

This note offers an overview and analysis of global statelessness statistics for the end of 2018, as published in June 2019 in UNHCR's [2018 Global Trends Report](#). Complete country-by-country data on persons under UNHCR's statelessness mandate is found in ["Table 7"](#).<sup>1</sup> A technical note and glossary is provided at the end.

### Summary of key findings

The tally for the number of states reporting quantitative data on statelessness has increased to 78 – the highest since UNHCR began to collate and publish such data in 2004, but far below milestones set for improved statistical reporting under the #IBelong campaign. A total of 3.9 million people are stateless across the 78 states that report statistics.

22 states are marked with an asterisk, indicating that there is a known stateless population but no reliable data. These include the Dominican Republic and Zimbabwe which previously reported figures and featured at that time in the list of the ten states with the largest number of stateless people. Data collection is reported to be ongoing in these and some other “asterisk countries”, but the problem of unavailability of data on several large-scale situations of statelessness is a persistent one. There is also no information on the nearly 100 remaining states for which there is neither a figure nor an asterisk.

In view of the data gaps, UNHCR recognises that the “true global figure” is significantly higher than 3.9 million. Unlike in previous years, however, this *Global Trends* report does not give a more specific estimate for the total global stateless population than that it is in the millions. Based on the wider global statistical picture, assessed in detail in 2014, and the lack of evidence of developments in the intervening period that would significantly alter that picture, ISI estimates that at least 15 million people remain stateless around the world.

ISI's estimate of the global stateless population includes stateless refugees, as well as stateless Palestinians, who are not included within UNHCR's statistical reporting methodology on statelessness – with the exception of Rohingya IDPs in Myanmar and Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh. In this note, ISI suggests adjusting the statistical reporting methodology on statelessness to provide greater transparency on statelessness and displacement, specifically by presenting data for all other stateless people who also have “another reportable status” under UNHCR's mandate in the same manner as for these Rohingya populations.

A total of 56,400 stateless people in 24 countries acquired nationality during 2017. However, this figure is again below the estimated number of children who are born into statelessness each year (at least 70,000), reaffirming that structural change to prevent intergenerational statelessness is needed for meaningful reduction to happen. Moreover, the task of addressing statelessness not only encompasses identifying and assisting individuals or groups who are already without a nationality, it includes efforts to predict, pre-empt and prevent statelessness from arising. Statelessness “hotspots”, where the issue is considered to be of urgent concern, will not always be visible in global statistics, because these only cover populations that are stateless during the reporting period and not (also) populations that are at risk. Painting a global picture of statelessness and understanding what forms of engagement are needed where, is therefore necessarily a task that will only ever be partly informed by global statelessness statistics.

<sup>1</sup> Unless indicated otherwise, all data reported in this note is drawn directly from the 2018 *Global Trends* report and its accompanying Table 7.

## What is the global picture?

For many years, UNHCR has estimated the number of stateless persons worldwide to be at least 10 million.<sup>2</sup> In this year's *Global Trends* report there is a stronger emphasis on outlining what data is available – which cumulatively captures just under 3.9 million stateless persons – and then drawing attention to the gaps that persist in global statistical reporting. The reality that “fewer than half of countries have official statistics on stateless people” leads UNHCR to observe once again that the “true global figure is estimated to be significantly higher”. This year, UNHCR concludes that “millions of people” are stateless but without giving a more specific approximation. The “Trends at a glance” section of the *Global Trends* report also no longer features any information about the state of statelessness – whereas prior to 2017, this included data about the global stateless population. The implications of not having statelessness in this summary section at the top of the report is to reduce visibility of the issue at a crucial time – half way through the #iBelong campaign, when greater attention, political commitment and resourcing to address statelessness is essential.

Measuring the scale of statelessness is inherently challenging, both methodologically and politically,<sup>3</sup> and UNHCR has called upon states to improve quantitative and qualitative data on stateless populations as Action 10 of the [Global Action Plan to End Statelessness](#) under UNHCR's #iBelong campaign. In this *Global Trends* report, UNHCR has collated data from 78 countries, the highest ever number of states for which statistics have been reported. This is an increase by three countries, since the start of the #iBelong campaign in 2014. The milestone that had been set for 2017 was 100 states and by 2020 the aim was to have quantitative data available for 120 states.

As has been the case since UNHCR began its statistical reporting on statelessness in 2004, the focus is on persons who do not also have what UNHCR describes as “another reportable status” (e.g. as refugees, IDPs or asylum seekers). The reporting in relation to stateless Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh and Rohingya IDPs in Myanmar continues to be the sole highlighted exception to this rule – they were “counted” last year as both IDPs/refugees and in the statelessness data, and this is the case again in the new *Global Trends* report. As the [Institute on Statelessness and Inclusion \(ISI\) has previously commented](#), one implication of the methodological decision to not report non-refugee stateless populations is that the numbers reported and wider global estimate given do not account for all persons who meet the definition of a stateless person under international law.<sup>4</sup>

The Rohingya figures only include two specific sub-sets (Bangladesh and Myanmar) which overlap with the refugee and IDP definitions. The figure for Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh primarily comprises those who fled to Bangladesh after October 2016 (approximately 835,000), and the long-term ‘registered refugee’ Rohingya population in the country (approximately 34,000), with the balance being a partial count of unregistered Rohingya refugees who were in the country prior to October 2016.<sup>5</sup> However, Column E, which has been newly inserted into the UNHCR statistics Table 7, is entitled ‘total number of stateless people including displaced Rohingya population from Myanmar’. This misleadingly implies that comprehensive figures of displaced Rohingya refugees in all countries have been included here. However, even for countries in which many Rohingya refugees register with UNHCR and there are known large Rohingya populations, – such as Malaysia, India, Thailand, Saudi Arabia and Pakistan – there are no entries under Column E. No update is provided in this year's report on the status of the “review” of UNHCR's statistical reporting methodology

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<sup>2</sup> As detailed at the end of this section, ISI has estimated the global stateless population to be at least 15 million, including stateless Palestinians and stateless refugees. See Institute on Statelessness and Inclusion, *The World's Stateless*, 2014, available at <http://www.institutesi.org/worldsstateless.pdf>. This estimate remains unchanged in light of the newest global statistical reporting.

<sup>3</sup> See Institute on Statelessness and Inclusion, ‘Counting the world's stateless: reflections on statistical reporting on statelessness’ in UNHCR Statistical Yearbook 2013, available at: <http://www.unhcr.org/54cf99f29.pdf>.

<sup>4</sup> A stateless person is someone who “is not considered as a national by any state under the operation of its law”. Article 1 of the 1954 Convention on the Status of Stateless Persons.

<sup>5</sup> See UNHCR, Bangladesh Refugee Emergency: Population Factsheet, as of 15 July 2019, available at: <https://data2.unhcr.org/en/documents/download/70356>.

that was mentioned as being underway in the [previous Global Trends report](#). It would seem appropriate to explore whether the use of Column E could be extended so as to provide data on all stateless people who also have “another reportable status” in order to resolve the challenge of avoiding double counting while painting a clearer picture of the overall situation of statelessness globally. It would then also be easier to understand what proportion of the global stateless population has been displaced, helping to inform efforts to address statelessness as a root cause and consequence of forced migration and thereby contribute to strengthening the implementation of the Global Compact on Refugees and finding durable solutions for stateless refugees and IDPs.<sup>6</sup>

Stateless Palestinian refugees who receive assistance from UNRWA are also not included in the global data on statelessness which has been limited to persons under UNHCR’s 1954 Convention statelessness protection mandate. Taking this into account, in an extensive review of publicly available data relating to statelessness globally in 2014, ISI estimated the total figure for the number of people living without a nationality in the world to be at least 15 million.<sup>7</sup> There have to date been no developments on such a scale to suggest that there has since been any major global shift in these aggregate numbers and ISI continues to use the estimate of at least 15 million to indicate how many people it understands to be stateless globally, drawing on existing statistical information.

## Where are the largest reported stateless populations?

Data reported by UNHCR for the end of 2018 captures 3.852 million stateless people globally, showing no marked change as compared to the end of 2017, when a total of 3.854 million stateless people were recorded in the statistics. The ten countries that report the largest stateless populations accounted for 88.5% of the overall number of stateless people who were counted in 2018. As the table below shows, there have been only relatively minor changes in the data for these ten countries over the past year.

*Table 1: Ten countries with highest reported stateless populations according to UNHCR Global Trends data)*

End of 2018	End of 2017	End of 2016
Bangladesh* (906,635)	Bangladesh* (932,204)	Myanmar (925,939)
Côte d’Ivoire (692,000)	Côte d’Ivoire (692,000)	Côte d’Ivoire (694,000)
Myanmar* (620,939)	Myanmar* (621,763)	Thailand (487,741)
Thailand (478,843)	Thailand (486,440)	Latvia (242,736)
Latvia (224,844)	Latvia (233,571)	Syria (160,000)
Syria (160,000)	Syria (160,000)	Kuwait (93,000)
Kuwait (92,000)	Kuwait (92,000)	Russia (90,771)
Uzbekistan (79,942)	Uzbekistan (85,555)	Uzbekistan (86,524)
Estonia (77,877)	Russia (82,148)	Estonia (82,585)
Russia (75,679)	Estonia (80,314)	Saudi Arabia (70,000)

\* In Bangladesh, the figure includes stateless Rohingya refugees; in Myanmar the figure includes stateless Rohingya IDPs.

At the top of the table, there is no notable change. The Rohingya are still the largest stateless population reported in UNHCR’s global statelessness statistics. As was the case last year and discussed at length in ISI’s [Statelessness in numbers: 2018](#), due to crimes against humanity being inflicted on the Rohingya in Rakhine State, hundreds of thousands were forced to flee their homes from August 2017, increasing the number of IDPs inside Myanmar and refugees in Bangladesh. UNHCR’s decision to “exceptionally” report displaced Rohingya populations in both its IDP/refugee and statelessness statistics has been maintained in this year’s statistical reporting. These numbers include the long-term displaced Rohingya within Bangladesh and

<sup>6</sup> Section D of the introduction to the Global Compact on Refugee focuses on “Preventing and addressing root causes”, which affirms that “All States and relevant stakeholders are called on to tackle the root causes of large refugee situations”. The GCR is available at: [https://www.unhcr.org/gcr/GCR\\_English.pdf](https://www.unhcr.org/gcr/GCR_English.pdf).

<sup>7</sup> Institute on Statelessness and Inclusion, *The World’s Stateless*, 2014, available at <http://www.institutesi.org/worldsstateless.pdf>.

Myanmar (who had previously been excluded from the statelessness statistics – hence the shift in numbers between the end of 2016 and the end of 2017, as shown in the table).

Meanwhile, at the bottom of the table, Estonia and the Russian Federation have traded places because there has been a slower reduction in the number of cases of statelessness in Estonia. The newest data for Thailand, Latvia and Uzbekistan also shows a small reduction in numbers, equivalent to 1.6%, 3.7% and 6.5% of the total stateless population of each of these countries respectively. In Côte d'Ivoire, a new mapping initiative was launched in 2018,<sup>8</sup> but the results have yet to be published and the global statistical reporting shows now change as compared to the previous year. Similarly, there was no new data for Syria or Kuwait.

## Where is new data reported?

Just outside the overview of the ten largest reported stateless populations, in twelfth place (after Saudi Arabia), is one of the countries for which quantitative data is available for the first time: **Cambodia**. Having been marked with an asterisk (known statelessness situation but no reliable data) since UNHCR's statistical reporting on statelessness began in 2004, Cambodia is now reported to have a stateless population of 57,444. No details are provided as to the profile of this population in the reporting, so its composition is not clear; nor is a source for the data provided. It elsewhere been noted that statelessness primarily affects Cambodia's ethnic Vietnamese population. Previously, civil society and independent researchers' estimates of the numbers affected have ranged from several tens to hundreds of thousands.<sup>9</sup> The lack of data was understood to be a major impediment to public debate and advocacy around the statelessness of this population, so the inclusion of Cambodia in the global statistical reporting may prove important to wider efforts in relation to securing the right to a nationality and protecting the rights of stateless persons in the country.

**Singapore** is another new addition to UNHCR's global statelessness data, where 1,523 persons are reported as stateless. Here, an annotation is provided in a footnote, clarifying the profile of these individuals as including cases of "persons who came from other countries to live and work in Singapore and lost their foreign citizenship over time, and children born in Singapore but not eligible for Singapore citizenship at birth and whose parents [cannot] confer nationality to them". There has been anecdotal reporting of such instances of statelessness in the country by the media in recent years, including of cases involving children born out of wedlock, or where the parents were unable to prove their marriage;<sup>10</sup> birth to stateless parents;<sup>11</sup> and refusal to enlist in the army.<sup>12</sup> To date, no comprehensive analysis of the situation in the country has been produced.

The third country for which a data is "new" in the latest UNHCR global statistics is **Egypt**, which last year was marked with an asterisk and now reported a stateless population of 4 persons. In fact, however, this is not the first time that data has been included for Egypt – rather, last year's *Global Trends* report was the only occasion in the past decade in which no figure was given. In 2010, the number reported was 60 stateless persons and by the end of 2016, this figure had dropped to 19 (before being replaced with the asterisk for 2017). No further details are provided on who is included in these numbers, but the population previously

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<sup>8</sup> Layse Farias and Charlotte Arnaud, 'UNHCR launch mapping of statelessness in Côte d'Ivoire', UNHCR – Blogs (2018), available at: <https://www.unhcr.org/blogs/mapping-statelessness-cote-divoire/>.

<sup>9</sup> See for further analysis and background on statelessness in Cambodia the Joint Submission on Cambodia to the Human Rights Council at the 32nd Session of the Universal Periodic Review by Minority Rights Organisation, Khmer Kampuchea Krom for Human Rights and Development Association, Institute on Statelessness and Inclusion, Statelessness Network Asia Pacific, Minority Rights Group International (July 2018), available at: [https://files.institutesi.org/UPR32\\_Cambodia.pdf](https://files.institutesi.org/UPR32_Cambodia.pdf).

<sup>10</sup> Ng Jun Sen (The New Paper), 'Woman Who has Lived in S'pore All her Life Remains Stateless' (21 February 2016), available at: <https://www.tnp.sg/news/singapore/woman-who-has-lived-spore-all-her-life-remains-stateless>

<sup>11</sup> Wong Pei Ting (TODAY), 'From Stateless to Citizen: Finally a Singaporean After 50 Years' (30 May 2017), available at: <https://www.todayonline.com/singapore/stateless-citizen-finally-singaporean-after-50-years>

<sup>12</sup> Wong Pei Ting (TODAY), 'Confused and Dejected, Stateless Persons Plead to be Called Singaporeans' (26 September 2016), available at: <https://www.todayonline.com/singapore/confused-and-dejected-stateless-persons-plead-be-called-singaporeans>; TODAY 'Nearly a Singaporean' (30 January 2017), available at: <https://www.todayonline.com/singapore/nearly-singaporean>

reported was understood to be a dwindling group of elderly stateless persons who came to Egypt from Armenia or nearby countries in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century and who never gained nationality.<sup>13</sup> Other sources point to several other populations that are stateless or at risk of statelessness in Egypt and are not included in this global data, including Palestinians<sup>14</sup> and members of the Azazma tribe,<sup>15</sup> as well as potentially some children of migrants and refugees who can face barriers accessing birth registration.<sup>16</sup>

The fourth and final country that is a new entry this year is the **United States of America**. Previously absent from the global statelessness reporting overview, the USA is now marked with an asterisk in recognition of the presence of a stateless population. An annotation explains that the number of people affected is unknown because there is no status determination procedure to identify stateless persons in the USA, nor is there official government data-tracking on statelessness. In 2018, a national grassroots organization – [United Stateless](#) – was established by stateless people with the aim of raising awareness of the existence of statelessness in the country and advocating for the rights of these stateless persons. The acknowledgement in UNHCR’s global statistical reporting that there is a stateless population in the USA is an important step in this regard. UNHCR, United Stateless and the Center for Migration Studies have embarked on a study to map statelessness in the USA but the findings have yet to be published.

## Are the numbers going up, or down?

In this year’s *Global Trends* report, UNHCR provides an update on efforts to resolve statelessness, noting that “in 2018, progress continued to be made to reduce the number of stateless people through acquisition and confirmation of nationality”, with “a reported 56,400 people from 24 countries” acquiring nationality during the year. This number is very similar to progress reported in previous years, with 60,800 and 56,500 people reported to have acquired nationality in 2016 and 2017 respectively. Sweden, the Russian Federation and Tajikistan were once again amongst the countries named as achieving “significant reductions”. Nevertheless, with UNHCR estimating that in the five largest non-refugee statelessness situations alone, 70,000 children are born into statelessness each year, this rate of reduction means that for the third year running, the number of new cases of children born stateless was higher than the number of existing cases of statelessness that were reported as resolved. This doesn’t take into account likely increases of stateless populations that are not counted in the UNHCR statistics. This is also before considering the question of how many people were rendered newly stateless during the year through denial or deprivation of nationality – a phenomenon that is known to be on the rise globally. Even as a factor of the number of stateless persons captured in global statistics (3.9 million), a reduction of 56,400 cases equates to less than 1.5% of the total recorded stateless population worldwide. This demonstrates that for meaningful reduction to be achieved, it is critical to break the cycle of inherited statelessness. States should be held to their obligations under international law (including the CRC) and structural change pursued.

This is not to say that at a country or even regional level a greater degree of progress is not being achieved. The number of individuals still left without a nationality as a result of the breakup of the Soviet Union in the 1990s continues to decline. The table below shows how the picture has evolved in all 15 successor states over the past five years, with the overall numbers reduced by over 100,000 (or 16%) as compared to 2014.<sup>17</sup>

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<sup>13</sup> UNHCR, The situation of stateless persons in the Middle East and North Africa, 2010, available at:

<https://www.unhcr.org/protection/statelessness/4ce63e079/situation-stateless-persons-middle-east-north-africa-laura-van-waas.html>.

<sup>14</sup> Institute on Statelessness and Inclusion, *The World’s Stateless*, 2014, available at <http://www.institutesi.org/worldsstateless.pdf>

<sup>15</sup> Ahmed Awadalla (Global Voices), 'The Stateless People of Egypt' (16 October 2012), available at: <https://globalvoices.org/2012/10/16/egypt-the-stateless-people-of-egypt/>

<sup>16</sup> Bronwen Manby, 'Preventing Statelessness among Migrants and Refugees: Birth Registration and Consular Assistance in Egypt and Morocco', June 2019, LSE Middle East Centre Paper Series (27), available at:

[http://eprints.lse.ac.uk/101091/1/Manby\\_preventing\\_statelessness\\_among\\_migrants.pdf](http://eprints.lse.ac.uk/101091/1/Manby_preventing_statelessness_among_migrants.pdf).

<sup>17</sup> Not long after publishing this year’s *Global Trends* report, in early July 2019, UNHCR announced that **Kyrgyzstan** had made history as the first country to end statelessness since the #iBelong campaign was launched, “by bringing the number of stateless people in the country from over

This equates to an average reduction of 20,000 persons per year. Half a million people remained stateless in the region at the end of 2018.

Table 2: Statelessness in the successor states of the USSR (according to UNHCR Global Trends data 2014-2018)

Country	End 2014	End 2015	End 2016	End 2017	End 2018
Azerbaijan	3585	3585	3585	3585	3585
Armenia	206	311	512	773	848
Belarus	6440	5635	6182	6007	6025
Estonia	88076	85301	82585	80314	77877
Georgia	770	627	580	578	566
Kazakhstan	7038	7909	8451	8138	7690
Kyrgyzstan	12133	9118	2334	855	548
Latvia	262802	225195	242736	233571	224844
Lithuania	3645	3466	3466	3193	3039
Moldova	2036	5014	4776	4569	4451
Russian Federation	113474	101813	90771	82148	75679
Tajikistan	1364	19469	17002	10500	4616
Turkmenistan	7511	7125	5744	3851	4714
Ukraine	35335	35228	35363	35294	35650
Uzbekistan	86703	86703	86524	85555	79942
<b>Total</b>	<b>631118</b>	<b>596499</b>	<b>590611</b>	<b>558931</b>	<b>530074</b>

## What is not shown in the data?

The global statelessness statistics do not present a complete picture of the state of statelessness in the world today. Here are three further reflections on the data, but from the perspective of what it is not able to show:

- **Persistent asterisks**

An asterisk appears in the global statistical reporting for 22 countries in 2018, as listed in the boxed text on the right. For a number of these countries, a footnote points to an ongoing data collection exercise – including for both the Dominican Republic and Zimbabwe which previously reported figures<sup>18</sup> and featured at that time in the list of the ten countries with the largest number of stateless people. The figures reported for both of these countries were removed from

<b>Afghanistan</b>	<b>Liberia</b>
<b>Bhutan</b>	<b>Libya</b>
<b>China</b>	<b>Madagascar</b>
<b>China, Hong Kong SAR</b>	<b>Nepal</b>
<b>Dem. Rep. of the Congo</b>	<b>Pakistan</b>
<b>Dominican Republic</b>	<b>South Africa</b>
<b>Eritrea</b>	<b>Sri Lanka</b>
<b>Ethiopia</b>	<b>United Arab Emirates</b>
<b>India</b>	<b>USA</b>
<b>Indonesia</b>	<b>Venezuela</b>
<b>Lebanon</b>	<b>Zimbabwe</b>

13,000 to zero in just five years". UNHCR, Kyrgyzstan ends statelessness in historic first, 4 July 2019, <https://www.unhcr.org/news/press/2019/7/5d1da90d4/kyrgyzstan-ends-statelessness-historic-first.html>.

<sup>18</sup> In UNHCR's 2015 *Global Trends*, the stateless population reported in the Dominican Republic was 133,770, and in Zimbabwe the figure reported was 300,000; available at: <https://www.unhcr.org/uk/statistics/unhcrstats/576408cd7/unhcr-global-trends-2015.html>.



the global statistical reporting in 2017, with reference made to new data collection efforts in both countries which would lead to the publication of updated figures. Three years later, both countries remain marked with an asterisk and many of the other asterisks have been in place for longer still – some since data reporting began in 2004 – showing the persistence of data gathering challenges. With the only aggregate figure now reported being the counted stateless population in 78 countries, i.e. 3.9 million, and a departure from the use of the wider estimate of a global stateless population of 10 million, the situation in these countries marked – persistently – with an asterisk may drop further off the radar. While there may be no accurate figures for these countries, there are minimum estimates, which provide a clearer picture of the global scale of the issue. Further, the statistics for many of the 78 reported countries also remain incomplete. There are also nearly 100 states for which there is no data and no indication of any potential statelessness problem at all, while it is understood to be a phenomenon that affects people, in small numbers at least, in all countries of the world.

- **Data mismatches and data aging**

The arrival of significant numbers of stateless asylum seekers in the EU (according to [Eurostat](#), nearly 40,000 in the period 2015-2018) and concern that increasing numbers of children are also being born stateless in the EU as a result of new displacement and migration trends has placed the issue – and with it, the data – under increased scrutiny in this region. One of the key questions being asked is whether, and by how much, the numbers are increasing. Exploring this question through UNHCR’s global statistical reporting reveals the following: overall, the number of reported stateless persons in the EU has gone down over the past 5 years by almost 30,000; yet, if the data for Estonia and Latvia (together accounting for over 82% of all stateless persons reported in the EU) are removed from the equation, there has indeed been an increase, of nearly 19,000.<sup>19</sup> Over the last five years, Finland, France and Germany have seen a growth of 20% or more in their reported stateless population; while in Austria, Belgium, Denmark and Spain, the reported numbers show a more than 100% increase. At the same time, eight countries have reported the same figure since 2014, without change. In some cases, this can be explained by the data source, which is indicated in footnotes for a number of these countries to be the 2011 population census (including in the Czech Republic, Poland and Slovakia). If this is maintained as the sole source of data then there will be a welcome update following the next census round in 2021, but data that is updated only every ten years is of questionable utility as a measure of the situation on the ground in between these data collection moments. In other cases, the reason for static – or near-static – data is less apparent. In the Netherlands, the source is not specified within the data published but the number aligns with old data from the National Statistics Bureau and seems to have been maintained without change. In fact, in the Netherlands, new data made available by the same statistics bureau upon an inquiry from the national media in mid-2019 showed that the number of persons recorded as stateless in population data now stands at close to 13,000 – a six-fold increase on the data reported in the global statistics.<sup>20</sup> Mismatches in data and ageing data present significant challenges for the consistency, accuracy and utility of global statelessness statistics.

- **Statelessness “hotspots”**

The task of addressing statelessness not only encompasses identifying and assisting individuals or groups who are already without a nationality, it includes efforts to predict, pre-empt and prevent statelessness from arising. This means that statelessness “hotspots”, where the issue is considered

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<sup>19</sup> See Table 3 in the Annex for a full overview of the data for EU member states.

<sup>20</sup> Data published in Petra Vissers (Trouw), Gemeenten willen niet langer wachten op wetgeving en gaan mensen zonder paspoort zelf helpen, 8 June 2019, available at: <https://www.trouw.nl/nieuws/gemeenten-willen-niet-langer-wachten-op-wetgeving-en-gaan-mensen-zonder-paspoort-zelf-helpen~b45cb795b/>.

to be of urgent concern, will not always be visible in global statistics, because these cover populations that are stateless during the reporting period and not (also) populations that are at risk. At the time of writing this statistical note, an ongoing citizenship verification process in Assam, India, [may leave several million people stateless](#). It is at crucial junctures such as this in the determination or review of people's citizenship status that attention and resources need to be (re)directed to ensure appropriate efforts can be taken – including to deliver on the [Global Action Plan to End Statelessness](#), which includes such actions as “Prevent denial, loss or deprivation of nationality on discriminatory grounds” (Action 4) and “Issue nationality documentation to those with entitlement to it” (Action 8). Painting a global picture of statelessness and understanding what forms of engagement are needed where, is necessarily a task that will only ever be partly informed by global statelessness statistics.

## Technical note & glossary

The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) releases statistics on the scale of the problem of forced displacement worldwide in its [annual Global Trends reports](#). Since 2004, these reports have included data on statelessness. UNHCR is the only body that systematically collates and publishes figures for the number of stateless persons globally. The data itself is drawn from a range of sources, including both government data and statistics gathered through UN, academic or civil society data collection. Within its statistical reporting on statelessness, UNHCR uses two different symbols to indicate where data is absent: An **asterisk** (\*) is used to mark countries where UNHCR has information about stateless persons but no reliable data.

A **dash** (-) is used to mark countries where there is no data or the value is zero.

For more on how UNHCR compiles and reports data on statelessness, as well as more generally on the challenges of measuring statelessness, see Institute on Statelessness and Inclusion, *The World's Stateless*, 2014, available at <http://www.institutesi.org/worldsstateless.pdf>; and Institute on Statelessness and Inclusion, 'Counting the world's stateless: reflections on statistical reporting on statelessness' in UNHCR Statistical Yearbook 2013, available at: <http://www.unhcr.org/54cf99f29.pdf>.



## Annex. Statelessness in the EU: 2014-2018

Table 3: Statelessness in EU Member States (according to UNHCR Global Trends data 2014-2018)

Country	End 2014	End 2015	End 2016	End 2017	End 2018
Austria	570	828	937	1003	1062
Belgium	2554	5776	2630	7695	7695
Bulgaria	67	67	67	48	92
Croatia	2886	2873	2873	2873	2886
Cyprus	-	-	-	-	-
Czech Republic	1502	1502	1502	1502	1502
Denmark	4725	6580	7610	7990	8236
Estonia	88076	85301	82585	80314	77877
Finland	2293	2427	2671	2749	2759
France	1288	1326	1370	1425	1493
Germany	11917	12569	12017	13458	14779
Greece	199	198	198	198	198
Hungary	124	132	135	139	144
Ireland	99	99	99	99	99
Italy	813	747	701	715	732
Latvia	262802	225195	242736	233571	224844
Lithuania	3645	3466	3466	3193	3039
Luxembourg	81	82	83	83	83
Malta	-	-	-	11	11
Netherlands	1951	1951	1951	1951	1951
Poland	10825	10825	10825	10825	10825
Portugal	14	14	14	14	14
Romania	299	240	249	238	227
Slovakia	1523	1523	1523	1523	1523
Slovenia	4	4	4	4	4
Spain	270	440	1011	1596	2455
Sweden	27167	31062	36036	35101	31819
United Kingdom	16	41	64	97	125
<b>Total</b>	<b>425710</b>	<b>395268</b>	<b>413357</b>	<b>408415</b>	<b>396474</b>
<b>Total without Estonia and Latvia</b>	<b>74832</b>	<b>84772</b>	<b>88036</b>	<b>94530</b>	<b>93753</b>