

Legal Identity

A core enabler for mobility and dignity





01

Legal Identity

Enabler of global mobility and realization of migrants' rights



UN operational definition

Legal identity is defined as the basic **characteristics of an individual's identity**, e.g., **name, sex, place and date of birth**, which is conferred through **civil registration and the issuance of a certificate by an authorized civil registration authority** following the **occurrence of birth**.

In the absence of birth registration, legal identity may be conferred **by a legally recognized identification authority**; this system should be linked to the **civil registration system to ensure a holistic approach to legal identity from birth to death**.

Legal identity is retired by the issuance of a death certificate by the civil registration authority upon registration of death.

Note: **A holistic approach to a legal identity system implies that every new legal identity is introduced in the identity system when a birth is registered, and is retired in the system right after death.**



Legal Identity

Globally, an estimated **850** million people do not have official identification—primarily people in lower-income countries and marginalized and vulnerable groups.

Most people without an ID live in low-income (LIC) and lower-middle-income (LMIC) economies in **Sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia**.

Over half the population without official identification are **children** whose births have not been registered.

Women living in LICs are 8 percentage points less likely to have an ID than men, although some improvements have been made in the gender gap in some economies over the last four years.

Development

Right to migrate regularly

Right to return

Security

Legal Identity & Mobility

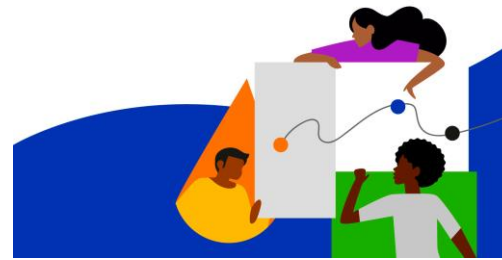
Population categories



Nationals in their countries who need registered legal identity to access regular migration or travel abroad



Migrants in foreign countries who require access to civil registration in the host country and in the country of origin



Vulnerable mobile populations, inclusive of displaced persons and victims of trafficking, for whom legal identity intersects with protection concerns and international humanitarian law



Irregular migrants for whom determining legal identity is linked to a specific country situation.

IOM Legal Identity Strategy Pillars

1. Supporting development of **consular civil registration**, citizenship certificates, ID and travel document issuance services
2. Assisting **migrants without proof of legal identity**
3. Supporting **national civil registration and identity management** systems to facilitate regular migration and mobility
4. Provide **thought leadership** on the nexus between **migration, displacement, and legal identity** including their impact on the **protection of migrants**





Outcome 01

A greater number of individuals, particularly vulnerable and marginalized populations, have access to legal identity documents, as an enabler to access individuals' rights, and essential services, including consular support





Outcome 02

A larger number of migrants can profit from a safe and orderly movement, by ensuring the portability and acceptance of their legal identities in different contexts.





Outcome 03

Migrants have access to inclusive, non-discriminatory, and privacy-respecting legal identity systems that comply with international standards and conventions.





Outcome 03

Migrants have access to digital Identity to bridging the digital divide, promoting digital literacy, and unlocking opportunities for economic growth, innovation, and social inclusion.



What can be done?

1. Assist with national assessments of legal identity, including access of identity at birth, for foreigners and through consular services.
2. Revision of laws and policies related to legal identity, including data protection, institutional reforms, incentives for registration, data sharing and interoperability, etc.
3. Development and strengthening of legal identity IT related systems (civil registry, vital statistics and functional identity).
4. Support to transitioning towards digital identity, including the provision of subsequent public services for migrants.
5. Design of identity documents for compliance with international standards.
6. Support consular services in providing identity related services.
7. Improve infrastructural capacities of legal identity relevant authorities.



THANK YOU!





Any Questions?