



## ENSURE THAT ALL MIGRANTS HAVE PROOF OF LEGAL IDENTITY AND ADEQUATE DOCUMENTATION



### Associated actions

- a. **Improve civil registry systems**, with a particular focus on reaching unregistered persons and our nationals residing in other countries, including by providing relevant identity and civil registry documents, strengthening capacities, and investing in information and communication technology solutions, while upholding the right to privacy and protecting personal data
- b. **Harmonize travel documents in line with the specifications of the International Civil Aviation Organization** to facilitate interoperable and universal recognition of travel documents, as well as to combat identity fraud and document forgery, including by investing in digitalization, and strengthening mechanisms for biometric data-sharing, while upholding the right to privacy and protecting personal data
- c. **Ensure adequate, timely, reliable and accessible consular documentation to our nationals residing in other countries**, including identity and travel documents, making use of information and communications technology, as well as community outreach, particularly in remote areas

- d. **Facilitate access to personal documentation**, such as passports and visas, and ensure that relevant regulations and criteria to obtain such documentation are non-discriminatory, by undertaking a gender-responsive and age-sensitive review in order to prevent increased risk of vulnerabilities throughout the migration cycle
- e. **Strengthen measures to reduce statelessness**, including by registering migrants' births, ensuring that women and men can equally confer their nationality to their children, and providing nationality to children born in another State's territory, especially in situations where a child would otherwise be stateless, fully respecting the human right to a nationality and in accordance with national legislation
- f. **Review and revise requirements to prove nationality at service delivery centres** to ensure that migrants without proof of nationality or legal identity are not precluded from accessing basic services nor denied their human rights
- g. **Build upon existing practices at the local level that facilitate participation in community life**, such as interaction with authorities and access to relevant services, through the issuance of registration cards to all persons living in a municipality, including migrants, that contain basic personal information, while not constituting entitlements to citizenship or residency



## Example practices

For more practices, visit the Migration Network Hub's **Repository of Practices**

### Identification Document of New York City (IDNYC)

The Identification Document of New York City (IDNYC) is an identification document card that is freely available to all residents of New York City, including undocumented migrants. The IDNYC allows for residents in New York City — including vulnerable groups such as undocumented migrants, the homeless and youth — to identify themselves to authorities and guarantees access to municipal services that can only be accessed by individuals with valid forms of identification. For example, using the IDNYC residents can access New York City's public libraries, health centres and educational providers and open a bank account. Launched by New York Mayor Bill de Blasio in January 2015, the IDNYC initiative was preceded by a commissioned study that mapped, compared and analyzed other similar municipal initiatives in the country, as well as by a consultation process with various advocacy groups, including migrant groups (IOM and JMDI, 2015).

### Birth Registration Programming: Thailand's Civil Registration Act (2008)

In 2010, Thailand lifted its reservation to Article 7 of the *Convention on the Rights of the Child*. As part of the country's new *Civil Registration Act*, the government committed to registering the birth of all children within its jurisdiction. Under the revised law, children born in Thailand are entitled to be registered at birth even when their parents are not Thai nationals. Birth registration does not confer nationality on

refugee children, but by establishing a legal record of their parents and place of birth, a birth certificate can be used to prove the right to acquire nationality if a child returns to the parent’s country of origin. The law came into effect in 2010 and in the years since, Thai civil registration authorities have worked with partners to address the backlog of registration for children born in refugee camps (UNHCR, 2013; UNICEF, 2013).

### **Mexico’s *matrícula consular***

The *matrícula consular*, an ID card issued by the Mexican government to Mexican citizens abroad, helps Mexico locate its nationals in emergency situations and is available to all Mexican nationals living in the United States, including those who are undocumented. To obtain the *matrícula consular*, Mexican nationals must pay a fee, provide their biometric information, and present various items, including an official Mexican ID, a Mexican birth certificate, and proof of address within the relevant consular district. The *matrícula consular* also facilitates access to various services, including banking (many banks accept the ID), obtaining an Individual Taxpayer Identification Number (ITIN) to pay federal income taxes, and obtaining a driver’s license. According to the Mexican Embassy, “[a]s of August 2013, more than 371 counties, 356 financial institutions, and 1,036 police departments accepted *matrícula consular* cards as a valid proof of ID” (National Immigration Law Center, 2015).



## Relevant sustainable development goals



### SDG 1: No Poverty

▪**1.3:** Implement nationally appropriate social protection systems and measures for all, including floors, and by 2030 achieve substantial coverage of the poor and the vulnerable



### SDG 10: Reduced inequalities

▪**10.7:** Facilitate orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility of people, including through the implementation of planned and well-managed migration policies



### SDG 16: Peace, justice and strong institutions

▪**16.9:** By 2030, provide legal identity for all, including birth registration



### SDG 17: Partnerships for the goals

▪**17.18:** By 2020, enhance capacity-building support to developing countries, including for least developed countries and small island developing States, to increase significantly the availability of high-quality, timely and reliable data disaggregated by income, gender, age, race, ethnicity, migratory status, disability, geographic location and other characteristics relevant in national context.