

# UNHCR engagement with the Kenya National Commission on Human Rights

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# The Kenya National Commission on Human Rights

- ❖ The Kenya National Commission on Human Rights (KNCHR) is an independent Constitutional commission, established under Article 59 of the Constitution of Kenya and operationalized by the KNCHR Act 2011 (Revised 2012).

## **Core Mandate of the KNCHR**

- ❖ To ensure the promotion and protection of human rights in Kenya towards a culture of respect for human rights of all.
- ❖ The Commission continues to monitor State compliance with its human rights obligation on the basis of ratification of different human rights instruments.

# Advocacy Role

## Advocacy for an inclusive legislation process

- Kenya is in the process of consolidating its registration of persons data and generating a Personal Identification Number.
- The Commission advocates for stateless persons in Kenya to be included in any registration exercises.
- In particular, the Commission was actively advocating for inclusion of stateless persons through the process of the Huduma Bill, a legislation that is being developed to govern the registration of persons in the country. The Commission is calling for inclusive processes for the Bill and once enacted, inclusion of stateless persons in the implementation of the law.

## Supporting the agenda of statelessness in different fora

- The Commission avails its expertise and support in workshops, meetings and fora where statelessness is discussed. For instance, in 2015, and in annual IBelong campaign events in Kenya, the Commission lends its voice and highlights its support for the reduction and prevention of statelessness, including through accession to the two Statelessness Conventions.

## Data and reporting

- The Commission supported UNHCR through data collection and reporting on the issue of statelessness in the country. The report *“Out of the shadows, towards ensuring the rights of stateless persons and persons at risk of statelessness in Kenya”* illuminated the issue of statelessness and drew good attention to it.

## Monitoring Role

- The Commission supports and monitors compliance and progress made by Kenya on its commitments to uphold human rights, including making recommendations on areas that may need additional efforts by the Government

# Support towards accession to the Statelessness Conventions

- Initial meeting held in 2020 with the Commission to map the steps that Kenya needs to take to accede to the two Statelessness Conventions
- In the same meeting stakeholders to the process were identified, and the Commission will support UNHCR to mobilize relevant stakeholders