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 (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 **LIA Multi-Partner Trust Fund** are underway. **This 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.**

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.

**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 (LIEG)**

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

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