



#IBELONG campaign calls upon States to develop Plans of Action to eradicate Statelessness by 2024 (4 November 2014)

Action point #24 of Abidjan Declaration: States commit themselves to develop national Plans of Action (25 February 2015)

How to move forward?



Organize a strategic workshop based on multi-partnership

Goals

1. Strengthen knowledge
2. Ensure a common understanding on causes of statelessness and groups at risk at national level
3. Build on the 2013 draft action plan

Suggested Duration-3 days

Day 1

Identify causes of statelessness and groups at risk

Day 2 & 3

Identify gaps in the legal and administrative framework related to nationality

Elaborate an Action Plan

Assistance

UNHCR Regional Statelessness Officer and an in-country UNHCR-trained law professor can assist in facilitating the workshop

Suggested follow up

It is recommended that a high level official of the ministry responsible for nationality matters attends the workshop, and is tasked to follow up with the minister for an official endorsement of the Plan

Official approval of the Action Plan can be done in an official gathering with the relevant Minister, UN agencies and media

Suggested Participants

Representatives of key ministries (*interior, foreign affairs, justice, and any other ministry responsible for aliens, civil status, birth registration and/or nationality*)

Members of parliament

Ombudsmans

National Human Rights Institutions (*NHRI*)

Civil society

(*dealing with children, women and/or Human Rights*)

University law professors

UN agencies

(*in particular UNICEF, OHCHR, UNFPA*)

IOM

ECOWAS

Religious groups

Traditional leaders

TIP

Ensure that participants include those who have already been trained by UNHCR or who attended the experts meeting or conference

See the list

TIP

Action Plans drafted by all countries in 2013 can be used as a basis

Material

RRWA can share videos and documents

See next page

B

Before the workshop

Organizing a **fact finding mission** to areas that are at risk of statelessness preferably with a representative of NHRI or civil society is highly recommended

Objective

Collect facts on statelessness that will feed discussions during the strategic workshop

C

After the workshop

Organize a half to one day **training session** on statelessness targeting national focal points that make up the regional network and local **media**

Suggested training items

1. Communicate information on groups at risk of statelessness in West Africa and their situation in the country
2. Diffuse information on Plan of Action
3. Publicize **#IBELONG** campaign

Suggested Areas

1. Areas subject to (current or past) disputes with a neighboring state (see non exhaustive list of border disputes)
2. Border areas
3. Areas populated by nomadic groups
4. Areas heavily populated by migrants (for example, neighborhood in main cities or specific cities on migration routes)
5. Cities/neighborhoods with a large presence of street children
6. Areas of return of refugees/displaced persons

Film on existing statelessness situations

Animation movie on statelessness

Brochure on statelessness

Background information on statelessness in West Africa

MATERIALS

Brochures on the statelessness conventions

1954 and 1961 Statelessness conventions

Global Plans of Action

Nationality and Statelessness: A Handbook for Parliamentarians

✉ Statelessnessinfo@unhcr.org

🐦 @UNHCRWestAfrica
@StatelessWA

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