

Monthly Bulletin

DHRRRA MALAYSIA



UNHCR's report "I am Here, I Belong: the Urgent Need to End Childhood Statelessness" published on 03 November for the first anniversary of #IBelong Campaign to End Statelessness by 2024.

#IBELONG CAMPAIGN, 1ST YEAR ANNIVERSARY, 3 NOVEMBER

There are at least 10 million people worldwide who are stateless. They are without a nationality of any country, and deprived all rights and benefits nationality has to offer. Kavita is one of them.

"My favourite hobby is to draw. My ambition is to become an art teacher. I have applied for college many times, I have lost hope in ever getting to further my studies. And that is why I have ended up working in the grocery shop...for now." Kavita, 22, was born and raised in Malaysia. She lacks a nationality because her father passed away and her mother left her.

Kavita is one of the 10,052 stateless persons who have registered with DHRRRA during the ongoing registration exercise in West Malaysia. It is estimated that when the mapping is completed by the end of 2015, a total of approximately 13,000 stateless people would have their personal details recorded by DHRRRA. DHRRRA's paralegals have helped over 4,500 registered applicants to make applications with local National Registration Department (JPN) offices already providing assistance to expedite the consideration of some cases. Over 300 of these applicants have acquired documentation. Kavita was registered with DHRRRA at the beginning of this year. Her application is among the 4,500 applications that have been submitted to the government of Malaysia, as the country makes huge strides in resolving statelessness. DHRRRA works hand in hand with the Prime Minister's Office and National Registration Department in achieving this.

CONFERENCE ON PREVENTION OF STATELESSNESS, NEGERI SEMBILAN, 30 OCTOBER

More than 70 participants from several NGOs, National Registration Department (JPN), Welfare and Education Ministries attended the event. Increased awareness on nationality framework in Malaysia together with population data is leading to greater cooperation and willingness to discuss the issue of statelessness between national stakeholders. Such events result in a practical routes to ending statelessness for individual applicants registered with DHRRRA, but also assist the stakeholders in understanding the root causes of statelessness in Malaysia and its grave implications for economic growth and overall stability.



Participants attending the Conference at the Allson Klana Resort in Seremban, Negeri Sembilan.

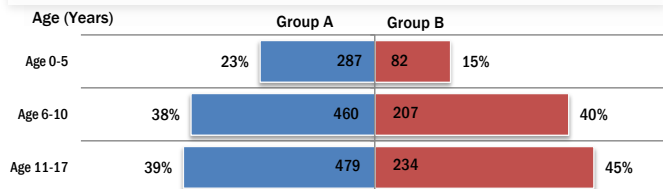


Mr. S. Saravanan, President of DHRRRA, (in the middle) with applicants who received their documents.

16 APPLICANTS RECEIVED THEIR IDENTITY CARDS, PERAK STATE, 4 NOVEMBER

"This is the most valuable Deepavali gift we have ever received". 16 formerly stateless applicants who have been assisted by DHRRRA paralegals received their identity documentation and confirmed their nationality as Malaysians earlier this month.

BIRTH REGISTRATION



Group A - Unregistered Birth & Group B - Red birth certificate holders

There are 2 types of birth certificates issued in Malaysia. "Green" birth certificates are issued to children who are assessed as fulfilling the criteria for Malaysian citizenship. "Red" birth certificates are issued to children who are non-nationals (bukan warganegara) or whose citizenship is "not yet determined" (belum ditentukan). Three children who have been lawfully adopted retain the status of "non-nationals" on their adoption certificates in spite of both parents being Malaysian nationals or permanent residents. Additionally, 66 children have MyPR documents (permanent residency), but lack nationality.

EMPLOYMENT

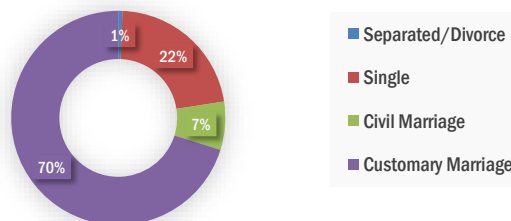


EDUCATION

Age Group	Primary Education		Secondary Education		Certificate		Diploma		Degree and Above		Did Not Attend School	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
15-19	30	28	85	73	0	0	0	1	0	0	137	121
20-24	19	19	38	51	1	0	2	1	0	0	128	137
25-34	25	37	25	32	1	0	1	2	2	2	192	187
35-44	17	18	9	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	168	155
45-54	23	16	14	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	157	195
55-59	33	45	12	7	0	0	1	0	0	1	169	312
60+	160	291	52	65	0	0	1	0	0	1	961	2,195
Total	307	454	235	244	2	0	5	4	2	4	1,912	3,302

CIVIL STATUS

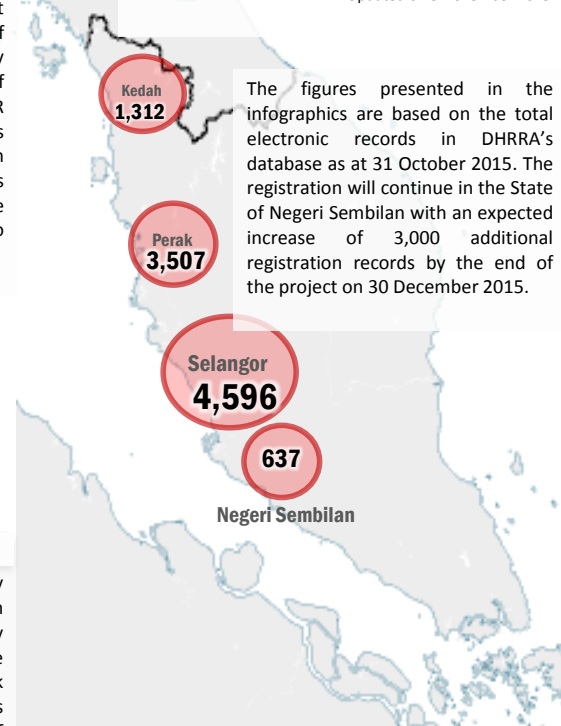
Over half of the registered population of marriagable age have declared that they have only undergone a customary marriage. Children born out of wedlock can only acquire Malaysian nationality through discretionary procedures of citizenship by registration if the father is a national of Malaysia. 88% of persons who are in customary marriages are MyPR holders. Their children would be considered Malaysian nationals by birth as per the constitution. However, the remaining 12% hold red birth certificates, MyKas (temporary residency permit) or no documentation. This can create a situation of statelessness for their children where: (i) the mother is stateless; (ii) the laws of the mother's country do not permit her to confer nationality in certain circumstances; (iii) the mother is unknown.



The stateless populations registered during the mapping exercise is severely affected by unemployment. The majority of the registered population consists of persons above the age of 64 who are on permanent residency status in Malaysia. 84% of the adult population, **2,995 persons**, within the age group of 18-64, is unemployed. The remaining **586 persons** mostly work as general labourers without any kind of job or income security. This renders them vulnerable to impoverishment and precarious conditions of life affecting their entire household.

Total Registered **10,052**

Updated on 5 November 2015



The figures presented in the infographics are based on the total electronic records in DHARRA's database as at 31 October 2015. The registration will continue in the State of Negeri Sembilan with an expected increase of 3,000 additional registration records by the end of the project on 30 December 2015.

HIGHLIGHTS

- 56 children (below the age of 18) in early marriage;
- 84% unemployment rate;
- 81% of the registered population over the age 15 have not attended school and 12% have primary level education;
- 1,226 children do not have any kind of documentation and 523 children hold red birth certificates.