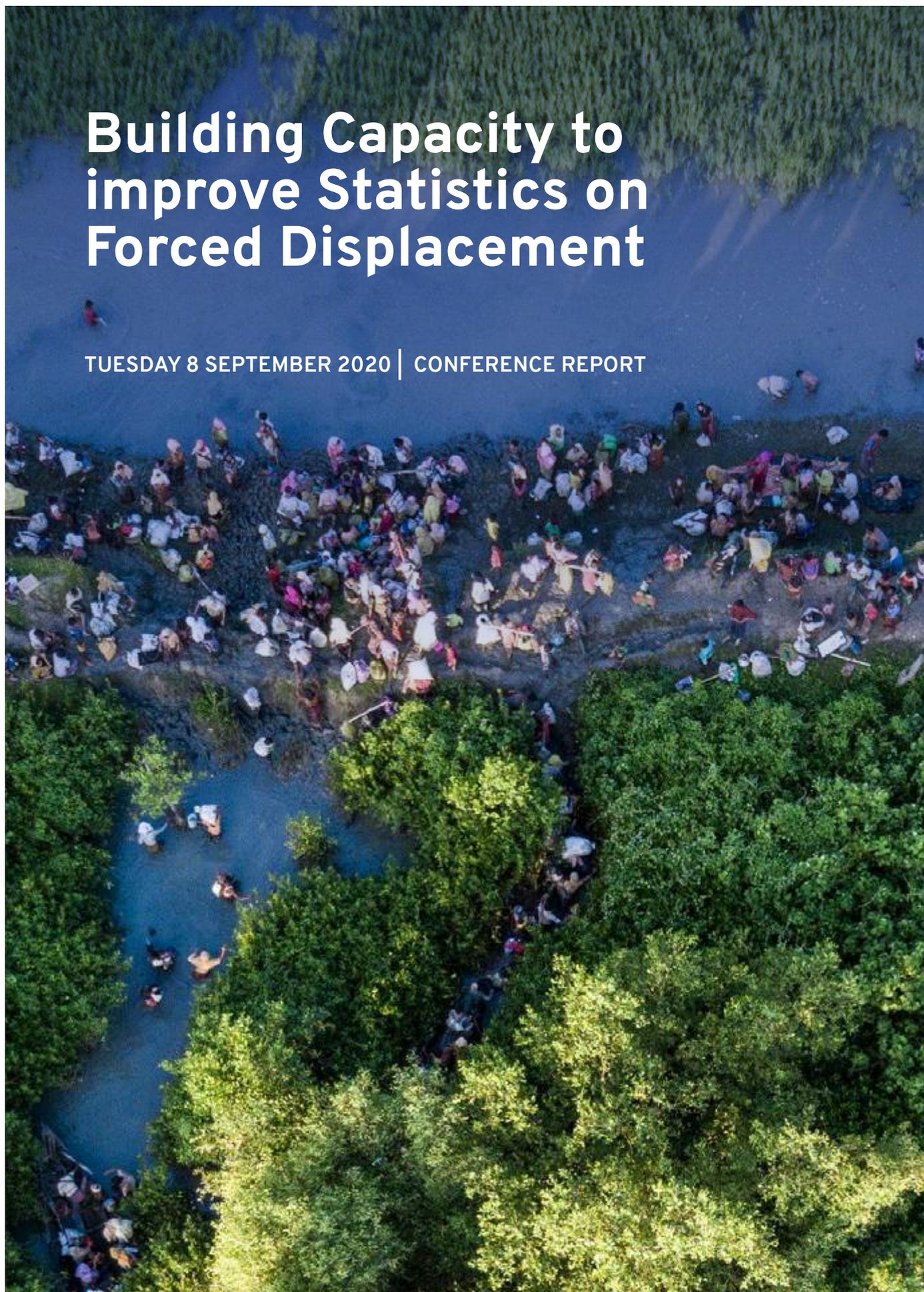


Building Capacity to improve Statistics on Forced Displacement

TUESDAY 8 SEPTEMBER 2020 | CONFERENCE REPORT



ABOUT

Mandated in 2016 by the UN Statistical Commission (UNSC), the **Expert Group on Refugee and IDP Statistics (EGRIS)** developed international recommendations for the inclusion of refugees and IDPs in national statistical systems, to improve the quality and use of statistics on forced displacement, support comprehensive displacement response frameworks, and support overall data needs related to reporting on the SDGs and the Global Compact on Refugees. Co-led by UNHCR, UNSD, Statistics Norway, Eurostat, the Turkish Statistical Institute, the World Bank Group and JIPS, the multi-stakeholder process counts on participation from its members including representatives from governments and national statistical offices from around 45 different countries.

The **Joint IDP Profiling Service (JIPS)** – an interagency field support service – has been working over the last decade with a wide range of partners and in diverse contexts, to improve data in forced displacement situations and to advance profiling practice across the humanitarian and development sector. Overseen by an Executive Committee comprised of UNHCR, UNDP, OCHA, NRC, IDMC, DRC and the Special Rapporteur on the human rights of IDPs, the Service organises thematic international events approximately every other year, to gather a wide range of actors at national and global levels – from government authorities to UN agencies, civil society, academia, urban planners, and more – to share their experiences working on and with evidence in forced displacement situations in order to jointly advance practice.

Note from the organisers

We are thrilled to share with you, through this report and the accompanying videos, the main points discussed and the strategic opportunities identified during the EGRIS-JIPS Conference 2020 to improve statistics on forced displacement. We hope this will not only contribute to continuous conversations around this topic but also stimulate concrete plans and actions.

Bringing together a diverse range of decision makers and experts from the national, regional, and global levels – governments and statistical offices, humanitarian and development actors from the UN and civil society, and academia – the conference reinforced the need for improved availability and quality data on refugees, asylum seekers, and IDPs in order to ensure that their needs and rights are fulfilled following global commitments. It showcased concrete efforts already made by actors at the national, regional, and international levels towards implementing the International Recommendations on Refugee and IDP Statistics (IRRS and IRIS), which will hopefully inspire other countries and actors to take action. Finally, it emphasised the importance of sustainable funding for long-term capacity development and the need to promote statistics as an area for donor investments.

The conference coincided with the early stages of the third phase of EGRIS' mandate, which places particular emphasis on encouraging application of the international statistical frameworks, including through the development of national statistical capacities. It also expanded on discussions which have been led previously by JIPS on "Making data useful"¹ as well as its efforts to improve data in forced displacement situations. Initially envisaged as a face-to-face happening, the conference was shaped to accommodate the current reality and challenges posed by COVID-19. Against this background, it provided an opportunity to reflect about ways of adapting to this new reality for us all.

The EGRIS-JIPS Conference 2020 would not have been possible without the support of a dedicated and inspiring team, excellent moderators and panellists, and highly engaged participants. It is thanks to their efforts and contributions that we were able to ensure a high-quality event with relevant content, insightful discussions, as well as actionable and forward-looking input to help improve statistics on refugees, internally displaced persons (IDPs) and other forcibly displaced.

We would like to extend our special thanks to the organising team, including Camille Arimoto and Carolina Ferrari, for making the event a success; Jonathan Moy de Vitry from Right Here/Right Now for his support on preparing the live event and producing the videos; UNHCR DIST and especially Eric Lim for their technical support; as well as the JIPS team and the EGRIS Steering Committee for their active support, advice and contribution throughout. We are also grateful for the continued support of our donors, which made this event possible: United States Agency for International Development (USAID), the Danish Development Cooperation Agency (Danida) and the European Commission's International Cooperation and Development fund (Devco) through the World Bank-UNHCR Joint Data Center on Forced Displacement.²

We are looking forward to staying in touch with participants in the event and to taking the lessons learned with us into the third phase of EGRIS' work.

On behalf of the Steering Committee members of the Expert Group on Refugee and IDP Statistics (EGRIS) and the Joint IDP Profiling Service (JIPS):



Corina Demottaz,
JIPS



Aina Saetre,
EGRIS Secretariat

1 JIPS (2017): "Making data useful: how to improve the evidence base for joint responses to displacement", <https://www.jips.org/jips-publication/jips-conference-making-data-useful-2017/>.

2 The contents are the responsibility of JIPS and the EGRIS Steering Committee members, and do not necessarily reflect the views of funding partners or of their governments.

Key Documents



Missed the event?

GET A SNAPSHOT

<https://vimeo.com/467904835>

WATCH SESSION RECORDINGS

<https://vimeo.com/showcase/7667768>



International Recommendations on Refugee Statistics (IRRS)

The recommendations help countries and international organisations to harmonise and improve the quality of statistics on refugees and asylum seekers, to contribute to improved overall statistics on international migration and common information about a situation with a significant impact on global welfare.

DOWNLOAD



International Recommendations on IDP Statistics (IRIS)

The International Recommendations on Internally Displaced Persons Statistics (IRIS) provide a set of specific recommendations that countries and international organisations can use to improve the production, overall quality, coordination, and dissemination of statistics on internally displaced persons (IDPs).

DOWNLOAD



Compilers' Manual on Displacement Statistics

This is a hands-on guide designed to support those using the International Recommendations on Refugee Statistics (IRRS) and IDP Statistics (IRIS) to compile statistics on displaced persons. It is based on contributions and examples provided by the Expert Group.

DOWNLOAD

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Haiti, Displaced Haitians set up encampment at Port-au-Prince golf course. © UN / Marco Dormino

01

Building
Capacity
to improve
Statistics
on Forced
Displacement

OPENING KEYNOTE

Setting the scene within the global context

Setting the scene within the global context

Moderator:

- » Mr. Volker Schimmel,
Head of Global Data Service,
UNHCR

Speakers:

- » Ms. Cecilia Jimenez-Damary, Special Rapporteur on the human rights of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs)
- » Mr. James Muwonge, Director of Project Management and Professional Services, Uganda Bureau of Statistics
- » Mr. Geir Axelsen, Director General, Statistics Norway

Global commitments and processes³ highlight the need for quality statistics on forced displacement and disaggregated data by migratory status that can adequately inform inclusive policies, national development, and budgeting processes.

Improving data quality in support of the implementation of these global initiatives necessarily includes strengthening national statistical systems (NSS)⁴ and developing capacity of both data producers and data users. Multiple efforts are underway to facilitate more agile “national data ecosystems”⁵ and enhance capacities for improved data quality and use; however, key difficulties persist. This is especially the case when it comes to sensitive data such as on people forcibly displaced, both within and across borders.⁶ In forced displacement situations, challenges to developing adequate capacity include long-term donor support, staff resources, political will and coordination mechanisms, to name a few, to which there are no quick fixes despite the demands derived from – and opportunities presented by – various global commitments.

Kicking off the JIPS-EGRIS Conference 2020, keynote speakers celebrated the important milestone achieved with the endorsement of the International Recommendations on Refugee and IDP Statistics (IRRS and IRIS) together with the Compilers’ Manual. They welcomed that these statistical frameworks re-asserted national responsibility of member states of the United Nations for their IDPs, refugees and other forcibly displaced persons, while providing operational guidance to produce, analyse and disseminate quality and comparable statistics on these population groups.



“The event today marks really the pivot point from normative framework development to action.”

– Volker Schimmel

3 [2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development](#), the [Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration](#) and the [Global Compact on Refugees](#), High-Level Panel on Internal Displacement, the Sendai Framework, etc.

4 The call for strengthening the capacity of national data and statistical systems comes through multiple initiatives, the most recent example being the [Dubai Declaration](#) resulting from the 2018 UN World Data Forum. Other examples also include the UN Statistical Division’s [capacity development event 2018](#), the [Cape Town Global Action Plan for Sustainable Development – CTGAP](#), and the Paris21 [Capacity Development 4.0](#) project. Specifically related to forced displacement, the UNSC’s Expert Group on Refugee and IDP Statistics (EGRIS), is also noteworthy. The need for enhanced data capacity in the humanitarian sector is equally recognised through the Needs Assessment workstream of the Grand Bargain, launched following the [2016 World Humanitarian Summit](#).

5 Johannes Jütting (Paris21), [Capacity Building, Yes – But How To Do It?](#) via the World Data Forum blog.

6 The special expertise required for producing data on IDPs and refugees has been recognised for a long time. . See [“Improving and Scaling Evidence: Research Conference on Forced Displacement”](#) (2020) from the WB-UNHCR Joint Data Centre on Forced Displacement; [“Report of the Expert Group on Refugee and Internally Displaced Persons Statistics”](#) (2019) from the EGRIS; [“UNHCR Technical Series: Obtaining Representative Data on IDPs”](#) (2016) from JIPS; [“National Instruments on Internal Displacement”](#) (2005) from the Brookings Institute, IDMC and NRC.



Including refugees and IDPs in national statistical systems, keynote speakers underlined, will help inform broad inclusive development planning and thus contribute to finding durable solutions to forced displacement and to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) while ‘leaving no one behind’.

The conference, they further pointed out, also marks an early milestone of EGRIS’ third phase. Celebrating how far we have come, collectively through the multi-stakeholder effort led by the Expert Group, keynote speakers highlighted the importance to make the recommendations a reality across forced displacement contexts, by developing adequate capacities and data systems, specifically at country level.

“In finding our way to improve data and statistics, we will need a step-by-step approach where countries can learn from each other and see what can be achieved depending on available resources. [...] And Norway will be happy to contribute to this process.”

– Geir Axelsen



“There is a famous saying, ladies and gentlemen, and I’m sure you have heard this before that ‘who is not counted, does not count’. [...] The importance of strengthening official statistics on internally displaced persons by including them, first of all, in national statistical systems cannot be underestimated.”

– Cecilia Jimenez-Damary



COUNTRY CASE: Norway

Refugee statistics in Norway are produced from administrative data. All asylum seekers must register with the Norwegian immigration authorities. Their case data and personal data are stored in a database maintained by the Norwegian Directorate of Immigration (UDI). Case data are transferred directly from the case processing system to the Central Population Register, and from there to Statistics Norway through daily batch jobs. UDI also provides supplemental data to Statistics Norway in a dataset that is compiled every year, which includes information on each immigrant's reason for immigration.

This provides producers of social statistics on refugees with access to quality data and control over how the data is processed, analysed, and disseminated. One major challenge is that data collection first and foremost is designed and built for case processing, not to produce statistics.



Ukraine. High Commissioner Filippo Grandi visits internally displaced persons close to eastern conflict zone. © UNHCR / John Wendle”

02

Building
Capacity
to improve
Statistics
on Forced
Displacement

OPENING PLENARY

**The new statistical
frameworks are
gamechangers**

The new statistical frameworks are gamechangers

Moderator:

- » Mr. Tarek Abou Chabake, Chief, Statistics and Demographic Section, UNHCR

Speakers:

- » Mr. Craig Williams, Coordinator, Joint IDP Profiling Service (JIPS)
- » Ms. Natalia Krynsky Baal, Senior Strategy and Policy Officer, World Bank-UNHCR Joint Data Center on Forced Displacement
- » Mr. Serwan Mohamed, President, Kurdistan Regional Statistics Office, Iraq
- » Ms. Bouchra Bouziani, Head of the Social Statistics Unit, High Commission for Planning, Morocco

This session dived deeper into who the Expert Group on Refugee and IDP Statistics (EGRIS), which today is going strong with members from 45 national statistics authorities and 20 international and regional organisations. It traced back in history how the IRRS and IRIS came about and provided a snapshot of these new statistical frameworks.

Speakers specifically highlighted that for the first time, we have harmonized guidance on statistics for both refugees and IDPs that are in line with international legal standards. We also heard from two EGRIS country members – the Kurdistan Regional Statistics Office and Morocco’s High Commission for Planning – about what the IRRS and IRIS meant for them. We learned about their efforts so far to produce and use statistics on IDPs and refugees, and their future plans to integrate the international recommendations into their national statistical systems.

The session also introduced the Expert Group’s third mandate, which was approved by the UN Statistical Commission at its 51st meeting in March 2020 and will focus on facilitating the implementation of the statistical frameworks at national, regional and international levels. This will be achieved, namely, through dissemination, capacity development, and continuous improvement of practices. Dedicated subgroups with representatives and experts from both national and international actors will help implement this ambitious plan and through an adaptive process ensure that efforts are tailored to each country’s context and needs as well as available statistical capacities.



“The group, EGRIS, has produced almost 1,000 pages of two recommendations and the Compilers’ Manual. [...] It’s a quantum leap in statistics.”

– Tarek Abou Chabake



“These frameworks are a tool for change in our country.”

– Bouchra Bouziani



“Now, making all this a reality will take a lot more work by all of us. This is at the core of the next chapter of EGRIS’ work, [...] and I think EGRIS has shown that it can deliver.”

– Craig Williams



COUNTRY CASE: Kurdistan Region of Iraq

A national law that was passed in 2009 formally recognises internal displacement in the country and defines who qualifies as an IDP and what their rights are. An IDP policy furthermore divides the period of internal displacement into two phases (prior to 2003 and post-2003) and references durable solutions in line with the definition provided by the [IASC Framework on Durable Solutions for IDPs](#). The Kurdistan Regional Statistics Office (KRSO) has been producing statistics on IDPs since 2015, including through registrations, a profiling exercise in urban areas in 2016 with support from JIPS, monitoring food security inside and outside of camps in collaboration with the WFP since 2018, and surveys with the help of IOM and UNFPA in 2017. It actively engaged in the EGRIS IDP subgroup and contributed to both the Technical Report on IDP Statistics and the IRIS.

Moving forward, main challenges include the rapidly changing displacement situation and how to address this from a statistical and legal standpoint; the need for better infrastructure and improved coordination between the federal and the national level, especially given the absence of reliable administrative records; and the need to consider other data sources since the last census was conducted 33 years ago and the next round planned for 2020 had to be postponed due to COVID-19. KRSO will step up its engagement in the EGRIS by joining its Steering Committee.

COUNTRY CASE: Morocco

The government's high commitment to address migration and forced displacement is anchored in the country's strategy on immigration and the related action plan. Multiple stakeholders are involved in its implementation, including different ministries, national offices, UN agencies, non-governmental organisations, and academia. Data on refugees and refugee-related populations is being collected through a dedicated survey. Morocco also included different question modules from the IRRS in thematic surveys, such as on the labour force.

Looking ahead, Morocco is planning to include the recommendations in their upcoming census, and also working on a new legal framework. This will provide the foundation for capacity development efforts, supported by UNHCR, of the Office for Refugees and Stateless Persons (BRA, in its French abbreviation), which is in charge of registrations of refugees. Challenges persist to include relevant variables in other registries, such as on education, health, or social protection, as well as to integrate a displacement-specific module in other existing surveys, especially linked to sampling issues. Morocco has been leading the African Migration Group and hosting the African Migration Observatory to support the implementation of the global compacts in African countries.

RECOMMENDATIONS MOVING FORWARD



National Level

- National statistics offices should play a leading part in the compilation of statistics on forcibly displaced persons.
- The international recommendations, including the statistical definitions of who is an IDP and a refugee, should be integrated into the national statistics law to give a boost to national and regional statistics offices to actively engage in improving statistics on forced displacement.
- Support and technical assistance are needed to help countries overcome key challenges, such as on the sampling design, and to adapt the statistical frameworks to their specific displacement context.
- Establishing effective coordination mechanisms between the national and federal levels is vital, and this requires financial and technical assistance.



Regional Level

- The African Migration Observatory can play a key role to support the development of relevant statistical capacities at the regional level for improved statistics on forced displacement.



International Level

- The COVID-19 pandemic requires us to explore new data sources and new approaches to the collection of information on forcibly displaced population groups.
- Translation of the recommendations, especially into French and Arabic, will facilitate their implementation at national and local levels and by different actors.
- The e-learning platform with practical tools is useful to guide the implementation of the IRRS and IRIS along the phases of statistics production.



JIPS Profiling Coordination Training (PCT) 2019, Dakar, Senegal. © JIPS / Corina Demottaz

03

Building Capacity to improve Statistics on Forced Displacement

SESSION

Developing capacity on what?

Developing capacity on what?

Moderator:

- » Mr. Tarek Abou Chabake, Chief, Statistics and Demographic Section, UNHCR

Speakers:

- » Ms. Olena Shevtsova, Deputy Director, Administrative Directorate of State Statistics, Ukraine
- » Mr. Christophe Tatsinkou, Research Specialist, National Institute for Statistics, Cameroon
- » Mr. Gero Carletto, Manager, Development Data Group, World Bank
- » Ms. Lorenza Rossi, Regional Data and Research Hub Coordinator, MENA Regional Office, IOM

Speakers at this session reiterated that the International Recommendations on Refugee and IDP Statistics are important tools to facilitate “leaving no one behind”. Showcasing examples from country level (Ukraine and Cameroon) and global initiatives in other areas (Living Standards Measurement Study [LSMS], migration statistics), they highlighted lessons learned and discussed where investment was needed, specifically in relation to capacity development.

Speakers also highlighted that the COVID-19 pandemic brought about both challenges and opportunities to rethink our Modus Operandi in capacity development and data collection. They encouraged us to rethink the “what” (content) and “how” (delivery mechanisms) of existing capacity development approaches. Specifically, they pointed to the need to develop the ICT infrastructure of national statistical offices (NSOs) to enable them to participate in and deliver remote training, to adopt new methods, and to consider new or alternative data sources.



“It is vital to ensure a comprehensive and inclusive approach, paying special attention to vulnerable groups of people, IDPs in particular.”

– Olena Shevtsova



“We [should] prepare national statistical offices [so] they can take this new role as we move up from the National Statistical System to a National Data System.”

– Gero Carletto



COUNTRY CASE: Ukraine

In 2016, the Ministry of Social Policy introduced an IDP register and set up a Technical Working Group (TWG) on IDP Statistics to help improve the scope and quality of IDP statistics. Led by the State Statistics Service of Ukraine (SSSU), the TWG also includes the Ministry of Social Policy, the Ministry of Reintegration of Temporary Occupied Territories, and IOM. In 2017, Ukraine further adopted the National Baseline Report, which contains the country's targets in relation to the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030. The Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers #686-p, adopted in August 2019, provides an agreed framework for data collection and monitoring of progress on the implementation of these goals.

Together with UNHCR, the SSSU is currently organising a roundtable to bring key stakeholders together to develop a roadmap for the roll-out of the IRIS in Ukraine. The SSSU is also stepping up its long-term engagement with EGRIS by joining its Steering Committee.

COUNTRY CASE: Cameroon

In Cameroon, the national statistical system (NSS) is decentralised, which results in a flow of information from multiple sources – censuses, surveys, administrative data. The challenge, however, is to have timely, reliable, and quality data, all of which are required to monitor progress towards the SDGs and the [African Union Agenda 2063](#). In 2020, the country adopted a new statistics law and the National Strategy for the Development of Statistics (NSDS) 2020-25. Among others, the strategy aims to strengthen sectoral statistical capacities of central and local level administrations, to produce better data on forced displacement in the country. For this purpose, producers of official statistics are required to register with the NSS.

RECOMMENDATIONS MOVING FORWARD



National Level

- For forced displacement data and statistics to become a priority issue at national level, we need to create a demand and this in turn requires showing the value of this type of data. Similarly, having a local champion – ideally one that “has a wallet” or access to one – helps make the case of improved statistics on forced displacement.
- Capacity development support is specifically needed to help tailor the implementation of the international recommendations. However, this requires adequate mobilisation of resources.
- Modules on the IRRS and IRIS should be integrated in existing national migration data strategies and capacity development programmes irrespective of the presence of refugees or IDPs, to build relevant expertise before a crisis hits.



International Level

- We need a comprehensive approach to capacity development that goes beyond the three common areas – human resource, organisational, and institutional. It should specifically consider building effective ICT infrastructure at country and NSO level, as well as developing the necessary expertise and skills, both related to the IRRS and IRIS, the SDG implementation, and the new methods and data sources needed to cope with the ongoing pandemic.
- Against this background, data integration and interoperability become critical. This requires (better) coordination among different data producing bodies and partnerships across the national statistics system. Similarly, data collection happening in the humanitarian and development spaces must be better connected, e.g. by mutually recognising the complementarity of the data, by learning from approaches used by development actors or by taking advantage of the humanitarian infrastructure to collect disaggregated data more frequently.
- This also calls for more creative financing mechanisms that ensure a more equitable modernisation of national statistical systems. Capacity development needs to be a long-term process and thus requires a sustained commitment from donors, governments, and all partners.
- We need to improve the way capacity development is targeted in terms of geography, institutions, and level. In fact, choosing the ‘right’ trainees is critical and often underestimated.
- We also need to enhance monitoring and peer-to-peer learning, which are key for the successful implementation of the recommendations across displacement contexts.



South Sudanese IDPs / UNHCR staff register IDPs returning from Mingkaman. © UNHCR / Andrew McConnell

04

Building Capacity to improve Statistics on Forced Displacement

SESSION

Coordination and interoperability of forced displacement statistics

Coordination and interoperability of forced displacement statistics

Moderator:

- » Ms. Wilhelmina Welsch, Head of Information Management and Innovation, JIPS



“The production of good quality official statistics really requires effective coordination among and between subnational, national, and international level actors to ensure that estimates are coherent and comparable from one source to the other and to maintain trust in data.”

– Wilhelmina Welsch



“[In Colombia,] it’s a multilevel action, both in terms of producing data and then responding. That I think is a good example of how different actors cooperate to produce data, in this case at a very operational level.”

– Oscar Rico Valencia

Speakers:

- » Mr. Alessandro Telo, Data and Information Management and Analysis (DIMA) Team Coordinator, UNHCR Bangkok
- » Mr. Nuno Nunes, Global Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) Coordinator, IOM
- » Ms. Shorena Tsiklauri, Head of Population Census and Demographic Department, National Statistics Office of Georgia (GEOSTAT)
- » Mr. Ramón Alberto Rodríguez Andrade, Director General, Victims’ Unit, Colombia (panellist), and Mr. Oscar Rico Valencia, Coordinator of the Abroad Section (Q&A)

Both the IRRS and the IRIS include recommendations on how to better link official statistics and operational data. Building on the points made by the previous panel, this session took a closer look at how the different data systems – operational and statistical, at national and international levels – could be linked in concrete terms, and what coordination mechanisms and interoperability might look like in practice.

The session showcased concrete efforts made at global level and from the perspective of operational data production, by UNHCR through their newly established Data and Identity Management Analysis (DIMA) units and by IOM’s Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM). Both speakers highlighted that operational data, if produced in line with the IRRS and IRIS, could pave the way for official statistics.

Participants also learned about the experiences and lessons from two EGRIS country members, Colombia’s Victims’ Unit and Georgia’s National Statistics Office (GEOSTAT). In both cases, coordination mechanisms are well established at the national and subnational levels and in the case of Colombia also expands to humanitarian actors.



COUNTRY CASE: Colombia

The national Victims' Registry is the cornerstone of data on internally displaced persons in the country. Managed by the Victims' Unit, it includes information on the age, location, and the cause of displacement. This information is complemented by household surveys conducted by the Victims' Unit directly (mainly through phone calls), or implemented by local authorities and made accessible through the SISBEN, Colombia's national system used to target social welfare. Thus, data production and response are both implemented at multiple levels and in close cooperation with local municipalities, who are often the first actors to collect data and monitor the displacement situation on the ground.

Different data collection approaches and tools are used to monitor the situation, including surveys, **profiling exercises**, and administrative records. Data produced by civil society organisations is also used to compare it to official statistics. Data becomes official when it passes a statistical quality control check. Different decrees and resolutions are also in place to guide the victims' assistance and compensation process. The COVID-19 pandemic forced the Victims' Unit to adapt its approach by using virtual offices to register victims, such as through online platforms or phone calls.

COUNTRY CASE: Georgia

The main and most recent source of demographic statistics in Georgia is the population census from 2014. It also provides official statistics on IDPs and refugees, including their geographic distribution, since it included a question on the municipality and country that respondents came from.

Georgia is planning a number of activities to implement the IRRS and IRIS, such as an assessment of administrative sources to produce IDP statistics. They are also preparing the next census expected for 2023, which will build again on the Personal Identification Number (PIN) as well as close cooperation with relevant line ministries to enable linkages to existing administrative sources. It will also include a review of data collection methodologies and technologies. The main challenge linked to the census implementation currently is securing adequate funding.

RECOMMENDATIONS MOVING FORWARD



National Level

- National statistical offices should play a leading role in the coordination of official statistics on forced displacement.
- Establishing joint coordination processes is key to facilitate consensus building on sources and methodologies. They need to cut across the national statistical system to include relevant line ministries, civil society organisations and other data producers at the national, subnational, and international levels.
- Similarly, capacity development efforts should target different actors of the NSS to ensure common definitions, terminology, and tools to improve data on forced displacement.



Regional Level

- A joint regional approach is key and often more effective than individual efforts at national level to support an emerging area of statistical studies.
- Regional organisations and platforms have an important role to play as multipliers and intermediates between the global and local levels, as they are able to provide technical support tailored to the local context.



International Level

- Operational data producers, such as humanitarian and development actors, need to align tools, definitions, and approaches where relevant to the international frameworks to ensure coherence, comparability, and trust.
- Further work and collaboration is needed to develop adequate tools and quality assurance frameworks or mechanisms, to enable better linkages between operational data and official statistics.
- Amidst the pandemic, EGRIS needs to rethink data collection by considering alternative and new approaches beyond censuses, such as using big data. The approach should be tailored to each country and the Expert Group should provide support and guidance on their use for improved refugee and IDP statistics.



JIPS donor and partner meeting, 2017.
© JIPS / Corina Demottaz

05

Building
Capacity
to improve
Statistics
on Forced
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SESSION

Financing for capacity development

Financing for capacity development

Moderator:

- » Ms. Bina Desai, Head of Department, Policy and Research, IDMC

Speakers:

- » Mr. Johannes Jutting, Executive Head, Partnership in Statistics for Development in the 21st Century (Paris21)
- » Mr. Robert Buluma, Manager of Governance, Peace and Security Statistics, Kenya National Bureau of Statistics



“I had moved from institution to institution, explaining the importance of making sure that we have this information put together [...] which is now the Annual Economic Survey [...]. And the information on refugees is part and parcel of the governance, peace, and security statistics.”

- Robert Buluma



“The COVID-19 crisis has shown that investments in systems of data might be a good idea because we saw [...] huge data gaps, in particular because we don’t have administrative data, but we have also seen a lot of proliferation of data [...]. [It is] time to vocally step up now and say, for the next pandemic to come, for the next crisis to come, we need to invest in systems.”

- Johannes Jutting

Why do we need capacity development for refugee and IDP statistics? What type of financing – international and domestic – is available, and what is actually needed? What does success look like, for capacity development for statistics as well as for forcibly displaced persons, and how might we measure progress? As panellists underlined during the fifth session of the JIPS-EGRIS Conference 2020, these questions need to be considered in the wider contexts of financing for better statistics and national statistical development planning.

There are many lessons we can already learn from experiences so far, as well as new initiatives and tools to advance practice in the area of statistical capacity development, such as the **Guidelines for Developing Statistical Capacity: A Roadmap for Capacity Development 4.0.** We also heard from Kenya how the successful implementation of the IRRS and IRIS would look like, namely producing refugee and IDP statistics under the NSS coordination, including them in the NSDS plans and in regular statistical publications, and ensuring coordination through MOUs with key stakeholders.

In terms of ensuring adequate funding needed for the roll-out of the IRRS and IRIS, nevertheless, important challenges remain. In fact, although important progress has been made, the commitments under the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development haven’t yet translated into more funding for statistics. As panelists underlined: we still have a long way to go.



COUNTRY CASE: Kenya

The Statistics Act, enacted in 2006, and the country's statistical development plan provide the foundation for the production of complete, accurate, timely, and internationally comparable statistics. Statistical capacity development is led by the Kenya National Bureau of Statistics' (KNBS) and funded through the national government as well as the UK Office for National Statistics, UK Department for International Development (DFID), and the World Bank. In the latter case, this is done through the Statistics Program-for-Results (P4R) 2015-2020, which is a results-based framework to support selected initiatives for the development of critical statistical capacities with various state actors. The programme ended this year and is currently being renegotiated.

The KNBS has been an active and long-standing member of the Expert Group on Refugee and IDP Statistics (EGRIS). For the 2019 population and housing census, the bureau worked with UNHCR to integrate a module on refugees and stateless persons. Efforts are underway to also include IDP statistics moving forward. As part of the bureau's initiative of creating thematic technical working groups (TWG) to advance statistics and monitor progress on specific topics, the KNBS plans to create a TWG dedicated to refugee and IDP statistics. A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with relevant actors is underway to enable the coordination around these statistics.

RECOMMENDATIONS MOVING FORWARD



National Level

- We need to demonstrate the benefit of improved forced displacement statistics in order to incentivise the demand and attract adequate funding.
- A value-based instead of a supply-driven approach, whereby capacity development is country-led and funded through a mix of domestic and external resources, is key to ensure efforts are sustainable.
- Refugee and IDP statistics, just as capacity development efforts, need to be anchored in national development plans.
- We must invest in strengthening national data systems, not just individual silos, and the tools to do so are the National Strategies for the Development of Statistics (NSDS)⁷. They can help mobilise funding and enhance coordination.
- Establishing a technical working group (or dedicated office within the NSO) that comprises state and non-state actors and is supported by both government and development agencies, can help operationalise the IRRS and IRIS and foster critical coordination around forced displacement statistics.



International Level

- We must focus on capacity development and not just on closing data gaps.
- For capacity development to be sustainable, a comprehensive and multi-stakeholder approach is needed (beyond traditional data stakeholders) as well as an enabling policy, institutional and legal environment. Centred around user integration, this should consider people, institutions and systems.
- The platform for statistics producers and users, developed through the Bern Network – a multi-stakeholder group composed of international organisations, national statistical offices from recipient countries, aid agencies and others – and to be launched at the UN World Data Forum 2020, will provide a go-to place to enable informed investment decisions.
- We need to consider innovative approaches, such as a global fund for data and statistics, to ensure sustainable financing of statistics, including on forced displacement.

⁷ For more on National Strategies for the Development of Statistics, please refer to Paris21: “NSDS 2.0 in a Nutshell” (2017), <http://www.paris21.org/sites/default/files/NSDS-2-Nutshell-EN.pdf>



Iraq. Mossul offensive causes mass displacement.
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06

Building
Capacity
to improve
Statistics
on Forced
Displacement

SESSION

Closing remarks

Closing remarks

Moderator:

- » Mr. Rifat Hossain, Technical Lead, Information Policy and Governance, Health and Migration Office of the Deputy Director General, WHO

Speakers:

- » Mr. Björn Gillsäter, Head, UNHCR-World Bank Joint Data Centre on Forced Displacement
- » Ms. Vibeke Oestreich Nielsen, Inter-Regional Adviser, Development Data and Outreach Branch, United Nations Statistics Division

During the final session of the JIPS-EGRIS Conference 2020, we discussed the current context amidst the COVID-19 pandemic and reflected on the way forward. The pandemic has brought about many new challenges when it comes to the production of data and statistics, including on forcibly displaced persons.

Nevertheless, while a lot has changed and some adaptations may become permanent, not everything changes and the pandemic also offers opportunities. The UNHCR-World Bank Joint Data Centre on Forced Displacement reiterated its strong support to the EGRIS, including by joining the group's Steering Committee.

With the International Recommendations on Refugee and IDP Statistics endorsed, the Compilers' Manual with hands-on guidance established, and countries already implementing elements of the recommendations, the Expert Group has moved into a new phase. Focused on implementation, consolidating lessons to improve practice, and monitoring of progress, the JIPS-EGRIS Conference 2020 marks an early milestone achievement of EGRIS' third mandate.



“COVID has shown us that [...] our country systems are as strong as our weakest link. And this cannot be timelier in a discussion when you're talking about refugees and IDPs, which are one of the weakest links in any society.”

– Rifat Hossain



“We should always keep coming back to why we're doing this [...], and it's really to work together to make vulnerable groups more visible and to provide reliable data to the decision makers.”

– Vibeke Oestreich Nielsen

Building Capacity to improve Statistics on Forced Displacement

TUESDAY 8 SEPTEMBER 2020 | CONFERENCE REPORT

The conference “Building Capacity to Improve Statistics on Forced Displacement” was jointly organised on 8 September 2020, by the Joint IDP Profiling Service (JIPS) and the Steering Committee members of the Expert Group on Refugee and IDP Statistics (EGRIS).

Drawing attention to the recently established International Recommendations on Refugee and IDP Statistics (IRRS and IRIS) and the related Compilers’ Manual developed through the EGRIS, the conference highlighted the critical need for developing adequate statistical capacities and strengthening data systems on forced displacement. The event generated actionable input to support implementation of the frameworks and help ensure that the needs and rights of people forcibly displaced within and across borders are fulfilled following global commitments.

The conference is made possible through funding by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), the Danish Development Cooperation Agency (Danida) and the European Commission’s International Cooperation and Development fund (Devco) through the WB-UNHCR Joint Data Center on Forced Displacement.