



ID for refugees and stateless persons

Building trust, inclusion & pathways to solutions

Dr Patrick Eba

Deputy Director, Division of International Protection and Solutions, UNHCR

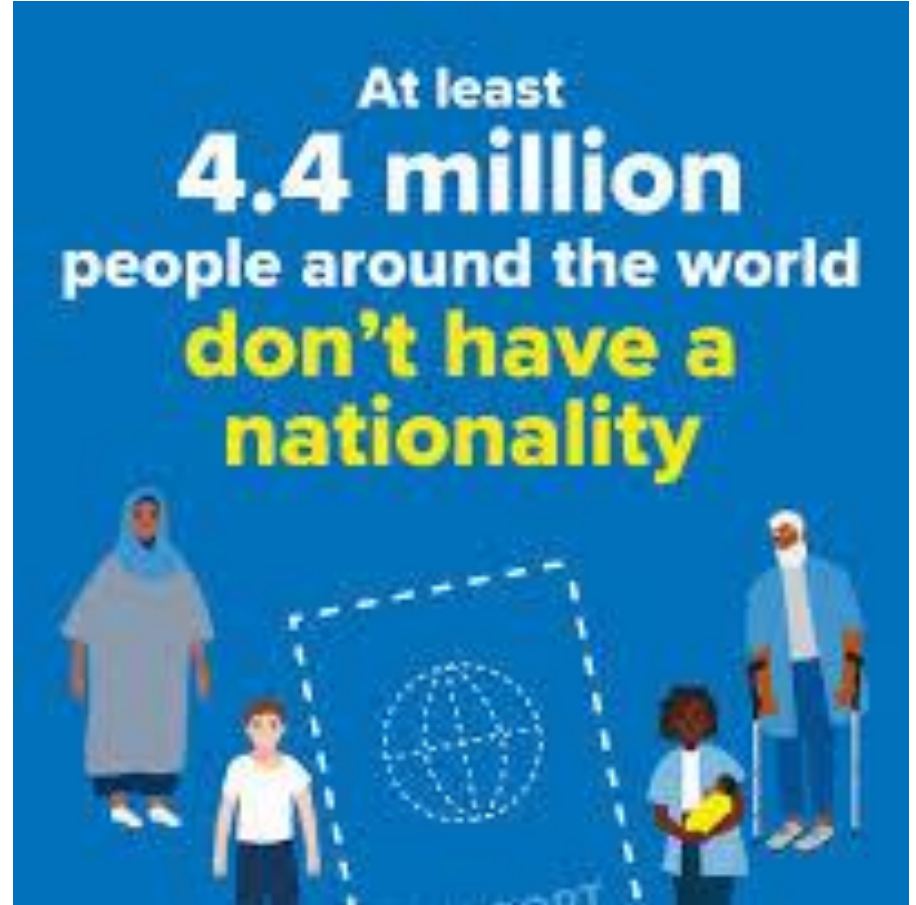
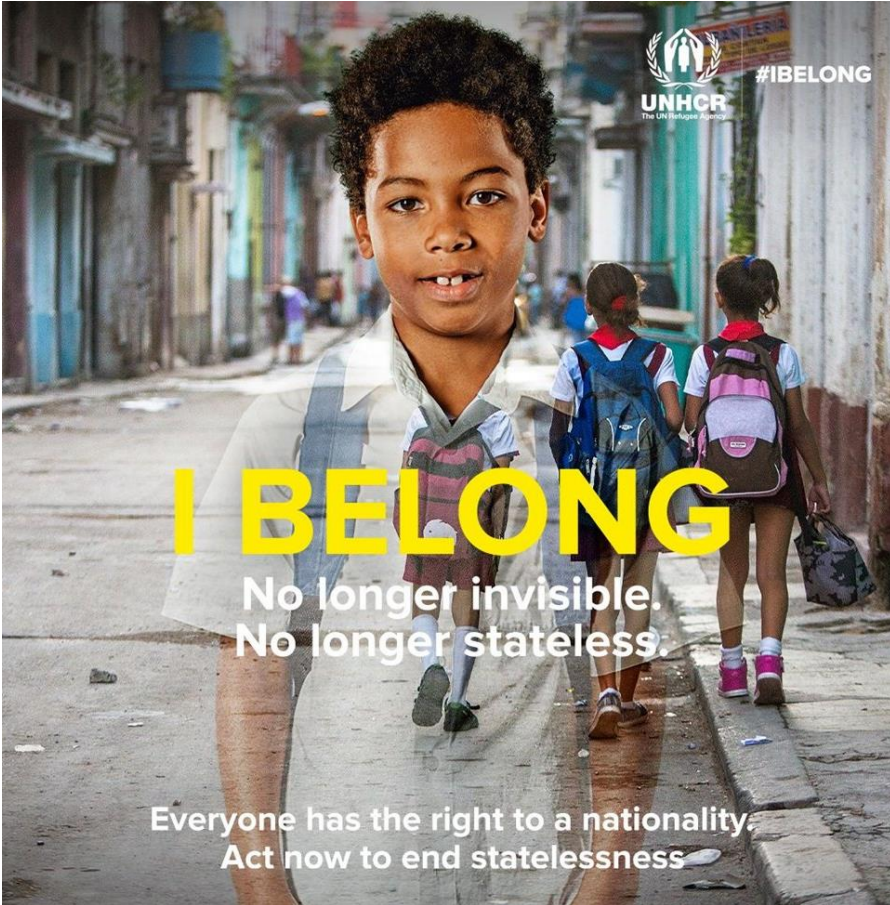
May 2026 – ID4Africa

“

Can a digital public ecosystem **truly be trusted** if it does not include everyone?

”

No universality = no trust



Protection-sensitive ID systems with Safeguards



Evidence from Kenya: The Shona Study

December 2024

The Transformative Power of Citizenship:

Findings from the 2024 Socioeconomic Study of the Shona Community in Kenya



86%

of Shona community is documented

97%

Access to mobile money

52%

Improvement in health care among the Shona

Clear

Path to Self-Reliance

Work permits · Banking · Business

Examples of emerging practices: Inclusion of refugee & stateless in national foundational digital ID systems



Stateless-Sensitive Legal & Digital ID Systems

Julia Clark
ID4Africa
May 15, 2026



Paralegals from Haki Centre assist stateless people and people at risk of statelessness during a mobile birth registration exercise in Kwale Country, Kenya. © Haki Centre Organization/ Andrew Ochola.



PRINCIPLES ON IDENTIFICATION
FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

1

Ensure universal access for individuals, free from discrimination

2

Remove barriers to access and use

Principles on Identification for Sustainable Development

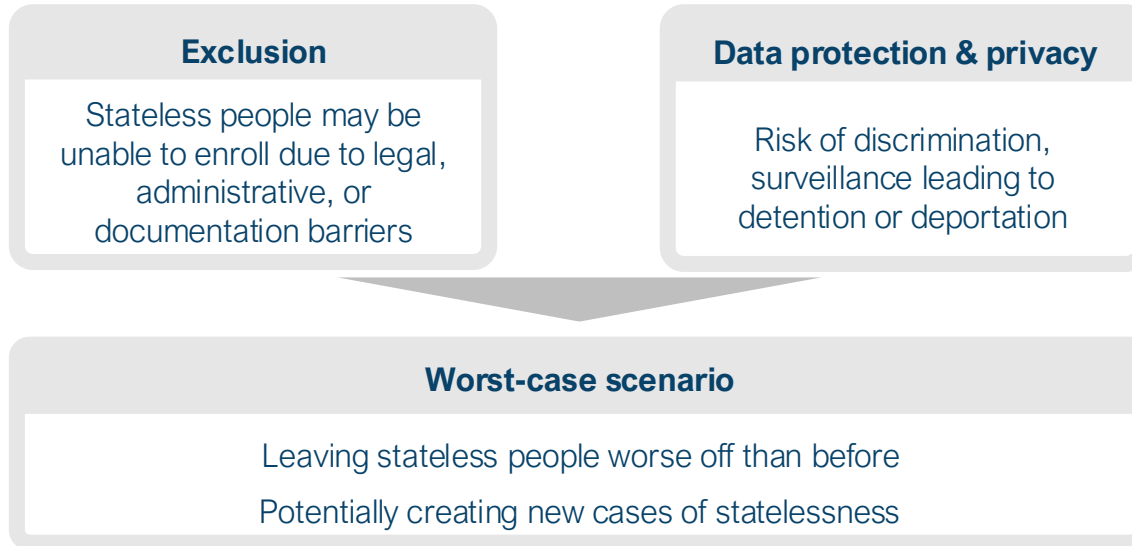
www.idprinciples.org

Endorsing organizations:



The Challenge

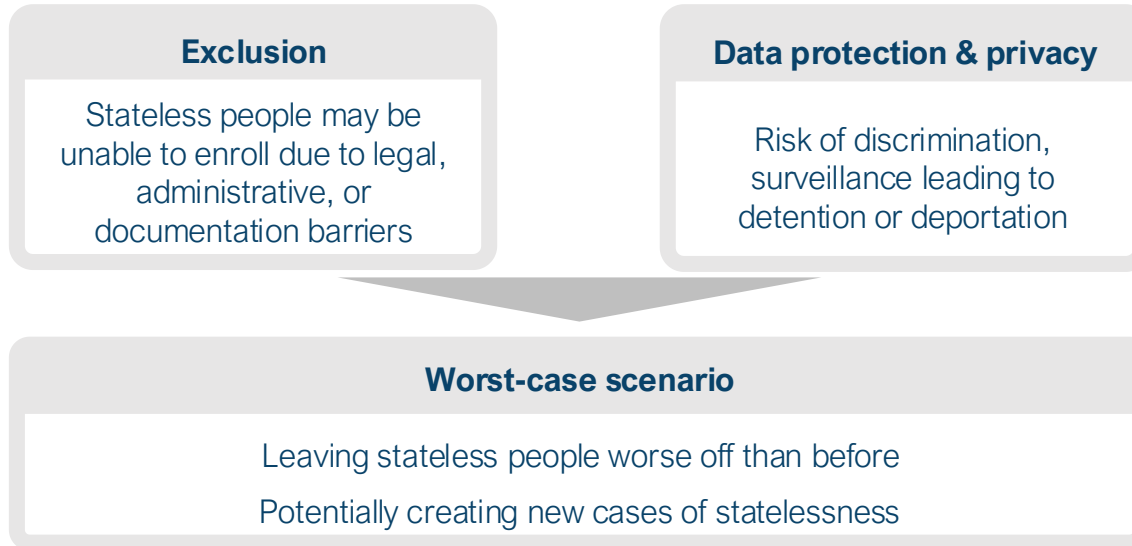
Rapid scale-up of digital foundational/legal ID systems, creates risks:



Digitalization can scale **inclusion** or **exclusion**

The Challenge

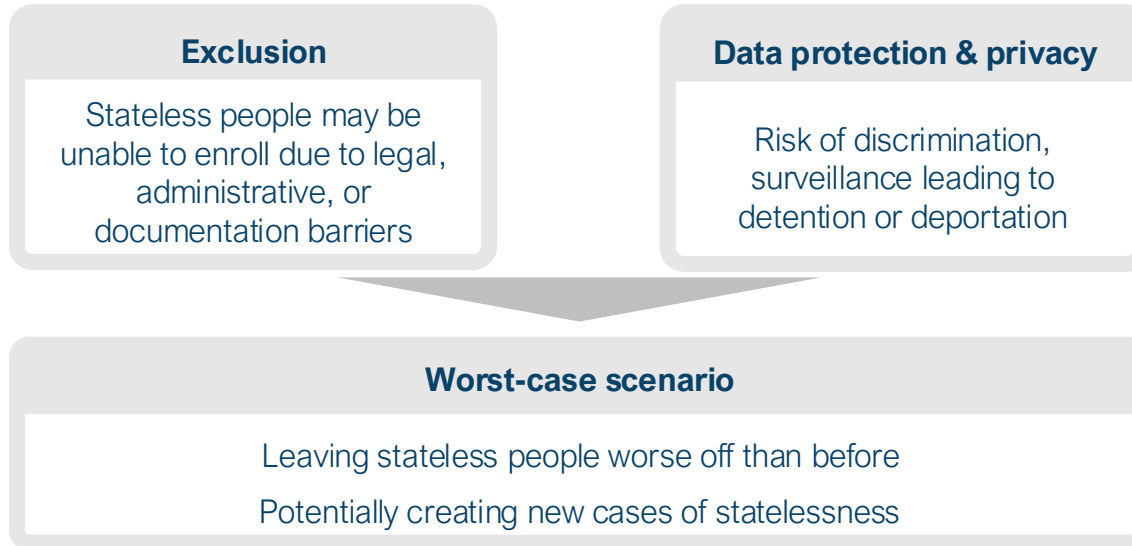
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The Challenge

Rapid scale-up of digital foundational/legal ID systems, creates risks:



Digitalization can scale **inclusion** or **exclusion**

The Opportunity



Identify stateless people



Include stateless people in ID systems (inclusion = part of DPI approach)



Provision of nationality documentation to all those entitled to it



Strengthening CRVS—especially birth registration



Addressing data protection and privacy risks from the outset (also part of DPI!)



Ensuring due process through clear, transparent service standards



Aligning national frameworks with international statelessness standards

ID4D Guidance Note

Objective

To help ensure that stateless people are not left behind in the digital transformation and instead benefit from advances.

Provides

1. **Practical guidance & resources for ID policymakers and practitioners** to support the planning, design, and implementation of statelessness-sensitive ID systems
2. **Operational framework for integrating statelessness-sensitive measures** throughout the ID system lifecycle—from laws and institutions, data management, outreach, and grievance redress.
3. **Recommended actions** for statelessness-inclusion.

➔ *Informed through extensive CSO consultations & UNHCR collaboration*



ID4D Identification
For Development

Building Statelessness-
Sensitive ID Systems

February 2025

 WORLD BANK GROUP

S2: Statelessness-Sensitive Digital ID Panel

S2 · Moderator



Julia Clark

Senior Economist, ID4D Initiative

World Bank

S2 · Panelist



Tulimeke Munyika

Chief of Immigration & Deputy Executive Director,
Immigration Control & Citizenship, Ministry of Home
Affairs, Immigration, Safety & Security

Namibia · ID4Africa Ambassador

S2 · Panelist



Ago Christian Kodia

Director General, National Agency for Civil Registration &
Identity (ONECI)

Côte d'Ivoire · ID4Africa Ambassador

S2 · Panelist



Yusuf Bashir

Executive Director, Haki Na Sheria Initiative, NGO

Kenya

Questions & answers with the audience on ID for stateless persons & at risk (end of panel (PS2)



- SLIDO Moment

S3 : TruPanel on Inclusion of Refugees in Digital ID System

Moderator



Benedicte Voos

Senior Policy Officer, Durable Solutions Section, Division of International Protection & Solutions (DIPS)

UNHCR HQ

Panelist



Breye Gouloua

Technical Advisor, National Agency for Secure Documents (ANATS)

Chad · ID4Africa Deputy Ambassador

Panelist



Rosemary Kisembo

Executive Director, National Identification & Registration Authority (NIRA)

Uganda · ID4Africa Ambassador

Panelist



Mamadou Haidara

Technical Adviser, General Administration, Ministry of Territorial Administration & Decentralisation (MATD)

Mali

A photograph of two women, one in a colorful patterned headscarf and the other in a blue vest, looking at a tablet together. The image is overlaid with a semi-transparent blue filter.

A few go-tos on trusted ID for refugees & stateless Persons



UNHCR
The UN Refugee Agency



refworld
Global Law & Policy Database



Available now for download &
soon on refworld too

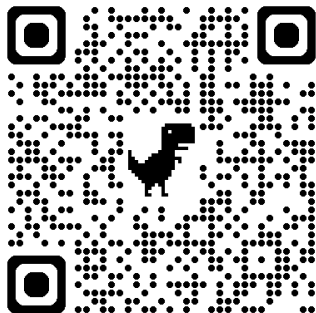
Visit <https://id4d.worldbank.org/>

Updated UNHCR Case Study : Enhanced Protection & Solutions for Refugees through Inclusion in Ethiopia's National Digital ID System



ENHANCED PROTECTION AND SOLUTIONS FOR REFUGEES THROUGH INCLUSION IN ETHIOPIA'S NATIONAL DIGITAL ID PROGRAM

APRIL 2026



RENFORCER LA PROTECTION ET LES SOLUTIONS POUR LES REFUGIES GRACE A L'INCLUSION DANS LE PROGRAMME NATIONAL D'IDENTITE NUMERIQUE DE L'ÉTHIOPIE

AVRIL 2026



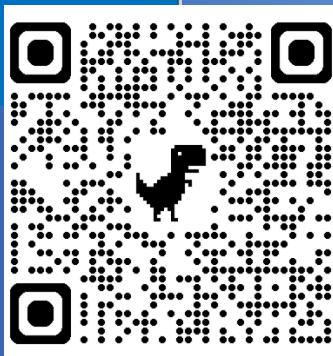
Updated UNHCR Case Study :



Photo: © UNHCR Aristophane Ngargoune

ENHANCED PROTECTION AND SOLUTIONS FOR REFUGEES THROUGH INCLUSION IN CHAD'S NATIONAL DIGITAL IDENTITY SYSTEM

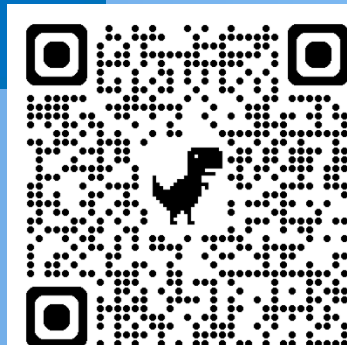
APRIL 2026



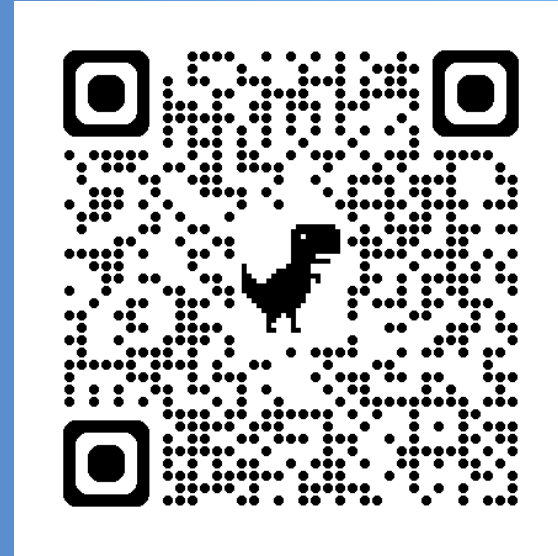
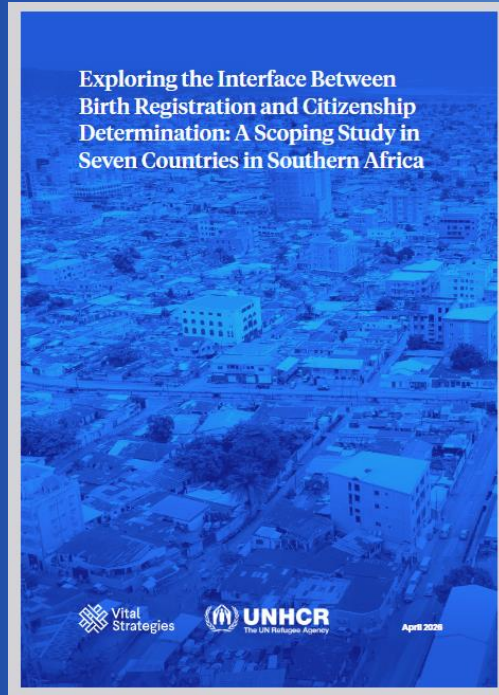
Photographie : © HCR Aristophane Ngargoune

RENFORCER LA PROTECTION ET LES SOLUTIONS POUR LES REFUGIES GRACE A LEUR INCLUSION DANS LE SYSTEME NATIONAL D'IDENTITE NUMERIQUE DU TCHAD

AVRIL 2026



Vital Strategy and UNHCR Scoping Study on Birth Registration and Citizenship Determination (April 2026)



Questions & answers with the audience on ID for refugees (End of PS3)



- SLIDO Moment



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