

I AM HERE

Belonging and
Legal Identity in
the Arab Region:
Ensuring that
every child,
woman and man
belongs and has
a **legal identity**







I AM

HERE



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Foreword

A historic moment was marked on 28 February 2018, when the League of Arab States (LAS) convened a Ministerial meeting in Tunis on “Belonging and Legal Identity” under the patronage of the President of Tunisia. The meeting resulted in the adoption of the Declaration on Belonging and Legal Identity. The Declaration calls for equal nationality rights for women and for all children to be able to enjoy their right to a legal identity.

In the past few years, I have witnessed an incredible amount of resilience of men, women and children in the Arab region, despite of the many hardships, wars, conflict and displacement, reaffirming our traditions of protection and inclusion. It is with pride that I have seen countries generously hosting Syrian refugees and taking innovative actions to respond to the specific needs of this refugee population, while others have considered legal reforms in recent decades. Importantly, I have seen that women in the Arab region are leading the way in securing the future for children and families affected by conflict and displacement, while the League of Arab States works to ensure all women are protected and that their voices are always heard.

The League of Arab States, in partnership with UNHCR, is proud to issue the first publication of the “I am here” Campaign to tell the stories of men, women and children in the Arab region who make a difference, or governments that undertake new journeys to improve lives and ensure everyone belongs, is made visible, and can reach his/her true potential and in turn can make a valuable contribution to society. This publication intends to show a different side of our region and provide a picture that reflects our strengths and achievements, a picture of which we are proud.

Ambassador Haifa AbuGhazaleh
Undersecretary General,
Head of Social Affairs Sector
General Secretariat of the League
of Arab States

Longstanding traditions in the Arab region recognize the right of all children to belong, to enjoy their rights to family life and unity, and to have a name, a legal identity and a nationality. The Arab League, together with UNHCR and other partners, are bringing together all relevant stakeholders, including governmental bodies, the judiciary, civil registries, the health sector, as well as affected communities themselves, to uphold these principles and build a comprehensive response that safeguards the future of children and their families.

The MENA region has been a flagship model for responding to crises and extending unprecedented hospitality to refugees, inspiring innovative protection responses and solutions, including through the establishment of strategic linkages to the Sustainable Development Goals. These responses have predated the New York Declaration and the Global Compact on Refugees (GCR) by foreseeing some of their key elements, such as easing pressure on host countries through a “whole of society” approach, fostering self-reliance and livelihoods, and encouraging and widening third party solutions.

Ayman Gharaibeh
Director
UNHCR Bureau for the Middle East
and North Africa



Introduction

Belonging is a foundation for people to thrive, reach their potential and be secure in their families, communities and countries. Increasing the full inclusion, participation and belonging of all persons can strengthen local and national economies, lead to higher educational attainment and improve social cohesion and stability. Global and regional crises are threatening to leave millions of people, including children, in the margins. Conflict, and the resulting large-scale displacement, exposes children to risks due to increased family separation, the non-functioning of civil registration systems in conflict affected areas, and difficulties in registering new births and marriages. The relatively recent phenomenon of globalization has also led to increased mobility, migration and mixed movements. As a result, large numbers of people live outside of their country of nationality or possess multiple citizenships and live in more than one country. As a result, children with complex histories, whose parents hold different nationalities, and/or who are born outside the country of their parents' nationality are increasingly common. In these situations, children may be at risk of not acquiring a nationality at birth due to a conflict in the nationality laws of different countries.

The Declaration builds on longstanding traditions in the MENA region which recognize the right of all children to belong, to enjoy rights to family life and unity, and to have a name and legal identity.

In February 2018, the Ministerial Conference of the League of Arab States adopted the Arab Declaration on Belonging and Legal Identity.¹ The Declaration builds on good practices in the MENA region, recognizing the right of all children to belong and to a legal identity. The Declaration also reaffirms the shared commitment of LAS member States to strengthen women's nationality rights and gender equality in nationality, and to lead the way in ensuring that everyone belongs. A range of regional instruments, including the Covenant on the Rights of the Child in Islam, and the Arab Charter on Human Rights, which stipulate that all persons shall have the right to a legal identity and a life of dignity, demonstrate the commitment of the MENA region to the

protection of children and families. Additionally, the Sharjah Principles on the Protection of Refugee Children specify that all refugee children should be registered and documented at birth. Capitalizing on these regional developments in MENA, many countries in the region have enacted domestic measures to better protect women, children and families, including in relation to their rights to nationality, documentation and family unity. Notably, significant nationality law reforms have been enacted since the early 2000's across the region to grant women the right to confer nationality on their children on an equal basis as men, while innovative measures have been taken across the region to facilitate birth registration (described in detail below, in the section on Civil Registration & Birth Registration).

This publication is part of the Arab Leagues' "I am here" Campaign, which was launched in February 2018 to document and give recognition to the ongoing efforts of all countries in the MENA region undertaking the implementation of the recommendations contained in the Arab Declaration on Belonging and Legal Identity. This publication highlights positive measures that have been undertaken across MENA to ensure that all people are able to enjoy their right to belong and to enjoy a legal identity, highlighting positive developments with regard to historic nationality law reforms, civil documentation, including birth registration, as well as the acquisition of nationality.

¹ League of Arab States, Arab Declaration on Belonging and Legal Identity, 28 February 2018, available at: <https://www.refworld.org/docid/5a9ffbd04.html>

Chapter One:

Historic Nationality Law Reforms

The MENA region has made great strides in advancing gender-equal nationality rights in recent years, with Algeria, Egypt, Morocco, Tunisia and Yemen enacting reforms enshrining the equal ability of men and women to confer nationality on their children. In 2006, Iraq enacted legislation upholding citizens' equal ability to confer nationality on their children born inside the State territory, but the legislation does not automatically extend this right to Iraqi women whose children are born abroad. Other countries in the MENA region have enacted partial reforms to expand women's nationality rights, and many governments have expressed their commitment to addressing gender inequality in their nationality laws. More recently, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates introduced positive new provisions, specifically to allow children to apply for nationality on the basis of maternal descent, on a discretionary basis, which is a positive first step.

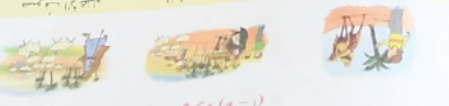
Enacting gender equal legislation has an enormous positive impact on children and families and is critical to ensuring full participation in a society.

Enacting gender equal legislation has an enormous positive impact on children and families and is critical to ensuring full participation in a society. Without nationality, individuals often face an existence characterized by insecurity and marginalization.

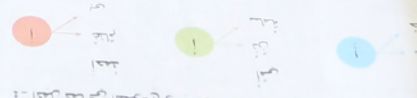
As more children enjoy their right to a nationality, they can better access health and education and are more secure from exploitation and violence. The positive impacts carry over to their communities, as these children grown into young people with valuable skills and educational qualifications who can fully contribute to economies. Allowing women to pass on nationality to their children on an equal basis as men ensures that family unity is preserved and deters people from taking desperate measures to secure proof of identity or nationality. Overall, gender-equal nationality laws promote social and economic inclusion, national stability, prosperity and security—providing the foundation for more sustainable development.



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EGYPT

Regionally, Egypt has been the most proactive in making its laws more gender-equal. In 2004, prominent Egyptian women's rights groups and leaders, including the National Council of Women in Egypt, worked in partnership to establish equal rights for women in the country's nationality law. In 2004, these efforts succeeded in the adoption of Law 154, which codified women's right to confer nationality on their children on the same basis as men. The law has also helped families to remain together in Egypt by ensuring that all family members enjoy Egyptian nationality. Additionally, access to education and employment have been strengthened, providing a greater foundation of opportunity, economic opportunity and dignity.

*Fatima, Zaina and Khadija are attending school.
Children's access to education has been strengthened
by Egypt's nationality law reforms.*



ALGERIA

In 2003, civil society leaders, academics and legal experts in Algeria joined together to form a coalition called the “20 ans barakat”, signalling their shared vision to amend the country’s laws and to align them with the constitutional requirement for gender equality. In February 2005, these efforts proved successful, when a new Nationality Code was passed in Algeria guaranteeing the equal ability of citizens, regardless of gender, to confer nationality on their children. Algeria and its citizens have prospered from the new Nationality Code, which embraces equality and inclusion.

Ahmed and his friends playing football. Children born to an Algerian mother or father now enjoy equal nationality rights, which had led to enhanced inclusion in their societies.



IRAQ

In 2006, Iraq amended its nationality law to ensure that all children born inside the country can acquire nationality on an equal basis from their mother or father. Children born outside Iraq to an Iraqi mother and an unknown or stateless father can be granted nationality on a discretionary basis, based on certain conditions. In addition to preventing childhood statelessness, the amended law contained dedicated provisions to resolve historic situations of statelessness in the country – resulting in the world’s largest reduction of statelessness in a single year (over 100,000 persons), during 2010.

“I obtained Iraqi citizenship for my children and enabled them to enjoy the same rights as their peers, including their right to documentation and a passport. All these privileges were not available under the previous law.”

An Iraqi mother of two children,
married to an Egyptian man.

Nawal an Iraqi national, with her children. Nawal is married to an Iranian national. Nawal’s children were able to obtain Iraqi citizenship due to the 2006 passage of the Iraqi Nationality Law No. 26.



MOROCCO

In 2007, Morocco amended their nationality law, recognizing the right of women to confer nationality on their children on an equal basis as men. This critical reform has strengthened national development and cohesion, and has had an enormous impact on the daily lives of Moroccan children and families. Morocco's reformed Constitution, adopted in 2011, further reinforces this critical principle of gender equality in all areas of law.

“My children used to believe that they were second class citizens, but since receiving Moroccan citizenship they feel like they belong to the community in the same way as the other children. They feel comfortable in school, and they will eventually be able to receive their high school diploma and apply for university. I hope that the same legal reforms will happen in other countries in the region so that other children may enjoy the advantages of gender equality in nationality laws in the same way that mine have.”

Radwan, a Syrian national married to a Moroccan woman. The family has been living in Morocco for 17 years and has five children. The five children received Moroccan citizenship from their mother after the 2007 legal reform.

Amani is exceeding at school. Morocco's legal reforms ensured all children belong and have equal opportunities.



TUNISIA

Building on important developments in the region, the Tunisian Nationality Code was amended in 2010, allowing Tunisian women to pass their nationality on to their children on the same basis as men. This had an immediate effect on the lives of many Tunisian families, as it allowed their children to enjoy the same rights and services enjoyed by other citizens. The reform specifically benefited the increasing number of Tunisian women who are married to foreigners (and, as such, whose nationality would not previously have been passed on to their children).

Samar and her daughter Layla. Nationality law reforms in Tunisia promoted family unity across the country.



YEMEN

In 2010, the Yemeni government embraced growing calls from its citizens to introduce gender-equality in the laws of the country, and passed an amendment to the nationality law that enshrined the equal rights of Yemeni women and men to confer nationality on their children, without condition. This timely and welcome development ended up being a critical source of protection not only in times of peace and tranquillity, but also during subsequent periods of conflict and instability. The legal reforms in Yemen further demonstrate the critical nature of legislation containing gender-equal provisions in humanitarian emergencies.

Legislation of gender equal provisions in humanitarian emergencies has proven a critical source of protection, including for children such as Basma.



GULF STATES

Following the wave of nationality law reforms witnessed in the MENA region since the early 2000's, there are a number of States that are also taking other important steps to increase women's nationality rights.

Significantly, several Gulf States have introduced important protections in their nationality laws to safeguard women's nationality rights. In Kuwait and Saudi Arabia, a woman will not lose her nationality upon marrying a foreign national until and unless she acquires the nationality of the foreign husband, and does so at her own request, thereby upholding key principles in international law. Similarly, important protections were introduced in Bahraini law, whereby a Bahraini woman cannot lose her nationality upon marriage to a foreign national until and unless she acquires his citizenship.²

These developments gave women vital protection against statelessness arising from marriages, separations, or changes in the citizenship status of their spouses. It also offers enhanced protection for children against being born without nationality by ensuring that a mother remains in possession of a nationality, which can then be conveyed to her child, regardless of the nationality of the spouse.

² See Bahrain Citizenship Act (1963); Decree Law No. 10 (1981) Amending Bahrain Citizenship Act (1963); Decree Law No. 12 Amending Bahrain Citizenship Act (1963).

Chapter Two:

Civil Registration & Birth Registration

The right to an identity is a human right of every child and in practical terms birth registration is a first step to materialize this right. States in MENA are leading the way, together with civil society partners and affected families, in making sure every child begins life with a birth certificate that proves its name, family relations and nationality. A birth certificate is often critical to preventing statelessness – because it proves the child’s parentage and place of birth, which are the bases upon which children acquire nationality under most of the world’s nationality laws.

Birth registration is the human right of every child.

Birth certificates continue to play an important role into adulthood, where they may be needed in practice for a variety of purposes: to access education, to obtain social security or a job in the formal sector, to buy or prove the right to inherit property, to obtain identity cards, to vote, to obtain a passport, as well as for tax purposes. The lack of such documentation can mean that a child may enter into marriage or the labor market, or be conscripted into the armed forces, before the legal age. Registering children at birth is the first step in securing their recognition as a person before the law, safeguarding their rights, and ensuring that any violation of these rights does not go unnoticed.³

States in MENA are leading the way, together with civil society partners and affected families, in making sure every child begins life with a birth certificate that proves its name, family relations and nationality.

The need for personal civil documentation, including birth registration, is a constant of daily life across the world and is essential to establishing a person’s legal identity. Refugees are more likely to find themselves without identifying documents due to the circumstances in which they are often forced to leave their homes, but also have difficulties in renewing and replacing civil status and identity documents. Identity documentation is essential for freedom of movement, and thus access to safety, and it facilitates the tracing and reunification of children who have been separated from their parents or guardians. Women often need marriage certificates to inherit property, to register the births of their children, as well as for custody. Once in the country of refuge, access to national identity cards may serve as evidence of civil status and of nationality. This is essential, amongst others, for the registration of births and deaths, marriage, obtaining employment, housing, medical care, qualifying for social services, and entering educational institutions.

³ The right to legal identity is enshrined in Article 15 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, Articles 7 and 8 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child and Article 24 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.







Adnan, 14, is a young Syrian refugee in Zaatari camp in Jordan who looks forward to a bright future.

His situation is similar to thousands of other Syrian refugee children who have sought refuge across the region. Zaina, 4, is a young refugee child in Egypt who was provided with a birth certificate, which makes her belong and have a legal identity.

These are core foundations to start her life, allowing her to access equal opportunities with other children.

A young refugee in Zaatari camp, Jordan



BIRTH REGISTRATION IN THE SYRIA REFUGEE RESPONSE

In the context of ongoing humanitarian emergencies in the region, particularly the Syria crisis, Governments and partners in neighbouring countries have effectively responded to the emerging needs of displaced populations through generous hospitality and innovative initiatives that have dramatically improved refugees' access to civil status documentation. Particularly, there have been numerous positive developments in the countries of the Regional Refugee and Resilience Plan (3RP) in response to the Syria Crisis (Jordan, Lebanon, Turkey, Iraq and Egypt) resulting in tremendous increases in the number of refugee children being able to register at birth.

The number of Syrian children born in the region each year without any form of identity documents has been reduced from 35 per cent in 2012 to 1 per cent in 2020.

Although each country introduced their own specific responses and activities, the essential ingredients for the successes achieved included simplified procedures, increased access to civil registry offices, legal aid and counselling, engagement with communities as agents of change, and access to quality maternal health services. Moreover, central to all efforts has been the recognition that refugees bring critical skills, capacities and knowledge to address challenges and serve their communities.

These initiatives have had a dramatic impact on birth registration in the region, with the number of children born in the region each year without any form of identity documents reducing from 35 per cent in 2012 to 1 per cent in 2020. The number of Syrian refugee children born in 3RP countries with an official birth certificate has increased to approximately 80 per cent. This means that refugee children will grow up more likely to be able to access public services, enjoy essential protections, and fully develop their potential in support of the country in which they live.



JORDAN

Jordan's practical and innovative solutions to address the immediate needs of newly arriving refugees has had a tremendous impact on the lives of thousands of people.

An important response to physical barriers which refugees faced in accessing civil documentation has been the establishment of civil registration offices as well as courts in camps, combined with mobile services. This has resulted in the prompt registration of new births in camps, as well as the legalizing of informal marriages. Jordan's courts also strengthened the rights of women in respect of child custody, alimony, property, inheritance, and lawful remarriage in case of separation, divorce or death of the husband. Recognizing that refugees often arrive in their country of asylum with few or no documents, Jordan introduced new and flexible measures, including simplified procedures and the waiver of fines.

These measures have significantly increased access to birth registration and have brought a twelve-fold increase in the number of refugee children born in camps in Jordan who received birth certificates in 2016 (3,642 total) and 2015 (3,645), in comparison to 2013 (295 total).

“The most important thing that I had in my mind was when I return back to Syria to see my husband, they would not allow my son to cross the borders with me if I didn't have his birth certificate”

Zainab with her son Idrees, whose birth certificate was destroyed in Syria when their home burned down during the conflict. Zainab worried that this might prevent him from one day being reunited with his father, who remains in Syria.



“I want my children to receive their education and I don’t want them to be unregistered. I want them to always be legal. I don’t want them to end up with limited options like me. With an education, I hope they can work in medicine or engineering back home, rather than jobs that just put food on the table.”

Firaz, a Syrian refugee in Lebanon who was able to register his daughter following an important regulatory change in 2018 in which the government waived late birth registration procedures for Syrian children born in Lebanon between 1 January 2011 and 8 February 2018.

LEBANON

In recognition of the importance for every child, including refugee children, to enjoy a legal identity, Lebanon introduced important initiatives to respond to the specific needs of Syrian refugees arriving in Lebanon since the start of the Syria crisis.

Birth registration in Lebanon is a complex process for everyone, with multiple steps, and it can be even more difficult for refugees. As a result, the Government of Lebanon has established exceptional measures to promote birth registration of Syrian children. An important step was that the government waived the need for parents to have legal residency to complete the birth registration process, while also making the registration of marriages easier. Understanding that many refugees have few or no documents, the government also simplified procedures for children whose birth was not registered within the one-year deadline required by law. The recent facilitation of late birth registration may enable more than 50,000 unregistered Syrian children to acquire the necessary paperwork.

In close coordination with the health sector, 97 per cent of Syrian babies born in Lebanon in 2018 were delivered with the assistance of a skilled birth attendant, and also received a birth notification document. This ensures that children hold the minimum level of documentation needed to initiate the birth registration process at a later date.

Syrian refugee Firaz and his wife seek help to register their children, including newborn Mohammad, in Lebanon



IRAQ

Complementing efforts undertaken in the region to strengthen birth registration of Syrian refugee children, important work is being done in Iraq to prioritise birth registration for all forcibly displaced children, including children who are refugees, internally displaced or otherwise affected by conflict.

In line with simplified procedures that have been introduced in neighbouring countries, flexible measures have been adopted by the authorities in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq (KR-I) to facilitate birth registration of Syrian children. The authorities accept UNHCR certificates for those families that lack the prerequisite documentation. These initiatives, together with legal aid and counselling, have increased the birth registration rate amongst Syrian refugees from 30 per cent in 2012 to 73 per cent in 2015. The authorities in KR-I are also issuing all Syrian refugee children above 12 years old with identity and residency documents.

To build on these facilitated procedures, UNHCR launched an intensive birth registration campaign, including awareness-raising and community engagement activities in the KR-I to inform people of the importance of registering their new born babies and to explain the procedures. These initiatives were highly successful and contributed to increasing access of Syrian children to birth registration, and thus, securing proof of their legal identity.

Yazan, a Syrian refugee child, was promptly registered at birth, securing proof of his legal identity.



EGYPT


Egypt implemented creative solutions to ensure and promote birth registration for Syrian refugee children, recognizing the importance of birth documents for their immediate protection needs as well as a foundation to secure their legal status as a safeguard for their future.

While the large majority of Syrian refugee children born in Egypt have been successfully registered at birth under the current legal and administrative framework, an important and successful approach has been the mainstreaming of birth registration within existing programs and structures, such as reception centers, and sites of community-based activities and public health services. Legal aid and counseling were instrumental in ensuring that refugees approach partners well in advance, allowing for timely interventions in the absence of the prerequisite documentation, while avoiding complex late birth registration procedures.

These interventions resulted in a 92.2 per cent birth registration rate for Syrian refugee children from June 2015 to June 2016.

On the basis of a 2012 ministerial decree, Syrian refugees in Egypt have access to public primary health care services, including maternal health services. This is essential, not only to secure safe deliveries, but also for the issuance of official birth notifications by the respective health providers.

Syrian refugees Zohoor, 6-years old, Yamen, 8-years old, and Lojan, 3-years old, register at UNHCR offices in the Zamalek neighbourhood in Cairo.



“Today, we have the opportunity to access birth certificates for our children. This is the beginning of everything. The starting point; this is when your existence as a citizen is established, access to education, access to protection and the proof of protection from the Government of Mauritania. The lack of documentation is one of the most problematic issues affecting vulnerable people in the world currently. My family cannot be lost in the world. They belong! We wish to thank the Government of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania and UNHCR for the initiative and resources put in place to realize this.”

Abdul Aziz, a refugee in Mberra camp in Mauritania, on receiving a birth certificate for his child.

BIRTH REGISTRATION IN THE WIDER REGION

MAURITANIA

In the past, the Mauritanian government did not issue birth certificates for all refugees. Recently, this situation changed when the authorities decided to issue birth certificates to refugee children born in Mberra camp. The first birth certificates were delivered in February 2018, while any subsequently-born children in the camp now have access to a birth certificate. Commending the important developments in recent years, it is encouraged that all refugee children born in Mauritania have access to a birth certificate, which is essential to their protection, regardless of where they are born.

Further developments were observed in November 2018, when the Mauritanian authorities began issuing national identity cards to the over 57,000 Malian refugees who have sought asylum at Mberra refugee camp, with plans to extend the program to urban refugees in the future. The national identity card serves as proof of their identity and regularises their residency. This is particularly important, as many refugees were forced to flee without documents. Refugees living in Mberra camp will now be able to move freely beyond the limits of the camp, which is essential for them to lead autonomous, self-sustaining lives where they are able to pursue professional and educational goals and contribute meaningfully to the Mauritanian economy and society more broadly.

Malian parents register births at Mberra camp in Mauritania



“I want to thank the UNHCR and the Government of Mauritania for this legal document which allows me to have access to certain fundamental rights,”

Abdul Aziz, a refugee in Mberra camp, after receiving his identification card

Refugee in Mberra camp receives National Identification card from UNHCR staff



IDPS IN YEMEN

In order to ensure that all people in Yemen possess the nationality documentation that they are entitled to, the Civil Registration Authority in Yemen, with support from UNHCR, is issuing official temporary identification cards for internally displaced persons (IDPs). As of November 2018, 263 individuals, including IDPs and IDP returnees, were issued with civil documentation, which allows them to apply for birth certificates. This important initiative in turn improves IDPs' access to services, including cash assistance. Eventually, once this project is fully implemented, 2,000 people will be issued with civil documentation.

IDP children in Yemen playing in the sun. The issuance of civil documentation to IDPs provides for the essential access to services, which provides much needed relief to affected communities, including children.

Chapter Three:

Confirmation & Acquisition of Nationality

States around the MENA region have taken significant steps to resolve existing situations of statelessness. By facilitating access to nationality for large numbers of individuals, States are ensuring that people can “belong”, and fully participate in their societies. In Iraq and Syria, relatively recent changes in national laws have enabled large numbers of people to acquire nationality. These are outlined below.

By facilitating access to nationality for large numbers of individuals, States are ensuring that people can ‘belong,’ and fully participate in their societies.



Aferin, 10, is a young girl who recently obtained a nationality following important legal reforms in Iraq.

Once she held the national ID document, she felt like she finally belonged, as if she was finally the same as everyone else. She is ready to embrace her future and start realizing her dreams.

Similar initiatives in the region are transforming the lives of thousands of people, including children.

Young beneficiary from the Faili Kurd community in Diyala upon receiving her National ID documents.



SYRIA

In Syria, in 1962 an estimated 300,000 Syrian Kurds were deprived of their nationality during a special census conducted in Hasakeh governorate, this number has since been reduced to 160,000. Important steps have been taken to address the situation of these Syrian Kurds deprived of their nationality. Most notably, in 2011 Decree 49 was promulgated, which has since led to the granting of nationality to over 69,000 stateless persons from the ethnic Kurdish minority. Today, the decree remains in force.

The granting of nationality provided Syrian Kurds, such as Alacan, a fresh start and new opportunities for a bright future.



“I do not have enough words
of express my gratitude for
your help!”

Beneficiary from Bidoon community
in Basra after receiving his
Nationality Certificate.

IRAQ

The Iraqi Nationality Law of 2006 paved the way for Faili Kurds in Iraq, many of whom had been denaturalized in 1980 by the government at the time, to re-acquire Iraqi nationality. Implementation of this provision has reportedly led to the reduction of 110,000 in the number of people who are stateless. UNHCR's partners in Iraq provide assistance to people who may witness positive changes in their lives as a result of this change in law. Between 2015 and 2017, UNHCR, through its partner in Iraq, assisted in resolving 3,356 individuals through the acquisition and confirmation of nationality. This assistance relates to the issuance of Nationality Certificates, (Jinsiyeh), Civil IDs (Hawiyeh) and other legal documents through the representation of stateless people in local courts, mainly affecting Faili Kurds in Diyala and Bedouns in Basrah.

Beneficiary family from Bedoon community in Basrah with UNHCR partner staff upon receiving their National ID documents



FOR MORE INFORMATION & FURTHER READING

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Pg. 12: UNHCR / Bassam Diab

Pg. 14: UNHCR / Balqis Albsharat

Pg. 16: UNHCR Iraq

Pg. 18: UNHCR / Bassam Diab

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