

## Peoples Without a State: Locations and Causes of Statelessness

### Statelessness Worldwide

There are an estimated **10-15 million** stateless people worldwide whom no country recognizes as a citizen. Because they are not recognized, stateless people often do not appear in official statistics. UNHCR\* has gathered data on approximately one-third of the estimated global population (**3.9 million**).

There are **93** countries where stateless populations are known to exist; **15** of these do not have reliable data on the stateless numbers.

Primary risk factors and causes include inheritance of status, conflict in nationality laws, state succession, discriminatory nationality laws, birth registration, and armed conflict.

A new stateless child is born every **10 minutes**.

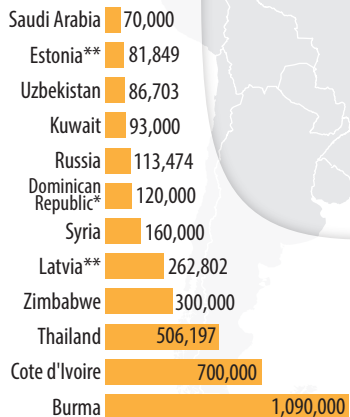
Statelessness contributes to cycles of poverty and vulnerability, reducing household income by **one third**.

\*The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) has a formal mandate to prevent and reduce statelessness around the world, as well as to protect the rights of stateless people.

Data are not complete and include estimates; may include persons with undetermined citizenship.



### Stateless population of 70,000 or more



\*The Dominican government created a legal path to restore citizenship to this population and has publicly committed to resolve the citizenship status of all Dominican-born individuals at risk of statelessness.

\*\*Latvia and Estonia dispute these UNHCR figures, arguing that their 'noncitizen' residents should not be considered stateless, as they are eligible for naturalization and enjoy many of the benefits of citizenship. Latvia acknowledges 270 stateless residents in its most recent census.

### Presence of stateless population



### Nationality laws that discriminate against women



\*Do not allow mothers to confer their nationality to their children with no, or very limited, exceptions.

\*\*Some safeguards against statelessness exist, mostly in cases where the father is unknown or stateless.



Hundreds of thousands of Syrian children born since the beginning of the conflict are at risk of statelessness because Syria's nationality law does not allow women to confer citizenship on their children, and many Syrians affected by the conflict are unable to access civil documentation.

### Notable stateless refugees

Counted within refugee statistics for protection reasons is another category of stateless persons--stateless refugees. Some of these people are not recognized as citizens by their country of origin or last habitual residence. The largest groups of stateless refugees are listed in alphabetical order below, and displayed on the map by their country of residence.

