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United Nations Legal Identity

Fulfil the promise to Leave No One Behind

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Background



- Legal identity for all starting from birth is a game changer to close the global identity gap & fulfil the promise to leave no one behind and realize the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
- The United Nations Legal Identity Agenda 2020 2030 (UN LIA) backed by the Deputy Secretary General, was launched as a One UN approach to support Member States building holistic, country owned, sustainable civil registration, vital statistics and identity management systems
- Its efforts focus on closing the global identity gap with a benchmark goal of 'more than 300 million by 2025 and, in turn, providing Member States with the vital statistics and demographic information needed for socio economic gains, better public administration, planning monitoring



Defining legal identity

Legal identity is the basic characteristics of an individual's identity—e.g. name, sex, place & date of birth conferred through registration and the issuance of a certificate by an authorized civil registration authority following a birth.

- In the absence of birth registration, legal identity may be conferred by a legally-recognized identification authority
 - This system should be linked to the civil registration system to ensure a holistic approach to legal identity from birth to death.
- Legal identity is retired by the issuance of a death certificate by the civil registration authority upon registration of death.

Defining legal identity (*cont'd*)

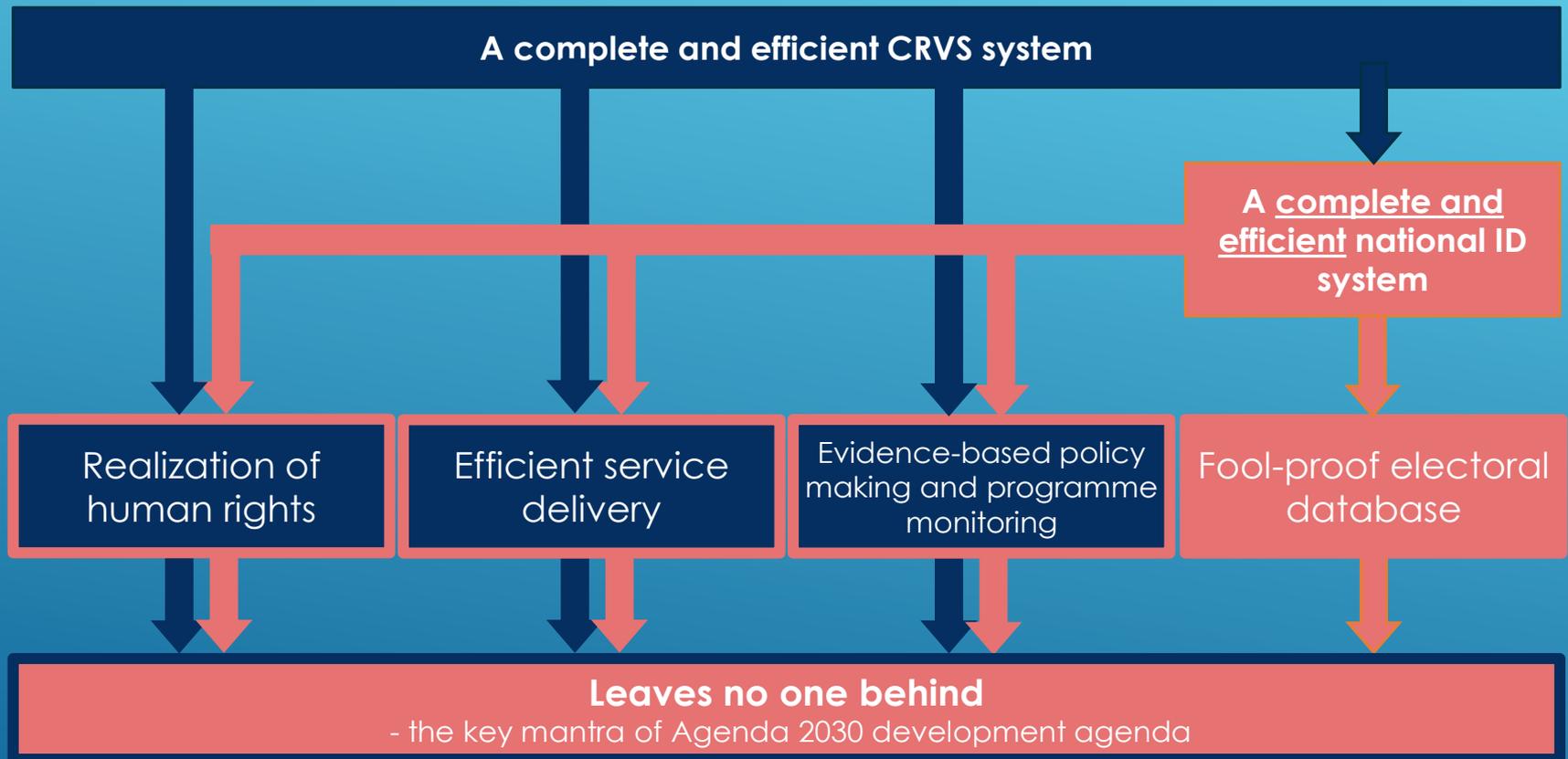
- In the case of refugees, Member States are primarily responsible for issuing proof of legal identity.
 - Proof of legal identity issued to refugees may also be administered by an internationally recognized & mandated authority.

Civil registration is the continuous, permanent, compulsory & universal recording of vital events for a country's population, as provided through decree/regulation in agreement with respective legal requirements.

- **Primary purpose:** To establish the documents provided by the law.

Proof of legal identity is a credential—e.g. birth certificate, identity card or digital identity credential—recognized as proof of legal identity under national law.

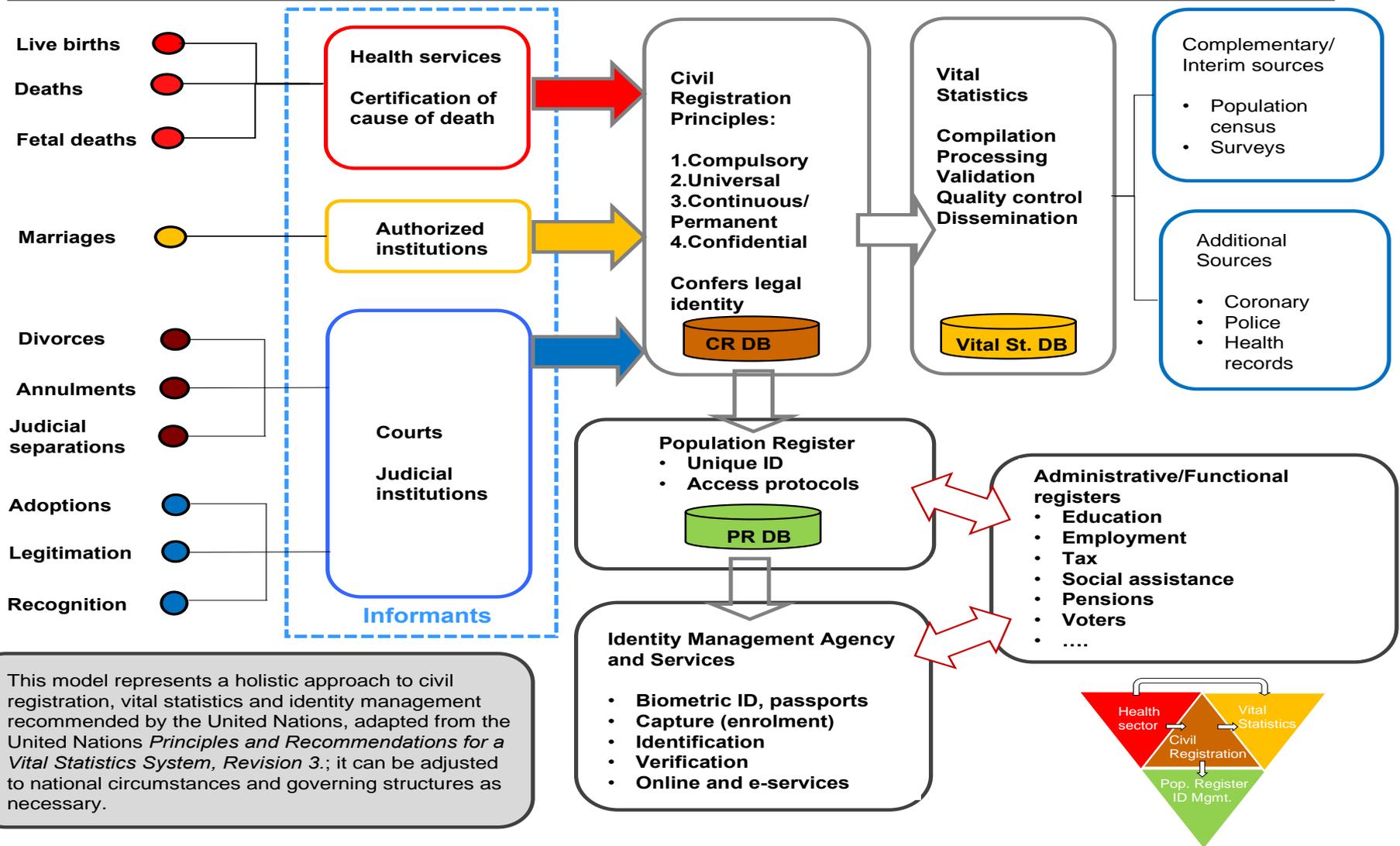
Why link CRVS and National ID?



Holistic Approach



Civil Registration, Vital Statistics and Identity Management System



This model represents a holistic approach to civil registration, vital statistics and identity management recommended by the United Nations, adapted from the United Nations *Principles and Recommendations for a Vital Statistics System, Revision 3*; it can be adjusted to national circumstances and governing structures as necessary.

The Pillars of the Holistic Approach



This model is being introduced & implemented in various countries to develop a holistic approach to this process by linking the below functions:

- **Civil registration function** is distinct as its procedures for issuing legal tenders related to civil status of individuals require adequate & strict protocols. The establishment and maintenance of population registers, in this model, go hand in hand with the civil registration function.
- **Vital statistics function** remains with the national statistical authority, which is responsible for producing regular vital statistics based on records submitted by the population register or the civil registration agency.
- **Identity management function** is firmly incorporated by accessing the population registers and issuing biometric identity credentials at different points in a lifetime of an individual

Norms of the Holistic Approach



This holistic model establishes a mechanism for conferring legal identity to all in a continuous, universal & inclusive manner—from birth to death.

- This builds upon the interoperability of the system to provide access to all the services in effective & equal fashion, and develop other registers for different purposes using the same definitions, classifications & overall methodology.

Countries are advised to adopt this longitudinal solution of simultaneous build-up of civil registration & vital statistics and identity management systems based on unique legislative foundations and overall methodology.

Global Coordination: Coherent UN Approach



Build on the existing work from the global, regional and country level to define a common understanding across the United Nations Development System.

Examples:

- UN Operational Definition of Legal Identity
- Guidance for UNCT for joint implementation of legal identity programs across sectors
- ECA is are coordinating country implementation efforts in Africa

Role of National Governments



Member States should adopt and implement the holistic approach to:

- civil registration of all vital events;
- production of vital statistics;
- the establishment & maintenance of population registers and identity management apparatus from birth to death.

There should be full interoperability between these functions simultaneously, in accordance with international standards & recommendations.

In their efforts to establish the legal identity for all, Member States should promote the inclusion of marginalized & poor communities to leave them further behind in the spirit of implementing the essential principle of universal civil registration

Plans to set-up the **UN LIA Multi-Partner Trust Fund** are currently underway. This MPTF will:

- facilitate a cohesive UN approach to support Member States' requests to strengthen respective legal identity policy and programming at all levels.
- allow major funding and development partners supporting efforts across the UN system to pool resources and maximize investments.
- Once the MPTF is set, there will be a call for member states to apply.



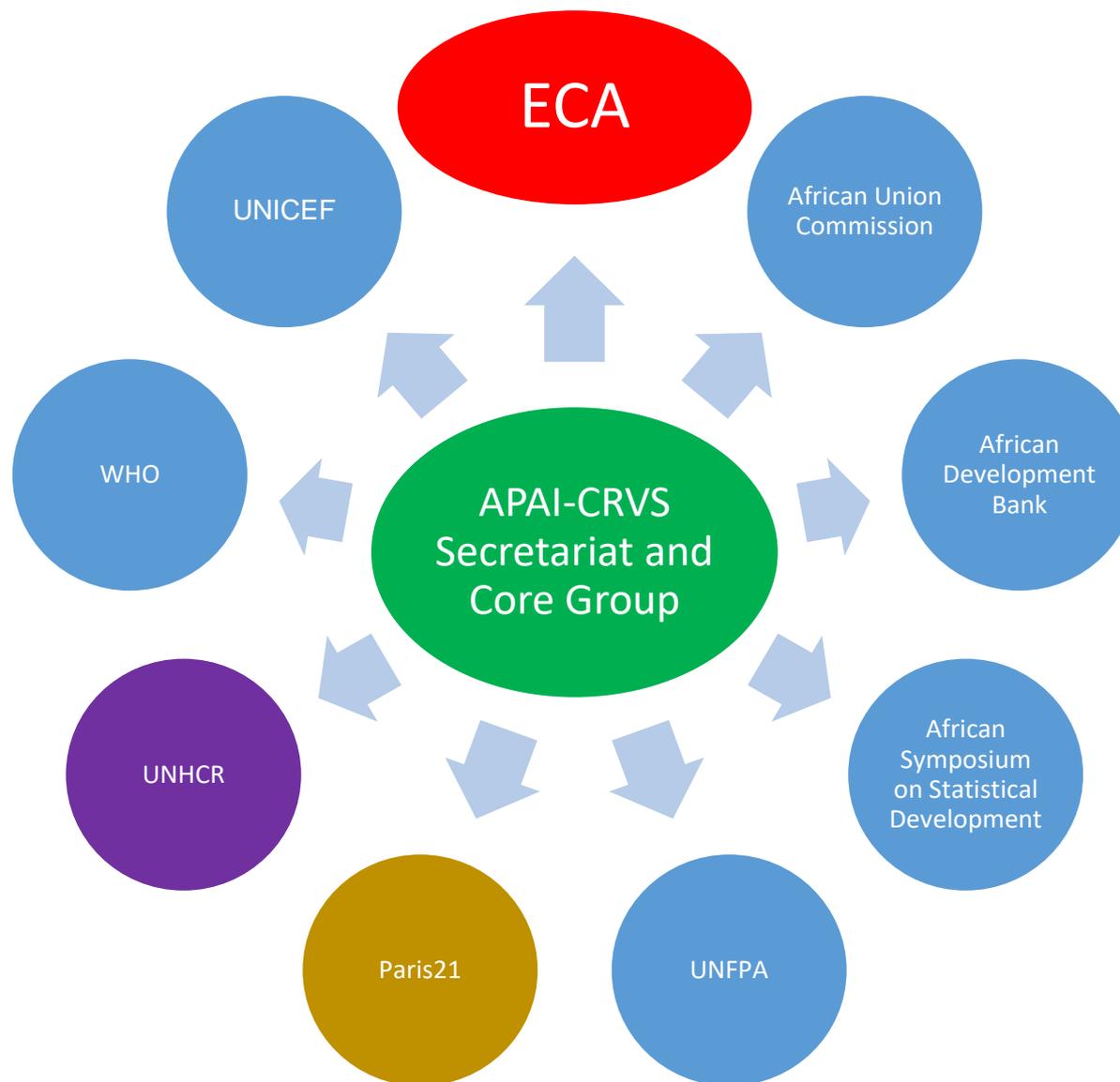
THANK YOU

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Regional Coordination in Africa



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Mandates of UN Agencies

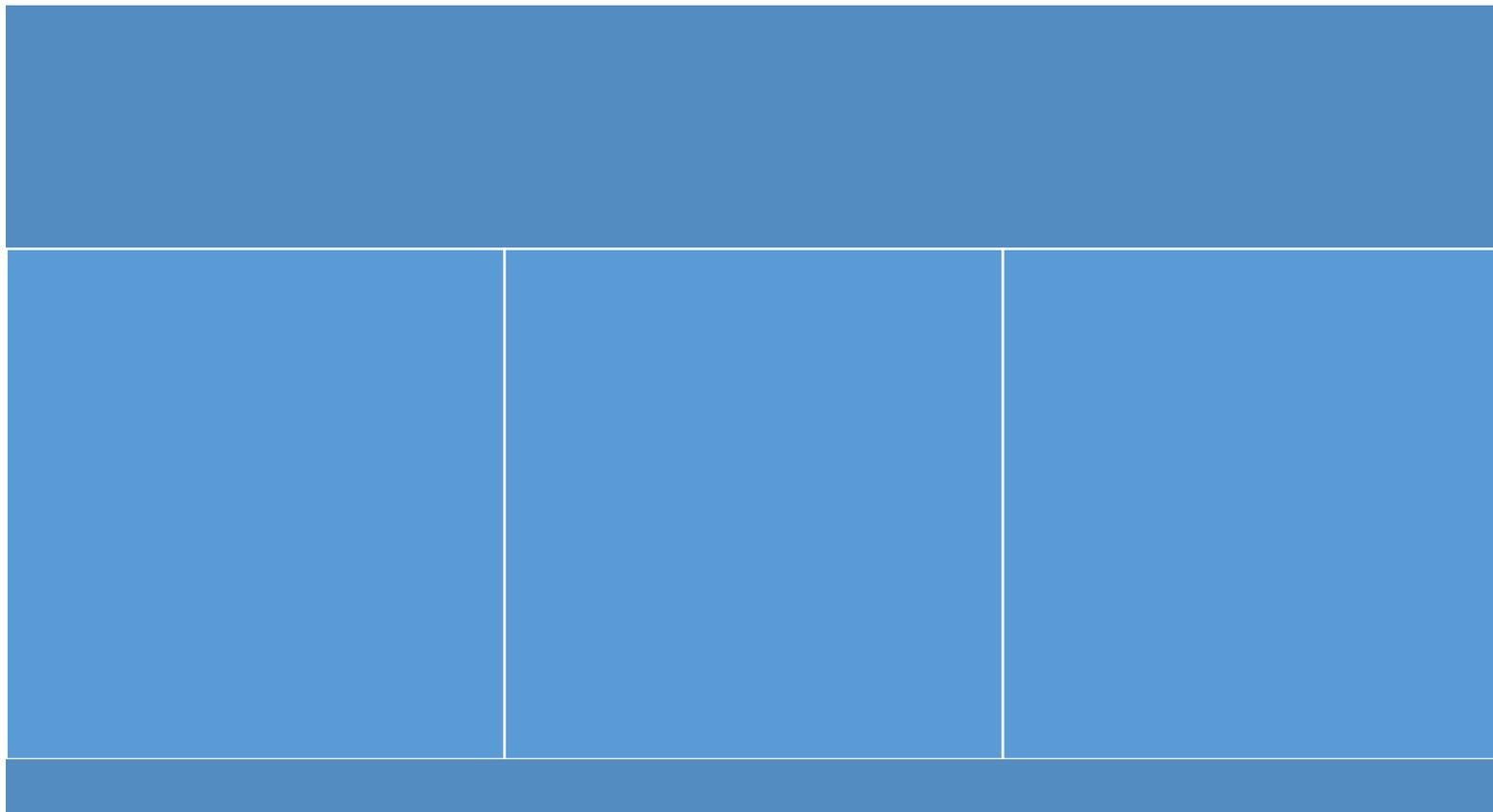


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Coordination of Development Partners



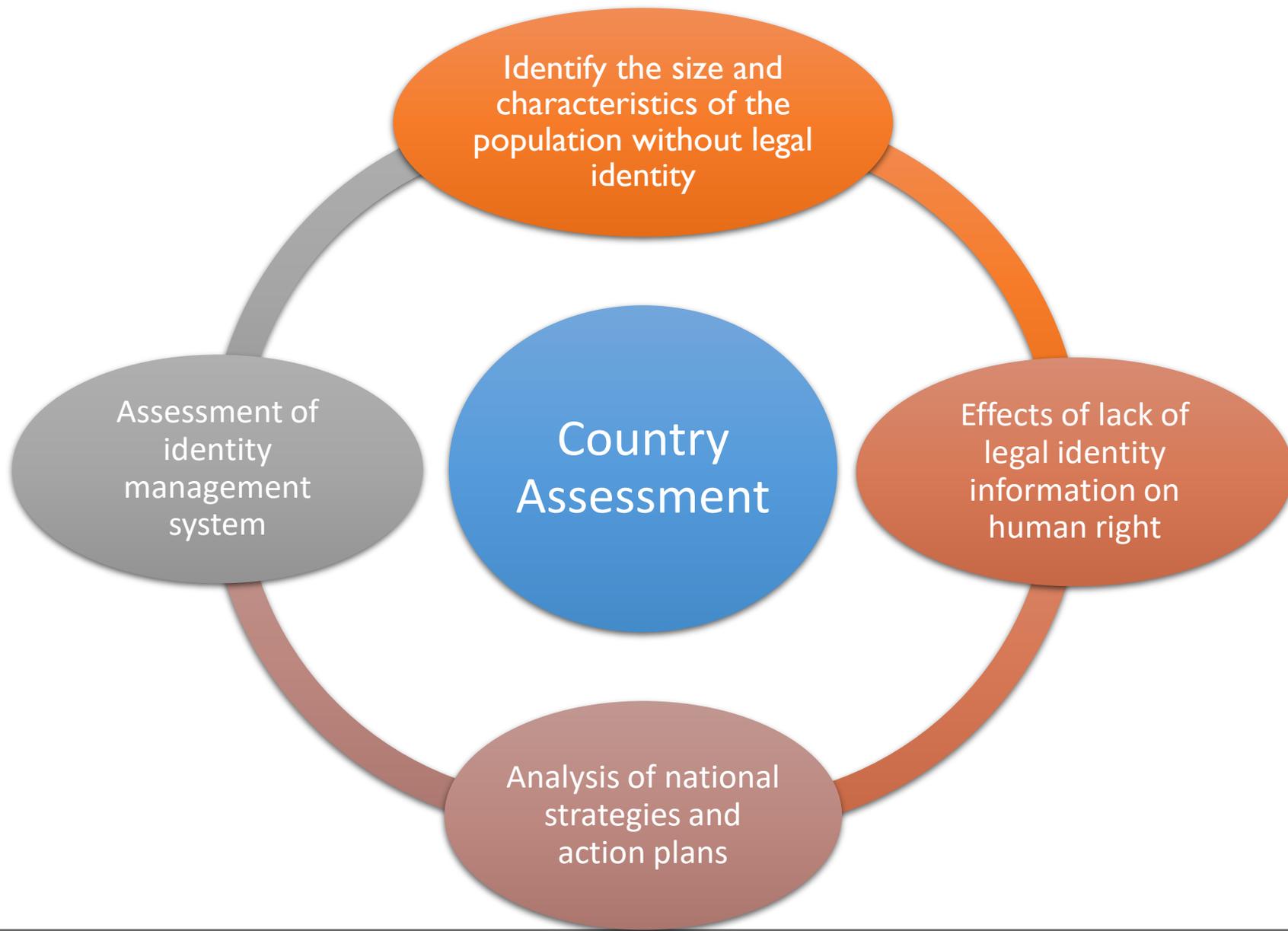
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Step 1: Conducting Country Assessment



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Step 2: Developing Theory of Change



Step 4: Areas of Intervention



Step 4: Developing Work Plan



- Integrate UN LIA work into the UNDAF
- Develop joint work plans
- Include UN LIA work into the organization's work plan