Improving Statistics on Forced Displacement and Statelessness

Expert Group on Refugee, IDP and Statelessness Statistics (EGRISS)

UNESCAP Stat Café – 18th July 2022

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1) Overview of the Expert Group on Refugee, IDP and Statelessness Statistics
2) Summary of Refugee (IRRS) and IDP (IRIS) Statistical Recommendations - content & implementation
3) Priorities of EGRISS third mandate (2020-2022), including development of Statelessness Statistical Recommendations (IROSS)
Why did we need the Expert Group on Refugee, IDP and Statelessness Statistics?

Before EGR ISS was established there were **no statistical frameworks or guidance** specifically including forcibly displaced populations.

Most of the available data are based on **operational data** produced by humanitarian agencies, which do not necessarily follow **principles of official statistics**.

**Support and interest** from affected countries and UNSC to develop internationally agreed recommendations on forced displacement statistics.

Growing **political interest** in addressing the **challenges related to forced displacement** which is also reflected in relevant international agreements such as the Global Compact on Refugees.
EGRISS Membership

52 Countries | 28 Regional and International Organizations

Steering Committee:
1. Colombia
2. Kurdistan
3. Norway
4. Ukraine
5. African Union (AU)
6. Eurostat
7. Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre (IDMC)
8. International Organization for Migration (IOM)
9. Joint IDP Profiling Service (JIPS)
10. United Nations Refugee Agency (UNHCR)
11. United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD)
12. World Bank
13. WB-UNHCR Joint Data Center on Forced Displacement
EGRISS’ key achievements & current mandate

1st mandate (2016-2018):
- International Recommendations on Refugee Statistics (IRRS)

2nd mandate (2018-2020):
- International Recommendations on IDP Statistics (IRIS)

3rd mandate (2020-2024):
- Implementation & capacity development
- Methodological refinement
- Enhance linkages to SDGs
- Capture lessons learned
- Development of International Recommendations on Statelessness Statistics (IROSS)
What is in the Recommendations on Refugee and IDP Statistics?

1. Creation of a **statistical framework** standardizing relevant terminology and classifications
2. List of **basic data tabulations** and indicators
3. Use of different **data sources** (admin data, census, and surveys) and methodologies for statistical inclusion
4. Measuring refugee integration and wellbeing / key displacement-related vulnerabilities and progress towards **durable solutions for IDPs**
5. List of recommended **SDG indicators** to be disaggregated by forced displacement
6. Steps to improve **statistical coordination** at national, regional, international levels
Key recommendations from the IRRS/IRIS

- **Statistical definitions** recommended in the IRRS/IRIS to be used at country, regional and international level. This will lead to shared standards and possibility to produce comparable data over time and between countries.

- Implement the **statistical framework** for refugee and IDP statistics as per IRRS/IRIS. Can be adapted to country context and NSS capacity and resources, but core elements should be respected.

- Refugee and IDP statistics should be included responsibilities of the **National Statistical System (NSS)** and integrated into relevant core data collection exercises implemented within this framework.

- Explore opportunities to include refugees and IDPs in different data sources and collection efforts (census, national surveys, admin registries). Ad hoc/displacement specific data sources can also be pursued as a second option.

- **Principles of official statistics and “do no harm”** should be followed in the collection, production and dissemination of official statistics on refugees and IDPs.

- **Collaboration and coordination** between producers and users of displacement statistics is essential. Inclusion in **National Strategies for the Development of Statistics (NSDS)** can be helpful.
Overview of the implementation of the IRRS and IRIS

Quantitative overview of IRRS/IRIS implementation in 2020-2021

Initiatives making use of the international recommendations between April 2020 and December 2021

- 32 examples of institutional implementation
- 20 examples of country-level implementation led by/connected to national statistical systems and offices
- 22 initiatives are implementing the IRIS
- 13 initiatives are implementing both sets of recommendations
- 17 projects are making use of the IRRS

Read more here, including case studies
Country-level implementation of IRRS & IRIS in 2020-21
Implementation of the IRRS and IRIS in Asia & the Pacific

- **Afghanistan**: Rapid Household Assessment Form (RHAF)
- **Tajikistan**: Socioeconomic survey of refugee and stateless population in Tajikistan
- **Bangladesh**: Cox’s Bazar Humanitarian Development Statistics Center/Analytical Program
- **Malaysia**: Comparative baseline study of livelihoods of refugees and comparable host communities

**Legend**
- Red: In progress/finalized
- Blue: Planned
EGRiSS Third Mandate – Areas of work 2020-2024

**ACTIVITIES**

- Disseminate and promote the Recommendations and Compilers' Manual
- Strengthen statistical capacity (national, regional and international level)
- Provide technical support
- Development of recommendations and refinement of methodology and guidance
- Capture lessons learned (including through peer-to-peer exchange)

**OUTCOME**

Improved quality and availability of official statistics on forcibly displaced and stateless persons

**IMPACT**

Improved evidence-based policy and targeted development programmes

EGRiSS Terms of Reference
Developing International Recommendations on Statelessness Statistics (IROSS)

- Mandated by the UN Statistical Commission – expected in 2023
- Developed collaboratively with affected countries’ national statistical offices and guidance from international experts
- Follow in the footsteps of International Recommendations on Refugee Statistics (IRRS) and International Recommendations on IDP Statistics (IRIS)
- Aligned to legal framework/processes, complimenting related statistical frameworks, and mindful of data source limitations and varying capacity levels amongst key stakeholders
What is (expected to be) in the IROSS?

1. Legal framework for statelessness
2. Definition of statelessness for the purpose of statistical measurement
3. List of basic data tabulations and indicators
4. Assessment of data sources and methods and ways to improve them
5. Analysis of the characteristics of stateless populations
6. Steps to improve statistical coordination at national, regional, international levels
Initiation: expert meeting in Bangkok

Nov. 2020

1<sup>st</sup> consolidated draft IROSS

Dec. 2021

Discussion of Progress Report at 53<sup>rd</sup> UNSC

June 2022

Collaborative effort to finalise draft

Oct. 2022

Expected endorsement of IROSS at 53rd UNSC (submitted in January)

Dec. 2019

Mar. 2021

Work included under EGRISS umbrella

Mar. 2022

EGRISS TOR formally updated to include statelessness

July-Sep.2022

In-person group meeting in CPH

Mar. 2023

Global consultation of draft IROSS draft

Mar. 2023

Expected endorsement of IROSS at 53rd UNSC (submitted in January)
Statelessness Statistical Framework (current proposal)

Stateless persons and those with unrecognised nationality status

A) Persons with recognised statelessness status
   (individual or group-based recognition by authorities)

   Native-born  Foreign-born

B) Persons with unrecognised nationality status – including stateless persons
   (lack proof of citizenship or recognition of citizenship)

   B1) Persons with unrecognised nationality status with links to another country
   B2) Persons with unrecognised nationality status without links to another country

   Native-born  Foreign-born  Native-born

C) Impacted populations (not stateless)

   C1) Persons who are previously stateless or of unclear nationality status
       (nationality obtained/confirmed)
   C2) Persons descended from stateless parent(s)
   C3) Persons residing in a household with at least one stateless person

C) Stateless–related persons (with citizenship)
Thank you!

Please visit www.egrisstats.org to learn more