United Nations Legal Identity Agenda

Fulfil the promise to Leave No One Behind

Legal identity—from birth—is a fundamental human right.

Hundreds of millions of people worldwide lack proof of legal identity—the vast majority are children who were never registered at birth.

Legal identity for all—starting from birth—is a game-changer to close the global identity gap & fulfil the promise to leave no one behind and realize the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

What you should know about the UN LIA

WHAT: The United Nations Legal Identity Agenda 2020-2030 (UN LIA), backed by the Deputy Secretary-General, was launched as a One UN approach to support Member States building holistic, country-owned, sustainable civil registration, vital statistics and identity management systems.

HOW: Its efforts focus on closing the global identity gap—with a benchmark goal of more than 300 million by 2025—and, in turn, providing Member States with the vital statistics and demographic information needed for socio-economic gains, better public administration, planning & monitoring.

Plans to set-up the UN LIA Multi-Partner Trust Fund are underway. The MPTF will:
— Facilitate a cohesive approach across the UN systems to respond to Member States’ requests for support to strengthen their legal identity policy & programming at all levels.
— Allow major funding & development partners supporting efforts across the UN system to pool resources & maximize investments.

Stay tuned for more about the launch of the UN Legal Identity Agenda! Calls for commitments in support of the UN LIA are open during 2019.

Together we can close the global identity gap by over 300 million by 2025.

6 Things You Should Know About Legal Identity

— Legal identity is defined as the basic characteristics of an individual’s identity—e.g. name, sex, place and date of birth conferred via registration & official certification at birth by an authorized civil registration (CR) authority.

— If a birth can’t be registered, legal identity can be given by a legally-recognized identification authority linked to a CR system to ensure a holistic approach from birth to death.

— Legal identity is retired by the issuance of a death certificate by a CR authority following death registration.

— For refugees, Member States are primarily responsible for issuing proof of legal identity; but it can also be provided by an internationally recognized & mandated authority.

— Proof of legal identity is defined as a credential—e.g. birth certificate, identity card or digital identity credential—recognized as proof of identity provided by law.

— Marriage, divorce and adoption are life events that may require a legal change in components of your identity such as your name and family ties.
Civil registration is key to unlock legal identity

Civil registration (CR) establishes the existence of a person under the law and is fundamental for granting legal identity, and producing the data needed to plan, monitor & measure country development efforts. Functioning CR systems provide people with legal identity documents—starting with a birth certificate—that prove their legal status and help to safeguard their rights throughout their lives.

**Civil Registration, Vital Statistics and Identity Management System**

Without legal identity the HUMAN IMPACT is SEVERE.

Without proof of legal identity, individuals may not be able to acquire a nationality & become stateless. Women & children may also be forced to resort to participation in the informal labor market, & risk being subjected to extremely poor working conditions, trafficking, sexual exploitation, lack of access to justice, & more.

- It’s a women’s rights issue.
- It’s a children’s rights issue.
- It’s a minority rights issue.
- It’s a development issue.
- It’s an equality issue.
- It’s a justice issue.

**UN Legal Identity Expert Group (UN LIEG)**

Established in September 2018 at the request of the UN Secretary-General and backed by the UN DSG, the UN LIEG in support of the UN Legal Identity Agenda (2020-2030) aims to:

- take a unified approach to legal identity across the UNDS & strengthen collaboration with the Word Bank
- support Member States to accelerate progress to achieve SDG 16.9 & SDG 17.19

And calls for a life-cycle approach to legal identity by establishing universal & inclusive legal identity systems starting from birth.

**UN LIEG Structure (14+ UN Agencies and 2 Regional Economic Commissions):**

Co-Chairs: UNICEF, UNDP, DESA

Members include: DOCO, IOM, ITU, OCHA, OHCHR, UNFPA, UNHCR, UNICEF, DESA, UNDP, UN Women, UNODC, UNSD, WFP, WHO. UNECA and UNESCAP are designated representatives of the Regional Economic Commissions.

Contact: lieg@undp.org