



2.7.3 Children without civil documentation

2.7.3 Children without civil documentation

Practical obstacles to birth registration, particularly in areas with underdeveloped administrative systems or affected by armed conflict, have resulted in an estimated 45 000 children lacking civil documentation, subsequently excluding them from rights and services.⁸⁷⁴ Some hospitals allowed women to give birth in their facilities but did not automatically issue birth certificates for the children when the identity documents of both parents were not submitted.⁸⁷⁵ Children without birth certificates are at a risk of statelessness.⁸⁷⁶ Moreover, they cannot obtain other civil documentation and face difficulties when enrolling to school, or when accessing services and are at a bigger risk of child labour.⁸⁷⁷ Children can be denied access to healthcare and vaccinations if they are not able to produce civil documentation, including the ID and marriage certificate of the mother.⁸⁷⁸

Among particularly affected children due to lack of documentation are displaced children, children perceived as associated with ISIL,⁸⁷⁹ and children born from unregistered marriages.⁸⁸⁰ For children born out of ISIL sexual violence, obtaining civil documentation is 'exceptionally difficult'.⁸⁸¹ In such cases, women may not know the father's identity or may not want to disclose it, which can as a result in the children becoming stateless.⁸⁸² See also [Children with perceived affiliation to ISIL](#).

- ⁸⁷⁴

Maat for Peace, Development, and Human Rights, Maat for Peace' report submitted to the Committee on the Rights of the Child regarding the Republic of Iraq, April 2025, [url](#), p. 5

- ⁸⁷⁵

NRC, Legal Guide to Children's Rights in Iraq, [November 2024], [url](#), p. 30

- ⁸⁷⁶

ILHR, Reclaiming Identity: Strategies for Civil Documentation in Iraq, 2024, [url](#), p. 17

- ⁸⁷⁷

ILHR, Reclaiming Identity: Strategies for Civil Documentation in Iraq, 2024, [url](#), p. ii

- ⁸⁷⁸

NRC, Legal Guide to Children's Rights in Iraq, [November 2024], [url](#), p. 30

- [879](#)

ILHR, Reclaiming Identity: Strategies for Civil Documentation in Iraq, 2024, [url](#), p. ii

- [880](#)

HRW, Iraq: Unregistered Marriages Harm Women and Children, 3 March 2024, [url](#)

- [881](#)

Seed Foundation, et al., Children's right to identity in Iraq, 99th pre-session (September 2024), Combined Fifth and Sixth Periodic Report, September 2024, [url](#), p. 4

- [882](#)

HRW, "My Marriage was Mistake after Mistake", The Impact of Unregistered Marriages on Women's and Children's Rights in Iraq, 3 March 2024, [url](#)