Mandate to Address Statelessness

UNHCR Executive Committee (2006):

Identify

   Protect

      Reduce

         Prevent

UN Secretary General (2011): *Identification* is the prerequisite for Protection and Reduction. It's also critical to Prevention – by clarifying the causes of statelessness in practice.

CRVS Inclusion: A Human Right, and a Foundation for the Enjoyment of Human Rights

CRVS Inclusion as a Human Right:

✓ Right of all children to birth registration, name, nationality, identity (CRC 7 & 8, ICCPR 24)

✓ Right to marriage registration (CEDAW 16.1, 16.2)

✓ Recognition as a person before the law (ICCPR 16, UDHR 6, etc)

CRVS Inclusion as a Foundation for the Enjoyment of Human Rights:

➢ *For children* – prevent statelessness, ensure age-dependent rights, prevent and resolve family separation

➢ *For women and girls* – protection from early and forced marriage, rights to divorce and remarry, rights to property, inheritance, re-marriage, child custody

➢ *For Refugees and IDPs* – rights to voluntarily return in safety and dignity

UNHCR
The UN Refugee Agency

For people with a nationality

→ CRVS is key to *Preventing Statelessness*

Who?

- Refugees and IDPs (with a nationality)

- Other marginalized and hard-to-reach groups

Why?

1. **Birth registration** offers proof of parentage and place of birth
2. **Continuous nature of CRVS** → each vital event registered can facilitate the registration of subsequent vital events (examples)
3. For refugees (and migrants), civil registration in the country of residence also facilities **Consular Registration**

For Stateless & those without a Recognized Nationality Status → CRVS is key to *Protection* and *Solutions*

Who?

- Individuals and groups known to be stateless

- Undocumented individuals and groups

Why?

Ensure **enjoyment of key rights** (education, health, freedom of movement, etc.)

Enable people to **apply for naturalization**

Enable implementation of **dedicated safeguards against statelessness**

UNHCR
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Case study: Reducing unregistered refugee births from 35% to 1%

1. Community Engagement (Inform and Listen)

2. Identify profiles at greatest risk (e.g., children born from GBV)

3. Map Process and Obstacles (What is different for Refugees, IDPs, Stateless people, Others?)

4. Flexible requirements (Find solutions where pre-requisite documents can't be obtained/replaced through formal channels)

5. Reduce or consolidate steps; waive fees and fines for late registration

6. Dedicated campaigns (or "amnesties") to resolve large CRVS gaps

7. Involve Diverse Stakeholders (Registrars, Courts, Legal Aid, Religious Leaders, Affected Communities)

Thank You!