

February 7, 2020

Statistical Commission  
Fifty-first session  
3 – 6 March 2020  
Item 3(n) of the provisional agenda  
**Item for discussion and decision: Refugee statistics**

Background document  
Available in English only

**Annex 1: Summary of Global Consultation of  
International Recommendations on IDP Statistics (IRIS)**

Prepared by Expert Group on Refugee and IDP Statistics (EGRIS)

February 7, 2020

## **Annex 1: Summary Global Consultation IRIS**

In 2016, the Expert Group on Refugee and IDP Statistics (EGRIS) was established by the United Nations Statistical Commission (UNSC decision 47/111) with the mandate to develop International Recommendations on Refugee Statistics (IRRS) and a Technical Report on IDP Statistics as part of the first phase of its work. Both documents were formally adopted at the 49<sup>th</sup> session of the UN Statistical Commission in 2018. Following this event, the second phase of EGRIS' work, has encompassed the development of the International Recommendation on IDP Statistics (IRIS) and a Compilers' Manual (CM) – a hands-on guide for the implementation of the recommendations on refugee and IDP statistics.

The work of the Expert Group is overseen by a Steering Group consisting of [Eurostat](#), [Statistics Norway](#), [Turkish Statistical Institute](#), [UN Statistical Division](#), [World Bank](#), [UNHCR](#) and the [Joint IDP Profiling Service](#), and has been a collaborative effort of representatives from over 40 countries and territories and over 20 international and regional agencies and subject matter experts. The draft of the IRIS has now been finalized and have undergone a global consultation in order to receive feedback from UN member states to whom the recommendations will apply once adopted by the UNSC.

The global consultation on the International Recommendations on IDP Statistics (IRIS) was conducted from the 18<sup>th</sup> of November to the 16<sup>th</sup> of December 2019. The aim of this consultation was to receive feedback and input from national immigration and statistical offices in order to ensure that different views and contexts are reflected in the document, which will be submitted to UNSC in March 2020. All relevant authorities/offices of UN member states were invited to provide comments.

The comments from the global consultation were addressed in the weeks after the global consultation and are reflected in the IRIS submitted to the UNSC in March 2020. 12 countries responded to the global consultation and the comments were reviewed and incorporated as deemed relevant. Additionally, a comment from FAO was received as well as a thorough review by the World Bank. In addition, during its development and prior to the global consultation the IRIS had already undergone several rounds of commenting and feedback from national authorities and international organisations had already been incorporated into the document. Furthermore, it has to be considered that the EGRIS itself consists of a variety of stakeholders who have all been involved in the drafting of the document in multiple ways.

Overall, the feedback from the global consultation was overwhelmingly positive and national immigration and statistical offices, and international organisations were very pleased with the work of the EGRIS and recognised that a harmonization of concepts and definitions as well as international guidance and standards are needed to improve availability of quality statistics on IDPs. The commenters appreciated the exhaustiveness of the document and the practical, detailed and sensitive to the existing framework manner in which it covers many of the challenges with defining, measuring and collecting data on IDPs.

Among the general comments, it was recognised that this document has been a large and complex task and that it would serve as a valuable guide for producers of IDP statistics and as a tool for collection and analysis of IDP data in the future and that a realistic timetable for the implementation of these recommendations is needed. The implementation of the recommendations is an important next step on which EGRIS is looking for advice from the Commission.

A comment regarding the translation of the document to French in order to enable the application of the recommendations in francophone countries was already been planned and addressed prior to the global consultation and the translation of the document is ongoing.

Chapter 1 did not receive comments. Chapter 2 received comments around the international framework on internal displacement and the international definition based on the Guiding Principles including on some specific aspects of the framework related to the causes of displacement and habitual place of residence among others.

February 7, 2020

Comments on chapter 3 very much reflected the difficulties which were also faced by the EGRIS in defining IDPs in statistical terms, in particular in defining the different sub-categories of the IDP stock reflecting the physical aspect (physical movement) but also the definition of durable solutions in international frameworks, and the complexity of defining and measuring the outflow of overcoming key displacement-related vulnerabilities. Clarifications around host communities and IDP dependents were made based on comments. Terminology and language were aligned throughout the document.

Chapter 4 received comments regarding comparisons with host/national populations and better linkages to the IASC framework for measurement of overcoming key displacement-related vulnerabilities which were strengthened. As the measure outlined in this chapter will be further developed in the next phase of EGRIS some of the suggestions will be further elaborated with the development of the measure.

Chapter 5 aims at providing a non-exhaustive list of basic standardized variables and indicators from which national authorities can select when collecting data on IDPs. This will allow them to make use of the most appropriate indicators in their specific context while still allowing international comparison among these indicators. Suggestions regarding data disaggregation and additional basic variables were provided and relevant variables were incorporated.

In Chapter 6, covering the different data sources for the collection of data on IDPs for official statistics, some challenges linked to incorporation of the recommendations regarding census were pointed out which is in line with what is already included in the document. Some additional points around the data sources and the possibilities and challenges in utilising each of the data sources for estimating IDP numbers were also provided. Some of these points mentioned challenges in terms of survey coverage, sampling design and errors, the use of census, a proposed set of questions for the next round of census, inclusion of good practice examples from countries and inclusion of some criteria for reconciling data sources. Some of these suggestions, including country examples were already addressed and included in the CM prior to the consultations. Nevertheless, more country examples are welcome and will be added with the implementation of the recommendations. The suggestions on set of questions and criteria for reconciling data sources will also be included in the CM once the recommendations are endorsed

A comment regarding capturing unaccompanied and separated children both in terms of a basic variable but also in terms of the need that this vulnerable group is captured in data collections was very helpful and was addressed in the relevant sections of Chapter 5 on basic variables and Chapter 6 on data sources.

The last chapter looks at the coordination of statistical systems and we received comments around the protection of privacy and confidentiality of data in terms of data sharing, respondent's consent for data use and the role of certain international organisations in coordinating IDP data. These comments were very helpful and are incorporated in the final version.