

Thematic Working Groups (TWGs)

Terms of Reference

Introduction

The Thematic Working Groups (TWGs) are a key workstream of the Global Alliance to End Statelessness. They are established to advance the vision and mission of the Global Alliance, in particular in areas which warrant intensified attention, advocacy and action. The TWGs are contributing to the overall work of the Alliance, and seek to foster synergies with other workstreams, such as the Regional Network Labs, Solution Seekers Programme, and the Knowledge Hub.

Based on the stakeholder consultations conducted to establish the Global Alliance, and discussions with the Task Force the three first TWGs will focus on:

- Ending childhood statelessness
- Addressing discrimination in nationality laws and policies
- Protecting the rights of stateless persons

Objectives

The Thematic Working Groups aim to collaboratively:

- Elevate specific aspects of statelessness within the Alliance and the wider international community, aiming to drive meaningful change.
- Identify major gaps and common challenges precluding greater progress.
- Foster learning and the exchange of best practices among Alliance members, while encouraging collaborative efforts and joint initiatives to address statelessness effectively.

Work of the TWGs:

The TWGs will seek to advance work in their respective thematic area by, e.g.:

- Identifying gaps and challenges for progress and suggesting ways how to overcome these.
- Developing statements of good practices, key messages, and other materials to showcase innovative approaches and success stories from Global Alliance members.
- Identifying opportunities for learning and advocacy.
- Promoting learning and exchanges by organizing webinars and learning events, and by hosting thematic sessions as part of Regional Network Lab and other Global Alliance events.
- Identifying tools and resources for inclusion in the Knowledge Hub to enhance resource sharing and accessibility.
- Contributing to the Forum on Statelessness by showcasing the TWG work and promoting dialogue and engagement.
- Providing expert support to Solutions Seeker States where needed/requested.

Membership and Participation

TWGs are open to all Global Alliance Members. Members interested to join a specific TWG can sign up at [Thematic Working Groups - Global Alliance to End Statelessness](#). All TWG members are listed on the website and are given access to the members-only TWG subpage.

Each entity may appoint one main representative and one alternate to the TWG; however, only one representative should participate at a time, and ideally, this should be the same individual across meetings and activities to ensure continuity and effective participation.

Ways of Working:

- **Co-Chairs:** Each TWG will be led by two co-chairs drawn from the members of the Global Alliance representing different stakeholder groups and, to the extent possible, geographical regions. The co-chairs will be responsible for TWG member engagement, drafting workplans with smart objectives, organizing meetings and coordinating activities, and proactively ensure that objectives are met.
- **Sub-Groups:** Subgroups within TWGs may be formed based on thematic needs and member interest, including for sub-themes or short-term tasks. Decisions on subgroup should be communicated to the Global Alliance Secretariat. Subgroups will operate flexibly, with tailored workplans reviewed by TWG co-chairs. Meetings will be scheduled as needed to achieve their objectives.
- **Workplans:** Within 6 months of their establishment, all TWGs, shall develop workplans setting out key activities, timelines and responsibilities. Workplans can be updated as needed including with subgroup deliverables if and when such groups are established. The workplan will be published on the TWG subpage.
- **Meetings:** Co-chairs will organize regular online meetings of the TWG, as a minimum on a quarterly basis, with additional meetings to be scheduled as needed. Minutes of each meeting will be drafted and shared with all TWG members and the Secretariat.
- **Visibility:** TWG activities and outputs will be published on the Global Alliance website. The work of each TWG, and their subgroups, will be showcased at the Annual Conference and/or the Forum on Statelessness (planned for 2027).
- **Resourcing:** Members of TWG can support financially work undertaken by the TWG (e.g. by covering costs for meetings, translations etc.). The Alliance Secretariat will also allocate some funding for the work of the TWGs – subject to availability of funding.



Lifespan extension and selection of new themes for the Thematic Working Groups: At the end of the initial three-year tenure of the TWGs, the Secretariat and the Advisory Committee will review the TWGs co-chairs' reports and will take stock of the work done and explore the continued interest in a thematic area and TWGs extension needs.

The Secretariat and the Advisory Committee will also explore possible new thematic areas of focus for Thematic Working Groups. As a result of these consultations, a list of three to five themes will be proposed to Global Alliance members at least two months ahead of the Forum on Statelessness (the first which will be held in 2027). Global Alliance Members will have an opportunity to indicate their views on which of these should be selected as the next TWGs for the next three-year period, if any. The new TWGs and/or the TWG extensions will be announced at the Forum on Statelessness to commence in the year following the Forum.