

## **PRM Statelessness Evaluation Action Plan Key Recommendations (November 2021)**

### **Evaluation Report Recommendations**

#### **1. PRM should update its statelessness strategy to:**

- Encourage UNHCR to give adequate and appropriate attention to its statelessness mandate by:
  - Elevating statelessness within the implementation of the Global Compact on Refugees;
  - Addressing concerns that regionalization is weakening the **prioritization of statelessness**; and,
  - Replacing the “Statelessness Section” with a “**Statelessness Division**” or “**Statelessness Service**.”

#### **1a: PRM Response**

PRM will update its statelessness strategy by early 2022, to include an objective to engage with UNHCR to strengthen attention to its statelessness mandate, including through its regional staffing and organizational structure. PRM’s new statelessness strategy also will consider how the USG could help to elevate statelessness within the implementation of the Global Compact on Refugees, for example through support for civil registration and efforts to improve data and statistics on statelessness.

## **2. Elevate the PRM Statelessness Focal Point role so that it is fully dedicated to statelessness.**

### **2a: PRM Response**

- Contingent on filling existing vacancies, PRM/PRP will increase policy team coverage and expand PRM focus on statelessness.
- PRM will also seek to increase staff time focused on statelessness in its regional program offices and related to its multilateral coordination function.

## **3. Urge UNHCR to enact the following staffing reforms:**

- **Advance temporary staff** with statelessness expertise into staff positions, create clear staff reporting lines on statelessness and highlight statelessness within the terms of reference for all protection staff.
- **Make UNHCR statelessness training available** to RefCoords and urge UNHCR to make statelessness training mandatory for all protection, program, and external relations staff.

### **3a: PRM Response**

- PRM will request that UNHCR brief its Member States on staffing and training dedicated to statelessness.
- PRM will engage in bilateral discussions with UNHCR to encourage strengthening its staffing and training dedicated to statelessness, and will consider articulating these management issues as a mutual priority in the next PRM-UNHCR Framework for Cooperation.

- Contingent on filling existing vacancies, PRM will increase internal statelessness training opportunities for RefCoords and other PRM staff, including by making statelessness a standard session in the Bureau's orientation and monitoring and evaluation (M&E) courses and offering statelessness sessions for PRM regional M&E workshops. PRM will also explore collaboration with UNHCR and/or NGO partners to offer supplementary M&E training on statelessness to Bureau staff, including RefCoords.
- PRM will work with UNHCR to make its statelessness training available to selected PRM RefCoords and staff.

#### **4. Issue clear guidance to RefCoords that statelessness is a high priority for PRM and reflect this through greater leadership and coordination by PRM Washington.**

##### **4a: PRM Response**

- PRM will incorporate guidance to prioritize statelessness program monitoring and diplomacy in RefCoord welcome cables for the 2022 cycle.
- Contingent on filling existing vacancies, PRM/Washington will organize regional consultations between PRM program officers, RefCoords, and UNHCR regional offices on statelessness to facilitate monitoring and coordinate messaging on an annual basis at a minimum.

**5. Encourage UNHCR to add statelessness as a standing agenda item for the annual global Representatives meeting and regional Representatives' meetings.**

**5a: PRM Response**

UNHCR has agreed to implement these recommendations in its management response to its own statelessness evaluation. PRM will monitor UNHCR's implementation.

**6. Encourage UNHCR to organize online, periodic, regional protection retreats for UNHCR protection staff to share best practices on statelessness.**

**7. Raise awareness among PRM regional offices and Department bureaus of the link between racism, ethnic, religious, and gender discrimination and statelessness. Addressing this root cause can help advance the GAP Action 1: "resolve existing major situations of statelessness."**

**7a: PRM Response**

- PRM will include an objective in its new statelessness strategy to strengthen U.S. efforts to address statelessness resulting from racial, ethnic, or religious discrimination.

- Contingent on filling existing vacancies, PRM will explore with IO, DRL, UNHCR, and OHCHR the potential for U.S. leadership on a UN Human Rights Council resolution highlighting statelessness and racial, ethnic, and religious discrimination.
- Contingent on filling existing vacancies, PRM will target particular countries where statelessness stems from racial, ethnic, and religious discrimination and work with PRM program offices, regional bureaus, and Embassies to integrate statelessness into their diversity, equity, and inclusion initiatives overseas.

**8. Educate other Department bureaus, including DRL and the Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons (J/TIP), on how statelessness is a cross-cutting development, human rights, and democracy issue. This includes highlighting the link between access to citizenship and maintaining a stable and peaceful democracy. Consider joint planning between PRM and DRL.**

**8a: PRM Response**

- PRM will offer to conduct a deep dive for the Under Secretary for Civilian Security, Democracy and Human Rights (J), DRL, S/GWI, and J/TIP on statelessness as it relates to discrimination.
- Contingent on filling existing vacancies, PRM will explore with the National Foreign Affairs Training Center whether/how statelessness could be included in its Global Issues course.

**9. Encourage RefCoords and Embassy staff with statelessness monitoring in their mandate to engage with the USAID mission at country level, raise awareness of the stateless population, and advocate including stateless populations as a part of social inclusion of vulnerable populations efforts within U.S. foreign assistance. Suggest encouraging RefCoords and UNHCR to facilitate UN Country Team engagement with USAID missions and their partners.**

**9a: PRM Response**

- Statelessness sessions for PRM regional M&E workshops will include guidance on engaging with USAID missions to strengthen inclusion of stateless persons in broader U.S. foreign assistance programs.

**10. Provide contributions to UNHCR country operations to identify and fund local CSOs to create momentum on statelessness before the end of the #IBelong campaign. The Evaluation Team's suggestion is that priority should be given to country operations that demonstrate they will use PRM funding to create or expand activities that UNHCR will continue to support past 2024.**

### **10a: PRM Response**

- On June 30, 2021, the Deputy Secretary for Management and Resources designated expanded authority under MRAA section 2(b)(2) to fund NGOs assisting stateless persons directly, including through the Julia V. Taft Fund. PRM/Washington will work closely with Posts on NGO project selection.
- PRM's new statelessness strategy will consider increasing inclusion of activities benefiting stateless persons in regional Notice of Funding Opportunities (NOFOs).
- Through official statements at UNHCR governing body meetings and in bilateral discussions, PRM will encourage UNHCR to increase its partnerships with civil society organizations on statelessness activities. PRM will monitor UNHCR's partnerships with CSOs at the field level.

### **11. Advocate with UNHCR to create a pilot in three countries for direct assistance to stateless people. This direct assistance may include:**

- cash-based interventions and livelihoods support
- COVID-19 humanitarian assistance, including access to vaccines
- community services and legal assistance/protection activities
- prevention of detention and deportation
- case management, including the use of proGres, for both stateless people and those at risk
- activities to raise awareness of discrimination as a driver of statelessness (using the Dominican Republic as a best practice)

### **11a: PRM Response**

- PRM will discuss with UNHCR the creation of a pilot project to provide case management, community-based protection, and legal assistance services to stateless persons in need in selected countries.
- PRM will also consider providing such assistance to stateless persons through other international and non-governmental organization partners.

## **12. Continue to urge UNHCR to increase the percentage of its overall budget that it spends on statelessness (currently around 1% annually).**

### **12a: PRM Response**

- PRM's new statelessness strategy will seek to strengthen UNHCR's allocation of U.S. funding for statelessness activities by revising standard U.S. contribution language and through consideration of a new approach to earmarked U.S. contributions in support of UNHCR's statelessness activities.
- PRM will continue to urge UNHCR to increase its funding allocations for statelessness activities, and to increase transparency in its budgeting and reporting on statelessness expenditures, through official U.S. statements at UNHCR governing body meetings and in bilateral discussions.



### **13.Resume funding to the Global campaign for Equal Nationality Rights, including funding for civil society capacity building.**

#### **13a: PRM Response**

- PRM resumed funding to the Global Campaign for Equal Nationality Rights in September 2021. The project includes support for civil society capacity building, among other activities.

#### **Additional Recommendations:**

The evaluation's annex included a number of additional actions generally aimed at:

- a) Raising the profile of the statelessness issue in UNHCR and the broader UN and multilateral fora; and
- b) Steps the State Department and U.S. Embassies could take to raise the profile of statelessness in host countries and the United States.

#### **PRM Response**

- PRM shared the evaluation report and its recommendations with UNHCR, and will share it with other key partners (UNICEF, IOM, ICRC, the World Bank, InterAction), State and USAID domestically, and U.S. Embassies/USAID overseas, and encourage U.S. Embassies to further disseminate the evaluation to raise consciousness of the issue.