshop with government officials and civil society to discuss a draft law on the protection of stateless people which would provide for the establishment of a statelessness determination procedure. Participants developed a roadmap towards the adoption of the draft law.

On 3 December, in the **Americas**, the Latin American and Caribbean Council for Civil Registration, Identity and Vital Statistics (CLARCIEV) virtually convened its Annual Assembly. The assembly focused on the right to legal identity in times of a pandemic, among other topics. During a panel moderated by UNHCR on efforts and challenges to address statelessness in the region, civil registry directors from Colombia, Mexico, and Panama shared their experiences and good practices on ensuring access to legal identity in mixed movement situations. On the occasion, UNHCR, CLARCIEV and the Universal Civil Identity Program in the Americas of the **Organization of American States** (OAS) also released the English edition of the [Regional Study on Late Birth Registration, Issuance of Nationality Documents and Statelessness](#).

On 14 October, UNHCR organized the “[Caribbean Subregional Workshop on International Refugee Law and Statelessness](#)”. Over 60 government officials from across the Caribbean including border officials, asylum authorities and eligibility officers attended the workshop.

On 27 and 28 September, the **Organization of American States** (OAS), jointly with UNHCR and IOM, [organized](#) the second “Inter-American course on the protection of internally displaced persons, migrants, asylum seekers, refugees, returnees in need of protection, stateless persons and victims of trafficking in the Americas”. The 150 members from Permanent Missions to the OAS who participated in the course reviewed international and regional standards on statelessness, shared good practices and reflected on current challenges in the region.

From 9 to 12 December, in Washington DC, **United States**, the stateless persons-led civil society organization United Stateless, with support from UNHCR, held a meeting of approximately 40 stateless individuals and allies to review the accomplishments of the past year and participate in trainings to enhance advocacy skills.

On 19 November, in the **Asia-Pacific**, the second Ministerial Conference on Civil Registration and Vital Statistics organized by the UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific concluded with the adoption of a Ministerial Declaration on “Building a More Resilient Future with Inclusive Civil Registration and Vital Statistics”. The Declaration renews the commitment of member states to examine inequalities in birth registration systems and to remove barriers to civil registration that affect people in vulnerable situations.

On 10 December, in Seoul, the **Republic of Korea**, UNHCR hosted a “Symposium on Prevention of Statelessness and Implementation of Universal Birth Registration in the Republic of Korea” which was attended by approximately 30 civil society actors, academia and government officials. During the symposium, two new reports were presented: a [statelessness mapping study](#) and a [comparative study on statelessness determination procedures \(SDPs\)](#) which includes a recommendation to introduce an SDP in the Republic of Korea. Participants from the Nationality Division of the Ministry of Justice agreed that the introduction of an SDP is necessary and welcomed further discussions on the issue. The Ministry of Justice also discussed a legislative proposal to allow registration of births of all foreigners living in the country, which would address a notable legal gap giving rise to risks of statelessness in the Republic of Korea.

On 24 November, the government of **The Philippines** held an online symposium to present the results of the study “[Legal Identity for All Women and Children in ASEAN: A Regional Synthesis](#)”, which was attended by around 1,600 participants from government, academia, and civil society. At the event, the Government expressed its commitment to pursue the recommendations from the study and strengthen its civil registration system.

On 16 December, **Viet Nam**’s Ministry of Justice (MoJ) organized a workshop for government actors to examine accession to the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness. The workshop follows a 2019 study on the country’s legal framework. The feedback and recommendations emanating from the workshop will inform a proposal for accession.

On 10 December, the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations in **The Philippines** held a virtual public hearing on accession to the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness. The Government has undertaken steps to accede to the convention since it made pledges to do so in 2011 and 2019.

From 15 September to 5 November, in **Central Asia**, UNHCR, the Al-Farabi Kazakh National University and the Central Asian Network on Statelessness organized the Second Regional Statelessness Paper Competition for Students to mark the 60th anniversary of the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness. University students were invited to submit essays and research papers on the origins, impact and relevance of the 1961 Convention. In total, 43 papers were received from students from all Central Asian states.

On 12 November, in **Uzbekistan**, the National Human Rights Centre and UNHCR held a workshop on nationality and statelessness in Tashkent to present the main findings of a legal analysis on nationality and statelessness in Uzbekistan. The analysis includes identified good practices, remaining gaps preventing access to nationality and recommendations. The workshop was attended by representatives of different ministries, Members of Parliament, the General Prosecutor’s Office and academia.

On 25 and 26 November, in **Kazakhstan**, UNHCR conducted a workshop on statelessness determination for 39 representatives of the Migration Services Committee of the Ministry of Interior, officials from its territorial departments, and civil society partners. The workshop aimed at improving the identification and documentation of stateless people to ensure that they enjoy the rights to which they are entitled to until they acquire a nationality.

On 1 November, UNHCR and the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights and the OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities virtually convened the **4th OSCE-UNHCR Seminar on Sharing Good Practices on Statelessness among OSCE Participating States** which focused on the importance of statelessness statistics. Presentations by experts stressed the importance of gathering data on stateless populations, including through censuses, surveys, civil registries, and social services.

On 25 November, during the [8th International Roma Women's Conference](#) a plenary session was held on the “Consequences of statelessness and lack of ID in times of global crisis”, with a contribution by UNHCR highlighting the impact of statelessness and the lack of birth registration during the pandemic.

On 14 and 15 October, in **Bulgaria**, UNHCR organized the “Conference on Procedures for Granting Status and Protection to Stateless Persons in Bulgaria”, which was attended by representatives of the Ministry of Interior and civil society. The conference was convened to support the government’s efforts to improve the existing statelessness determination procedure.

On 28 October, in **Montenegro**, UNHCR and the Ministry of Interior of Montenegro and the Embassy of France organized the “[International Conference on Statelessness: Best Practices in Montenegro and France](#)”. Experts from France, the Western Balkans region and Montenegro discussed, among other topics, procedural issues in statelessness determination procedures and the rights of stateless people. The discussion will contribute to the forthcoming work on the amendments to the Law on Foreigners in Montenegro, aimed at further strengthening the statelessness determination procedure, in line with a pledge made at the 2019 High-Level Segment on Statelessness.

On 9 December, in **Iceland**, UNHCR and the Directorate for Immigration co-convened a seminar in Reykjavik welcoming Iceland’s accession to both UN Conventions on Statelessness and the legislative steps that have been taken to align national legislation with Iceland’s obligations under the treaties. The event was attended by legal practitioners from Iceland and government representatives from Georgia and France, who shared their expertise and exchanged good practices in the implementation of statelessness determination procedures.

On 3 December, UNHCR and its NGO partner Vasa Prava BiH organized a roundtable in Sarajevo for free legal aid providers in **Bosnia and Herzegovina**. The objective of the roundtable was to improve the provision and sustainability of free legal aid to stateless persons and persons at risk of statelessness, and to close remaining cases of stateless individuals. From 28 October to 16 November, also in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Vasa Prava BiH and UNHCR organized a series of workshops to familiarize staff of the Ministry of Interior, legal aid offices, centers for social work and civil registrars with a recently adopted procedure which allows courts to determine the place and time of a child’s birth. The new procedure will facilitate the issuance of birth certificates and will allow the government to accelerate its efforts to resolve the remaining cases of people at risk of statelessness in the country. Vasa Prava BiH and UNHCR also organized a seminar for judges of the courts on the implementation of the law on 10 December, which builds on two previous seminars.

On 29 November, in **Croatia**, UNHCR organized a virtual conference marking the 60th anniversary of the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness and the 10th anniversary of Croatia’s accession to the Convention. Participants took stock of achievements and discussed the way forward in preventing and eradicating statelessness. Speakers included the Deputy Prime Minister and the Head of the Parliamentary Committee for Human Rights. Key recommendations emanating from the conference related to strengthening a multi-sectoral approach in addressing statelessness and establishing a dedicated statelessness determination procedure.

On 8 October, in **Italy**, UNHCR launched a partnership with three Italian Universities in Naples, Rome and Turin to establish statelessness legal clinics. The project entails the involvement of nine law students who, with the support of qualified lawyers, provide legal advice to stateless people to ensure they benefit from protection and access to rights and services.

In **Azerbaijan**, UNHCR assisted the State Migration Service (SMS) with its ongoing awareness raising campaign aimed at identifying persons at risk of statelessness in the country by funding the production of a [video](#) which draws attention to the hotline run by the SMS. The video was broadcast on local TV channels and on the social media accounts of UNHCR and SMS. Following the launch of the video, the number of undocumented persons approaching the SMS has tripled, many of whom have been referred to UNHCR for legal assistance.

From 15 November to 10 December, UNHCR and the International Institute for Humanitarian Law organized the **fourth Arabic statelessness course**, which was conducted virtually for the first time. The course brought together 37 participants from across the Middle East and North Africa region, including government officials, members of the judiciary, academics, and NGO participants. The course aimed to strengthen awareness of international standards on statelessness while also providing a platform to share experiences and explore solutions.

On 14 November, in Damascus, **Syria**, UNHCR, in coordination with the Syrian Arab Red Crescent (SARC), conducted a workshop on the importance of birth registration to prevent statelessness which convened 32 staff members from different ministries, the Directorate of Immigration and Passports, the Syrian Commission for Family Affairs and Population, Syria Trust for Development and the SARC. The objective of the workshop was to familiarize participants with UNHCR's mandate on statelessness and international standards on civil registration and the reduction of statelessness. During the workshop UNHCR also highlighted its role in supporting birth registration in Syria and discussed current challenges.

On 27 November and 4 December, in **Lebanon**, UNHCR and the partner NGO Ruwad al Houkuk Frontiers organized a two-day workshop to establish and build the capacity of a newly formed stateless community group. By working directly with stateless communities, UNHCR and its partner will better understand the protection issues and priorities of stateless people in order to inform programs and activities, involve the group in decision making and support the group in removing some of the barriers they face due to their statelessness. UNHCR will also support communities to address protection issues.

UNHCR and partners in several countries undertook activities with universities in order to sensitize students on the topic of statelessness. From 5 to 7 November in **Armenia**, UNHCR and the NGO Mission Armenia organized the 10th "[Refugee Law School](#)" for students across the country which included a session on the #IBelong Campaign and the international and national legal framework on statelessness. On 14 December in **Burkina Faso**, UNHCR and the Thomas Sankara University of Ouagadougou organized a debate on statelessness with university students to raise awareness of the issue and encourage more research initiatives on the topic. On 20 October in **Turkmenistan**, UNHCR gave a lecture to students on the international legal framework for refugee protection, nationality and statelessness, which is in line with an agreement between the UN Country Team and the Interagency Commission to promote education on human rights. On 2 November in **Uzbekistan**, UNCHR and the National Human Rights Centre (NHRC) gave an online lecture on nationality and statelessness for students, which was opened by the Deputy Speaker of the Legislative Chamber of the Parliament and Director of the NHRC. On 4 November in **Mozambique**, UNHCR and the Catholic University of Mozambique gave a lecture and organized a debate on statelessness and also discussed the project undertaken by UNHCR and the university on access to documentation to reduce risks of statelessness in the Cabo Delgado Province.



Staff from the NGO Sana Sezim help Aizhan, a stateless person in South Kazakhstan, to receive identity documents which will enable her to access medical services and continue her education. © UNHCR/Frederic Noy

Implementation of the Global Action Plan

In line with **Action 1, Resolve existing major situations of statelessness**, within the first year of **Kazakhstan's** country-wide statelessness identification and documentation campaign, more than 6,000 persons of undetermined nationality were registered, out of which close to 5,000 have now been documented, 3,400 became citizens of Kazakhstan and 1,600 were accorded statelessness status. To raise further public awareness of the campaign, coordination meetings and press briefings were held in eight regions of the country. The campaign is conducted by the Migration Services Committee of the Ministry of Interior, UNHCR and civil society partners.

With regard to **Actions 1 and 8, Issue nationality documentation to those with entitlement to it**, from 23 to 25 November, the Department of Justice of **The Philippines** reviewed the nationality status of a group of people of Indonesian descent with undetermined nationality. This resulted in a

determination of nationality of 123 people to either be Filipino, Indonesian or having dual citizenship. UNHCR is coordinating the effort between the Governments of the Philippines and Indonesia to issue nationality documentation to these individuals.

In line with **Action 2, Ensuring that no child is born stateless**, the court of first instance of Dabou, **Côte d'Ivoire**, issued a judicial decision which clarifies that individuals who were born to unknown parents and found as a child on the territory can obtain the nationality of Côte d'Ivoire even if a nationality application is submitted in adulthood. This marks an important development in case law as previously nationality was only granted to foundlings where the application was submitted when the person in question was still a child. Côte d'Ivoire acceded to the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness in 2013 which require States Parties to grant nationality to stateless foundlings.

In accordance with **Action 6, Grant protection status to stateless migrants and facilitate their naturalization**, on 14 December, the government of **Ukraine** adopted an amendment to the citizenship law that allows recognized stateless people to apply for facilitated naturalization after three instead of seven years as was previously the case. As of 13 December, 696 people had applied for recognition as stateless under the country's statelessness determination procedure and, as of 14 December, 38 has been granted statelessness status.

On 25 November, **Thailand** issued an Order which, once implemented, will allow registered stateless people who had migrated to Thailand before 18 January 2005 to apply for legal immigration and permanent residency status. Further, the Order provides that registered stateless persons who migrated to Thailand after 18 January 2005 are able to apply for legal immigration and temporary stay status. The Order and the underlying Cabinet Resolution will be implemented after supporting Regulations are officially introduced, which is expected to take place in February 2022.

In November, the new [Law on Aliens No. 79/2021](#) in **Albania** entered into force. The Law includes a provision for the establishment of a stateless determination procedure through an Instruction issued by the Minister of Interior. The inclusion of a provision on SDP is in line with one of the pledges made by Albania at the 2019 High-Level Segment on Statelessness. UNHCR and the NGO Tirana Legal Aid Society are providing technical assistance to the Ministry of Interior in drafting the Instruction.



Evelina Okhalska, the first stateless person recognized in Odeska region of Ukraine received her temporary residence permit on 10 December 2021. © State Migration Service, Kyiv

On 8 December and in line with its pledge made at the 2019 High-Level Segment on Statelessness, the Parliament of the Republic of **Armenia** adopted the long-awaited amendments to the Citizenship Law which will allow stateless refugees from Azerbaijan to benefit from a simplified naturalization process until the end of 2023.

In November, the Government of **Georgia** introduced amendments to a governmental decree that allows applicants for statelessness status to access emergency healthcare. This step is in line with one of the Government's pledges submitted at the 2019 High-Level Segment on Statelessness.

On 2 December in Abidjan, **Côte d'Ivoire**, the National Commission for Eligibility to Stateless Person Status held its first session, after being created in September 2020. The commission examined three cases of persons applying for statelessness status and recommended statelessness status for one of the applicants. In total, 48 cases have thus far been registered.

In **Guinea Bissau**, on 21 October, the revised draft of the Refugee and Stateless Status Law was approved by the Council of Ministers. UNHCR participated in the drafting of the revised law which includes provisions for the protection of stateless people and the establishment of a statelessness determination procedure. The next step will be the submission of the revised law to the National Assembly for approval.

On 20 November, the Parliament of **Turkmenistan** adopted the Law on the Legal Status of Aliens and Stateless Persons which establishes a statelessness determination procedure. This step is in line with one of Turkmenistan's pledges at the 2019 High-Level Segment on Statelessness.

In line with **Action 7, Ensure birth registration for the prevention of statelessness**, in **Nigeria**, from 15 to 19 November the National Population Commission, with support from UNHCR, organized a birth registration exercise for Bakassi returnees in Cross River State. This population group moved back to their native states after territory was ceded to Cameroon in 2005 and are at risk of statelessness. The exercise resulted in the registration of over 2,300 returnee children who were subsequently issued birth certificates. While the initial age limit was set at five years, it was extended to 17 years after appeals from the returnee community to the National Population Commission.

In **The Philippines**, UNHCR, UNICEF, the local government of Bongao and local partners on the ground conducted a mobile birth registration activity for members of the Sama Bajau – a maritime nomadic ethnic minority - from 27 to 29 October. The births of 287 community members were registered and birth certificates were distributed during a ceremony on 12 December in Bongao, Tawi-Tawi. Parallel to the birth registration exercise, advocacy sessions were conducted with the community to ensure that the Sama Bajau community is aware of the importance of birth documentation. Likewise, in Zamboanga, UNHCR, UNICEF, the local government, and the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples undertook a verification activity which resulted in the registration of births of 235 Sama Bajau individuals. The initiatives are implemented under the [UNHCR-UNICEF Joint Strategy to End Childhood Statelessness](#) and is in line with the Philippines' National Action Plan to End Statelessness and its High-Level Segment on Statelessness pledges.

The Constitutional Court of **Ecuador** ruled on 1 December that the registration of births of children born to adolescent mothers should be guaranteed and that regulatory provisions should be adjusted accordingly. The Court examined the situation of children born to Venezuelan mothers whose births were not registered due to a refusal of the civil registry on the basis that the adolescent mothers were not accompanied by a legal representative.



A group of school children belonging to group who returned to Bakassi are awaiting birth registration in Bakassi, Nigeria © UNHCR

In line with **Action 7** and **Action 8**, as of November, UNHCR and the Catholic University of **Mozambique** have supported over 15,000 people at risk of statelessness in Cabo Delgado Province in obtaining birth certificates and identification cards. The population who was assisted included both displaced and host communities.

In line with **Action 8, Issue nationality documentation to those with entitlement to it**, in **Mauritania**, UNHCR and its legal partner recently launched a legal assistance program for returnees from Senegal who are experiencing difficulties in obtaining a national identity document. Since the launch of the program in May 2021, twenty-six individuals have obtained civil documentation after being assisted with various administrative and judicial procedures.

On 28 September, the civil registration authorities of **Chad** issued national identity cards to 3,000 internally displaced persons (IDPs) at risk of statelessness who live on the border with Nigeria. The identification project is part of a partnership agreement between the civil registration authorities and UNHCR which is supporting the process. The project is ongoing and as

of 25 November, close to 4,800 identity cards to IDPs at risk of statelessness have been issued, which is 85% of the planned figure under this project. Several news outlets reporting on the project, including [Nouvelles.TD](#) and [Le Sahel](#).

In line with **Action 10, Improve quantitative and qualitative data on stateless populations**, in August and September, in **Kazakhstan**, UNHCR and the Bureau of National Statistics undertook capacity building activities to support the mapping of statelessness through the national population census. Videos and other communication materials were produced to train enumerators and to sensitize the general public on how to fill out the census questionnaire. The information campaign specifically targeted stateless persons and persons of undetermined nationality to encourage their participation in the census and address any concerns they may have. Also, sessions on nationality and statelessness were included in trainings for enumerators and other employees of government agencies involved in the census exercise. The activities that UNHCR is undertaking in supporting the census are part of the Joint Data Centre on Forced Migration Project.



A woman in Chad who is internally displaced received an ID card for the first time in her life. © UNHCR

Media Impact of the Campaign

On 4 November, in **Thailand**, to mark the 7th year anniversary of the #IBelong Campaign to end statelessness by 2024, UNHCR Thailand published a [story](#) of a 24-year-old formerly stateless man, Mr. Sai Nhamjoom, who was recently granted Thai nationality. He shared his first-hand experiences and challenges of being stateless and his dream to become a professional footballer.

On the 7th anniversary of the #IBelong Campaign, UNHCR's Representative in **Bosnia and Herzegovina** was interviewed by the Federal News Agency FENA, which was transmitted by several media outlets, including [Tuzlanski](#), [Radio Slobodna](#) and [Srpskainfoand](#). On 5 November, UNHCR published an [#IBelong Story of the hardships faced by a formerly stateless woman](#), Nina, in her efforts to gain a legal identity.

On 5 November, UNHCR and the Ministry of Justice and the Ministry of Human Rights of **Togo** conducted an [information session](#) which was broadcast on national television and private media outlets, to raise awareness of the issue of statelessness and the #IBelong campaign. This was also an opportunity to highlight Togo's accession to the two UN Statelessness Conventions and discuss its implications, including the ongoing efforts to address the discriminatory provisions in Togo's nationality law.

On 2 December, a **Croatian** television network, [RTL, broadcast a story on statelessness](#), featuring a stateless and formerly stateless person. UNHCR successfully intervened in the case of the formerly stateless person before the European Court for Human Rights in 2015 which resulted in the person being granted nationality in 2018. In the feature, UNHCR and its legal partner Civil Rights Project Sisak highlight the difficulties faced by stateless people while trying to resolve their status and advocate for the establishment of a statelessness determination procedure to facilitate the process.

On 10 December, UNHCR Georgia published a [video](#) to call attention to the importance of access to education for stateless people.

On 17 November, the Deputy Director of UNHCR's Regional Bureau for **Southern Africa**, Ms Angele Dikoungue-Atangana, and Mpho Modise, a person at risk of statelessness, were [interviewed](#) on the Morning Live Show to talk about statelessness, its causes, existing legal gaps that perpetuate the risk of statelessness and what is needed to address it in the region.

Upcoming Events

From 4 to 29 April, virtually

In partnership with UNHCR, the International Institute of Humanitarian Law will organize its 2022 course on statelessness in English. It is designed for government officials and NGOs dealing with stateless persons or addressing statelessness in their country. Applications can be submitted [here](#).

From 6 June to 1 July, virtually

In partnership with UNHCR, the International Institute of Humanitarian Law will organize its 2022 course on statelessness in Arabic. It is designed for government officials and NGOs dealing with stateless persons or addressing statelessness in their country. Applications can be submitted [here](#).

From 25 to 29 July, in Yaoundé, Cameroon

The Catholic University for Central Africa and UNHCR will organize its fourth Statelessness and Nationality Course for French speaking statelessness practitioners. Applications can be submitted [here](#).

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](#).