

CALL FOR PROPOSALS

Project title and Identification: Mapping Statelessness in the USA	Project Location: Regional Office for the USA and the Caribbean, Washington, DC, USA
<p>Brief Background of the Project: Today, at least 10 million people around the world live without a nationality. These people are stateless, with no country that recognizes them as a citizen. Stateless people have severe difficulties accessing basic rights and can face a lifetime of obstacles, hardships and vulnerabilities. Generally speaking, the United States is not a statelessness-producing country. Because of its <i>jus soli</i> nationality laws, the United States does not have a native-born stateless population. Nor does the United States face protracted situations of domestic statelessness lasting generations. Nonetheless, the U.S. is host to an unknown number of stateless people who were born elsewhere and migrated to the United States. While a limited number may have entered the United States while stateless, the likely majority became stateless due to circumstances arising after their entry. In either case, through no fault of their own, these stateless persons are citizens of nowhere, in the United States with no pathway to resolving their situation. They are often subject to serious hardships, including long-term or indefinite family separation, detention and threat of re-detention, immigration requirements in perpetuity, barriers to accessing employment, lack of access to basic services, and vulnerability to exploitation. These hardships, and recommendations to resolve them, were set forth in UNHCR’s 2012 joint report with the Open Society Justice Initiative (OSJI), <i>Citizens of Nowhere: Solutions for the Stateless in the U.S.</i> (<i>Citizens of Nowhere</i> report).</p> <p>While the <i>Citizens of Nowhere</i> report provided an overview of many of the hardships that stateless people face in the United States, there remains an empirical gap in knowledge regarding who and how many this affects. The U.S. is not a signatory to either the 1954 Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons or the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness. Currently, there is no domestic legislation that specifically defines a stateless person, and there is no government entity that is officially registering or tracking stateless populations in the United States. As such, there is no official estimate as to the number of stateless people currently residing in the United States. There is also no data regarding the location of stateless populations in the U.S. This lack of information limits the government’s ability to identify and protect those who are stateless and to tailor legislative and policy responses to their needs. This gap also limits civil society’s ability to represent the interests of stateless people in advocacy efforts.</p> <p>Improving quantitative and qualitative information on statelessness in the United States was identified as a threshold issue to address during a recent consultative process to develop a National Action Plan to End Statelessness in the U.S. by 2024. Despite the lack of an official count on stateless persons in the U.S., UNHCR is confident that data exists to allow for the eventual calculation of that number. The purpose of the project will be to work with partners in the U.S. government and civil society to develop a methodology for data collection and analysis to present a report on the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) An official estimate of the stateless population in the United States; 2) A methodology for ongoing collection of data and continued updating of the estimated number; 3) Profile and geographic locations of concentrations of stateless persons in the United States; and 4) Recommendations, including for improved data collection in the future. 	

Goal/Objective, Expected Outcome and Main Activities: The purpose of the project is to obtain a more complete understanding of statelessness in the United States, with a specific focus on obtaining (a) an official number of stateless people in the United States; (b) a consensus methodology for continually updating the official number; (c) a sense of geographic location and background composition of stateless people in the U.S.; and (d) a series of recommendations based on the findings, including recommendations for improved data collection.

It is expected that through this project, UNHCR, U.S. government and other stakeholders will be better able to identify and address the needs of stateless populations in the U.S. Through the project, UNHCR hopes to establish a structured engagement with the U.S. government on the regular collection and tracking of data on statelessness. Moreover, the results will assist in providing a data-driven understanding of who and how many people are stateless in order to better design policy – and legislative - solutions. Eventually, UNHCR hopes that the research will inform advocacy for the establishment of a procedure for determining statelessness and provide solutions for stateless person.. For that purpose, the following activities and considerations are anticipated for this project:

- Develop a methodology for quantifying and estimating the number of stateless people in the United States based on existing data collected by U.S. immigration authorities, as well as through field-based interviews and information collection.
- Conduct profiling of stateless populations in the United States with a focus on causes of statelessness, geographic location, and vulnerabilities and hardships.
- The project will be consultative in nature, requiring interviews with government officials, academics, lawyers, local authorities, NGOs and stateless persons.
- The project will include participatory assessment methodologies (including the conducting of interviews with persons of concern), with specific consideration for age, gender and diversity factors. In this context, attention will be paid to the impact of existing policies and procedures on persons of concern.
- The research undertaken will benefit from the guidance of an Expert Consultative Panel composed of professionals of recognized merit and expertise in the demographic, social and legal fields as well as of representatives of relevant government bodies. Three panel meetings are foreseen, which should provide not only added value to the research but are also meant to build capacity in this area.
- Selection of and review by an institutional review board (if needed), for all subject-focused methodologies and tools;
- UNHCR's technical expertise in the substantive issue area of statelessness, as well as in the collection and analysis of data on stateless populations will provide support.

Project tasks (measurable outputs) should include, with a detailed work plan to be developed:

- (a) With the assistance of UNHCR and the relevant U.S. Government authorities, collect and analyze available statistics with indications of statelessness, and assess them and identify where and how better and more accurate statistics in respect of stateless people could be maintained by the government.
- (b) Conduct at least 5 field visits to diverse geographic locations, to conduct interviews with a sampling of at least 20 stateless persons per location, for who age, gender and diversity perspectives need to be taken into account.
- (c) Conduct interviews with academics, lawyers, national authorities and NGOs, where appropriate.
- (d) As necessary, review the interviewees' case files in order to analyse information and

documentary evidence relating to the basis of the interviewees' statelessness claims.

- (e) Develop a methodology, concerted with relevant government entities and UNHCR, to estimate the total number of stateless people in the United States.
- (f) Compose one final project report containing, among others, a description of the project, all relevant findings as well as the respective conclusions and recommendations for further follow-up.

The **final product** of this research, which will remain UNHCR's ownership, shall consist of a report of no more than 30 pages (without annexes), providing an estimate and profiling of the stateless population in the United States, as well as findings and recommendations to address the situation of stateless people. A tentative overview of its structure is as follows:

- Executive summary;
- Introduction;
- Overview of the methodology used;
- Summary of the global and domestic legal and policy framework;
- Presentation of the estimate of the stateless population in the United States, including the methodology developed and areas for improved data collection;
- A baseline profiling of the stateless population in the United States, focusing on the geographic location of major stateless populations and an analysis of their composition, including the reasons for their statelessness; and
- Concluding remarks and recommendations.

Individual stories gathered by means of the participatory assessment methodology will provide anecdotal evidence which will be incorporated in the body of the report.

The **impact indicators** for this project are:

- In the short term:
 - o Increased awareness and understanding of statelessness in the U.S. among stakeholders.
- In the medium term:
 - o Continuous, periodic reporting on the number of stateless people in the U.S.;
 - o Relevant actors assume the findings and recommendations to inform national and local policy responses;
 - o Establishment of stateless status determination procedures; and
 - o Increased engagement of stateless persons in advocacy solutions.
- In the long term:
 - o Adoption of a legislative solution to statelessness, including a pathway to citizenship for qualifying stateless persons.

Intended Population of Concern: Stateless persons in the USA

Project Period: The work should start on 1 June 2017 and be finished by 31 December 2017. A tentative outline of the various phases various phases are scheduled as follows:

Phase I: 3 months

- 1st meeting of the Expert Consultative Panel; Develop proposed estimation methodology for the

research, including survey of existing government data and interviews with a sampling of the population;

- Review of interview methodologies and tools by the Institutional Review Board; and
- Desk and field-based research, including analysis of existing and outstanding data, and, field interviews with academics, lawyers, national authorities, NGOs and stateless persons; and
- Presentation to UNHCR and the Expert Consultative Panel of interim report on findings, the methodology for estimation of the stateless population, and any unresolved issues.

Phase II: 3 months

- 2nd meeting of the Expert Consultative Panel to receive their structured feedback on interim report;
- Identify and address outstanding gaps for data collection and analysis for the final report;
- Drafting the full project report covering all the elements listed above;
- Presentation of the draft full report to the Expert Consultative Panel, to UNHCR and to the U.S. Government for review; and
- Complete review of the draft report by Expert Consultative Panel, UNHCR and the U.S. Government.

Phase III: 1 month

- Composing the final project report;
- 3rd meeting of the Expert Consultative Panel with presentation of final project report; and
- Finalization of project report.

Submission Deadline:
24 May 2017

Date Decision Results to be Communicated to Applicants:
31 May 2017

Selection Criteria

Sector expertise and experience: Demonstrated relevant experience with social science research and qualitative and quantitative analysis, with a preference for experience in the field of statelessness, human rights and/or immigration/refugee rights. **Field Expertise:** Experience with data collection and analysis, both quantitative and qualitative (Required); Experience in social science research and report drafting (Required); Interviewing skills in an intercultural context (Required); Familiarity with the US immigration system (Strongly preferred); Familiarity with the international legal framework around statelessness and knowledge of UNHCR's role in identifying, reducing, preventing and protecting those affected by statelessness. (Strongly preferred); Familiarity with key stakeholders in the US government and civil society working on refugees, immigration and statelessness (Preferred).

Cost effectiveness: Level of direct costs and administrative costs imposed on the Project in relation to project deliverables.

Experience working with UNHCR: Global and/or local partnerships including knowledge of UNHCR policies, practices and programs, including an understanding of and ability to work within UNHCR's funding limitations and associated inherent risks. Partners that have three consecutive qualified audit opinions for UNHCR-funded projects may not be considered.

Project management: Ability to deliver project objectives, accountability mechanisms and sound financial management, taking into account the audit results of the previous UNHCR-funded projects, past performance and the external audit of partners' financial statements, where applicable.

Other information: Maximum project budget of **\$70,000.00** (including travel)

Please submit proposals to usawaadm@unhcr.org **no later than 24 May 2017.**