EGRISS

EXPERT GROUP ON REFUGEE, IDP AND STATELESSNESS STATISTICS

EGRISS 2022
Annual Report

Fostering statistical inclusion of forcibly displaced and stateless persons as global estimates rise to over 100 million

Acknowledgements

Foreword

2022 witnessed a historically high level of forced displacement, with an estimated 100 million displaced people. It has seen a huge forced displacement crisis hitting the European continent as a result of the war in Ukraine, in addition to continued, complex and protracted displacement situations in other regions including the Americas, Middle East and Central Asia whilst numerous African countries continue to produce and host significant numbers of refugees and IDPs. While this reality has multiple social, political and economic implications, it also demonstrates the ongoing and important need to invest in national statistics concerning forced displacement and therefore reinforces the role and mandate of the EGRISS.

From our differing institutional perspectives, we are proud to present EGRISS' second annual report, summarising many of the collective achievements of the group in 2022. Notably this includes a growing number of examples of implementation of the IRRS and IRIS through the inclusion of refugees and/or IDPs in national census and surveys. Moreover, we welcome EGRISS' determination to go beyond the expected remit of an Expert Group and to recognise the need to accompany implementation of the refugee and IDP statistical recommendations with capacity development, practical guidance and hands on technical support.

With this in mind, 2022 has seen investments in the development of online training materials, the successful implementation of regional workshops in Central America and East Africa, the provision of bespoke support to individual countries such as Somalia, and the revision of its flagship Compilers' Manual into a toolkit for practitioners. Driven by its partnership model and ground-up, needs-based approach, 2022 has also demonstrated the leadership of EGRISS members to integrate forced displacement statistics into broader efforts to improve national data on migration – something the global community should take note of.

Regional cooperation, platforms and networks have played a central role in EGRISS' achievements in 2022 presenting as they have many opportunities to enhance peer-to-peer exchange and build political momentum. Whether raising awareness in Asia & the Pacific, capacity development in East Africa, or participatory needs-

assessments in Central America, regional engagement has been a growing reality of the group's modus operandi. Without overlooking cross-fertilisation learning opportunities between regions, much more can be done through regional cooperation and 2022 has given EGRISS a strong foundation.

Last year also saw significant progress on statelessness statistics with the formal inclusion of this work in the group's TOR in late 2021. Tackling politically sensitive, conceptually nuanced and technically challenging statistical issues is not new for EGRISS, as experienced during the development of the IROSS. With strong participation from members and many affected countries – 51 countries contributed at different stages of the process - a significant push to take the IROSS over the finish line was achieved in 2022, resulting in their successful endorsed at the 54th session of the UN Statistical Commission in March 2023.

2022 also marks the midday point of EGRISS' current (third) mandate. Whilst we – Statistics Norway and IOM alongside other Steering Committee members – are proud of the year's results, we also welcome the open dialogue facilitated by EGRISS members around difficulties faced. Whether these are associated with limited institutional awareness or political will, resource restrictions or competing priorities, it is equally important to share lessons learnt as well as to make achievements visible. Like this, we can all learn and progress together.

Before the year end, EGRISS' All members meeting took place in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia providing a clear example of this approach put into practice. The event showed the group's true colours: an eclectic and committed community of practice that brings together statistical offices, regional bodies and international humanitarian and development partners into a shared space to promote, support and advance the improvement of statistics on refugees, IDPs and stateless persons. With over 100 participants and a highly interactive agenda, the successful event provided many opportunities for learning and exchange.

As you read EGRISS' second annual report, we strongly encourage partners who are not yet involved to consider joining this network to achieve a greater impact in the advancement of refugee, internally displaced persons, and statelessness data and statistics globally.

Geir Axelsen
Director General of
Statistics Norway

Ugochi Daniels
Deputy Director General
for Operations, IOM

AFGHANISTAN. *Afghanistan. New humanitarian crisis looms after Taliban takeover.*
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Introduction

In 2022, the Expert Group on Refugee, IDP, and Statelessness Statistics (EGRISS) made significant progress to support the improvement of official statistics on forcibly displaced and stateless populations guided by its mandate from the UN Statistical Commission (UNSC). This second Annual Report aims to provide an overview of the group's achievements to demonstrate the collective progress made through this collaborative platform.

EGRISS was originally created in response to the growing, global demand for improved official statistics on forcibly displaced persons by developing internationally agreed recommendations and guidance that had previously not existed. In 2022, UNHCR published for the first-time global estimates that pushed the number of forcibly displaced persons over 100 million, whilst calls for higher quality and more timely data continue to grow. In the context of Agenda 2030 and the global commitment to 'leave no one behind' and keeping in mind data-related recommendations from the Global Compact on Refugees and the High-Level Panel on Internal Displacement, the inclusion of refugees and IDPs into national statistical systems remains a critical need. It is needed to provide a sustainable foundation for better informed policymaking and response that will positively impact the lives of those directly affected as well as the countries and communities that host them.

Since it was established in 2016 by the UNSC, the EGRISS membership has grown and now comprises 55 country and 34 institutional members. The work of the Expert Group has also evolved, moving beyond the analytical and normative scope from its first two mandates to focus on supporting the implementation of the International Recommendations on Refugee and IDP Statistics (IRRS and IRIS) through a range of different activities (see box below).

EGRISS Mandates from 2016 through 2024

EGRISS 1st Mandate 2016-2018:
- Development and endorsement of the International Recommendations on Refugee Statistics (IRRS)
- Development of the Technical Report on IDP Statistics

EGRISS 2nd Mandate 2018-2020:
- Development and endorsement of the International Recommendations on IDP Statistics (IRIS)

EGRISS 3rd Mandate 2020-2024:
- Support to implement the IRRS and IRIS through dissemination, capacity development, technical support, methodology/guidance development and peer-to-peer exchange
- Development (and expected endorsement) of the International Recommendations on Statelessness Statistics (IROSS)

This report sheds light on the collective work and achievements of the group, providing insight into the progress made in 2022. This includes progress made by partners to implement the IRRS and IRIS in their countries and within their institutions. It also showcases work undertaken by the members of EGRISS' four Technical Subgroups, and highlights throughout the partnerships and collaboration involved to make this a reality. As far as EGRISS' activities aim to contribute to similar or broader processes – such as the work of the Expert Group on Migration Statistics[1], monitoring of the Global Compact on Refugees[2] or the Sustainable Development Goals[3] – linkages are made explicit in the relevant sections. Reflecting on the year's results and challenges, the report also aims to provide guidance for continued efforts in 2023.

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1 See: Expert Group on Migration Statistics Members — Expert Group on Migration Statistics (un.org)
2 See: UNHCR - The Global Compact on Refugees
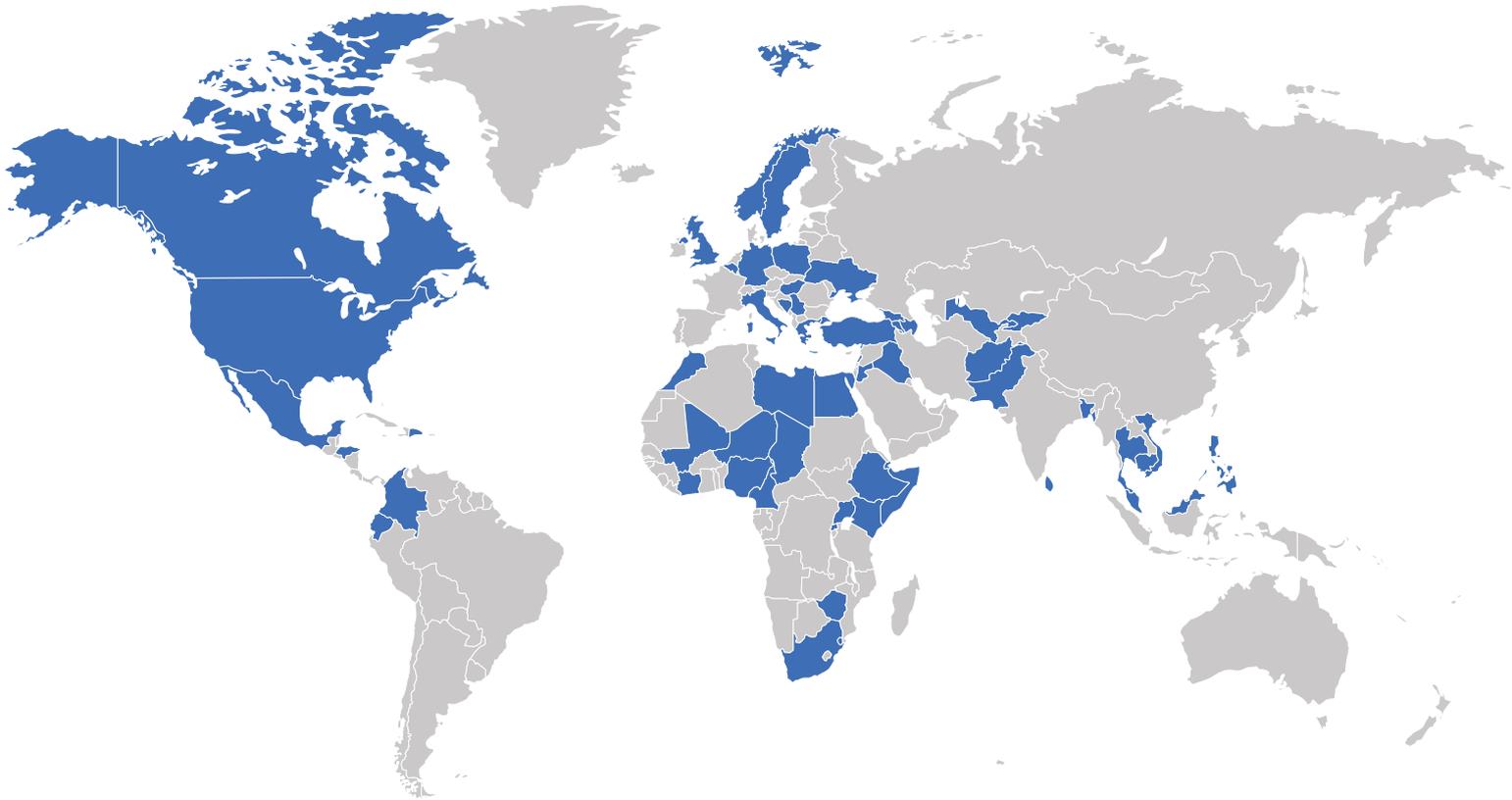**3** See: THE 17 GOALS | Sustainable Development (un.org)

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EGRISS at a Glance in 2022

Figure 1: **EGRISS Snapshot**

a. Terms of Reference

The EGRISS is currently delivering on its third consecutive mandate from the UN Statistical Commission. The group's Terms of Reference (2020-2024) focus on support to the implementation of the IRRS and IRIS, as well as the development of the third set of statistical recommendations on statelessness.

b. Working Methodology

Collaboration and inclusivity are central features of how EGRISS works. The group brings together representatives from different communities – statistics, humanitarian and development – working at different levels – national, regional and international– to build on their collective experience, knowledge and capacities to improve official statistics on refugees, IDPs and stateless persons. Through collaboration and peer-to-peer exchange between members, a productive, global community has been built which helps to ensure results remain relevant to a variety of national contexts and informed by relevant expertise.

c. Membership

As of December 2022, EGRISS members include 55 countries (see map on the next page) and 34 international/regional organisations. The group is constantly evolving and welcoming new members who have an interest in improving statistics on refugees, IDPs, and stateless persons.

d. Governance

To complement the governance role of the UN Statistical Commission, the EGRISS is guided by a Steering Committee[5] comprised of 13 country and institutional members that meets regularly. In addition, a High-level Steering Committee was established in 2022 that convenes senior representatives from these institutions and meets on an annual basis.

e. Institutional Setup

Activities are organised and carried out by the broader EGRISS membership, organised in Technical Subgroups, with annual workplans approved by the Steering Committee. During 2022, four Subgroups were active focused on 1) Promotion & Dissemination, 2) Capacity Development & Technical Support, 3) Methodology & Guidance, and 4) Statelessness Statistics. Work is supported and coordinated by a Secretariat, hosted by UNHCR.

To read more about EGRISS' membership, governance and way of working, please visit the group's website www.egrisstats.org

Figure 2: **EGRISS Membership Map in 2022**

ALL-MEMBERS MEETING

On the 12th-14th December 2022, the Expert Group held its first all-members meeting in several years entitled "Delivering on our Mandate and Looking to the Future" in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. The meeting was made possible through generous hosting of the United National Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) and financial support from UNHCR, IDMC and other stakeholders.

The meeting was conducted mid-way through EGRISS' current mandate and occurred at a critical moment as the world faces an unprecedented scale of forced displacement. At this unique juncture, the all-members meeting successfully brought together 110 in-person/virtual participants[4] from across its membership to take stock of progress, celebrate achievements and discuss the possibility of a future mandate beyond 2024.

4   Representatives from the following countries and international organisations were present at the 2022 Meeting of the Expert Group: Armenia, Cameroon, Chad, Colombia, Cote D´Ivoire, Djibouti, Ecuador, Egypt, Eswatini, Ethiopia, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Honduras, Hungary, Kenya, Kosovo, Kurdistan Region of Iraq, Kyrgyzstan, Mali, Mexico, Morocco, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Philippines, Poland, Rwanda, Somalia, South Africa, South Sudan, Sri Lanka, State of Palestine, Sweden, Turkey, Uganda, USA, Uzbekistan, Zimbabwe, IGAD, ESCAP, IDMC, IOM, JDC, JIPS, Statafric, UNECA, UN-ESCWA, UNHCR, UNICEF, UNSD and the World Bank.

The meeting agenda[5] was developed with the intention to create space for EGRISS members to share and learn from each other's experiences. Different formats, such as a poster gallery session, country presentations, plenary discussions, an interactive feedback session, and thematic working groups, were utilised to encourage participants to creatively engage in meeting deliberations, share experiences and learn from peers. These approaches successfully contributed to the attainment of meeting objectives,[6] as discussed under the five points below.

1. **Take stock on progress/achievements against the EGRISS 2020-2024 TOR and identify gaps still to be filled.**

   Meeting deliberations demonstrated clear progress that EGRISS has made against its current mandate, including the development of the EGRISS website, and ongoing capacity development activities with partners and organisational representatives that continue to raise awareness of the recommendations and support implementation. The growth of EGRISS membership and progress made to implement the recommendations in so many national contexts also present significant achievements for the group.

   Notwithstanding the clear progress made, gaps related to the third mandate were identified. For example, the need for more work on administrative data systems, further alignment with Agenda 2030, increased focus on the provision of technical support to countries requesting implementation assistance, alongside additional thematic topics which were identified as areas that require increased focus moving forward.

   Limited resources and coordination challenges were highlighted as significant factors that hinder EGRISS' ability to fully realise its current objectives. However, opportunities to address these were shared, including building on political momentum surrounding the inclusion of displaced populations in national systems (e.g education, health, social protection), the ongoing 2020 census round, and operational alignment with investments to improve migration statistics.

2. **Provide a platform to discuss and share recent and upcoming EGRISS products.**

   EGRISS products were discussed during meeting deliberations to explore opportunities for their further improvement and dissemination of these items. Group discussions highlighted the engagement of members in EGRISS activities and strong interest in certain products, demonstrating the continued relevance of the Expert Group's work. Among the EGRISS products under development, particular interest was expressed towards the revised *Compilers' Manual*, which was positioned as an essential tool that will strongly support countries' efforts to implement the recommendations.

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5 See: Microsoft Word - Final Agenda_All Members Meeting_print (egrisstats.org)
6 See: Concept-note_2022-Meeting-of-the-Expert-Group-on-Refugee-IDP-and-Statelessness-Statistics.pdf (egrisstats.org)

A soft launch for the new e-learning was also held and a dissemination strategy discussed with participants.

3. Exchange experiences and lessons learned between countries and other stakeholders concerning the implementation of the IRRS and the IRIS and identify gaps and recurring challenges that need to be addressed.

The meeting provided a unique opportunity to exchange implementation experiences and learn from the successes and challenges encountered by peers. During these exchanges, interventions from countries highlighted the progress made in regard to the utilisation of different data sources to transform the recommendations into practice. For example, countries shared their experiences of using guidance from the IRRS to include refugees in recent national censuses through both traditional methods and combined approaches using registers and surveys.

Despite the many success stories shared, participants took the opportunity of meeting in person to discuss challenges faced and seek advice from peers. Common challenges encountered by practitioners whilst implementing the recommendations, regardless of country context or capacity level, became apparent throughout deliberations. Based on participants' own testimonies, the recommendations themselves were presented not only as a source of useful technical guidance, but as an advocacy tool that can be used to raise the profile of refugee and IDP statistics at the national level and to clarify the importance of inclusion in national statistical systems.

4. Identify ways to strengthen collective efforts to achieve stated goals of the 2020-2024 TOR, and feed these into priorities for 2023-2024 and Technical Subgroups workplans.

Subgroup members met with co-leads to discuss workplans for 2023-2024 building on achievements made during the last year and insights garnered through the meeting in Addis Ababa. Draft workplans for each of EGRISS' subgroups are expected in early 2023 and will be reviewed by the EGRISS Steering Committee. Based on engagement during the meeting, several members showed interest to join EGRISS' Technical Subgroups.

5. Discuss relevance and focus of a potential fourth EGRISS mandate, beyond 2024.

The voices of countries and institutional partners within the EGRISS membership are central to governing how the Expert Group functions and determines its priority activities. The group's current mandate from the UNSC provides a framework for these efforts and will come to an end at the end of 2024. The meeting provided an opportunity for members to share their perspectives concerning a possible extension to EGRISS' mandate. Overall, there was unanimous support concerning the continuation of EGRISS' mandate with a proposal to extend to 2030 articulated. Members agreed that a new mandate should continue to focus on existing priorities such as the implementation of the refugee and IDP recommendations (extending this to statelessness statistics should the IROSS be endorsed), national capacity development and strengthening the alignment of efforts to Agenda 2030 to enhance the visibility of forcibly displaced and stateless persons in this context. In addition, based on collective learning, a new EGRISS mandate could commit to formally review and update the three sets of statistical recommendations.

In conclusion, the meeting was a resounding success and a vote of confidence from the membership on EGRISS' current trajectory. Although much has been accomplished, which was celebrated during the meeting, there is much to still achieve, and expectations are high. As a reinvigorated group, the meeting drew to a close with colleagues recommitting to EGRISS' ambitious agenda and echoing the sentiment that the EGRISS should continue to serve as a hub where members can gather, share knowledge and learn from each other's experiences.

IRAQ. *Syrian refugees fleeing military campaign receive aid at UNHCR camp.*
© UNHCR/HOSSEIN FATEMI

International Recommendations on Refugee and IDP Statistics

The International Recommendations on Refugee and IDP Statistics (IRRS and IRIS) were developed to promote the inclusion of refugees and IDPs within national statistical systems and give guidance to NSOs and other stakeholders on how this can be done. Since their endorsement, in 2018 and 2020 respectively, by the UN Statistical Commission (UNSC), the Recommendations have become an important tool to support countries; they provide clear and agreed upon statistical definitions, guidance for the use of key data sources, and steps to improve statistical coordination at various levels.

To outline the value of these recommendations, **Serwan Mohamed**, President of the Kurdistan Region Statistics Office (KRSO) agreed to answer a few questions about participation in EGRISS and the use of these new tools.

INTERVIEW WITH SERWAN MOHAMED, PRESIDENT OF THE KURDISTAN REGIONAL STATISTICAL OFFICE (KRSO) AND MEMBER OF THE EGRISS STEERING COMMITTEE. TRANSCRIPT HAS BEEN EDITED FOR PUBLICATION PURPOSES.

► *Can you please tell us a bit about your participation within EGRISS and why you decided to become a member?*

"Since 2012, the Kurdistan Region Statistics Office (KRSO) in Iraq has been collecting data on refugees and IDPs, taking into consideration the influx of forcibly displaced persons in the region. This has made us visible to international agencies and our efforts have been particularly important for the case of IDPs coming from the northern and central governorates. In 2016, when the idea of EGRISS came to fruition, we were invited to join and became active members of the group. We contributed to the development of the IRIS, actively participate in several EGRISS meetings and regularly benefit from opportunities to share our experiences with other countries."

► *In your words, how would you describe the significance of the IRRS or the IRIS?*

"The recommendations were not easy to develop. We – the members of the group – brought experiences from all over the world. Some had advanced statistical systems, others did not. But we all had a common interest in shaping a tool that would be relevant for all of us and our peers in other countries. The final product, the IRIS (and the IRRS for that matter), benefitted from this collaborative process because they were informed by the direct experience of national statistical offices (NSOs) and experts. Their significance comes from the fact that they are the first of their kind, that they provide common statistical definitions and practical guidance. What is needed now is better dissemination and more capacity development."

► *What has been your experience implementing the recommendations and have these had an impact on how you carry out your work?*

"Working within KRSO, the impact is clear to me. Our team recognises the recommendations as an important part of our work. However, when the recommendations were endorsed in 2020, the pandemic followed, and we were not able to carry on with our work as planned. By mid-2021, we started to work in the office again and made sure to use the recommendations in the design of upcoming projects. This includes the Labour Force Survey, which was designed to be implemented in locations hosting displaced persons. We are currently in the process of cleaning and verifying the data and plan to share results soon.

"The recommendations are also helping us to better capture out-of-camp refugees and IDPs which can be very challenging. Recently, KRSO helped to design the Iraqi Household Socio-Economic Survey to be conducted in collaboration with Iraq's Central Statistical Organization (CSO), with support from the World Bank. We suggested to include questions sourced from the IRRS & IRIS into the questionnaire and, with a helpful review from EGRISS partners in Subgroup 2, we managed. Once the survey is conducted, we expect to have a clearer picture on refugees and IDPs in the region who represent roughly 20% of the current population. An estimated 98% of refugees that arrive in Iraq come to the Kurdistan Region. This data will help us to rely less on operational data to promote

policies and regulations that will have a positive impact on their lives and, at least, not have negative repercussions on them.[7]

"Additionally, our plan is to make the recommendations more accessible in our context and hope to find financial resources for their translation into Kurdish. For now, we are working with the EGRISS Secretariat to support their Arabic translation that has been managed by Eurostat."

Components of the IRRS and IRIS

What's in the IRRS and IRIS?

1. A **statistical framework** standardising relevant terminology and classifications for refugee, IDP and related populations.

2. Lists of **basic statistics and indicators** for countries to produce, aligned to key legal/policy frameworks.

3. Guidance on how to adapt different **data sources** to integrate refugees and IDPs and/or to produce better statistics on these populations, including census, surveys and administrative data sources.

4. Identification of **socioeconomic indicators** to support measurement of well-being and integration or progress towards durable solutions.

5. Steps to improve **statistical coordination** at national, regional, international levels, including the collaboration between producers and users of displacement statistics and building on existing platforms and mechanisms such as National Strategies for the Development of Statistics (NSDS).
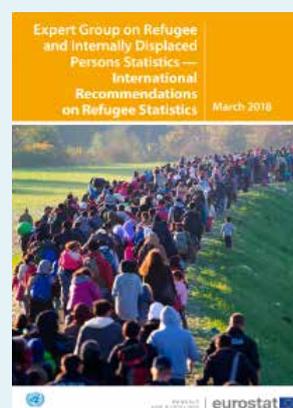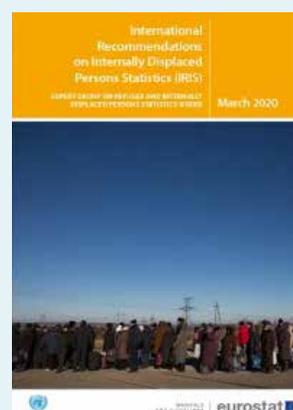
▶ *How has being part of EGRISS contributed to your work at KRSO? Can you tell us what motivated you to join the EGRISS Steering Committee?*

"Given the displacement situation in our region, we are motivated to learn about the living conditions and economic situation of IDPs and refugees and to have a better understanding of their effect in the host community in terms of employment, health services, education, etc. We have a lot of experience in KRSO, but with these populations there are specific challenges. We thought joining

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7   See the Population Analysis Report (available at: Kurdistan Region of Iraq - Population Analysis Report 2021 (gov.krd)) where data is derived from operational sources.

EGRISS would be a brilliant opportunity to get exposed to the international community, collaborate with international organisations, and learn from other countries' experiences in the development of statistics on these population groups.

"Within the group, we represent the Kurdistan Region, but we also make efforts to provide feedback and collaborate with Iraqi authorities in this process by sharing the recommendations and other learning we gain through EGRISS. Part of our efforts currently focus on engaging and encouraging Iraq's CSO to make use of the recommendations and to make them available to all relevant authorities. It is important for us to work side by side in designing and implementing surveys from now on and to improve with other relevant stakeholders such as the Ministry of Migration and Displacement in Iraq.

"The first years of our EGRISS membership was useful, so we were happy to be able to join the Steering Committee in 2020 to guide the next phase of activities and ensure the group stayed focused on addressing the challenges that countries face."

▶ *What message would you have for other national statistical offices?*

"I encourage you to join EGRISS (if you are not already a member) and prioritise the development of official statistics on IDPs and refugees. We invite you to become a part of our efforts to institutionalise statistics on these population groups, to make sure that you collect the right data and become part of the solution to address their needs within your host country and communities.

We were isolated for quite some time during the pandemic, but meetings and discussions with other EGRISS members created a feeling of unity and friendship within the group. I can say my experience has been a positive one of mutual learning. Although I have participated in other groups internationally, this was a new experience given the group's continuity through its three consecutive mandates."
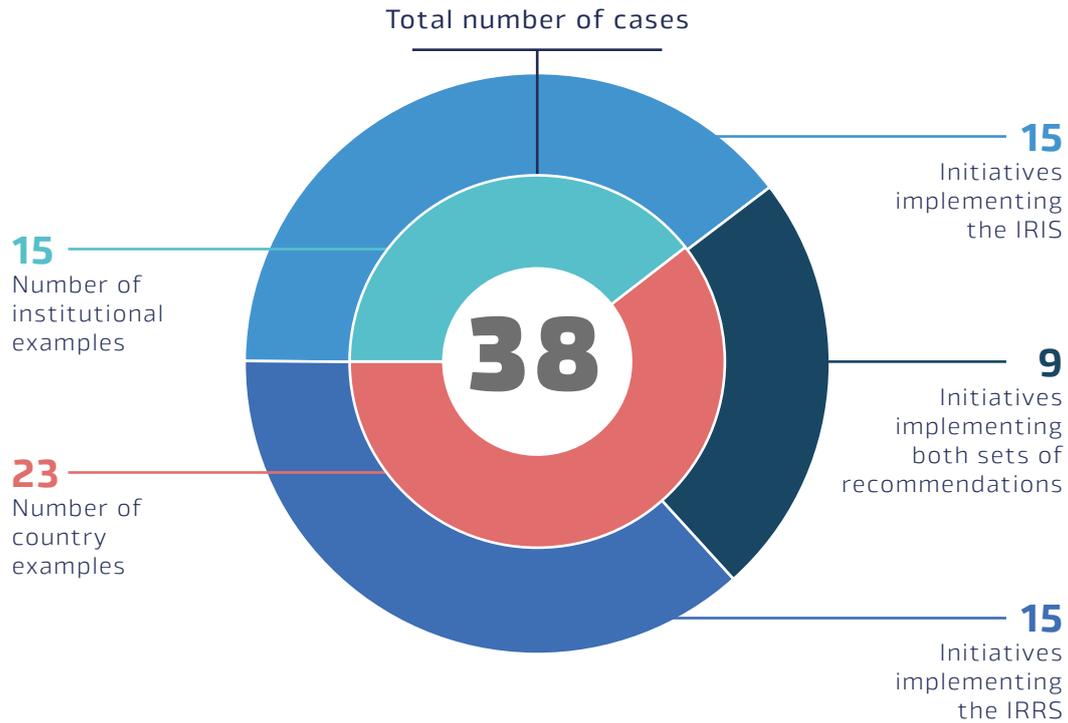
Implementation of IRRS and IRIS in 2022

OVERVIEW

The International Recommendations on Refugee and IDP Statistics (IRRS and IRIS) developed by EGRISS are currently being implemented and used by both countries and institutions worldwide. These recommendations have particularly supported national statistical offices (NSOs) in the process of improving their efforts towards collecting, analysing, and disseminating data concerning forcibly displaced populations.

In 2022 EGRISS identified 38 implementation examples that were either completed or significantly progressed during the year. The total of 38 includes 23 country and 15 institutional examples. This section provides a quantitative overview of these implementation examples, and subsequently dives deeper into a) a selection of case studies of country-level examples for the purpose of peer-to-peer-learning and b) provides a description of the institutional examples shared.

Figure 3: **Overview of the Implementation of the IRRS and IRIS in 2022**

Total number of cases

15
Number of institutional examples

23
Number of country examples

38

15
Initiatives implementing the IRIS

9
Initiatives implementing both sets of recommendations

15
Initiatives implementing the IRRS

The quantitative overview presented here was collected through an annual survey disseminated amongst the EGRISS members in November-December 2022. Survey results showed that the majority of the 23 country cases identified were located in Africa (13) and the Americas (6). Data shows that implementation of the IRRS (12) was higher than the IRIS (8), whilst an estimated 3 countries are making use of both sets of recommendations in their efforts to improve statistics on forced displacement. Showing a similar trend to results from 2020-2021, most of the projects identified are survey-based (9), with a few examples of censuses (4) and administrative data (5) activities. In addition, 5 mixed data sources (based on a combination of either administrative data with survey and/or census data) were reported.

Looking forward, EGRISS has identified a total of 33 implementation examples planned for 2023-2024.
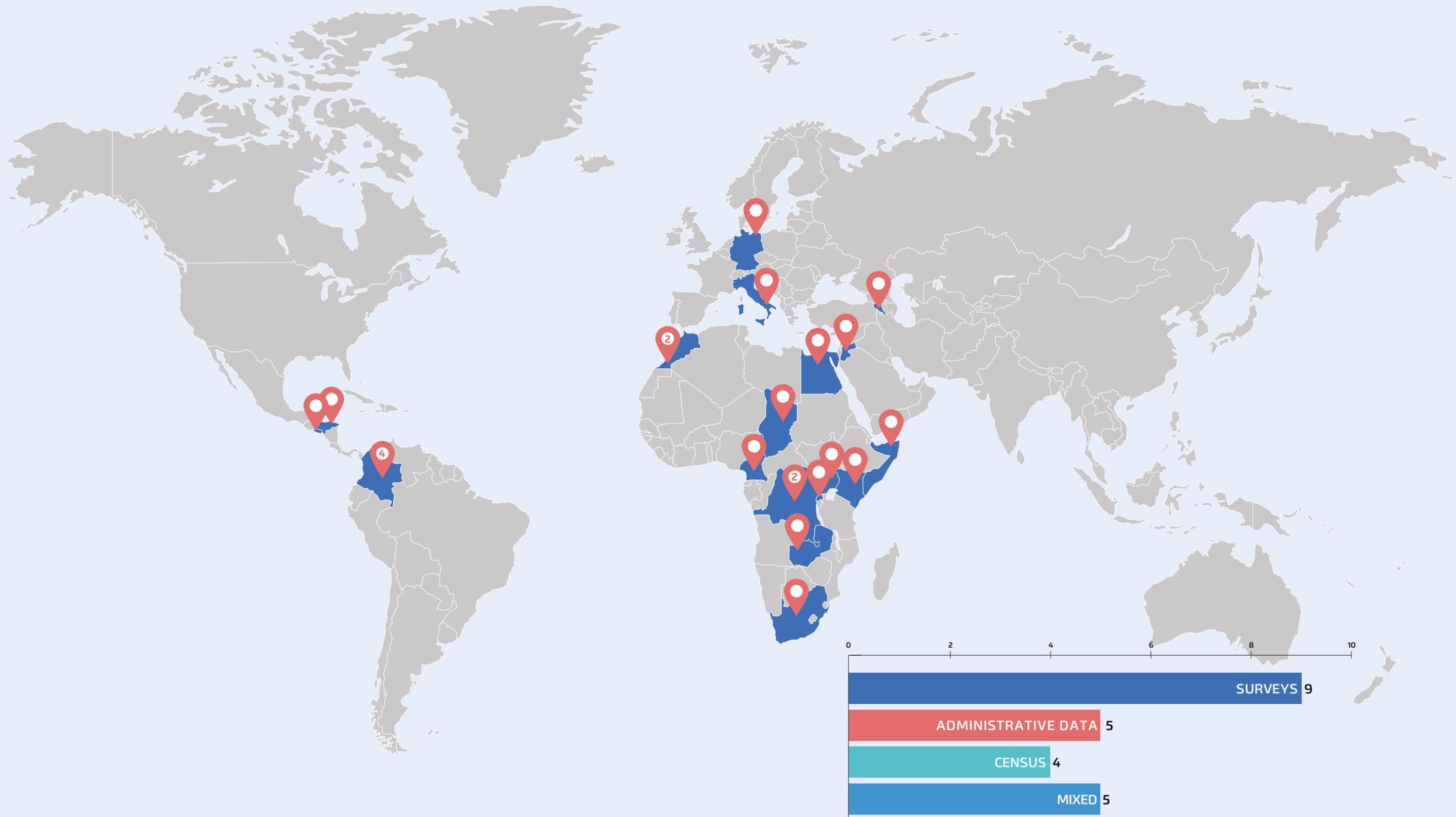
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COUNTRY IMPLEMENTATION

Figure 4: **Map Showing Locations of 2022 Country Examples and Types of Data Sources Used**

SURVEYS 9
ADMINISTRATIVE DATA 5
CENSUS 4
MIXED 5

Both the IRRS and IRIS are being used by NSOs and their partners to improve official statistics on refugees and/or IDPs. The recommendations have provided inspiration, motivation and guidance for individuals and institutions embarking on this process.

The following five case studies provide insight on how to operationalise both sets of recommendations and further advance the inclusion of forcibly displaced populations in national statistical systems (NSS). They were identified through annual survey results and have been developed in collaboration with the institutions involved. They include examples on:

- Opportunities to enhance the use of administrative data on refugees, IDPs and stateless persons
- Including forcibly displaced persons in national census activities and the challenges associated with doing so
- Exploring different approaches to including refugees and asylum seekers in national household surveys

Requesting EGRISS Support to Implement the Recommendations

As part of its work to promote the implementation of the IRRS and IRIS, the EGRISS is available to provide technical support to requesting countries for specific initiatives. Requests for technical support are open to all institutions of national statistical systems (NSS) working in the area of forced displacement or interested to strengthen their engagement in this area.

Please contact the EGRISS Secretariat at egrisstats@unhcr.org if your institution intends to submit a request and/or is interested to learn more.

Republic of Armenia
Integrating Data on Displacement into the 2022 Census

Background

Over the last 30 years Armenia has hosted refugees and other displaced persons as a result of ethnic conflict and ongoing war in other countries (e.g., Azerbaijan, Iraq, Syria). In late 2021, the country hosted an over 35,700 forcibly displaced and stateless persons including those in a refugee-like situation who were displaced as a result of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict with Azerbaijan.[8] To address data challenges and gaps regarding these groups, the Statistical Committee of the Republic of Armenia (ARMSTAT) has increased efforts to better capture data on forced displacement in national statistics, which is further reflected in their decision to join EGIRSS in 2019.

2022 Population Census of the Republic of Armenia

The third Population and Housing Census in Armenia[9] was conducted in October 2022, with final results anticipated before the end of 2023. As part of Armenia's ongoing process to transition to a register-based statistical system, following the approach used in various Nordic countries[10], the census utilised a combined methodology, bringing data together from key national registers and a sample-based household survey covering 25% of the addresses.

The census was designed to include the identification of refugees and displaced persons. Although previous census in 2011 had tried to capture displaced populations, results were not reliable due to challenges with the wording of

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8   See UNHCR facts on Armenia (available at: UNHCR - Armenia).
9   Armenia Population Census 2022 (available at: https://armstat.am/en/?nid=743).
10 United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), Register-based statistics in the Nordic countries, 2007 (available at: https://unstats.un.org/unsd/dnss/docViewer.aspx?docID=2764).

questions in the questionnaire and use of paper-based forms; however, this new approach presented new opportunities. Data from several registers, including the State Population Register and the Armenian Border Management Information System facilitated this. The subsequent survey provided another opportunity to collect more targeted data on internal and international migration, including reasons for migration, arrival in settlement, citizenship status, family circumstances, amongst others.

The Republic of Armenia State Commission for the 2022 Census was responsible for the support and oversight of preparation and undertaking of the census. This Commission is chaired by the Deputy Prime Minister of the Republic of Armenia and the platform includes representatives from the Ministries of Territorial Administration and Infrastructure, of Foreign Affairs, of Defense, of Labour and Social Affairs, of Education, Science, Culture and Sport, from the Passport and Visa Department of the Police (OVIR), the Cadastre Committee, Migration Service (now Migration and Citizenship Service), the Institute of Economics of National Academy of Sciences, the State University of Economics and other stakeholders, who together agreed on the content of the census programme. The census documentation (questionnaire, organisational instructions, methodological and other documents) was designed by ARMSTAT and approved by the decisions of State Council on Statistics.

The Use of the International Recommendations

The IRRS and IRIS were directly used to inform the development of the census's methodology as it pertains to displaced populations. The recommendations provided the "main source of guidance" to inform the questionnaire and advice on the use of administrative sources for producing statistics on refugees, asylum seekers and other displaced populations.

The census uses the recommendations from chapter 4 of the IRRS to design the relevant questions from the section B "2. Proposed core identification questions" to measure the number of refugees and to capture variables such as country of birth (COB), dual citizenship, refugee status (or recognition), and differentiation between asylum seekers and undocumented persons, as well as stateless populations. In addition, section "3. Administrative data including population registers" of chapter 4 of the IRRS was used to produce administrative data from the register on International Protection. The latter, which is maintained by the Migration Service of the Republic of Armenia, is the main data source for statistics on asylum applicants and decisions taken during the asylum application process and it enables the measurement of data on persons granted refugee status, rejected claims and country of citizenship. In this regard, challenges were encountered in the process (some inconsistences with information), as there is no direct connection or identification measure (e.g., ID numbers) with the State Population Register. ARMSTAT is also regularly receiving data on acquisition of Armenian citizenship and its termination from the OVIR/Citizenship department (also under the Migration and Citizenship Service).

Beyond this, recommendations concerning coordination from the IRRS were also implemented. ARMSTAT together with UNHCR set up a dedicated Roundtable

on forced displacement and statelessness data that brought experts together to examine existing data gaps and challenges.[11] Results of this roundtable were considered while drafting the 2022 Census programme and presented to the National Commission of the 2022 Population Census preparation and undertaking – with the platform steering the census process.

Conclusion

This case study is an important example of using a national census to capture data on forcibly displaced persons, in particular because of the combined methodology used. Armenia's experience provides an important perspective on how to operationalise the IRRS and IRIS recommendations to identify forced displacement using different data sources and improve coordination/collaboration with relevant stakeholders in the process. As yet no specific challenges in using the recommendations have been identified, but a final assessment will need to wait for the final results and their dissemination later in 2023.

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11 Roundtable on Collection and Verification of data on Refugees and Stateless Persons during the upcoming 2020 National Census in the Republic of Armenia.

Colombia
Enabling Socio-demographic and Economic Analysis of Internal Displacement Through Data Integration
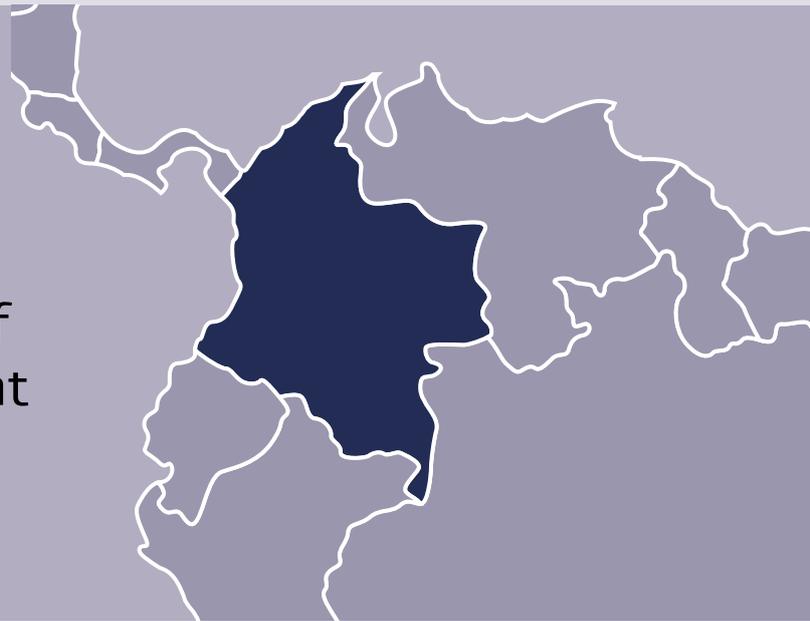
Background

In order to meet the information needs of public policy and decision makers, the National Statistical Office of Colombia (DANE), as coordinator of the National Statistical System, has identified strengthening the statistical use of administrative records as one of its key priorities. Concerning forced displacement, the Single Registry of Victims (RUV), managed by the Unit for the Attention and Integral Reparation of Victims (UARIV) is the central administrative data source as it contains information on persons who have suffered a victimising event (including forced displacement) as a result of the armed conflict in Colombia, and who have declared these events to the State. According to the RUV, by November 2022, around 8.3 million people have declared themselves as victims of forced displacement in the country[12].

While recognising the importance of having a strong administrative source such as the RUV, some additional information sources were needed in order to allow for a broad characterisation of the living conditions and other demographic aspects of the registered population. Since the registry has non-anonymised person identification data, it allows linking the registry with other sources of information, such as the Great Integrated Household Survey (GEIH) or the 2018 National Population and Housing Census (NHPC 2018). The integration of data from these sources presents an important opportunity to better understand the socio-demographic and economic conditions of victims of forced displacement.

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[12] See: https://www.unidadvictimas.gov.co/es/reportes

A Central IDP Data Source – the Single Registry of Victims

To effectively support victims of the armed conflict in Colombia since 1985, Colombia has developed regulatory and jurisprudential frameworks for the consolidation of a RUV. The registry was created with the enactment of Law 1448 in 2011 and its subsequent ethnic decrees, giving the Victims Unit the responsibility to manage it. It incorporates data from various registries, including the Single Registry of the Displaced Population (RUPD), established by previous regulatory frameworks.

Law 1448 also created the National Information Network (RNI), which is responsible for the interoperability, traceability and efficient flow of information on victims held by each of the entities of the National System of Attention and Integral Reparation for Victims (SNARIV).

The statistical use of the information contained in the RUV also allows for statistical analysis of the socio-demographic profile of registered victims of the conflict. It is possible to identify their economic, legal, social and cultural situation, to inform the design and formulation of institutional services tailored to their needs, as well as the evaluation of public policy for victims, ensuring equal access to care, assistance and reparation measures.

Moreover, the information contained in the RUV and the RNI allows various measurements to be carried out. These include the measurement of overcoming the situation of vulnerability (SSV) and the Indicators of Effective Enjoyment of Rights (IGED). The first measures the situation of households that are victims of forced displacement after the occurrence of the victimising event, in terms of the fulfilment of eight rights (identification, housing, education, health, family reunification, income generation, psychosocial care and food security).

The fact that the information obtained from the administrative source is directly linked with the policy actions taken, has led to a continuous improvement of the quality of the registry and, therefore, in the quality of the indicators constructed in each of the measurements carried out. Although not without the usual challenges associated with matching personal sensitive data across different sources, results contribute to decision-making to achieve the objectives of the public policy for victims, transforming the lives of individuals, families and communities that have suffered violence and violations in the context of the Colombian armed conflict.

The Use of the International Recommendations

As part of the implementation of the IRIS in Colombia, two studies have been conducted. The first, for the measurement of monetary poverty and extreme poverty, linking the RUV with the Integrated Household Survey. In the second, a descriptive analysis was carried out, with an ethnic focus, of the urban population that usually recognises itself as indigenous, Rrom, black, mulatto or Afro-descendant, Afro-Colombian, Raizal or Palenquero, linking the RUV with the NHPC 2018. For the development of these studies in 2022, the recommendations for the integration of administrative sources with surveys and census were taken into account (see IRIS, Chapter 6, part D) as well as recommendations for data

disaggregation particularly as they pertain to sex and ethnicity (see IRIS, Chapter 5). In addition, the recommendations to enhance statistical coordination and data sharing (see IRIS, Chapter 7) were helpful for the implementation of this work.

For both studies, data integration was carried out in a deterministic way, using identification numbers of the people in the RUV, GEIH and NHPC 2018. In this way, it was possible to produce the required indicators for victims of internal displacement.

The first study[13] identified that the incidence rate of monetary poverty and extreme poverty is higher in rural contexts. It also showed that women, compared to men, have a higher risk of being poor in both contexts (rural and urban).

In the second [14] study, it was observed that people who self-identify as black, mulatto or Afro-descendant have suffered the most from forced displacement, followed by indigenous people, and that ethnic groups in general have a higher incidence of internal displacement than the rest of the Colombian population. In addition, victims of the armed conflict who self-identify as belonging to an ethnic group generally have greater disadvantages in socio-demographic indicators compared to other victims who do not self-identify as ethnic.

Conclusion

The cross-referencing of statistical information from the GEIH and the NPHC 2018, with data from the RUV, has made evident the potential of integrating different sources to perform analyses on internally displaced persons and other population groups victimised by the armed conflict. The experience highlighted the usefulness of the IRIS with regards to statistical coordination at the national level, which is critical for the effective use of evidence for the improvement of public policies aimed at ensuring people can overcome protection needs and vulnerabilities related to forced displacement.

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13 See report here: Pobreza multidimensional (dane.gov.co) and here: Microsoft Word - Comunicado de prensa Pobreza Monetaria con enfoque diferencial.doc (dane.gov.co)

14 DANE, UARIV, Urrego, R. (2020). Análisis descriptivo de la población víctima del conflicto armado, Un avance en la estrategia trazada entre la UARIV y el DANE, para dar cumplimiento al Auto 266 de 2017. (Unpublished manuscript)

Ethiopia
Expanding National Poverty Survey to Include Refugees

Background

Ethiopia is one of the largest refugee-hosting countries in Africa, with over 860,000 refugees and asylum seekers, largely coming from Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan and Eritrea.[15] In recent years, Ethiopia has made significant efforts to strengthen their refugee response, including the 2019 Refugee Proclamation which created an enabling environment to promote self-reliance for refugees and the development of a 10-year National Comprehensive Refugee Response Strategy (NCRRS).[16] However, refugees still face challenges to access services and fully integrate into society putting unnecessary pressure on host communities where high levels of poverty and low socioeconomic conditions are already common.

In addition, comprehensive data on the poverty levels and socioeconomic situation of refugees in Ethiopia is either missing or scarce which hinders progress on implementing the Strategy in practice. To address this gap and help inform programmatic responses to advance the integration of refugees, the Ethiopian Statistics Service (ESS), in collaboration with Ethiopia's Refugees and Returnees Service (RRS), UNHCR, the World Bank, and the JDC[17], is currently conducting a socio-economic survey, partially integrated into the Household Welfare Statistics Survey (HoWStat), informed by recommendations from the IRRS.

Socio-Economic Survey of Refugees in Ethiopia (SESRE)

The SESRE aims to fill data gaps on the socioeconomic conditions of refugees and host communities in Ethiopia. This survey is conducted as a separate but partially

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15 See: UNHCR - Refugee Statistics

16 See UNHCR Briefing note: Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework (CRRF).

17 See the more information on the national household survey of Ethiopia: Ethiopia: Including refugees in a national socioeconomic household survey - Joint Data Center

integrated survey aligned to the national poverty survey (HoWStat), and thus acts as a pilot for expanding national poverty surveys to include refugee populations. The survey will facilitate a systematic comparison between refugees and host populations in terms of socioeconomic and welfare outcomes and provide data and analytics (e.g., on economic activity, livelihoods, and consumption patterns) for policymaking on better integrating refugees into host communities.

Data collection for the SESRE was finalised in early 2023 and data processing and analytical work is currently ongoing, with an expected completion date in August 2023. Though the producer of official national statistics, ESS surveyed refugee populations for the first time and gained valuable skills and knowledge on the sensitivities and challenges of collecting data from refugees. Effective engagement with partners such as RRS and UNHCR were essential to successfully complete data collection in refugee camps and valuable lessons have been learned for integrating refugees in future HoWStat survey rounds. In particular, given the significant logistical burden of administering both surveys simultaneously a key lesson learnt from this process is to more fully integrate the refugee strata into the main survey in future iterations.

The Use of the International Recommendations

As a pilot activity to test the inclusion of refugees in Ethiopia's national poverty survey, the very implementation of this activity is understood as an example of implementation of the IRRS. If the process is successful it could lead to a more systematic inclusion in future iterations of national poverty and other surveys.

More specifically, the SESRE questionnaire was informed by and covers the IRRS-recommended variables for identifying refugees, namely country of origin, country of citizenship, date of arrival, reason for international migration (including forced displacement). Criteria-based identification is complemented by pre-identification through the sampling frame used for the refugee strata (UNHCR's recently verified refugee registration database). In addition, as the majority of the SESRE questionnaire's modules are fully aligned to the HoWStat, survey results will also produce many of the recommendations on measuring characteristics from Chapter 5 of the IRRS as well as the 12 priority SDG indicators recommended for disaggregation by forced displacement.[18]

Conclusion

The SESRE represents an important case study in EGRISS' collective, growing experience implementing the IRRS and furthering the inclusion of forcibly displaced persons in national statistical systems. Although several delays for the project's implementation were experienced due to insecurity in some parts of the country and institutional restructuring processes, the process and results will surely provide valuable learning and analysis in the context of Ethiopia and beyond.

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18 See: IAEG-SDGs — SDG Indicators (un.org)

South Africa
Identifying Forcibly Displaced and Stateless in the 2022 Census
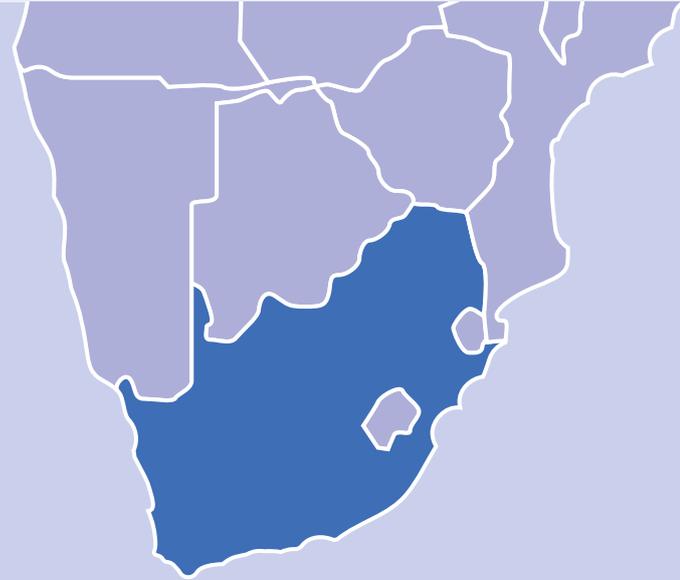
Background

As of December 2021, South Africa hosts over 242,000 refugees and asylum-seekers[19] mostly originating from different African countries including Burundi, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Rwanda, South Sudan, Somalia, and Zimbabwe. As there is no encampment policy, refugees and asylum seekers reside amongst host communities primarily in the country's urban areas. Given the complex environment of mixed population flows in the broader migratory context, getting a clear picture of the refugee situation in the country can be challenging.

Taking the opportunity of the recent 2022 Population and Housing Census, Statistics South Africa decided to include questions on reason for leaving previous residence that may be used to identify forcibly displaced persons using the IRRS as guidance. In addition, on an experimental basis, identification of stateless persons was also trialled based on the citizenship question.

2022 Population and Housing Census

The Fourth Population and Housing Census in South Africa was conducted from February to May 2022. Implementation was challenging as a result of the post-COVID-19 pandemic environment, leading to lower rates of contact in some areas and an extended data collection period that was completed once the 90% contact threshold had been reached. Broad-based publicity campaigns were conducted, including collaboration with migrant/refugee-orientated organisations where relevant.

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19 See UNHCR - Refugee Statistics

The census aims to inform the formulation, monitoring, and implementation of policies and programmes for the socio-economic and sustainable well-being of the population. The inclusion of refugees, stateless persons and IDPs in this effort may also produce data to strengthen the evidence-base for related policy processes in the South African context. The Post Enumeration Survey was finalised in February 2023, which will help assess the undercount for the overall population. Results from the census are expected to be published in May 2023.

The Use of the International Recommendations

The inclusion of questions that help to identify forcibly displaced and stateless populations into a national census exercise is, fundamentally, an example of putting the IRRS and IRIS into practice given that the census represents the backbone of any national statistical system.

More specifically, key elements of the IRRS were used to inform the process including guidance on question/answer formulation for the reason of migration. Whilst efforts had been made in the past to incorporate this, such as during the mid-census survey in 2016,[20] at the time there was no consolidated or definitive guidance. Through efforts of the Expert Group on Migration Statistics (co-chaired by Statistics South Africa and IOM during 2018-2022) as well as guidance provided by EGRISS, the 2022 census benefitted from authoritative guidance in this regard outlining the list of possible responses for the reason for migration.

In addition, the IRRS also present guidance on coordination amongst stakeholders to ensure statistical production benefit from the perspectives of different experts. In the context of South Africa, the Migration and Urbanization Forum served as an important platform in this regard. Established by the Department of Social Development and Statistics South Africa in 2021, the Forum provided key insights into ongoing research with migrant and displaced populations and to identify associated critical data gaps and challenges. Consultations and exchange with partners facilitated by the Forum's quarterly events and regular reports to Cabinet, helped inform work on the census.

Conclusion

South Africa's 2022 census represents an important case study for implementing the IRRS. In addition, the opportunity it presents to identify stateless and internally displaced persons on an experimental basis, only adds to the richness of this example. Given the challenges faced during the data collection phase the quality of results (particularly for subgroups of the population) may however be compromised – let's wait for results to be available. Either way, it is however important to document and share lessons learned particularly from efforts to implement the recommendations in a post-pandemic political climate and through national census processes. This is a commitment that Statistics South Africa shares in line with the broader EGRISS community.

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20 See South Africa's Community Survey 2016: South Africa - Community Survey 2016 (uct.ac.za).

Uganda
Including Refugees in the Demographic and Health Survey

Background

Uganda currently hosts an estimated 1.7 million refugees, making it Africa's largest refugee hosting country.[21] The country maintains a progressive refugee policy and legal framework that supports refugees and their right to work, establish a business, own property, and access national services such as health centres and schools. However, the recent influx of refugees, mostly from Democratic Republic of Congo and South Sudan, has posed multiple challenges.

Significant efforts have been made in Uganda to improve available data and analysis on forced displacement, including an explicit pledge under the Global Compact on Refugees to include refugees in national statistics. In addition, in 2018 the Uganda Bureau of Statistics (UBOS) and the Office of the Prime Minister, with support from the World Bank conducted the Uganda Refugee and Host Communities Household Survey with important findings on the socio-economic profile of the population.[22] Taking further steps towards statistical inclusion, the Uganda Bureau of Statistics is incorporating refugees into the 2022 Uganda Demographic and Health Survey (UDHS-7).

Uganda Demographic and Health Survey 2022

The UDHS-7 is a nationally representative household survey that provides data for a wide range of monitoring and impact evaluation indicators in the areas of population, health and nutrition. Two additional strata have been added to the DHS sample in the northern and southwestern parts of the country which hosts the refugee populations. Results will be used to inform policymaking and planning,

UGANDA

21 See UNHCR Global Focus: https://reporting.unhcr.org/uganda.
22 See: Informing the Refugee Policy Response in Uganda : Results from the Uganda Refugee and Host Communities 2018 Household Survey (worldbank.org)

monitoring, and evaluation of health programs at national and regional levels, now including considerations of the refugee population.

To design and implement the survey, the UBOS is working closely with the Office of the Prime Minister, Ministry of Health, UNHCR, UNFPA, UN Women, UNICEF, the World Bank and the JDC in addition to others of the DHS Steering Committee. Particular care was taken to increase response rates in the targeted communities in collaboration with local authorities.

The UDHS-7 survey was conducted from July to December 2022, with the refugee strata covering a total of 80 enumeration areas and 2400 households in refugee and host communities. The listing of refugee households was based on data from the 2018 socio-economic refugee household survey. The refugee component follows the UDHS-7 protocols for sampling, data collection, analysis and reporting. Results are expected to be published and shared in mid-2023.

The Use of the International Recommendations

The refugee component of the UDHS-7 questionnaire was informed by the IRRS. As an example of inclusion in a national household survey, the entire activity is an example of the recommendations being put into practice. More specifically, different parts of the recommendations were used to inform the development of the survey such as identification of individual refugees within households, and steps to enhance collaboration amongst different stakeholders at national and sub-national level to conduct the survey. In addition, alongside the main report, a dedicated report on the results related to the refugee population will be published.

Conclusion

The case of UDHS-7 presents an important example for the implementation of the IRRS, particularly in the collection of demographic and health data related to refugees and host communities. Lessons learned in the process so far include early engagement with key stakeholders and targeted information campaigns as critical components in the process to ensure good quality data and results. Looking forward, UBOS has plans to include refugees, IDPs and stateless persons in their forthcoming Uganda National Household Survey in 2023 and the forthcoming National Population and Housing Census. These efforts will benefit from guidance of the IRRS, the IRIS and the IROSS and learning from the EGRISS community more widely.

INSTITUTIONAL IMPLEMENTATION

International and regional organisations have also been taking initiatives to implement the recommendations on refugee and IDP statistics. Although these are not examples of national implementation or statistical inclusion in national systems per se, it is important to recognise these institutional efforts as evidence of stakeholders increasingly making use of common definitions and promoting the use of common statistical frameworks.

In 2022, 12 activities and projects led by institutions to support the implementation of the IRRS and IRIS at country, regional, and global levels were identified through the EGRISS annual implementation survey. These include various examples of:

- Assessment and monitoring of the socioeconomic and living conditions of refugees and IDPs, particularly in relation to host communities.

- National and regional workshops to raise awareness and strengthen the capacity of countries implementing the recommendations

- Programming-related initiatives aimed at standardising the inclusion of forcibly displaced persons in data collection, analysis, and dissemination.

Within the first group, several surveys and rapid assessments in different country contexts reportedly used the IRRS or IRIS. As they were not conducted together with national authorities or linked to national statistical systems, they are classified as institutional examples for the purpose of EGRISS' monitoring efforts.

Within the second group, several workshops organised by international partners or regional bodies were conducted. Some are elaborated on in the next chapter, however two examples are selected here to demonstrate the type of activities falling into this category.

1) The **Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA)** hosted a validation workshop for its first *Labour Migration Statistics Report* in early 2022.[23] The event was organised by Statistics Sweden, STATAFRIC and COMESA with the objective to discuss the future of labour migration statistics in the region, align national data with international statistical standards, and share information between Member States. Based on country-demand, the topic of forced displacement was integrated into the programme through a session led by UN-ECA, Djibouti's National Institute of Statistics to introduce the Refugee and IDP statistical recommendations and highlight opportunities to strengthen forced displacement statistics in the region.

2) In November 2022, the **Mexican Government's Secretaria de Gobernación** in collaboration with UNHCR, OHCHR, IOM and JIPS organised a workshop in Mexico City to discuss internal displacement data systems in the country. Bringing together representatives from various central and local authorities, the workshop considered both operational and statistical purposes of data collection and, informed by the IRIS, shaped recommendations for the way forward to improve statistics on internal displacement.

Within the third grouping of 'programming-related initiatives', several activities were identified of institutions using the IRRS or IRIS to shape their programmes and tools. Two activities are highlighted here from the area of education and child protection.

3) Within UNESCO's *Refugee Education Project*, the IRRS have also been used as a framework to compare and assess profiling questions from existing data sources on refugee education and improve data and policy monitoring in response to the Ukraine refugee crisis. UNESCO plans to expand their work on this subject matter and continue efforts towards greater standardisation of refugee education data globally, making use of the IRRS to do so.

4) The recommendations were also crucial to inform the *Integrated Data Ecosystem and Assessment Strengthening (IDEAS)* project jointly implemented by UNICEF, UNHCR, IOM, UNSD, UNESCAP and a selection of country partners. This project aims to identify gaps and improve national data systems, as well as advance data sharing and analysis in the context of migration and displacement, with a particular focus on children on the move. In this regard, the IRRS and IRIS frameworks informed the development of indicators for project implementation in pilot countries Thailand and Jordan. Further work is expected to be implemented in other countries over the next three years.

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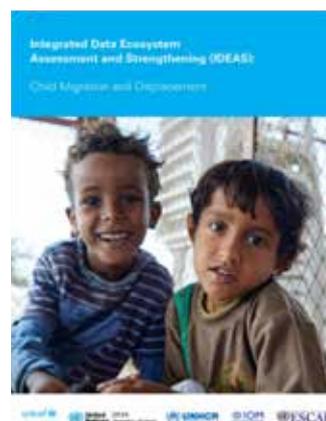
23 See: Labour Migration Statistics Report Developed – Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA)

EGRISS Achievements in 2022

During 2022 EGRISS reached halfway through its third mandate (2020-2024)[24], and what a year it has been! With guidance from its Steering Committee and active engagement from members of its four Technical Subgroups, progress was made in several areas during a busy post-pandemic year. Highlights from the achievements of the group in 2022 are presented in this chapter.

SOMALIA. *Dire needs for internally displaced as deadly drought continues.*
© UNHCR/NABIL NARCH

[24] See the Terms of Reference of the Expert Group on Refugee, IDP, and Statelessness Statistics (EGRISS)

Figure 5: **Overview of Achievements in 2022**

55
Country
members

34
Institutional
members

13
Steering
Committee
members

23
Countries
implementing the
recommendations

15
Regional
and international
institutions implementing
the recommendations

4
Active
workstreams

2
Official country
support requests

10
External publications
showcasing the
international
recommendations

4
EGRISS sessions held
in regional and
international capacity
building events

12
EGRISS sessions
held in advocacy
events

34
Institutions
participating in
EGRISS organized
trainings in 2022

BUILDING CAPACITY THROUGH REGIONAL DIALOGUE

The High-level Panel on Internal Displacement[25] recognised EGRISS as an important platform to coordinate capacity development work for national statistical systems to develop/improve their statistics on forcibly displaced persons. As part of these efforts, a key priority of EGRISS' Technical Subgroup on Capacity Development during 2022 has concerned the delivery of regional workshops and related processes. Two important examples from 2022 have been conducted with countries from the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and the Central American Integration System (SICA).

NIGER
© UNHCR/Romain
PICHON-SINTES

Following the success of a series of webinars in 2021 with Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) Member States, a similar initiative was launched for the ECOWAS region.[26] The first webinar, that took place in January 2022, welcomed representatives from Benin, Burkina Faso, Cabo Verde, Cote d'Ivoire, the Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Liberia, Mali, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Togo to share information about the IRRS and the IRIS, discuss capacity development priorities and initiate the pairing exercise that followed.

The pairing exercise that took place over the following months saw participants 'matched' with members of EGRISS' subgroup to work together on country assessments that identified opportunities and challenges in each country for strengthening official statistics on refugees and/or IDPs. Results from nine countries who completed the exercise were presented in a second webinar in September where highlights included coordination challenges as well as limited technical capacity or financial resources to include refugees and IDPs in national statistical processes.

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25 See: UN Secretary-General's High-Level Panel on Internal Displacement.
26 See: ECOWAS Regional Workshop Series - EGRISS (egrisstats.org).

Organised together by ECOWAS, STATAFRIC, Statistics Sweden and Subgroup co-leads UNHCR, IOM and JIPS the workshop series was integrated into a larger regional cooperation programme on migration statistics.[27] It provided a needed space for peer-to-peer exchange and helped inform priorities for partners in the continuation of this programme in 2023.

In Central America partnership with SICA's Central American Statistical Commission (CENTROESTAD) continued with the organisation of a workshop in Honduras in November 2022. Building on an earlier webinar held in 2021,[28] the workshop brought together interested members of the Technical Group on Migration and Displacement of CENTROESTAD Member States including Honduras, Belize, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Panama, and Dominican Republic.

The event focused on discussing opportunities/challenges associated with implementing the IRIS and provided an opportunity for participants to present results of their country assessments that were prepared for the workshop. Participants also benefited from other countries sharing their experience and lessons learned in this implementation process, which included a presentation from INEGI, Mexico's national statistical office. In this regard, the workshop brought increased attention to the need to produce official statistics on IDPs in Central America enabled peer-to-peer exchange and helped to identify opportunities for collaboration between countries and institutions interested in developing official statistics on this population group. Furthermore, the workshop outcomes and subsequent dialogue have helped to formulate a way forward to enhance this collaboration in the region and beyond through dialogue with the UN Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean. The event was hosted by the National Statistical Institute of Honduras (INE) and was organised by JIPS, IOM and UNHCR together with SICA.

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27 More information on the IGAD workshop available at: IGAD Regional Workshop Series - EGRISS (egrisstats.org)
28 See information on the SICA regional workshop series: SICA Regional Workshop - EGRISS (egrisstats.org)

ENHANCING ACCESSIBILITY THROUGH ONLINE LEARNING

During 2022, EGRISS developed its first E-Learning course – *Introduction to International Recommendations on Refugee and IDP Statistics*[29] - in an effort to make the content of the IRRS and the IRIS more accessible for practitioners around the world and build local capacity to scale up their implementation.

This interactive online course includes five core modules aligned to the main chapters of the IRRS and the IRIS:

1. Introduction to the International Recommendations on Refugee and IDP Statistics
2. Refugee Statistics: Measuring Stocks, Flows, and Characteristics
3. IDP Statistics: Measuring Stocks, Flows, and Characteristics
4. Data Sources Analysis, and Compilation
5. National, Regional, and International Statistical Coordination

Anita - Demographer in NSO

29 See: E-learning - EGRISS (egrisstats.org)

Each module can be undertaken separately and participants who complete all five can take an assessment to receive a certificate from the programme. The course is designed for practitioners working in national statistical offices or relevant line ministries involved in the production of statistics on IDPs and/or refugees. In addition, it is also relevant for anyone interested in learning more about the recommendations to support their efforts to improve official statistics on forcibly displaced persons, including those working in regional bodies, international organisations and civil society organisations. .

The development of the course was completed in 2022 and it will be launched in 2023 alongside a series of facilitated webinars hosted by UNSIAP. Following its official launch, it will be hosted and accessible through UNSIAP's online learning management system. The course itself was developed by members of EGRISS' Technical Subgroup on Capacity Development with significant contributions from JIPS and UNSIAP, and valuable contributions from others including UNHCR, IOM, IDMC, UNICEF, PCBS (Palestinian NSO), SSSU (Ukraine NSO) and DANE (Colombia NSO).
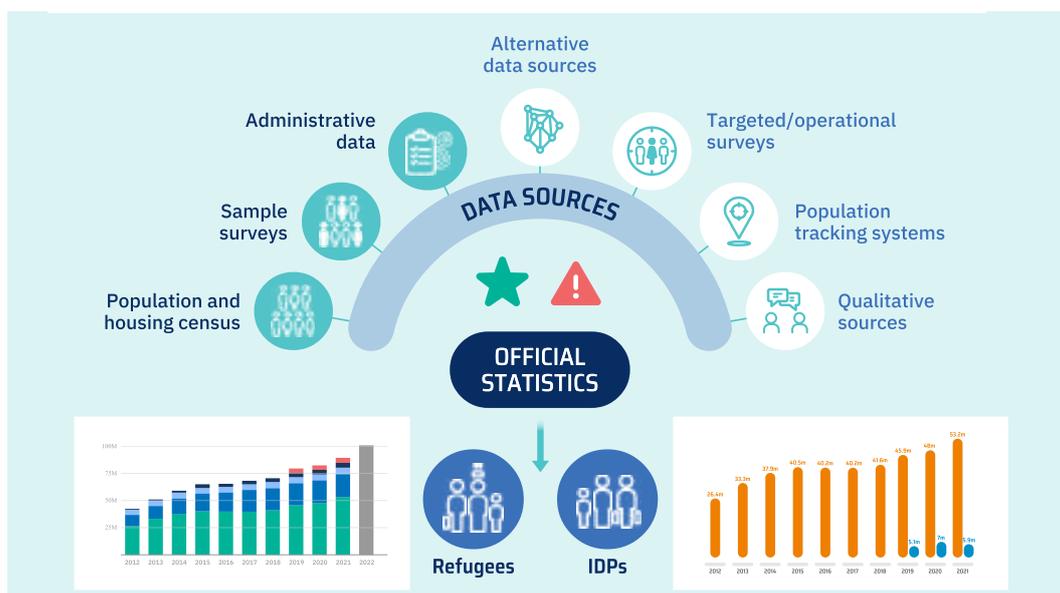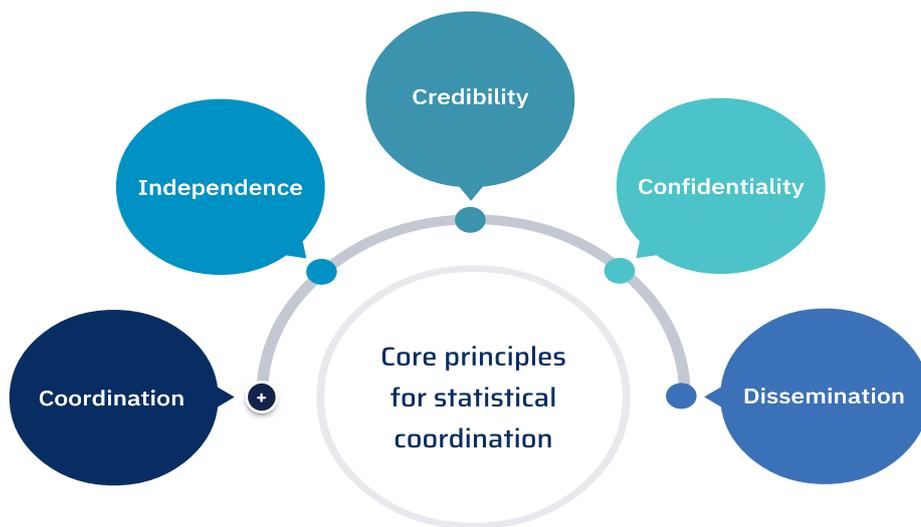
IMPROVING PRACTICAL GUIDANCE TO SUPPORT IMPLEMENTATION

The EGRISS Compilers' Manual[30] aims to complement the IRRS and the IRIS by providing technical and operational guidance on how to collect and disseminate statistics on refugee and IDPs using the recommendations. A first draft was welcomed by the UN Statistical Commission in 2020 as a "living document", however the need to strengthen the publication was soon identified. During 2022, the revision of the Manual was initiated with guidance from the Steering Committee and members of EGRISS' Technical Subgroup on Methodology and Guidance, with leadership from the Joint Data Center.

The Manual has been revised to follow a use-case-based structure to provide concrete guidance to practitioners using specific data sources or embarking on related processes. It includes seven use-cases (see box below), each one emphasising specific guidance concerning the inclusion of refugees and/or IDPs. The use-cases are accompanied by insights from specific country experiences identified or directly volunteered by EGRISS members.

Use Cases in the Revised Version of the EGRISS Compilers' Manual

A: Including refugees or IDPs in a population census

B: Including refugees in a sample survey of the of the national population, or running a stand-alone survey of refugees

C: Including IDPs in a sample survey of the national populations, or running a standalone survey of IDPs

D: Using Governments administrative data

E: Sources of operational data from humanitarian organisations

F: Using non-traditional data sources

G: Coordinating and planning refugee and IDP statistics in a national statistical system

During the first quarter of 2023, the draft Compilers' Manual will undergo an EGRISS-wide review before being prepared for publication and further dissemination.

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30 See: Compilers' Manual - EGRISS (egrisstats.org)

PROVIDING TECHNICAL SUPPORT TO COUNTRIES

During 2022, the EGRISS continued to provide technical support to requests received in 2021 – including Ukraine and Somalia – and responded to new requests received from Kurdistan Region of Iraq and Djibouti in collaboration with members of Subgroup 2.

During the first weeks of the year, support to Ukraine included advice to the State Statistics Service of Ukraine and members of the IDP data working group as they developed an analytical paper comparing existing IDP statistics to the standards set forth in IRIS in order to shape a roadmap for improvement of IDP statistics in the country. Following the invasion in February, dramatic change in security situation and priorities of different stakeholders, some discussions took place to explore ways to continue the collaboration, however by and large the engagement was interrupted and has not been reinitiated.

In December 2021, a request for support was submitted by the Kurdistan Region Statistics Office (KRSO) in late 2021 in relation to the Iraq Household and Socio-Economic Survey. During the first quarter of 2022 support was provided by EGRISS partners to review the questionnaire with a view to aligning it with recommendations from the IRRS and the IRIS. Implementation of the survey has since been delayed, however EGRISS partners stand ready to support further as needed. Furthermore, KRSO also presented a brief overview of EGRISS work and the IRRS/IRIS statistical recommendations during a workshop on Migration Data for national authorities in Baghdad, hosted by IOM in cooperation with the European Union on the 19-21 April 2022.[31]

In June 2022, Djibouti requested EGRISS support for the implementation of the IRRS and IRIS through their 3rd Population and Housing Census planned for 2023 and to provide broader guidance on opportunities to improve forced displacement statistics in the country with a view to enhance their inclusion in national development plans. A preliminary discussion was held with members of Subgroup 2 to explore ways in which EGRISS support could develop and an initial mapping of different statistical activities in the country was undertaken. Dialogue continues into 2023.

Most concrete in 2022 was the support provided to Somalia following the initial request received in 2021 from the Somalia National Bureau of Statistics (SNBS) to implement the IRIS as part of the National Strategy for the Development of Statistics (NSDS) 2018-2023 – see box for more details[32]

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[31] See more on the Baghdad workshop organised by IOM and the EU here.

[32] For the Nairobi workshop mentioned: Read more about the workshop here, including access to the workshop report: Workshop to support the implementation of the IRIS in Somalia - EGRISS % % % (egrisstats.org) and https://www.jips.org/news/improving-official-statistics-on-internal-displacement-in-somalia-multi-stakeholder-workshop-key-recommendations/

SUPPORTING AN IDP STATISTICS SECTORAL STRATEGY IN SOMALIA

Background

High levels of poverty, political instability, conflict, insecurity, and recurrent natural disasters all contribute to continuous threats to the lives and livelihoods of the Somali people. Somalia was without a de facto government for many years, however, in the last decade, a new federal government was established and presidential and parliamentary elections were conducted in August 2022, with a peaceful transition of power.

A key feature of Somalia throughout these challenging decades is the high levels of displacement. While some displaced people have fled to neighbouring countries, most have remained within the borders of Somalia, becoming IDPs who often settle in camps in the outskirts of urban centres. While humanitarian actors have estimated the total number of IDPs, most of these estimates are not produced following statistical best practices, in line with the UN Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics.

The Somalia National Bureau of Statistics (SNBS) is the agency in charge of national statistics in Somalia. As one of the countries in the world with the highest number of IDPs, Somalia has, through the SNBS, embarked upon integrating the IRIS in their activities by developing an IDP Statistics Sector Plan.

Developing an IDP Statistics Sector Plan

In May 2021, the SNBS requested EGRISS' support to help improve the availability and robustness of data on IDPs. On behalf of EGRISS, JIPS leads the support to SNBS, centred on developing a Sector Plan for IDP statistics. Given that SNBS is a very young institution and that little official data on IDPs existed, SNBS chose to formulate a staged approach to develop the plan. A first step was to conduct a mapping exercise of existing relevant data sources on IDPs in Somalia, both from government and humanitarian sources. In parallel, a workshop was held in August 2022 in Nairobi with international actors working on the topic. A key outcome of these processes was a common understanding of the limitations of operational

data sources for official statistics and the need to integrate identification of internal displacement into national household surveys run by the SNBS. The workshop was also an important step to raise awareness amongst international partners working on displacement data in Somalia about the IRIS and SNBS' plans.

Based on these results, a preliminary IDP Statistics Sector Plan has been drafted by SNBS with support from JIPS. The National Development Plan and the National Durable Solutions Strategy have been used as guides, as have international frameworks such as the Sustainable Development Goals. The draft plan covers coordination, legal and statistical frameworks, capacity building and, lastly, a costed implementation plan. Consultations, for example with the Ministry of Planning, have been conducted.

In early 2023, the plan will be further consulted and validated, with implementation expected to start when funds become available. Key objectives of the plan will be the establishment of an IDP sampling frame and inclusion of IDP identification in relevant major household surveys. This will facilitate regular production of both estimates of the number of IDPs and regular socio-economic statistics on IDPs, ideally in time to inform the next National Development Plan from 2025. Coordination through a newly established Technical Working Group on Migration and Displacement Data will also be important.

Use of IRIS

The IRIS have provided institutional and technical guidance on building a system for IDP statistics in Somalia. Approaches to coordination as well as policy and statistical frameworks in the IDP statistics Sector Plan have been directly informed by the IRIS. In addition, the IRIS provides guidance on technical issues such as IDP identification in data collection exercises and the prioritisation of indicators. The IRIS have also been a very useful guide in discussions with international and national stakeholders on their various roles and responsibilities in this process: to support the national statistical system, coordinated by SNBS.

Conclusion

Although support is ongoing, several emerging lessons can already be identified:

- Identifying relevant stakeholders and their domain of authority is a critical first step for IRIS implementation at the country level.
- Developing capacities and knowledge with government entities and international stakeholders is key to ensure a common understanding of the IRIS and the distinction between official statistics and operational data.
- Developing questions to identify IDPs in regular surveys helps mainstream forced displacement in official statistics.
- Aligning IDP indicator development with SDG indicators reduced the burden of additional data collection.
- Ensuring linkages, substantively and in terms of sequencing, with broader development processes is critical.

DEVELOPING RECOMMENDATIONS ON STATELESSNESS STATISTICS

Since the incorporation of statelessness statistics into EGRISS' terms of reference in December 2021, the Expert Group has ramped up efforts to develop a set of international recommendations on statelessness statistics (IROSS), building on work that had been initiated in 2019. The IROSS builds on growing political momentum concerning stateless persons (including the commitment to "leave no one behind" in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,[33] UNHCR's #IBelong Campaign to End Statelessness,[34] and the associated High-level Segment on Statelessness,[35]) and harnesses this growing interest to support countries produce better quality and more comparable statistics on statelessness.

The IROSS aim to facilitate the improvement of national responses to statelessness by helping countries to produce stronger evidence-based policies that identify durable solutions and can improve the lives and well-being of stateless persons and meet their protection needs. It also aims to enhance global policy development and the international community's support of national responses that are informed by more reliable and harmonised data. It is a response to some of the significant data gaps and challenges that currently impede statelessness statistics.[36]

During 2022, the EGRISS submitted a Report[37] to the 53rd session of the UN Statistical Commission concerning the development of the IROSS, seeking guidance on its completion. The guidance received[38] focused on the need to address three main issues:

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33 See: The Sustainable Development Agenda - United Nations Sustainable Development
34 See: UNHCR's #IBelong Campaign
35 See: High-Level Segment On Statelessness | Resources (unhcr.org)
36 See: "UNHCR Statistical Reporting on Statelessness" at UNHCR
37 See: 2022-10-StatelessnessStats-E.pdf (un.org)
38 See: 2022-41-FinalReport-E.pdf (un.org)

- Clarify how to operationalise the statistical framework.

- Elaborate on how data sources and other techniques should be used.

- Advise on capacity development needs and improvements to statistical coordination

This feedback informed the agenda of the statelessness subgroup meeting which was organised by EGRISS to work together with members (including 15 countries) to agree on how to finalise the recommendations in June 2022.[39]

Meeting deliberations spurred on revisions to finalise the IROSS, and following an internal EGRISS review, the IROSS underwent a formal Global Consultation process - facilitated by the UN Statistical Division in October-November 2022. The purpose of the Global Consultation was to elicit the response of the wider statistical community, civil society, and regional and international bodies on the relevance, comprehensiveness, and coverage of the recommendations. Efforts were made through webinars organised by UNESCAP[40], presentations at the African Union Commission's 14th Committee of Director Generals of National Statistical Offices[41] and meetings with civil society partners to increase participation in the consultation process and encourage engagement of countries and stakeholders in the process.

In total, 38 responses to the Global Consultation were received, including from 31 countries, most of whom had not already been engaged in the process, demonstrating the relevance of the recommendations to the global statistical audience. Feedback received from the Global Consultation was addressed prior to the final submission of the IROSS in January 2023, ahead of its expected endorsement at the 54th Statistical Commission in March 2023.[42]

The finalised draft of the recommendations follows a similar structure to the IRRS and IRIS and includes the following:

- Legal framework for statelessness;

- Definition of statelessness for the purpose of statistical measurement;

- List of basic classificatory variables for categorisation;

- List of basic data tabulations and indicators;

- Assessment of data sources, data collection methods and ways to improve them;

- Analysis of the characteristics of stateless persons; and

- Recommendations to improve statistical coordination and capacity development at the national, regional and international levels.

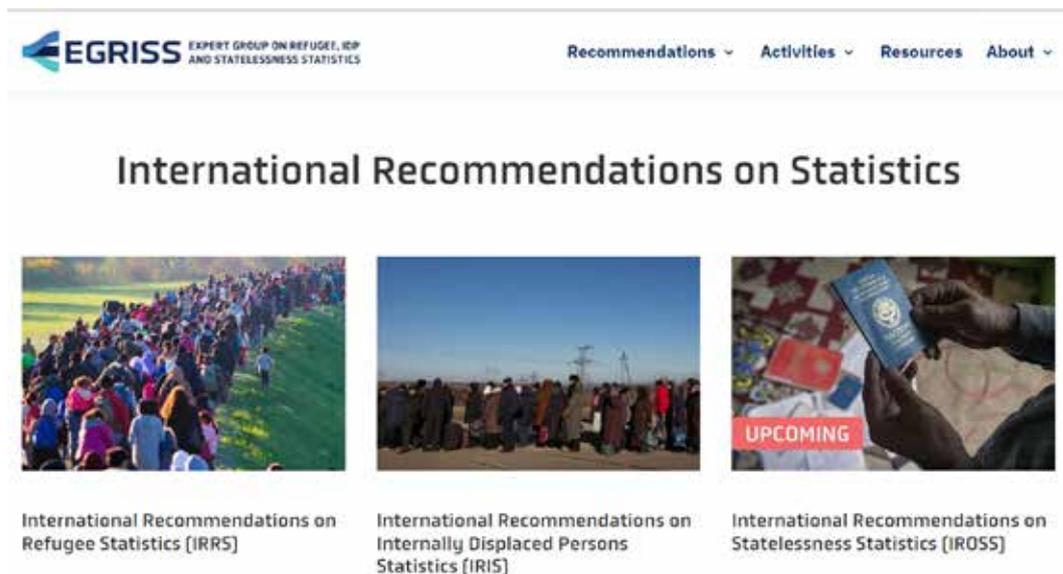**39** See: IROSS Meeting Report - EGRISS (egrisstats.org)
40 See: Asia-Pacific Stats Café Series: Developing Statistical Recommendations on Statelessness: Launching a Global Consultation | ESCAP (unescap.org)
41 Report will soon be online
42 See: 2023-22-EGRISS-E.pdf (un.org)

SHARING EXPERIENCES AND SPREADING THE WORD

Promotion and dissemination of the recommendations is a cornerstone of EGRISS' work as it is important to ensure the group's outputs reach the right people, the right institutions, around the world. In 2022, EGRISS launched its new website (www.egrisstats.org) providing a platform to enhance the accessibility of tools and guidance produced by the group as well as regular updates about ongoing activities. Its newsletter has been redesigned and is published quarterly, disseminated amongst all EGRISS members and other stakeholders. An introductory video about EGRISS has also been developed by IDMC for the All-Members Meeting, which will be incorporated into future relevant activities.

In addition, group members invested in advocacy and awareness raising efforts through participating in or organising different processes and events throughout the year at national, regional, and global levels. Most often, these events aim to facilitate sharing of country experiences as a way to meaningfully advocate for the improvement of official statistics on forcibly displaced and stateless populations. Whilst it can be difficult to measure the impact of awareness raising efforts, below are a selection of EGRISS achievements in 2022 demonstrated through key events and publications.

2022 HIGHLIGHTS: EVENTS THAT SHOWCASED OR INCLUDED WORK OF EGRISS

UN Statistical Commission

In February 2022, EGRISS organised a UN Statistical Commission virtual side event which showcased experiences from Italy, Kenya, Mexico, and Sweden and provided a platform for peer-to-peer exchange with a wider group of participants.

See: UN Statistical Commission Side Event - EGRISS (egrisstats.org)

Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators (IAEG-SDGs)

EGRISS was included in both meetings of the IAEG-SDGs in 2022. In June, Djibouti's National Institute of Statistics and the Joint Data Centre shared their experience using the IRRS and IRIS. In October, EGRISS (represented by JDC) was invited to share new tools to facilitate disaggregation of SDG indicators by migratory status.

See: The 13th Meeting of the IAEG-SDGs - EGRISS (egrisstats.org) and here: Events — SDG Indicators (un.org)

UN ESCAP 8th Committee on Statistics

In August 2022, EGRISS organised a side event for the 8th Committee on Statistics of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP). Presenters from Germany, the Kurdistan Region of Iraq, and the Philippines shared their experiences implementing the recommendations.

See: EGRISS side event at the 8th Session of the UNESCAP Committee on Statistics - EGRISS (egrisstats.org)

UNECE Group of Experts on Migration Statistics

In October, EGRISS participated alongside the Italian National Institute of Statistics (ISTAT) at the UNECE meeting of the Group of Experts on Migration Statistics. This meeting served as an opportunity to introduce the IRRS.

See: UNECE Group of Experts on Migration Statistics - EGRISS (egrisstats.org)

Expert Group on Migration Statistics Technical Meeting

The EGM held its Technical Meeting on Indicators and Operationalisation of the Conceptual Framework of International Migration Statistics in Rabat, Morocco from 20-22 June 2022. The meeting focused on shaping the list of core and additional migration indicators (MI) to be included in the recommendations. UNHCR took this opportunity to ensure the IRRS are properly reflected in this process – including refugees/asylum seekers as a core or additional topic where relevant.

See: Expert Group on Migration Statistics Technical Meeting - EGRISS (egrisstats.org)

PHILIPPINES. *Philippines. Sama Bajau birth registration project aims to end statelessness.*
© UNHCR/MARTIN SAN DIEGO

2022 HIGHLIGHTS: PUBLICATION/PROCESSES INTEGRATING EGRISS RECOMMENDATIONS

Global Compact on Refugees (GCR) – Indicator Framework 2022

This technical report developed by UNHCR is a follow-up to the GCR Indicator Report released in 2021. EGRISS supported the development of the publication through reviewing metadata and highlighting synergies with the IRRS.

See: Global Compact on Refugees - Indicator Framework 2022 - EGRISS (egrisstats.org)

Report of the Special Rapporteur on the Human Rights of IDPs

This report was published at the end of the Special Rapporteur Cecilia Jimenez-Damary's six-year tenure. In describes the International Recommendations on IDP Statistics (IRIS) as a guiding tool to improve statistics on IDPs encourages states to make use of them.

See: Report of the Special Rapporteur on the human rights of internally displaced persons - EGRISS (egrisstats.org)

UN Secretary General's Action Agenda on Internal Displacement

In June 2022, the UN Secretary General's Action Agenda on Internal Displacement was published, following up on the report of the High-Level Panel in Internal Displacement to cement commitments of the UN in this area. Commitment 12 underlines that support provided to states to improve data on displacement should be "in line with the International Recommendation on IDP Statistics."

See: Secretary-General's Action Agenda on Internal Displacement - EGRISS (egrisstats.org)

Reflections from the Secretariat

Supporting the EGRISS from within the Secretariat is a privilege, but it is also sometimes a complicated task surrounded by high expectations, competing priorities and – all too often – political instability. When life is complicated, it is often advisable to simplify things, therefore here are some core reflections from the Secretariat at the end of a busy year, summarised by three words: productivity, progress and promise.

A Year of Productivity

2022 was a very productive year for the EGRISS. A number of activities that were conceptualised, planned or piloted in 2021 were developed collaboratively in 2022. This includes the group's first dedicated website, an e-learning course on the IRRS and IRIS, regional workshops aimed at awareness raising and capacity development, the long-awaited revision of the Compilers' Manual, and empirical work to advance efforts to statistically measure the end of displacement.

Productivity was high also in our work on statelessness statistics following Covid-related delays in 2020-2021, with a significant revision of the draft IROSS following a group meeting during the summer to address guidance received from the UN Statistical Commission's 53rd session.

The Secretariat was also able to establish a level of capacity in 2022 that it never had before. Now, a well-established team is able to support an even more productive 2023.

A Year of Progress

Taking a step back to view 2022 with greater perspective, compared to when the group was established significant progress is clearly visible. First, our membership continues to be enriched with new countries and institutions signing up. Although there are a group of key members at its core who continue to push the agenda forward, the growing membership of the expert group (including now good coverage across multiple regions) brings new energy and ideas and serves to confirm the group's broad and persistent relevance.

Second, progress is tangible also when considering the dialogue amongst group members. Whilst discussions back in the early years focused on key concepts and analytical questions – how to statistically define a refugee vis a vis other people crossing international borders? Which of the SDG indicators are most significant for refugees and IDPs? How should key data sources be adapted and improved? – conversations now circle around experience gained from putting the recommendations into practice. Partners share their learning from piloting questionnaires, from training colleagues on the recommendations, and from developing data sharing agreements to access data from other national institutions. From trying to understand how things are supposed to work to learning from direct application and experimentation, EGRISS has arguably grown from infancy to adolescence.

A Year of Promise

Now fully transformed into a community of practice, the momentum within and beyond the EGRISS to apply the IRRS and IRIS has become undeniable. With this in mind, 2022 can also be described as a year of promise.

As the group's work becomes more and more recognised within the humanitarian, development and statistical communities, we have been able to truly appreciate the huge innovation that statistical recommendations on refugees and IDPs have been. Their mere existence was a first and the support they have from countries adds to their value. Looking forward, the statelessness recommendations will likely follow in the footsteps of the IRRS and IRIS.

The momentum we see to implement the refugee and IDP recommendations is promising, including country level activities and efforts from international and regional institutions. We have provided a snapshot of this progress in this report and its previous edition, and from now on will also start to monitor uses of the IROSS. Looking forward into 2023, an encouraging number of 35-40 different implementation examples have already been identified.

Moreover, the recognition of the group's efforts in other circles is also promising with 2022 having sown the seeds for key areas of growth for forced displacement and statelessness statistics. We have seen the integration of forced displacement into regional investments in migration statistics - a shift that was also mirrored in the recent International Forum on Migration Statistics. Clear linkages in global policy dialogue have also become more tangible, for example through efforts to improve

monitoring of the Global Compact on Refugees and the focus on statistical inclusion during the High Commissioners' Dialogue on Protection which will likely continue in the lead up to this year's Global Refugee Forum. Another example comes from the work of the UN Office of the Special Advisor on Solutions to Internal Displacement as momentum builds around the Secretary General's Action Agenda on Internal Displacement.

For the Secretariat, most promising of all is the clear support voiced by country members at our meeting in December – and more recently reiterated by the UN Statistical Commission itself – for a continuation of the group's mandate beyond 2024. The group remains relevant and brings added value to countries working on improving national statistics on refugees, IDPs and stateless persons.

AFGHANISTAN. *UNHCR provides
earthquake-resilient houses for
families in Paktika.*
© UNHCR/OXYGEN FILM STUDIO (AFG)

Next Steps and Priorities for 2023

Looking forward to 2023, the core focus areas of the Expert Group on Refugee, IDP and Statelessness Statistics (EGRISS) include:

- **Secure endorsement of the International Recommendations on Statelessness Statistics (IROSS) from the UN Statistical Commission**. Following this EGRISS will develop a plan to support their implementation pending available resources.

- **Advance engagement through existing regional platforms and networks to raise awareness, share experiences and develop capacity** of key stakeholders with the aim of strengthening the inclusion of refugees and IDPs (and stateless persons) in national statistical systems. Facilitating cross-regional learning and peer-to-peer exchange will also be enabled.

- **Publish the revised Compilers' Manual and launch the new E-learning** in order to support statistical professionals to make use of the recommendations in their work and ensure greater accessibility of the IRRS and IRIS. Other tools and publications, such as EGRISS website and newsletters, also serve this objective on information sharing and accessibility.

- **Better target advocacy and awareness raising activities** with the explicit ambition to advance implementation of the recommendations, share good practices and lessons learnt, and showcase the use of statistics to improve national policy and response. The Global Refugee Forum and UN World Data Forum will be important events in this regard.

- **Enhance provision of technical support for requesting countries**, including facilitating expert deployments where necessary and feasible and remote support. This work must complement bilateral support activities of many

EGRISS members and should take into consideration different population groups within the scope of the IRRS and the IRIS (and the future IROSS).

- **Improve monitoring of implementation of the recommendations** and broader statistical inclusion efforts where feasible, in order to keep track of progress, facilitate peer-to-peer learning and help inform plans of the Expert Group.

- **Continue to ensure methodological advancement** through empirical analysis, technical assessment and consensus building with a particular focus on the statistical measure to facilitate taking IDPs out of the national stock and developing guidance on standardised identification questions to use in different data sources.

- **Capitalise on synergies with broader statistical priorities** such as migration statistics, the SDGs, civil registration and vital statistics, the 2020 census round, improvements to household surveys, through partnerships and technical collaboration with key stakeholders, groups and processes. Relevant contributions and engagement with processes in the humanitarian/development space should also be enhanced (e.g. implementation of the SG's Action Agenda on Internal Displacement).

To achieve these, EGRISS will also need to invest in enabling factors, including:

- **Maintain a strong and engaged membership** of country representatives and international organisations who are at the centre of all the EGRISS achievements, ensuring the relevance, quality and ownership over joint activities and deliverables. Translation of key publications and tools will be important in this regard.

- **Secure financial resources**, to complement existing resources from the European Commission (channeled through the WB-UNHCR Joint Data Center) and UNHCR, primarily to enable direct country support, capacity development priorities and roll out of the IROSS. Funds to maintain the EGRISS Secretariat to effectively coordinate the group's activities are also necessary.

- **Strengthen partnerships** with new and existing counterparts, particularly within the statistical community and across the humanitarian, development and peace nexus at regional and country level, to support achievements in prioritised areas, further capacity development and implementation of the recommendations.

EGRISS

EXPERT GROUP ON REFUGEE, IDP
AND STATELESSNESS STATISTICS