BRIDGING THE INCLUSION GAP: EMPOWERING AFRICA'S FORCIBLY DISPLACED AND STATELESS THROUGH INCLUSIVE ID SYSTEMS

WORKSHOP 2 CONCEPT NOTE
24 MAY 2024: 08:30 – 13:00

INTRODUCTION

Forcibly displaced and stateless populations around the world face a myriad of challenges. Lack of proper identification can prevent individuals from accessing healthcare, education, and social protection, leading to a fractured existence. National ID systems that promote the inclusion of these populations are crucial. They serve as gateways not just to vital services like health, education, and social protection but also help to anchor these individuals in recognized legal frameworks. With Africa sheltering over 20 million such individuals, the urgency to refine these systems is evident.

Addressing the identity challenge is a shared responsibility. Collaboration is essential among host states, international organizations like UNHCR, and other stakeholders. Integrating displaced populations into national systems aims to empower these individuals while also acknowledging the broader socio-economic implications for host communities. While Digital systems, inclusive of user-centric platforms, offer avenues for individuals to define and validate their identities, their genuine impact relies fundamentally on robust normative and legal frameworks to ensure genuine inclusion.

This workshop is tailored for government policymakers and practitioners, offering key principles and best practices in ID systems. Emphasizing inclusion and socio-economic integration, the approach not only seeks to unlock the potential of forcibly displaced persons, but also ensures that communities benefit from the opportunities arising from hosting displaced persons.

OBJECTIVES

This workshop will facilitate the development of impactful approaches for delivering public and private services to the forcibly displaced and stateless, by implementing existing policies as well as identifying future areas of engagement. The workshop aims to:

- Equip state and non-state service providers to tackle identity and inclusion challenges for Africa's forcibly displaced and stateless. This objective underscores a systemic approach, promoting stakeholder collaboration, digital solution integration, systems interoperability, and prioritizing privacy and data protection;

- Discuss and outline end-to-end user journeys for forcibly displaced and stateless individuals, highlighting their service access experiences. Focus on identifying key challenges, gaps, and pain points, especially in identification, authentication, and payment processes. Prioritize the alignment with statistical systems, emphasizing streamlined processes and fraud prevention;

- Address regulatory issues that potentially hinder the uptake of use cases in specific sectors and thereby adversely affect inclusion; and

- Identify key stakeholders and showcase the significance of their contributions through impact assessment, aiming to promote inclusion while fostering ongoing dialogue on the topic.

The workshop will be interactive and build on discussant and participants' practical experiences. It will also draw from and provide participants with information about recent digital ID innovations being put in place by UNHCR and governments.

EXPECTED OUTCOMES

Upon completion of this workshop, participants will:

- <u>Be better equipped</u> to formulate policies and principles, as well as implement best practices that support engagement between government stakeholders, international organizations, NGOs and the private sector with forcibly displaced and stateless populations in order to facilitate their inclusion in state systems and social protection safety nets;

- <u>Be more knowledgeable</u> about applying digital innovations to facilitate inclusion at various levels and for diverse purposes throughout the life cycle of forcibly displaced and stateless persons.

- <u>Collaborate proactively</u> across the continent to develop forward-thinking solutions, utilizing both digital innovations and human-centered strategies. Comprehensively address the unique challenges faced by forcibly displaced and stateless populations in the area of identification and inclusion.

FORMAT

Together, UNHCR and workshop participants will identify best practices, both current and proposed, to enhance the inclusivity of national systems for the forcibly displaced and stateless across various levels. These practices must align with, or potentially refine, the principles and policies at national, regional, and global levels. Conclusions will draw on **discussant testimonies** and ongoing dialogues that spotlight distinct experiences, including challenges faced in making foundational and functional ID systems more inclusive for displaced and stateless populations. Additionally, potential avenues for UNHCR's support in this endeavor will be explored.

PARTICIPANTS

This event will be particularly useful for refugee management divisions, immigration, heads of CRVS and ID agencies, national statistical organizations, ICT experts as well as sectoral stakeholders such as ministries in charge of social protection, justice, data privacy and payment regulations. The workshop

would also be extremely valuable for private actors such as banks, telecom operators, service providers as well as civil society organizations working with refugees, asylum seekers, and stateless persons.