



# *EGRIS NEWSLETTER*

The United Nations Statistical Commission (UNSC), at its 47th session in 2016, decided to establish an international [Expert Group on Refugee and Internally Displaced Persons Statistics \(EGRIS\)](#). The group consists of participants from national authorities, regional and international organizations, and other technical experts. Since its establishment, EGRIS has produced a set of International Recommendations on Refugee and IDP Statistics (IRRS and IRIS), which have been endorsed by the UN Statistical Commission. Following these achievements, the group is currently focusing on the implementation of the recommendations at country, regional and international levels. EGRIS is also developing International Recommendations on Statelessness Statistics (IROSS) to be submitted to the UNSC in 2023.

## *WORKSHOP UNHCR-SICA COUNTRIES*

On the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> of June 2021, UNHCR in collaboration with the Central American Statistical Commission (CENTROESTAD) of the System of Integration of Central America (SICA) held a webinar focused on the implementation of the EGRIS international recommendations on forced displacement statistics.

Representatives from national statistical offices, line ministries, SICA, CENTROESTAD, EGRIS and UNHCR partners formed part of the meeting and

engaged in plenary and breakout session discussions. The goal of the consultation was met, namely of analyzing the content of the EGRIS international



recommendations and the Compilers' Manual and assessing, together with the representatives of the National Statistical Offices of the SICA member countries, their applicability in the national and regional contexts. In the occasion, Ukraine also briefly shared their experiences in the implementation of IRIS. In addition, EGRIS presented for the first time the Spanish translation of the recommendations. The webinar strengthened the collaboration between EGRIS and the SICA region, which could be potentially replicated in other Latin American regions. For the recordings of the event, click [here](#).

### *ONLINE AFRICAN SCHOOL ON MIGRATION STATISTICS*

EGRIS participated in the second edition of the Online African School on Migration Statistics, that focused on the topic of standardizing questions for identifying refugees and internally displaced populations (IDPs). The event was organized by STATAFRIC, Statistics Sweden and GMDAC. EGRIS intervened through a presentation of the IRRS, IRIS as well as the third phase of EGRIS work.

### *UNHCR DATA LITERACY WORKSHOP*

On the 9th of June, EGRIS participated in the series of Data Literacy Workshops organized by UNHCR. The Expert Group presented on the importance of the IRIS

and IRRS, the advantages and disadvantages of different data sources and the need for improved disaggregated data. Overall, the event was an opportunity to discuss collectively with the audience on how UNHCR can best contribute to the implementation of the recommendations.

### *CIS REGIONAL SEMINAR ON MIGRATION STATISTICS*

CISPop, together with CENTROSTAT, UNFPA and the Federal State Statistics Service, held a regional seminar on migration statistics in June. EGRIS intervened in a session titled "Issues of Statistics harmonization and dissemination" whereby it provided a presentation on the gaps in official population data and further suggested solutions based on EGRIS international recommendations.

### *63<sup>RD</sup> ISI WORLD STATISTICS CONGRESS*

During the month of July, the ISI World Statistics Congress was conducted where EGRIS organized a session on the theme of "Improving Statistics on Forcibly Displaced Through New Frameworks and Innovative Capacity Development Approaches". The session highlighted the statistical frameworks found in the IRRS and IRIS as essential tools to overcome key challenges related to producing, compiling, and disseminating statistics on forcibly

displaced people, including refugees and IDPs. The event showcased experiences from Kenya and Mexico in the production of official statistics on refugees and IDPs, including challenges and successes. It also counted with the participation of colleagues from UNSD and World Bank, who further raised awareness on the importance of gathering reliable statistics on forced displacement with the goal of informing adequate national policy responses and effective development plans. The recording of the event can be found [here](#).

### *DEVELOPMENT RESPONSES TO FORCED DISPLACEMENT IN THE GREAT LAKES REGION*

During an event organized by the World Bank, UN-ECA, on behalf of EGRIS, presented the principal contents of IRRS and IRIS as well as the latest advances in the implementation of the recommendations. The event addressed the topic of “Development Responses to Forced Displacement in the Great Lakes Region” and allowed for an emphasis on the importance of quality data for evidence-based policymaking.

### *INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON OFFICIAL STATISTICS*

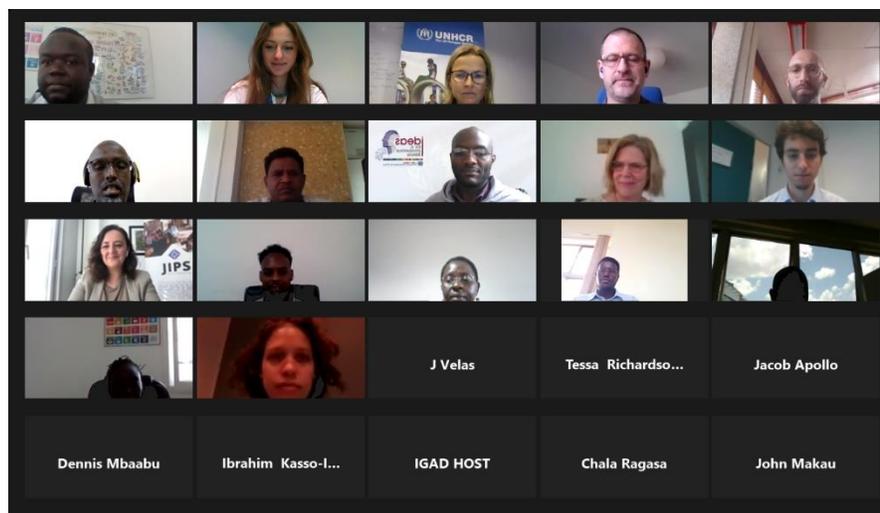
On the 1st of September, EGRIS participated in the International Conference on Official Statistics organized jointly by Statistics Korea and the United

Nations Statistics Division. EGRIS engaged in the session that concerned “Grounding the Role of Integrated Data to Inform Decision-Making for Disaster Risk, Resilience and Response”. The EGRIS Secretariat submitted a pre-recorded presentation that focused on improving official statistics on Refugee, IDP and Stateless Populations to reduce risk, ensure capacity-building and resilience.

### *2<sup>ND</sup> IGAD-EGRIS REGIONAL WORKSHOP*

The Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) and EGRIS, in collaboration with the African Union Institute for Statistics (STATAFRIC) and Statistics Sweden, have organized a webinar on the ways to improve the quality and availability of statistics on refugees, in line with the IRRS, and on internally displaced persons, in line with the IRIS. This webinar formed part of a second edition and focused on EGRIS implementation in Djibouti, South Sudan, Sudan, Kenya, Uganda, Somalia, and Ethiopia. It targeted both regional and national counterparts, including focal points on migration/displacement engaged in policy, coordination, and technical capacities in these countries. The webinar was an occasion to hold a holistic understanding of the efforts and challenges faced by the above countries, to identify how EGRIS, in collaboration with IGAD, can ensure adequate and satisfactory support and lastly to facilitate peer-to-peer learning across participating countries. EGRIS members such as JIPS,

IDCM, IOM, UN-ECA and UNHCR supported facilitation.



## *UPDATES ON IMPLEMENTATION OF THE EGRIS RECOMMENDATIONS*

### *SOMALIA*

Somalia has issued a formal request for technical support to the EGRIS Secretariat to implement IRIS in the country. EGRIS is currently liaising with the Somali National Bureau of Statistics in order to initiate the activities of capacity building around the IRIS. Colleagues from SNBS, including its Director General, Sharmarke Farah, have expressed their commitment and enthusiasm in the collaboration with EGRIS.

### *HONDURAS*

Honduras is currently planning to implement a survey to effectively assess the numbers of IDPs in the country and track progress towards reaching durable

solutions to trends of internal displacement. EGRIS stands ready to support capacity building activities in line with the IRIS.

### *COLOMBIA*

At the last EGRIS Steering Committee Meeting, Laura Catalina Fajardo Torres from the Victims' Unit in Colombia made a presentation on the implementation of the IRIS in the country and the articulations between the Victims' Unit, Colombia's National Statistical Office and UNHCR. The presentation addressed the main axes of the implementation of IRIS in Colombia, as well as related challenges and the need to improve international and regional statistical coordination.

## UPDATES ON EGRIS THIRD PHASE

- **SUBGROUP 1: PROMOTION AND DISSEMINATION**

EGRIS has agreed on its first visual identity which has been developed by UNHCR Digital Engagement colleagues with the support of EGRIS secretariat and subgroup 1. EGRIS secretariat is currently working on the development of the EGRIS website with inputs from Eurostat and JIPS on the structure and content. It is envisioned that the website will be finalized until the end of 2021.

- **SUBGROUP 2: CAPACITY BUILDING**

EGRIS has contributed to the development of the ToRs and is currently in the process of recruiting a technical advisor via JIPS who will be supporting in the implementation of the recommendations at country level. Additionally, the group has been working conjointly with the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific (SIAP) concerning the development of e-training materials on the IRRS and IRIS. Subgroup 2 has also engaged in the development of regional workshops and trainings as presented above.

- **SUBGROUP 3: REFINEMENT OF THE COMPILERS' MANUAL**

The subgroup has focused on further improving the IDP “solutions measure”, introduced in IRIS, to assess progress towards durable solutions and determine whether IDPs have overcome key displacement-related vulnerabilities. It is expected that updates on the refinement of the durable solutions measure will be presented at the next EGRIS Steering Committee Meeting, set to occur in October.

## UPDATES ON THE INTERNATIONAL RECOMMENDATIONS ON STATELESSNESS STATISTICS

### *UNHCR Standing Committee*

During the 81st meeting of the UNHCR Standing Committee, a session focused on efforts by UNHCR, States and others to address statelessness took place. Volker Schimmel highlighted the importance of the ongoing work towards developing new International Recommendations on Statelessness Statistics (IROSS) under the

auspices of EGRIS. The event was an opportunity to present the ongoing work and its importance towards improving qualitative and quantitative data on statelessness, which is in line with Action 10 of the “Global action plan to end statelessness: 2014-2024”.

## *Article for the Statistical Journal of the IAOS*

UNHCR and EGRIS have developed an article on the actions undertaken to enhance statistics on stateless persons. It is expected to be published in the upcoming edition of the Statistical Journal of the IAOS (December 2021). The paper summarizes the progress made by the Expert Group in preparing draft International Recommendations on Statelessness Statistics and discusses the main data gaps and solutions. A first draft was presented to the Journal and approved for publication pending minor revisions. The final version was presented on the 30th of September.

## *IROSS Technical Progress Report*

EGRIS is currently working on the elaboration of a Technical Progress Report on statelessness statistics which will be presented at the 53rd UN Statistical Commission in March 2022. The report will fall under the agenda item “Implementation of the UN Legal Identity Agenda –Civil registration and vital statistics” and will include background for the IROSS work, progress to date as well as key concepts and definitions included in the statistical framework.

## *UPCOMING EVENTS*

- [UN World Data Forum](#)

On the 4th of October, EGRIS and the UNHCR-World Bank Joint Data Center (JDC) will unitedly conduct a session on “Making the most vulnerable visible: Data gaps and official statistics on forced displacement”. The session will focus on discussions surrounding data gaps and it will specifically address the importance of official statistics on forced displacement to secure informed policymaking, development planning, and programming at national, regional and global levels. Further, the event will draw attention to the two statistical frameworks presented in IRRS and IRIS and showcase valuable practice examples from their implementation at country level. The panel for the session will include Haishan Fu (World Bank, Director, Development Data Group), Lucas Gómez (Presidential Envoy for the Colombia-Venezuela Border), Olena Shevtsova (State Statistics Service of Ukraine, Deputy Director of Administrative Directorate) and Sharmarke Farah (Somali National Bureau of Statistics, Director General).

- [Course on Data Collection in Urban Settings](#)

The International Institute of Humanitarian Law (Sanremo, Italy) approached EGRIS to evaluate the possibility of the Expert Group conducting a course on data collection in urban settings. EGRIS will have a presentation focused on the international recommendations and the importance of official statistics for evidence-based policymaking. The course will be conducted jointly by EGRIS and JIPS and will take place on the 8th of October.

## *PUBLICATIONS*

- Evaluation of UNHCR led Initiatives to End Statelessness, May 2021: <https://www.unhcr.org/research/evalreports/60f18fcd4/evaluation-unhcr-led-initiatives-end-statelessness.html?query=egris>
- Farah, Sharmarke. Statistics development in Somalia: Challenges and opportunities in a complex environment, September 2021: <https://www.aiddata.org/blog/statistics-development-in-somalia-challenges-and-opportunities-in-a-complex-environment>