EANN
Eastern Africa Nationality Network

STRATEGIC ROADMAP 2023 TO 2024

Cross-learning & Capacity Building

Advocacy

Visibility & Awareness Raising

Resource Mobilization & Management

STRATEGIC ROADMAP

TABLE OF CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION TO THE EASTERN AFRICA NATIONALITY NETWORK (EANN)

Statelessness in Eastern Africa

Article 1 of the 1954 Convention relating to the Status of Stateless persons defines a stateless person as a person who is not recognised as a national by any state under the operation of its law. As with other regions around the world, Eastern African states [1] host a significant population of people who are either stateless or at risk of statelessness.

UNHCR, the UN Refugee Agency, estimates that there are over 103,000 stateless persons and people at risk of statelessness in the region, though the actual number is expected to be much higher.[2] Statelessness can be caused by discrimination based on gender or ethnicity, administrative barriers, conflicts in law, and other factors. In the region, many current challenges around access to nationality rights can be traced back to events during the period of colonialism, including forced displacement and the establishment of state borders. In addition to people directly affected by statelessness, millions of others are citizens according to the law, but in practice cannot prove their nationality due to barriers in obtaining basic identification documents.

Lack of nationality or proof of nationality can prevent people from exercising their rights, accessing essential services such as education, healthcare, and banking, and fulfilling their true potential.

Within the region, several states have made significant progress in addressing statelessness, including appointing statelessness focal points, taking actions to resolve existing situations of statelessness and prevent new cases from emerging, improving legislation, establishing national action plans, and working towards implementation of formal pledges. Much of this progress has occurred in the context of the #iBelong Campaign to End Statelessness, launched by UNHCR in 2014.[3] Yet there remains a great need - and therefore opportunity - for Eastern African states, civil society organisations, persons affected by statelessness and nationality challenges, and regional bodies to collaborate in strengthening efforts to eradicate statelessness in the region.

---

[1] For the Eastern Africa Nationality Network, Eastern Africa includes countries in East Africa, the Horn of Africa, and the Great Lakes Region
[2] UNHCR, https://www.unhcr.org/afr/news/press/2022/5/628762ac4/unhcr-civil-society-launch-first-regional-network-to-address-statelessness.html
[3] https://www.unhcr.org/ibelong/

The Formation of the Eastern Africa Nationality Network

In May 2022, fifteen civil society organisations (the "EANN Founding Members") came together to establish and launch the Eastern Africa Nationality Network (EANN). EANN aims to cover a geographic scope including Eastern Africa, the Horn of Africa, and the Great Lakes Region.

These Founding Members identified four key objectives to pursue collectively as EANN:

1. Reinforce solidarity among CSO partners and actors on ending statelessness in the Eastern Africa region.

2. Foster joint regional and state-level advocacy with a common voice

3. Increase visibility, awareness, and resources to promote nationality rights and end statelessness in Eastern Africa.

4. Build capacity of civil society organisations, stateless-led organisations, and other stakeholders in the region on prevention of statelessness through peer learning and exchange

This high-level roadmap sets out the strategic objectives and activities of the Eastern Africa Nationality Network for 2023 to 2024 in pursuit of greater collaboration and impact in resolving statelessness in the region.

MEMBERSHIP & STRUCTURE

Membership Criteria

Membership in EANN is open to civil society organisations who are working on statelessness in the Eastern Africa region. EANN is also open to individual members, which can include people with lived experience of statelessness, academics, or other individuals working on statelessness in Eastern Africa.

To join, potential members must agree to sign on to the Eastern Africa Nationality Network's Memorandum of Understanding[4] and be willing to commit time and energy to EANN initiatives.

Are you interested in joining EANN? To apply to join or to seek further information on membership, please contact info@eanationalitynetwork.org

---

[4] The EANN MOU is available online at: https://data.unhcr.org/en/documents/details/94032

COORDINATION STRUCTURES

The Eastern Africa Nationality Network has established several structures for effective governance and coordination. Each group has a terms of reference that sets out responsibilities and what type of decision is made at each level.

SECRETARIAT

The EANN Secretariat is a role taken up by an EANN member for a term of 2 years. The Secretariat is an elected role voted on by the Executive Committee.
The Secretariat is primarily responsible for:
● Ensuring regular flow of information within the network
● Being responsible for day to day operations of the network
● Mobilizing resources to support network activities, with support of other EANN members
● Providing staffing and administrative support for the network

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

EANN has a 7-member Executive Committee. The seats of the Committee balance different countries within the Eastern Africa region, but Committee members are responsible for upholding the interests of EANN as a whole. The Executive Committee is elected by the general EANN membership and each Committee member serves a 2-year term, though members are on different schedules of rotation to ensure continuity (i.e., half the Committee rotates off each year). The Executive Committee strives for consensus in any decision but where there is no consensus, a decision may be put to a vote.

The Executive Committee is primarily responsible for:

● Providing leadership and direction to the network
● Making most strategic decisions for the network, taking input and feedback of the general membership into account
● Reviewing membership applications
● Promoting credibility and visibility of the network
● Meeting at least once in every 3 months
● Organising a minimum of one annual general membership meeting
● Supporting the Secretariat in the running of the network

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP

The general membership of EANN will meet at least once per year at a minimum, though in practice there is a full-group call of members at least quarterly. The general membership elects the members of the Executive Committee and also can take up leadership roles within working groups and other EANN activities.

WORKING GROUPS

The EANN membership may form working groups as needed to carry out the strategic roadmap and pursue the network's objectives. Working groups may be related to a certain functional area (e.g., fundraising) or a thematic area (e.g., access to birth registration).

CROSS-LEARNING & CAPACITY BUILDING

EANN will build capacity of civil society organisations, stateless-led organisations, persons with lived experience of statelessness and other stakeholders in the region on preventing statelessness and improving enjoyment of human rights of stateless persons through capacity building and cross learning.

CAPACITY BUILDING PRIORITIES

Reflecting on the needs of EANN members and other civil society actors working on statelessness in the Eastern Africa region, there are seven priority areas for capacity building in 2023 to 2024:

- **Priority Area 1:** How to develop a "Theory of Change" on statelessness
- **Priority Area 2:** Understanding citizenship rights in Eastern Africa
- **Priority Area 3:** National and regional legal frameworks and human rights instruments on nationality & statelessness in Africa
- **Priority Area 4:** Global & regional advocacy strategies: Engaging with the African Commission and United Nations (UN) mechanisms
- **Priority Area 5:** Legal empowerment approaches and movement building tactics – how can an effective community-driven movement create desired change?
- **Priority Area 6:** Fundraising & resource mobilization
- **Priority Area 7:** Collecting data and evidence on statelessness

CAPACITY BUILDING ACTIVITIES
To achieve the stated objectives, EANN will implement the following activities:

IN PERSON CAPACITY BUILDING WORKSHOP (AGM)
EANN will conduct a 3-day annual capacity building workshop which will also double as the EANN Annual General Meeting. 1.5 days will be reserved for training on priority training area/areas approved by the EANN executive committee and the remaining time will be used to discuss network matters.

WEBINARS (SEMI-ANNUAL)
The EANN will convene 2 webinars in a year to train members on selected priority areas. The webinars will be hosted on a rotational basis by network members (with capacity to host). The secretariat and the executive committee will find suitable facilitators for the webinars from within or outside the network.

REGIONAL STATELESSNESS EXCHANGE
The regional statelessness exchange will provide an opportunity for practical cross learning and exchange of ideas, skills and expertise within the network initially and later with other networks once the EANN is properly established to engage outwardly. At least 1 regional exchange will be conducted within the first 3 years of establishment of EANN. Network members with lived experience of statelessness will be the primary participants in the exchange.

ONLINE REPOSITORY FOR SHARING QUALITY TOOLS DEVELOPED BY MEMBERS
EANN will create an online platform for sharing knowledge, ideas, tools, resources, and proposals etc. The platform will also act as an online marketplace for collaboration on joint proposals. It is expected to be up and running within the first 2 years of EANN's establishment.

EANN NEWSLETTER
EANN will publish a newsletter which will be informative and educative and will include contributions from members and other experts on nationality rights, child protection, minority rights, data, legal empowerment etc. The newsletter will contribute to both capacity building and visibility efforts.

ADVOCACY

EANN will leverage its membership footprint to rally collaborative efforts towards policy and institutional change on statelessness at national and regional levels. Collaboration will involve stakeholders such as civil society, thought and opinion leaders, private sector actors, local and national governments, regional bodies, and UN agencies towards ensuring inclusive nationality policies and processes. The advocacy of EANN will support progressive improvement and alternatives pathways to eradicate statelessness in the Eastern Africa region

ADVOCACY PRIORITIES

EANN has several advocacy objectives for its collective action as a network including:

1. Support draft AU protocol on the right to nationality.
   Leverage existing regional bodies (ICGLR, EAC, etc.) to promote awareness, commitments, and action on statelessness at regional and national levels.
3. Campaign for ratification and domestication of statelessness conventions and relevant regional protocols.
4. Advocacy for change in law and practice to promote universal and non-discriminatory access to birth registration and equal access to nationality documentation.
5. Advocate for more collection of qualitative and quantitative data on stateless populations and populations at risk, including community generated data.

ADVOCACY ACTIVITIES

EANN will pursue activities to further these advocacy objectives. The below chart provides illustrative activities in each priority area, though the network is open to seize new opportunities that develop in the course of developing and implementing its advocacy strategy.

1. Support draft AU protocol on the right to nationality	Organise side-event on statelessness with policy makers and affected persons at key regional forums
2. Leverage existing regional bodies (ICGLR, EAC, etc.) to promote awareness, commitments, and action on statelessness at regional and national levels	Training for government focal points on statelessness and the rights of stateless persons
3. Campaign for ratification and domestication of statelessness conventions and relevant regional protocols	Publish snapshot of status of the two conventions in each country in the region.
	Annual regional statelessness showcase or shadow report to recognise key milestones and achievements of states in the region.
4. Advocacy for change in law and practice to promote universal and non-discriminatory access to birth registration and equal access to nationality documentation	Multi-country policy brief highlighting common challenges and best practices on universal birth registration and equal access to documentation.
5. Advocate for more collection of qualitative and quantitative data on stateless populations and populations at risk	Publish newsletter issue focused on situational analysis and existing data on statelessness in each country, including key data gaps to address.

VISIBILITY & AWARENESS RAISING

The objectives of EANN - from reinforcing solidarity among civil society actors working on statelessness to increasing awareness on statelessness in the Eastern Africa region as a whole - all require dedicated visibility and communications efforts. Visibility is also essential to grow the EANN membership and ensure inclusion of all interested actors across the region, especially in this initial phase.

VISIBILITY PRIORITIES

During the Roadmap period, EANN members will undertake several key visibility initiatives towards the objectives of the network.

Priority areas for visibility efforts include:
1. Online presence
2. Quarterly publication
3. Connecting to key moments of the #iBelong Campaign

VISIBILITY ACTIVITIES

1. ONLINE PRESENCE
EANN WEBSITE
EANN will secure a website domain and build a website for a strong online presence. The website will include a home page / landing page, resources, and news on statelessness in Eastern Africa, generated by EANN members. The website will also include information on EANN objectives and how interested actors can join the network.

SOCIAL MEDIA CHANNELS
EANN will establish social media channels on two to three popular social media platforms. The social media channels will be driven by an editorial policy on content related to EANN objectives, and allow the network to connect with other like-minded stakeholders and supporters.

2. QUARTERLY PUBLICATION
DEBUT NEWSLETTER
Projected for early 2023, the debut newsletter of EANN will feature profiles of EANN members and highlights on the country context and country activities by EANN Founding Members. The newsletter will establish a baseline for the network as well as for the current situation of statelessness in the region.

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER
Projected for Q2 or Q3 in 2023, the subsequent EANN newsletters will build from the debut issue of the newsletter and feature updates, news, upcoming activities, stateless voices and other developments on statelessness in the region.

3. CONNECTING TO KEY MOMENTS OF THE #IBELONG CAMPAIGN
#iBelong Anniversary Event
In 2023 and 2024, around the anniversary of the #iBelong Campaign EANN will hold an anniversary event to highlight progress and next steps around statelessness in Eastern Africa. The event may be in-person or virtual. As the Global Alliance takes shape, EANN will similarly connect to key moments in the Global Alliance workplan to ensure strong visibility of statelessness in Eastern Africa at the regional and global levels.

RESOURCE MOBILIZATION & MANAGEMENT

The mobilization and management of resources is critical for EANN to achieve its objectives. The EANN Secretariat will be responsible for organising and implementing fundraising efforts with the support of all EANN members. There will also be a working group dedicated to mobilization of resources to ensure robust implementation of the EANN workplan and sustainability of the impact of the network. The working group will take the lead on developing proposals for funding or in-kind support.

The EANN Secretariat will also be primarily responsible for the administration of funds secured for EANN activities. However, other EANN members may support this role when resources are secured in a specific country context or for a set of activities that are being led by a working group within the broader network.

Regular and transparent updates on budget, secured resources, and expenditures will be shared by the Secretariat with the Executive Committee, the Resource Mobilization Working Group, and the general membership of EANN.

Key Activities	2023				2024			
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
Cross Learning & Capacity Building								
EANN Member Capacity Building Workshop			🟩				🟩	
Webinars for Training & Exchange		🟩		🟩		🟩		🟩
Launch of Online Tool Repository					🟩			
Regional Exchange								🟩
Visibility & Awareness Raising								
Establish EANN Website		🟩						
Social Media Engagement		🟩	🟩	🟩	🟩	🟩	🟩	🟩
EANN Newsletter		🟩		🟩		🟩		🟩
#iBelong Anniversary Event				🟩				🟩
Advocacy								
Engage with Key Regional Forums			🟩			🟩		
Training of Government Focal Points						🟩		
Publish Snapshot on Conventions				🟩				
Organise Showcase or Shadow Report			🟩			🟩		
Publish Policy Brief on Birth Registration					🟩			
Network Foundation								
Finalization of EANN Roadmap	🟩							
AGM & EANN Members' Calls	🟩	🟩	🟩	🟩	🟩	🟩	🟩	🟩
Outreach & Expansion of Membership			🟩	🟩	🟩	🟩	🟩	🟩

*Project timing of EANN activities is subject to change based on available resources

Eastern Africa Nationality Network

EANN Founding Members