

#IBelong Campaign to End Statelessness Special Appeal



December 2016



UNHCR
The UN Refugee Agency

Cover photograph

Deborah is 10 years old and stateless. She lives in Côte d'Ivoire. She has been going to school since she was six years old but in two years, when she starts year 6, she will have to present a birth certificate. Without one, she will no longer be able to go to school.

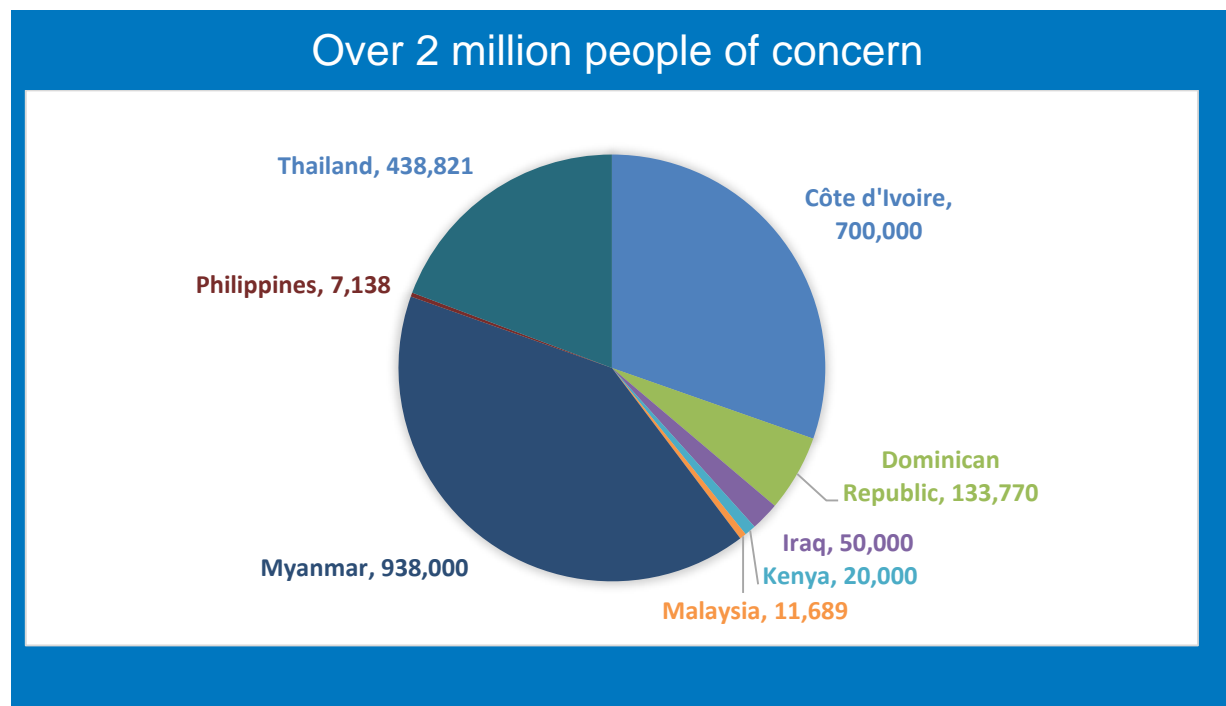
UNHCR / A. Froger

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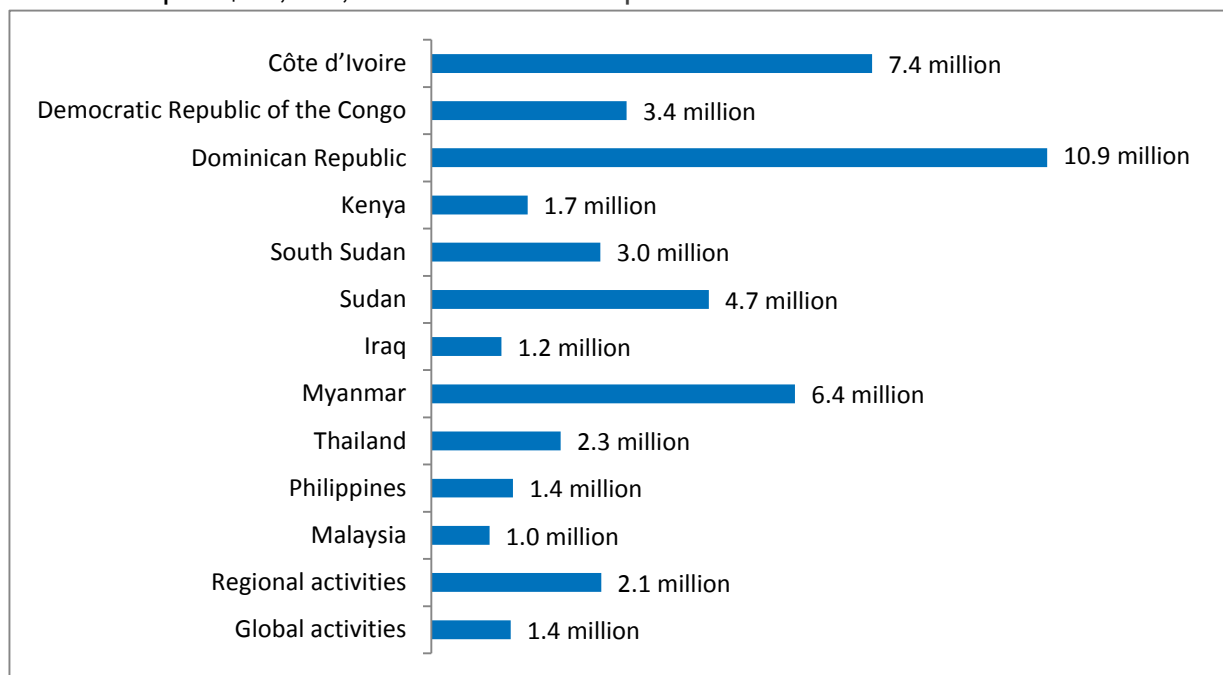
AT A GLANCE



Source: Global Trends 2015

* No statistics are available for the Democratic Republic of the Congo, South Sudan or Sudan. However, all these three countries are estimated to host significant numbers of stateless people or people at risk of statelessness.

A total of up to \$47,033,000* in financial requirements will be needed for 2017-2018



* All dollar signs in this document denote United States dollars. This total includes regional activities and support costs (7%)

INTRODUCTION

Statelessness is a global problem with serious ramifications. UNHCR estimates that at least 10 million people around the world are stateless. Yet, experience has shown that with sufficient political will, it can be resolved. Building on the increased awareness and commitment by States to address statelessness, in November 2014, UNHCR launched the [#IBelong Campaign to End Statelessness](#) by 2024.¹ The achievement of the goals of the #IBelong Campaign is based on 10 Actions set out in the Global Action Plan (GAP) to End Statelessness. The GAP calls on States, with the support of UNHCR and other actors, to undertake a range of initiatives, from implementing legal and policy reforms to resolving the largest situations of statelessness and to improving data on the scope and situation of stateless populations. Progress against each of the 10 Actions will be publicly evaluated in 2017 and 2020 against a series of milestones set out in the GAP.

Since the #IBelong Campaign was launched, there have been significant achievements in several countries in terms of preventing and reducing statelessness. In most cases, the progress has been a result of strong collaboration between government authorities, UNHCR and civil society. For example:

- In Kyrgyzstan, in 2014-2015 the Government, UNHCR and NGO partners identified and registered over 10,000 people of undetermined nationality. Over 9,000 cases were submitted to relevant state bodies for acquisition or confirmation of nationality. By the end of 2015, 7,042 people acquired or had their nationality confirmed, or obtained documents proving it, or both. The registration exercise will cover the whole country by the end of 2016, paving the way for full resolution of statelessness in Kyrgyzstan in the next few years.
- In Tajikistan, in 2014-2015 UNHCR and its partners registered over 19,000 people of concern under UNHCR's statelessness mandate, and by the end of 2015, almost 600 of them had their nationality confirmed. Simultaneously, UNHCR supported the Government in a nationality law reform and establishment of a mechanism that would simplify grant of Tajik nationality to tens of thousands of people.
- In Thailand, UNHCR supported the Government's capacity to process nationality applications by stateless people and provided assistance to stateless individuals, raising awareness among decision-makers which led to improved implementation of the nationality law. In 2015, UNHCR supported around 6,000 people to submit nationality applications. In the past three and a half years, more than 23,000 stateless people were granted Thai nationality.
- In Malaysia, in 2014-2016 UNHCR supported a local NGO which identified and registered 12,350 stateless people of Indian/Tamil origin. 10,955 people were assisted to submit nationality applications and by the end of November 2016, 1,503 people had acquired Malaysian nationality.
- In Côte d'Ivoire, UNHCR supports the Government to process applications submitted within the 'naturalization by declaration' procedure. 123,000 applications, including from stateless people, were received by the end of January 2016 when the procedure closed. By mid-2016, around 5,000 formerly stateless people acquired Ivorian nationality. The processing of applications continues, and tens of thousands more people are expected to acquire nationality in 2016 and 2017.
- In the Dominican Republic, Law 169-14 was adopted in May 2014 to address the consequences of the 2013 ruling on nationality of the Constitutional Court which rendered tens of thousands of Dominican-born individuals of foreign descent stateless. The law provided, *inter alia*, for the validation of birth certificates and reacquisition of nationality for individuals born in the country between 1929 and 2007 whose births had been registered (Group A). By November 2015 some 12,000 individuals had obtained their birth certificates or national identity cards, and thousands of individuals are believed to also have been issued their Dominican civil documents in 2016. UNHCR is assisting these individuals to access their documents.

¹ <http://www.unhcr.org/ibelong/>

Strides have also been made in a number of sub-regions, with the adoption of intergovernmental initiatives strongly endorsing the #IBelong Campaign. These include the Brazil Declaration and Platform for Action on Refugees, Displaced and Stateless Persons in Latin America and the Caribbean adopted in December 2014 by 28 States in the region; the Abidjan Declaration of Ministers of ECOWAS Member States on Eradication of Statelessness adopted in February 2015; and Conclusions on Statelessness adopted by the Council of the European Union in December 2015. Efforts are underway for the adoption of the African Union Protocol on the Right to Nationality in Africa.

In this document, UNHCR has highlighted the financial requirements in 2017-2018 in 11 countries. Securing funding on a two-year basis is necessary as addressing statelessness requires sustained, multi-year efforts. The 11 countries included in this appeal host major stateless or at-risk populations, and significant progress in these countries in the next few years is crucial for achieving the goals of the #IBelong Campaign. The countries selected fulfil one or more of the following criteria:

- Strong momentum towards the eradication of statelessness already exists, but additional capital would permit an expanded response.
- The legal or policy framework to resolve statelessness exists, but implementation is lacking.
- Initiatives towards law reform to prevent statelessness need to be enlivened through dedicated and targeted response.

At the regional level, efforts to develop declarations or plans of action in regions or sub-regions that have not yet taken or finalized such initiatives—such as ASEAN, the East African Community, the Southern African Development Community, and the League of Arab States—will need to be supported. At the global level, given that 2017 will mark the first of the #IBelong Campaign’s official milestone years when progress against each of the 10 Actions will be measured, it is proposed that a high-level event be organized to acknowledge the Campaign’s progress to date, encourage the sharing of good practices among States, and to seek commitments to address statelessness to meet the Campaign’s goals. The visibility of the Campaign will also need to be enhanced to strengthen public support.

Financial summary

The total financial requirements for 2017-2018 would amount to \$47 million, should the budget for 2018 be approved by ExCom.

OPERATION	2017 ExCom-approved budget	2018 requirements (Subject to ExCom approval)	Total
Côte d’Ivoire	3,837,000	3,610,000	7,447,000
Democratic Republic of the Congo	1,949,000	1,500,000	3,449,000
Dominican Republic	5,884,000	5,000,000	10,884,000
Kenya	853,000	845,000	1,698,000
South Sudan	1,485,000	1,500,000	2,985,000
Sudan	2,389,000	2,300,000	4,689,000
Iraq	624,000	615,000	1,239,000
Myanmar	3,310,000	3,056,000	6,366,000
Thailand	1,175,000	1,135,000	2,310,000
Philippines	751,000	690,000	1,441,000
Malaysia	515,000	510,000	1,025,000
Regional activities	1,050,000	1,050,000	2,100,000
Global activities	700,000	700,000	1,400,000
TOTAL	24,522,000	22,511,000	47,033,000

COTE D'IVOIRE

Context and existing response

There is strong momentum towards resolving statelessness in Cote d'Ivoire, as demonstrated by the country's commitment under the Abidjan Declaration of Ministers of ECOWAS Member States on Eradication of Statelessness in 2015, the accession to the UN statelessness conventions in 2013, and establishment of a declaration procedure in which individuals with long-term residency in the country, including stateless people, could acquire Ivorian nationality. The procedure was in place from April 2014 to January 2016. UNHCR is financially and technically supporting the Ministry of Interior to boost its capacity to process the applications, and has also partnered with a legal aid NGO to follow up on cases that were rejected in the first instance or put on hold due to inadequate supporting documents. Over 120,000 applications were received, and as of mid-2016, approximately 5,000 stateless people were granted Ivorian nationality. As the processing of the applications is ongoing, tens of thousands of stateless people are expected to acquire Ivorian nationality by the end of 2017. UNHCR also continues to advocate for reform of the nationality law to bring it into compliance with the statelessness conventions, and for the establishment of mechanism to allow stateless people who could not benefit from the declaration procedure to acquire nationality. In addition, UNHCR supports birth registration activities to help prevent statelessness. Resources are essential to ensuring existing momentum is fully capitalized on, and an expanded response implemented where possible.

Strategy and partnerships

The Government of Côte d'Ivoire has committed to resolving statelessness in the country, and UNHCR is supporting its efforts through capacity building, technical assistance, and coordination of the various government actors as well as civil society. Ending statelessness in the country by 2024 is a realistic goal and can be achieved through nationality law reform, provision of legal aid, improved access to documentation, awareness-raising, and improved birth registration and administrative practices in the civil status system. The strategy relies on the increased capacity of and coordination between various actors at government, UN and civil society levels. In addition to continued partnerships with the main government partners—the Ministry of Justice and the *Service d'Aide et d'Assistance aux Réfugiés et Apatrides* (Assistance Service for Refugee and Stateless of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs/SAARA)—UNHCR will continue expanding its strategic partnerships with other government actors—notably the Human Rights and Public Liberties Ministry, the Interior Ministry, the National Human Rights Commission—and has established new legal aid and communications and awareness-raising partnerships with NGOs. UNFPA, UNESCO and UNICEF are the key UN actors with which UNHCR will coordinate activities, including through the country-level UNDAF plan, which includes civil registry reform and access to documentation as priorities until 2020. UNHCR will also continue to support an NGO network on statelessness.

Vision for 2019

- Tens of thousands of individuals have acquired Ivorian nationality.
- Legal pathway to nationality available to the majority of stateless people in the country.
- Nationality law reformed, providing for full safeguards against new cases of statelessness.

Planned activities

Favourable protection environment	
<p>Law and policy developed or strengthened</p> <p>Access to legal assistance and legal remedies improved</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> UNHCR will advocate for the inclusion at the national level of the statelessness conventions and for further legal reform related to statelessness, its reduction and prevention, and the protection of stateless people. UNHCR will build the capacity of the civil registry system to improve the implementation of the existing legislation to prevent statelessness. UNHCR will engage and train legal service providers to ensure that stateless people and those at risk can access legal aid when applying for nationality or documents confirming nationality.
Durable solutions	
<p>Greater reduction of statelessness is achieved</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> UNHCR and its partners will provide counselling and help 20,000 individuals to prepare nationality applications. UNHCR and partners will organize 70 workshops mostly in areas with high prevalence of statelessness.
Fair protection processes and documentation	
<p>Identification of statelessness improved</p> <p>Civil registration and civil status documentation improved</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> UNHCR will conduct targeted identification and participatory assessment exercises. UNHCR will train at least 30 government officials to improve their ability to identify stateless people. UNHCR will support mobile courts to provide late birth registration. UNHCR will provide trainings on civil registry procedures, including on birth registration, and statelessness to government officials and other relevant actors.
Leadership, coordination and partnerships	
<p>Donor relations and resource mobilization strengthened</p> <p>Coordination and partnerships strengthened</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> UNHCR will undertake four field missions with donors. UNHCR will facilitate the reactivation of its networks on statelessness: NGOs, researchers, media and members of parliament. UNHCR will coordinate UN interventions related to statelessness.
Logistics and operations support	
<p>Operations management, coordination and support strengthened and optimized</p> <p>Logistics and supply optimized to serve operational needs</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> UNHCR will ensure timely provision of assets to partners, timely audits and training to at least 20 partner staff, as well as insurance coverage of all vehicles.

Financial requirements

Total requirements for 2017 and 2018 in Côte d'Ivoire are \$7,447,000².

	2017 ExCom approved budget for Pillar 2	2018 estimated budget for Pillar 2 ³	Total
Favourable protection environment			
Law and policy	231,000	230,000	461,000
Legal assistance and remedies	126,000	125,000	251,000
Durable solutions			
Greater reduction of statelessness	1,535,000	1,535,000	3,070,000
Fair protection processes and documentation			
Identification of statelessness	559,000	500,000	1,059,000
Civil registration and civil status documentation	338,000	300,000	638,000
Leadership, coordination and partnerships			
Donor relations and resource mobilization	50,000	50,000	100,000
Coordination and partnerships	170,000	170,000	340,000
Logistics and operation support			
Operations management, coordination and support	490,000	400,000	890,000
Logistics and supply optimized to serve operational needs	338,000	300,000	638,000
TOTAL	3,837,000	3,610,000	7,447,000

² 7% will be taken off any contribution to cover support costs.

³ Subject to ExCom approval.

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

Context and existing response

The Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) is estimated to host a large stateless population, but political instability and the sensitivities have posed challenges to effectively addressing the issue. Currently, in collaboration with NGO partners, UNHCR supports the authorities in North and South Kivu Provinces as well as North and South Oubangui and Tanganyika to improve birth registration and the delivery of civil status documentation for the prevention of statelessness, including through mobile courts. Public awareness-raising activities are conducted at national and regional levels on the importance of birth registration and the risk of statelessness. In addition, UNHCR strongly advocates for the DRC's accession to the two UN statelessness conventions. Resources would scale up efforts to enhance understanding of the issue and gain political will to address it, which would pave the way for concrete steps towards resolving the situation.

Strategy and partnerships

UNHCR's strategy for the prevention and reduction of statelessness focuses on the improved understanding of the statelessness issues in the country, effective promotion of accession to the two UN statelessness conventions and strengthened birth registration. UNHCR will aim to obtain improved data on statelessness and the implications and risks that stem from it, facilitate discussions with key actors from government institutions, UN agencies, and civil society organisations, and support the Government in developing a national action plan to address statelessness. Key to the strategy will be coordination with relevant UN sister agencies and civil society actors, including the National Committee for Human Rights and academic institutions. UNHCR will also engage with key regional organizations where DRC is an important member, such as the International Conference of the Great Lakes Region and Southern African Development Community.

Vision for 2019

- Accession to the two UN statelessness conventions.
- Improved quantitative and qualitative data on statelessness available.
- Improved capacity of the Government to register births among communities at risk of statelessness.
- Improved capacity of the Government to grant nationality to people who meet the criteria.

Planned activities

Favourable protection environment

International and regional instruments acceded to, ratified or strengthened

- UNHCR will conduct a study to better understand the statelessness issues in the country and to support evidence-based advocacy for accession to the statelessness conventions and policy changes.
- UNHCR will advocate with, and raise the awareness of, government officials on statelessness issues and the statelessness conventions in particular.
- UNHCR will conduct public awareness-raising activities on the importance of birth registration at national and provincial levels.
- UNHCR will support authorities responsible for birth registration and issuance of nationality certificates.
- UNHCR will advocate for documentation of specific groups at risk of statelessness.

Financial requirements

Total requirements for 2017 and 2018 in the Democratic Republic of the Congo are \$3,449,000⁴.

	2017 ExCom approved budget for Pillar 2	2018 estimated budget for Pillar 2 ⁵	Total
Favourable protection environment			
International and regional instruments	1,949,000	1,500,000	3,449,000
TOTAL	1,949,000	1,500,000	3,449,000

⁴ 7% will be taken off any contribution to cover support costs.

⁵ Subject to ExCom approval.

THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

Context and existing response

A ruling of the Dominican Constitutional Court in September 2013 stripped Dominican nationality from tens of thousands of people of Haitian descent previously considered to be Dominican nationals, thus rendering them stateless. UNHCR, together with the international community, strongly advocated that these people have their nationality restored to them. Subsequently, in May 2014, a law establishing separate special procedures for individuals who had previously been registered in the Dominican Civil Registry (Group A) and those whose births had never been registered (Group B) was passed. Under the terms of the law, people within Group A were to have their Dominican nationality re-confirmed after an analysis and regularization of their birth registration by the authorities. UNHCR and its partners provide legal assistance to people within Group A to have their status verified and acquire nationality documentation, and have assisted people in Group B to register and obtain legal status as migrants. As only a relatively small number of people whose profile matches the criteria for Group B managed to register within the deadline given by the Government, UNHCR and its partners are continuing with identification and registration activities, with the aim of advocating for solutions for this group. Resources would ensure momentum to resolve the situation of all those within Group A and those registered within Group B is used to best advantage, and so that efforts can be stepped up to address the situation of those for whom there is currently no legal solution available.

Strategy and partnerships

UNHCR's strategy focuses on continued identification and registration of people of concern, advocacy for resolution of situations where people's nationality has been called into question, as well as provision of legal assistance to people in Groups A and B. The Office will also seek to progressively engage in protection interventions to improve the enjoyment of basic rights, access to basic services, and livelihood opportunities, through an inter-agency approach. UNHCR will build on established relationships with the various government authorities, and will continue participating in the thematic, inter-agency working group in collaboration with OHCHR, UNDP, UNICEF, UNFPA, OCHA and IOM.

Vision for 2019

- Tens of thousands of individuals have obtained proof of their nationality.
- Tens of thousands of individuals with entitlement to Dominican nationality registered and have obtained proof of birth in the country.
- Thousands of individuals have submitted applications for nationality.
- Individuals with civil documents have enhanced access to basic services and livelihood opportunities.

Planned activities

Durable solutions

Greater reduction of statelessness is achieved

- UNHCR will provide legal and logistical support to individuals in Group A to obtain documents confirming their nationality.
- UNHCR, together with the Ministry of Interior and NGO partners, will reach out to individuals in Group B to facilitate issuance of residence permits and, once they become eligible for naturalization, provide legal and logistical support to apply for Dominican nationality.
- In collaboration with IOM and NGO partners, UNHCR will map geographical areas with high concentrations of people who were not able to register under the special law, with a view to registering them and providing support to obtain documentation to prove their birth in the Dominican Republic.
- In total, UNHCR aims to assist 20,000 individuals.

Financial requirements

Total requirements for 2017 and 2018 in the Dominican Republic are \$10,884,000⁶.

	2017 ExCom approved budget for Pillar 2	2018 estimated budget for Pillar 2 ⁷	Total
Durable solutions			
Greater reduction of statelessness	5,884,000	5,000,000	10,884,000
TOTAL	5,884,000	5,000,000	10,884,000

⁶ 7% will be taken off any contribution to cover support costs.

⁷ Subject to ExCom approval.

KENYA

Context and existing response

Kenya has a relatively strong legal framework for prevention and reduction of statelessness. UNHCR focuses, therefore, on supporting the Government in its efforts to identify stateless people and grant nationality to them, and to prevent statelessness within the existing legal framework. UNHCR and its partners have completed surveys of two communities, the Makonde and the Pemba, many of whom are believed to be stateless. This effort, along with sustained advocacy with the Government, has recently led it to extending the timeframe by which stateless people can apply for citizenship by registration under the Citizenship Act, and to a specific initiative to register stateless Makonde as Kenyan citizens. In addition, UNHCR and its partners also assist stateless individuals to access procedures to acquire nationality and provide support for birth registration for the prevention of statelessness among communities at risk of statelessness. These resources would enable adequate support to the Government and civil society partners and will allow the existing momentum to address statelessness in the country to be fully capitalized.

Strategy and partnerships

UNHCR and partners will step up support to the authorities in implementing the nationality legislation, and building up the capacity of government authorities and civil society. The underlying objective is to move toward a comprehensive and coordinated response in favour of stateless people, as well as sensitizing communities about their situation and rights. A National Action Plan is being elaborated with inputs and contributions from all stakeholders prior to its endorsement by the Government. The efforts to effectively implement existing legal provisions will be complemented by advocacy for accession to the statelessness conventions and amending the nationality law to bring it into full compliance with the standards of the conventions. UNHCR will also advocate for addressing the remaining administrative and policy gaps in the area of civil registration and access to documentation.

Vision for 2019

- Thousands of individuals have had their nationality confirmed.
- Thousands of individuals at risk of statelessness have had their births registered.
- Data available on additional two stateless communities.

Planned activities

Favourable protection environment	
Law and policy developed or strengthened	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ UNHCR will build the capacity and provide technical support to government officials in order to ensure legislative changes are in place and implemented at the central and local level for more effective prevention and reduction of statelessness and protection of stateless people.
Durable solutions	
Greater reduction of statelessness is achieved	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ UNHCR and its partners will provide assistance to 3,800 people to acquire nationality, or have their nationality confirmed.▪ To ensure effective coordination of the naturalization process, UNHCR will build up government capacity, including through training 60 officials.

- UNHCR will support the Government in the implementation of the National Action Plan to End Statelessness.

Fair protection processes and documentation

Identification of statelessness improved
Civil registration and civil status documentation improved

- UNHCR will conduct **two** targeted identification exercises.
- UNHCR will raise awareness about the importance of birth registration among communities of concern and support mobile courts in providing late birth registration.
- UNHCR will provide technical support to the Bureau of Statistics to include questions on nationality/statelessness in the 2019 national census.
- UNHCR will organize **four** capacity-building workshops for civil registry officials.
- UNHCR and partners will ensure that **4,500** individual receive birth certificates through late birth registration.

Leadership, coordination and partnerships

Coordination and partnerships strengthened

- To ensure increased awareness of statelessness, UNHCR will share information among host communities, government officials and affected people.
- UNHCR will strengthen coordination mechanisms through joint assessments and planning and evaluation exercises.

Financial requirements

Total requirements for 2017 and 2018 in Kenya are \$1,698,000⁸.

	2017 ExCom approved budget for Pillar 2	2018 estimated budget for Pillar 2 ⁹	Total
Favourable protection environment			
Law and policy	113,000	110,000	223,000
Durable solutions			
Greater reduction of statelessness	417,000	415,000	832,000
Fair protection processes and documentation			
Identification of statelessness	137,000	135,000	272,000
Civil registration and civil status documentation	106,000	105,000	211,000
Leadership, coordination and partnerships			
Coordination and partnerships	80,000	80,000	160,000
TOTAL	853,000	845,000	1,698,000

⁸ 7% will be taken off any contribution to cover support costs.

⁹ Subject to ExCom approval.

SOUTH SUDAN

Context and existing response

Following the succession of South Sudan in 2011, the nationality law of Sudan was amended so that Sudanese nationality is automatically withdrawn from individuals who are considered South Sudanese nationals under the law of South Sudan. At the same time, South Sudan adopted nationality legislation which set out a broad definition of who was considered a South Sudanese national, ensuring that large-scale statelessness was avoided. However, certain populations are at risk of becoming stateless because they are not recognized as citizens of either South Sudan or Sudan. UNHCR is working to reduce the risk of statelessness by helping the Government of South Sudan to issue nationality documentation to its nationals in South Sudan and Sudan, and promoting fair and transparent procedures for determination of nationality. Considering the seriousness and the scale of the risk of statelessness, resources are essential to enable a timely and comprehensive response.

Strategy and partnerships

UNHCR's strategic vision in addressing statelessness in South Sudan has four overarching objectives. Firstly, to support the Government's institutional capacity to identify risks of statelessness and to prevent and resolve such situations. Secondly, to promote public awareness and civil society engagement on issues of nationality and statelessness. Thirdly, to assist populations most at risk to access their right to nationality and documentation and, lastly, to promote and support a regional dialogue and coordination to prevent and resolve statelessness for identified populations. In view of the complexity of the issue of statelessness in South Sudan, stemming mainly from its multiple causes, the need for state-building of the youngest country in the world, and given years of civil conflict, UNHCR will remain strongly engaged, working with a broad range of local partners to promote full national ownership of the issue and to encourage the required political will.

Vision for 2019

- Tens of thousands of individuals at risk of statelessness obtain nationality documentation.
- Increased capacity and outreach by the authorities to issue nationality documentation.

Planned activities

Favourable protection environment	
Law and policy developed or strengthened	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> UNHCR will continue supporting the Directorate of Nationality, Passports and Immigration (DNPI) in order to build the capacity of the department to increase access to nationality documentation. Support to DNPI will include trainings to its officers, and facilitating mobility to access hard-to-reach areas. UNHCR will advocate with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs for accession to the two UN Statelessness Conventions, by organizing workshops for the ministerial committee.
Fair protection processes and documentation	
Level of individual documentation increased	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> UNHCR will continue supporting DNPI to issue nationality certificates, and to directly assist individuals at risk of statelessness to obtain the same. UNHCR will endeavour to assist 7,000 people at risk of statelessness to obtain nationality certificates. The locations that UNHCR will prioritize, security permitting, are Northern and Western Bahr el-Ghazal, Warrap and Jonglei States, including the border areas.

Financial requirements

Total requirements for 2017 and 2018 in South Sudan are \$2,985,000¹⁰.

	2017 ExCom approved budget for Pillar 2	2018 estimated budget for Pillar 2 ¹¹	Total
Favourable protection environment			
Law and policy	603,000	600,000	1,203,000
Fair protection processes and documentation			
Individual documentation	882,000	900,000	1,782,000
TOTAL	1,485,000	1,500,000	2,985,000

¹⁰ 7% will be taken off any contribution to cover support costs.

¹¹ Subject to ExCom approval.

SUDAN

Context and existing response

Under amendments to the Sudanese nationality law introduced after the succession of South Sudan, individuals who are considered as South Sudanese nationals under the law of South Sudan automatically lost their Sudanese nationality. Challenges for addressing nationality result from the fact that many people lack documentation and/or have effective links to both countries. The risk of statelessness for such people is, thankfully, limited as South Sudanese in Sudan would normally automatically acquire South Sudanese nationality. However, a risk remains for individuals of mixed origin, those with long residence in Sudan, and those from border communities. After 2011, an estimated 350,000 people of South Sudanese origin remained in Sudan. In addition, following the eruption of the current crisis in South Sudan in December 2013, there has been a constant influx of South Sudanese fleeing into Sudan. UNHCR is working with both Governments to facilitate access to nationality documents to South Sudanese nationals living in Sudan, including collaborating with the South Sudanese consulate and capacity building of the relevant authorities of Sudan. Considering the seriousness and the scale of the risk of statelessness, resources are essential to enable a timely and comprehensive response.

Strategy and partnerships

UNHCR will continue providing technical and financial support to the South Sudan Consulate in Khartoum, jointly with UNHCR South Sudan to issue nationality documentation to South Sudanese nationals in Sudan, and assisting vulnerable individuals in this process. A network of lawyers with strong knowledge of nationality issues has been established, with a presence in most Sudanese states. UNHCR also advocates on the negotiations between the two countries on the implementation of cooperation agreements, including the agreement on the status of nationals of the other state. With other UN partners, UNHCR continues supporting the Government's efforts to improve birth registration and ensuring that UNHCR's population of concern is included in the civil registry system. This includes building the capacity of officers of the civil registry and organizing information and capacity-building sessions for other government agencies and members of communities to raise their awareness about the legal framework on nationality and documentation.

Vision for 2019

- Thousands of individuals at risk of statelessness obtain nationality documentation.
- Local lawyers trained to provide legal aid to individuals at risk of statelessness.
- Increased awareness among communities at risk of statelessness of the importance of birth registration, and increased capacity of authorities to register births among at risk populations.

Planned activities

Favourable protection environment	
<p>Law and policy developed or strengthened</p> <p>Access to legal assistance and legal remedies improved</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> UNHCR will monitor legislative developments and advocate for, and provide technical advice to, the Government to effectively implement existing legislation as well as to consider possible amendments. Through partners, UNHCR will provide counselling and legal aid to 600 individuals with difficulty in proving their Sudanese or South Sudanese nationality, and to those with protection concerns linked to their change of nationality and legal status. UNHCR will train 85 local lawyers to provide legal assistance in such cases.
Fair protection processes and documentation	
<p>Level of individual documentation increased</p> <p>Civil registration and civil status documentation strengthened</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> UNHCR will support the Consulate of South Sudan to process nationality documentation applications, and to expand documentation activities to areas where there are high concentrations of South Sudanese individuals. 7,000 individuals are expected to obtain nationality documentation. Through involvement in the Government-led committee on birth registration, UNHCR in cooperation with other actors will continue supporting a coordinated effort to strengthen birth registration and implement continuous registration in the whole of Sudan. UNHCR will conduct advocacy and information campaigns as well as capacity-building activities for officials involved in the registration procedures as well as for the population of concern, to increase the awareness of the importance of registration and documentation, as well as to ensure harmonized procedures.
Community empowerment and self-reliance	
<p>Community mobilization strengthened and expanded</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> UNHCR will put in place a monitoring mechanism to assess the situation of South Sudanese populations in Khartoum, Eastern Sudan, White Nile State and Darfur. Monitoring activities will focus on the implications of the registration of South Sudanese with Sudanese immigration authorities, as well as on issues relating to confirmation of nationality and civil registration. UNHCR will raise awareness among South Sudanese communities of the change in their nationality and legal status, and empower community committees to address issues with local authorities and within their communities.
Logistics and operations support	
<p>Operations management, coordination and support strengthened and optimized</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> UNHCR will hire affiliated workforce essential for the implementation of its statelessness programme.

Financial requirements

Total requirements for 2017 and 2018 in Sudan are \$4,689,000¹².

	2017 ExCom approved budget for Pillar 2	2018 estimated budget for Pillar 2 ¹³	Total
Favourable protection environment			
Law and policy	620,000	600,000	1,220,000
Legal assistance and legal remedies	645,000	600,000	1,245,000
Fair protection processes and documentation			
Individual documentation	424,000	400,000	824,000
Civil registration and civil status documentation	400,000	400,000	800,000
Community empowerment and self-reliance			
Community mobilization	300,000	300,000	600,000
TOTAL	2,389,000	2,300,000	4,689,000

¹² 7% will be taken off any contribution to cover support costs.

¹³ Subject to ExCom approval.

IRAQ

Context and existing response

UNHCR estimates that there are around 50,000 stateless people in Iraq. Notwithstanding the security situation, UNHCR has stepped up its efforts, in collaboration with NGO partners, to provide legal assistance to stateless people and those at risk of statelessness to acquire documents proving nationality, and to raise awareness on the importance of civil documentation, including birth registration. UNHCR has also resumed its advocacy for Iraq's accession to the UN Statelessness Conventions and effective implementation of existing nationality legislation, which is among the most progressive in the Middle East. Resources are required to expand and systematize the current response, build on the headway made in 2016, and to gain further political will from the Government to resolve the situation.

Strategy and partnerships

UNHCR's protection and solution strategy focuses on advocacy and awareness-raising activities with authorities, and on providing individual legal assistance to stateless people or to those at risk of statelessness to obtain documentation through Protection and Reintegration Centres throughout Iraq. UNHCR provides assistance, including cash, to persons of concern, including those who are stateless or at risk of statelessness, according to their vulnerability. Protection monitoring will continue to inform UNHCR's evidence-based strategy, and stateless people will continue to be included in the operation's digital protection monitoring assessments.

Vision for 2019

- Thousands of individuals acquire nationality or obtain proof of their nationality.
- Increased access to legal aid by stateless individuals or those at risk.
- Concrete steps taken towards accession to the two UN statelessness conventions.

Planned activities

Favourable protection environment	
International and regional instruments acceded to, ratified or strengthened	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ UNHCR will advocate with the Government of Iraq for the accession to the 1954 and the 1961 statelessness conventions, including through organizing 3 workshops to relevant Government authorities.▪ UNHCR will advocate for the effective implementation of the existing nationality law, with the aim of accelerating the process of granting nationality to stateless people.
Law and policy developed or strengthened	
Durable solutions	
Greater reduction of statelessness is achieved	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ UNHCR, together with partners, will assist 2,500 people to acquire nationality or documents proving their nationality.
Logistics and operations support	
Operations management, coordination and support strengthened and optimized	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ In order to ensure provision of legal assistance to stateless people and those at risk, UNHCR will provide project management services and support to one international partner.

Financial requirements

Total requirements for 2017 and 2018 in Iraq are \$1,239,000¹⁴.

	2017 ExCom approved budget for Pillar 2	2018 estimated budget for Pillar 2 ¹⁵	Total
Favourable protection environment			
Law and policy	95,000	90,000	185,000
International and regional instruments	49,000	45,000	94,000
Durable solutions			
Greater reduction of statelessness	400,000	400,000	800,000
Logistics and operations support			
Operations management, coordination and support	80,000	80,000	160,000
TOTAL	624,000	615,000	1,239,000

¹⁴ 7% will be taken off any contribution to cover support costs.

¹⁵ Subject to ExCom approval.

MYANMAR

Context and existing response

Currently UNHCR reports that there are 1,090,000 stateless people in Rakhine State, including those reported in an IDP or IDP-like situation, but the total size of the stateless population across the country is likely to be larger. UNHCR has a nation-wide focus on statelessness and as such continues to provide capacity-building for government counterparts, as well as lawyers and civil society organizations across the country. UNHCR continues its statelessness monitoring in Rakhine State to identify protection incidents, conduct community consultations and analyse trends. In central Rakhine State, UNHCR has been transitioning from an IDP-focused engagement towards a statelessness focus, aligned with the approach in northern Rakhine. While the main focus is on protection monitoring and advocacy, UNHCR continues providing limited and targeted material assistance and livelihoods support, and to promote peaceful co-existence and social interaction. Resources are essential to scale up efforts to engage with a broad range of actors within the Government, civil society and international organizations, with the aim of full implementation of the existing legal framework and incremental steps towards resolving the situation. The promotion of solutions for the population of concern has to be carefully adjusted to the immediate context of Rakhine State, where opportunities and approaches to promoting solutions need to be regularly reassessed and adjusted to take into account developments on the ground.

Strategy and partnerships

The nationwide focus of the UN and a group of diplomatic missions in Myanmar to resolve statelessness includes advocating for the highest level of protection for stateless people until they acquire nationality, with the focus on the incremental lifting of those restrictions limiting dignified life and the integration of stateless communities within society. Efforts will be made to strengthen and harmonize protection monitoring and profiling to provide analytical reports that can inform advocacy at national and international levels. Promoting greater understanding amongst leaders, confidence building between communities, improving development in Rakhine State, building the awareness and capacity of civil society and the justice sector, are key elements of the strategy. Promoting reform of the nationality law for it to be in line with Myanmar's international obligations and to eradicate statelessness in the long term, and at the same time, efforts to ensure that stateless people have access to citizenship and the rights that they are entitled to under the current legislation, remain central components of UNHCR's approach. Finally, supporting birth registration activities, in particular in the context of the Ministerial Declaration and accompanying Regional Action Framework on Civil Registration and Vital Statistics in Asia and the Pacific region, will also be essential for enhancing protection of stateless people and to prevent new cases of statelessness.

Vision for 2019

- Thousands of stateless children obtain birth certificates.
- Improved access to legal assistance and legal remedies by stateless persons.
- Improved quantitative and qualitative data on statelessness country-wide.
- Concrete steps taken towards a nationality law reform.

Planned activities

Favourable protection environment	
<p>Access to legal assistance and legal remedies improved</p> <p>Law and policy developed or strengthened</p> <p>Public attitudes towards people of concern improved</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> UNHCR will work closely with partners such as ICRC, NRC and OHCHR to advocate for an improved access to legal assistance and legal remedies for stateless people. UNHCR will advocate for and support legislative review in the reform process as it relates to statelessness, in particular in order to remove race discrimination and to create provisions to ensure that no child is born stateless in the territory under the nationality law. UNHCR will promote a better understanding of the situation of stateless. UNHCR will accompany missions to Rakhine State of donors, embassies and other international actors, highlighting the area's main protection concerns and facilitating, upon request, the dialogue with the local communities. UNHCR will promote a common understanding of the human rights situation for stateless people and develop coordinated and concrete advocacy points order to promote a common understanding.
Fair protection processes and documentation	
<p>Identification of statelessness improved</p> <p>Civil registration and civil status documentation strengthened</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> UNHCR will undertake two mappings of stateless communities to gain a better understanding of the population country-wide. UNHCR, in collaboration with UNICEF, will undertake advocacy interventions with the aim of having 5,000 children of concern obtaining birth certificates.
Community empowerment and self-reliance	
<p>Peaceful co-existence with local communities promoted</p> <p>Self-reliance and livelihoods improved</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> UNHCR will undertake peaceful co-existence projects with seven mixed communities. UNHCR will provide targeted livelihood assistance to a limited number of extremely vulnerable people who have lost or are in need of maintenance of their livelihoods, as well as training on agricultural equipment for improvement of livelihood opportunities.
Basic needs and essential services	
<p>Services for people with specific needs strengthened</p> <p>Population has sufficient basic and domestic items</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> UNHCR will provide individual assistance to 170 people with specific needs. UNHCR will provide 500 households with core relief items and 500 women with sanitary materials.
Security from violence and exploitation	
<p>Risk of SGBV is reduced and quality of response improved</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> UNHCR will support through protection monitoring referrals of cases of SGBV. UNHCR will support workshops, training and awareness events led by UNFPA and other SGBV actors in Rakhine State.
Logistics and operations support	
<p>Operations management, coordination and support strengthened and optimized</p> <p>Logistics and supply optimized to serve operational needs</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> UNHCR will carry out project audits and conduct approximately 200 monitoring visits. UNHCR will undertake trainings/workshops for capacity building of a minimum of staff from the field offices and partners. UNHCR will ensure necessary vehicle maintenance and transport capacity to the operational area, and will maintain warehouses to ensure emergency preparedness.

Financial requirements

Total requirements for 2017 and 2018 in Myanmar are \$6,366,000¹⁶.

	2017 ExCom approved budget for Pillar 2	2018 estimated budget for Pillar 2 ¹⁷	Total
Favourable protection environment			
Access to legal assistance and remedies	125,000	125,000	250,000
Law and policy	521,000	500,000	1,021,000
Public attitudes	121,000	121,000	2,420,000
Fair protection processes and documentation			
Identification of statelessness	219,000	200,000	419,000
Civil registration and documentation	359,000	350,000	709,000
Community empowerment and self-reliance			
Peaceful co-existence	257,000	250,000	507,000
Self-reliance and livelihoods	390,000	300,000	390,000
Basic needs and essential services			
Services for people with specific needs	433,000	350,000	783,000
Basic and domestic items	100,000	80,000	180,000
Security from Violence and Exploitation			
Risk of SGBV reduced	94,000	90,000	184,000
Logistics and operations support			
Operations management, coordination and support	300,000	300,000	600,000
Logistics and supply optimized to serve operational needs	391,000	390,000	781,000
TOTAL	3,310,000	3,056,000	6,366,000

¹⁶ 7% will be taken off any contribution to cover support costs.

¹⁷ Subject to ExCom approval.

THAILAND

Context and existing response

There is strong momentum in Thailand, thanks to the Government's political will to address the situation of statelessness both domestically and as a regional leadership example, as well as by its strong engagement with UNHCR. Underscoring this, in December 2015, the Government officially announced that 18,773 formerly stateless people – mostly students – were granted nationality over the previous three years. Similarly, the authorities later announced that, since November 2015, more than 5,000 stateless people had acquired Thai nationality, bringing the total registered stateless population down to 438,821 by mid-2016. In 2014, UNHCR launched a pilot project for the reduction of statelessness implemented by the Bureau of Registration Administration (BoRA) under the Department of Provincial Administration (DoPA), supporting mobile teams to process nationality applications in remote areas. UNHCR also deployed 20 community statelessness workers in districts with a high prevalence of statelessness to sensitize stateless people and assist them in preparing nationality applications. While the mobile team project came to an end (equipment and capacity remained with DoPA), UNHCR launched another pilot project in the last quarter of 2015 to establish in-school service centres, with associated awareness-raising, capacity building and direct support for vulnerable people as key components. This model proved successful and has been expanded in 2016 through a partnership agreement with the NGO Adventist Development and Relief Agency ("ADRA"). UNHCR also works with NGOs and grassroots level initiatives, as well as with district hospitals, schools and the territorial administrations, which has led to increased institutional knowledge of the dynamics surrounding the nationality application system and the complexity of the statelessness situation in Thailand.

Strategy and partnerships

UNHCR coordinates closely with the Government of Thailand and partners to ensure appropriate and structured identification of the stateless based on clarified criteria, and in the context of Thailand's revised National Strategy on Persons with Problems on Legal Status and Rights. UNHCR also leads advocacy and joint humanitarian efforts for the further prevention and reduction of statelessness in the country, as well as for the protection of stateless people through national mechanisms that exist in cooperation with partners and other stakeholders. UNHCR continues to support the Government of Thailand in delivering systematically on its statelessness-related pledges made in 2011, notably that "to consider where appropriate further amendment of the Nationality Act as well as provide greater access to birth registration, to build on Thailand's progress in reducing vulnerability to statelessness". To facilitate faster processing of nationality applications and accelerating the pace of reducing the number of stateless people in the country, the pilot project launched in 2015 will be extended to several districts where there is a high prevalence of statelessness. UNHCR will support capacity building and training of relevant government officials and registrars at provincial and district levels, focusing on the locations with a significant backlog of pending nationality applications. In parallel, UNHCR will engage in a partnership with local NGOs to create peer-support networks within communities with a high prevalence of statelessness, which could assist stateless people in completing their applications and preparing corresponding supporting documents.

Vision for 2019

- Tens of thousands individuals have submitted nationality applications and thousands have had their nationality confirmed.
- Tens of thousands of stateless people provided with information about procedures to acquire nationality.
- Capacity of local authorities to process nationality applications strengthened.

Planned activities

Favourable protection environment	
Law and policy developed or strengthened	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> UNHCR, in collaboration with academia, will conduct five studies/assessments on statelessness. UNHCR will reach 22,000 people through sensitization campaigns and awareness-raising activities.
Durable solutions	
Greater reduction of statelessness is achieved	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> UNHCR and its partner will provide counselling and help 20,000 individuals prepare their nationality applications. UNHCR and its partners will organize 70 workshops mostly in areas with high prevalence of statelessness.
Leadership, coordination and Partnerships	
Donor relations and resource mobilization strengthened	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> UNHCR will submit three project proposals for funding. UNHCR will lead a Statelessness Support Group to advocate for the prevention and reduction of statelessness and support the Government in implementation of its national strategy and initiatives, including the grant of nationality to those deemed to have none.
Coordination and partnerships strengthened	
Logistics and operations support	
Operations management, coordination and support strengthened and optimized	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> UNHCR will support partners to maintain the project with the current sites and expand to new sites, as well as provide guidance and recommendations to partners to ensure transparency and accountability of the project.

Financial requirements

Total requirements for 2017 and 2018 in Thailand are \$2,310,000¹⁸.

	2017 ExCom approved budget for Pillar 2	2018 estimated budget for Pillar 2 ¹⁹	Total
Favourable protection environment			
Law and policy	216,000	200,000	416,000
Durable solutions			
Greater reduction of statelessness	716,000	700,000	1,416,000
Leadership, coordination and partnerships			
Donor relations and resource mobilization	78,000	75,000	153,000
Coordination and partnerships	88,000	85,000	173,000
Logistics and operation support			
Operations management, coordination and support	77,000	75,000	152,000
TOTAL	1,175,000	1,135,00	2,310,000

¹⁸ 7% will be taken off any contribution to cover support costs.

¹⁹ Subject to ExCom approval.

THE PHILIPPINES

Context and existing response

There is significant momentum to address statelessness in the Philippines, demonstrated by the Government's active engagement with UNHCR to resolve situations of statelessness in the country since 2010 and the Philippines' ratification of the 1954 Convention in 2011. Current activities to reduce statelessness and to identify and protect stateless people focus on three populations of undetermined nationality or at risk of statelessness: unregistered children, children in migratory settings, and people of Indonesian descent. Indonesia and the Philippines agreed on an Action Plan for 2014-2016 allowing for confirmation of nationality for people of Indonesian descent in Mindanao. UNHCR supports bilateral engagement between these two countries on policy and solutions options and has been facilitating the implementation of registration and nationality confirmation activities in Mindanao since 2014. Between January and 1 December 2016, 4,112 people of Indonesian descent living in the southern Philippines were confirmed as nationals of either country, including 1,736 children. Capacity-building activities are being undertaken for relevant government agencies, and advocacy activities focus on access to civil and birth registration documentation, accession to the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness, policy options and pending legislation on citizenship for foundlings and the ongoing revision of Philippine Immigration Law. Free legal aid and legal counselling services have been made available to all people of concern to UNHCR through the Public Attorney's Office, a network of university-based legal aid centres, and paralegal volunteers.

Strategy and partnerships

UNHCR's strategy in the Philippines is to support the Government in developing and implementing a 10-year National Action Plan to End Statelessness, in collaboration with other agencies. The draft National Action Plan covers seven Actions from the Global Action Plan (specifically 1, 2, 3, 6, 7, 9 and 10). Priority outcomes will focus on greater reduction of statelessness through registration and confirmation of nationality for people of Indonesian descent, developing policy and operational responses, amendments to legislation and regulations addressing issues related to foundlings, gender discrimination, naturalization, and civil registration, strengthening capacity for statelessness status determination, accession to the 1961 Convention, and improved identification focusing on two populations at risk of statelessness in the context of the Philippines, namely children in migratory settings, and the Sama ethnic group.

Vision for 2019

- Thousands of individuals, i.e. the majority of the individuals of Indonesian origin, have had their nationality confirmed.
- Improved quantitative and qualitative data available on stateless populations.
- Concrete steps taken towards nationality law reform.

Planned activities

Favourable protection environment	
<p>Law and policy developed or strengthened</p> <p>International and regional instruments acceded to, ratified or strengthened</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> UNHCR will provide technical advice and build the capacity of the Government and other actors, with the aim of bringing the Philippines' legislation on nationality and statelessness into compliance with its international obligations. UNHCR will conduct inter-agency consultations and technical working group meetings with the executive, legislative and judicial departments of the national government.
Durable solutions	
<p>Greater reduction of statelessness is achieved</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> UNHCR will support the process of grant/confirmation of nationality to 7,000 individuals of Indonesian descent. UNHCR will train 400 government officials and other relevant actors.
Fair protection processes and documentation	
<p>Identification of statelessness improved</p> <p>Access to and quality of status determination procedures improved</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> UNHCR will undertake participatory assessments among children in migratory settings and the Sama ethnic group. UNHCR will support the quantitative analysis on nationality and statelessness undertaken by the National Statistics Authority. UNHCR will support the implementation of statelessness status determination procedure through training of government officials and legal service providers.
Logistics and operations support	
<p>Operations management, coordination and support strengthened and optimize</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> UNHCR will ensure retention of affiliated workforce essential for the implementation of its statelessness programme.

Financial requirements

Total requirements for 2017 and 2018 in the Philippines are \$1,441,000²⁰.

	2017 ExCom approved budget for Pillar 2	2018 estimated budget for Pillar 2 ²¹	Total
Favourable protection environment			
Law and policy	146,000	145,000	291,000
International and regional instruments	43,000	0	43,000
Durable solutions			
Greater reduction of statelessness	267,000	260,000	527,000
Fair protection processes and documentation			
Identification of statelessness	77,000	70,000	147,000
Status determination procedures	73,000	70,000	143,000
Logistics and operation support			
Operations management, coordination and support	145,000	145,000	290,000
TOTAL	751,000	690,000	1,441,000

²⁰ 7% will be taken off any contribution to cover support costs.

²¹ Subject to ExCom approval.

MALAYSIA

Context and existing response

Important headway in addressing statelessness in Malaysia has been made in the past three years. Since 2014, UNHCR has supported a local NGO to identify and register stateless people in West Malaysia. By the end of 2015, approximately 12,300 stateless people of Indian/Tamil origin were registered and by November 2016, 1,503 individuals had acquired Malaysian nationality. Community-based paralegals provide counselling and individual legal assistance to the registered individuals in their nationality applications to the government authorities. In addition to providing technical advice to the NGO running the mapping and legal assistance project, UNHCR organizes and facilitates consultation and training sessions on nationality and statelessness for pro bono lawyers and different service providers. UNHCR also undertakes public awareness-raising activities on birth registration, documentation procedures, and the legal framework on nationality in Malaysia.

Strategy and partnerships

UNHCR will continue supporting the local NGO in assisting registered individuals to acquire Malaysian nationality. All registered individuals whose cases are being submitted to the Government are expected to acquire nationality by the end of 2018. UNHCR will also assist in coordinating ongoing local civil society efforts towards evidence-based and pervasive recommendations for policy change to fully resolve statelessness in West Malaysia. UNHCR also aims to support the replication of the registration and paralegal assistance approach in East Malaysia, to assist stateless people and people of undetermined nationality in submitting their application to the National Registration Department, the relevant embassies or mobile counsellor missions with the objective of resolving their lack of documentation and undetermined nationality through the grant or confirmation of their nationality. By maintaining small scale engagement through grassroots organizations and targeted gathering of qualitative and quantitative data, UNHCR will increase its understanding of the issues and aim to create favourable conditions for policy dialogue with the Federal Government and other UN agencies. The Office will focus on birth registration and confirmation or acquisition of nationality for those of concern under its statelessness mandate. Solutions may also have to consider labour market inclusion, long-term residence, naturalization, and anti-discrimination measures. UNHCR also works closely with UNICEF and other national and regional partners working on the improvement of civil registration and vital statistics, in particular in the context of implementing the Ministerial Declaration and the Regional Action Framework on Civil Registration and Vital Statistics in Asia and the Pacific region, which can help prevent statelessness by facilitating the birth registration of children at-risk of statelessness.

Vision for 2019

- Identified stateless persons in West Malaysia have acquire Malaysian nationality.
- Evidence based advocacy ongoing to further reduce and prevent statelessness.
- Improved data available on marginalized communities with low birth registration rates, and concrete steps taken to address their situation.

Planned activities

Favourable protection environment	
Law and policy developed or strengthened	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> UNHCR will provide legal experts with technical support to build the body of jurisprudence on the prevention and reduction of statelessness and protection of stateless people in Malaysia. UNHCR will prepare two in-depth policy papers through legal experts on the basis of their litigation experience working on stateless cases since 2014. UNHCR will carry out further analysis of the population data collected during the mapping and registration exercise in order to increase visibility of stateless people and their needs, with the aim to achieve policy change.
Durable solutions	
Greater reduction of statelessness is achieved	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> UNHCR will support the process of grant/confirmation of nationality to 11,000 individuals.
Fair protection processes and documentation	
Identification of statelessness improved Civil registration and civil status documentation improved	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> UNHCR will undertake community meetings and participatory assessments with affected communities, and encourage small scale mapping projects targeting marginalized communities that are affected by low levels of birth registration who may be of concern to UNHCR in Sabah. UNHCR will advocate for birth registration for the prevention of statelessness, and support the Malaysian Government in achieving universal civil registration to prevent statelessness. UNHCR will disseminate joint publications and short guides on nationality law and birth registration systems in Malaysia, Philippines, and Indonesia and promote joint birth registration campaigns led by the Government and civil society stakeholders.

Financial requirements

Total requirements for 2017 and 2018 in Malaysia are \$1,025,000²².

	2017 ExCom approved budget for Pillar 2	2018 estimated budget for Pillar 2 ²³	Total
Favourable protection environment			
Law and policy	170,000	170,000	340,000
Durable solutions			
Greater reduction of statelessness	235,000	235,000	470,000
Fair protection processes and documentation			
Civil registration and civil status documentation	67,000	65,000	132,000
Identification of statelessness	43,000	40,000	83,000
TOTAL	515,000	510,000	1,025,000

²² 7% will be taken off any contribution to cover support costs.

²³ Subject to ExCom approval.

REGIONAL STRATEGIES

Africa

Economic Community of the West African States (ECOWAS): support the implementation of commitments by 15 ECOWAS countries under the Abidjan Declaration to eradicate statelessness by 2024. The support includes financial and technical expertise to develop and implement national action plans to end statelessness, and technical advice and capacity building with regard to nationality law reforms with the aim of bringing them into compliance with international standards on prevention and protection of stateless people.

Total requirements for 2017 and 2018: **\$500,000**

East Africa Community (EAC): mainstream statelessness in the work of the East Africa Community and work towards a regional commitment/framework to end statelessness. This includes support for finalization of a study on nationality and statelessness in East Africa and the organization of a high level regional conference.

Total requirements for 2017 and 2018: **\$300,000**

Southern Africa Development Community (SADC): mainstream statelessness in SADC's work and work towards a regional commitment to end statelessness. This will include continued advocacy within the existing frameworks (e.g. SADC Migration Dialogue) and reaching out to new institutions (e.g. SADC Parliamentary Forum and Pan-African Parliament), and intensifying advocacy and capacity building of national Parliaments.

Total requirements for 2017 and 2018: **\$300,000**

African Union (AU): advocate for and support the adoption of the African Union Protocol on the Right to Nationality in Africa. This includes supporting the African Union Commission on Human and People's Rights in its efforts, as well as capacity building and provision of technical advice to the African Union Member States.

Total requirements for 2017 and 2018: **\$300,000**

Asia

Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN): In October 2016, the ASEAN Commission on the Promotion and Protection of the Rights of Women and children has adopted a project on the right to a nationality for women and children and ASEAN Community building in the Commission's 2016-2020 work plan. It will include a study on relevant practices of ASEAN Member States, establish an information repository on good practices and an information exchange mechanism, and build national and regional capacity.

Asia Pacific Initiative on Civil Registration and Vital Statistics: "Get Everyone in the Picture": UNHCR's Regional Office in Bangkok represents UNHCR on the Regional Steering Group which is tasked with supporting the 44 States that participated in the Ministerial Declaration that endorsed the goal of universal and responsive Civil Registration and Vital Statistics systems by 2024. UNHCR particularly promotes the assessment of inequalities in accessing civil registration for its population of concern and birth registration to prevent statelessness. Key partners in these initiatives are the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, UNICEF, the World Bank and the Regional Support Office of the Bali Process.

Total requirements for 2017 and 2018: **\$500,000**

Middle East and North Africa

The League of Arab States: further strengthen the League of Arab States' engagement on a range of protection issues with an aim to reduce risks of statelessness including by increasing access to birth registration and civil status documentation, and promoting the adoption of a regional declaration and its implementation by Member States.

Total requirements for 2017 and 2018: **\$200,000**

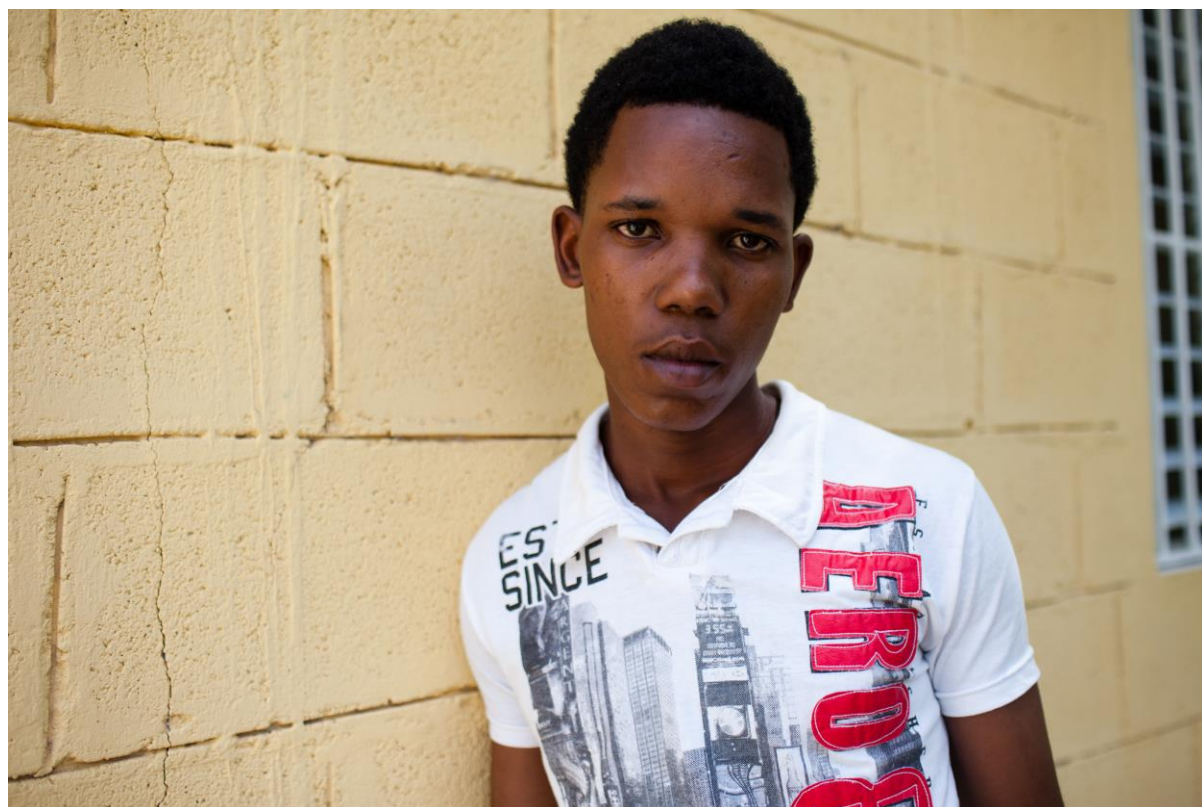
GLOBAL STRATEGY

UNHCR Division of External Relations: enhance the Campaign's visibility and strengthen public support to the Campaign through creation of awareness-raising multimedia products and coordinating and supporting public awareness activities in the field. This will also require additional human resources.

Total requirements for 2017 and 2018: **\$600,000**

UNHCR Division of International Protection: increase the capacity of the Statelessness Section through recruitment of additional staff to meet the increasing demand for capacity building and technical support to UNHCR offices, governments and other partners; to organize a high-level event focused on the Campaign's progress to date, and to seek commitments for additional action; and to increase sharing of good practices among States.

Total requirements for 2017 and 2018: **\$800,000**



Christian is 17 and stateless. "I was born in the Dominican Republic as was my father. But I have no birth certificate and no documents at all. I was a student until the 8th grade but then they said I would not allowed to continue in school. That was three years ago. Now I spend most of my time taking care of our sheep and cows. I want to keep studying mathematics and eventually to become a math professor. I like this subject a lot and I am good at it."

Credit: UNHCR / M. Redondo

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