

## **Statelessness Mainstreaming Tool for Development Actors**

Ladies and Gentlemen,

it is my honor to report back from the Innovation Lab on UNHCR's Statelessness Mainstreaming Tool for Development Actors that Sweden through Sida has been a part of developing.

Why a tool for statelessness mainstreaming and what does it have to do with development?

Discrimination and deliberate exclusion characterize most situations of statelessness. The poverty rates of stateless populations are higher on average than those of comparable communities, and stateless persons are often excluded from development projects and initiatives. The overarching aim of the 2030 Agenda is to "leave no one behind" yet stateless persons often find themselves on the lowest rungs of society and experience the compounded negative effects of not being recognized as citizens of any country.

For this reason an informal working group has been co-creating a 'Statelessness Mainstreaming Tool that is intended for use by Development Actors. This group led by UNHCR has so far consisted of Sida, the US Bureau of Population, Refugees and Migration, the Women's Refugee Commission, UNDP, the International Development Law Organization and the European Network on Statelessness. The intended output is a concrete, simple tool intended to help development actors, national authorities, and UN Country Teams identify opportunities to address statelessness in their development policies, frameworks and programmes.

This is work in progress. Following yesterday's Innovation Lab an updated draft tool will be prepared and disseminated, for further discussions with technical experts representing different programming areas, such as Rule of Law and Legal identity. The aim is

to have a tool ready for piloting in the first half of next year. Interested States and development actors are invited to be part of this initiative, by contacting the UNHCR Statelessness Section.

Sweden has pledged to work towards reducing statelessness and we support the #Ibelong campaign. We depart from a multi-dimensional poverty analysis, where we see that stateless persons are among those groups who need to be further included in development projects and initiatives. We therefore look forward to supporting the process of finalizing the tool to promote better inclusion of stateless persons and we applaud UNHCR's continued leadership of the global campaign to end statelessness.

Thank you!