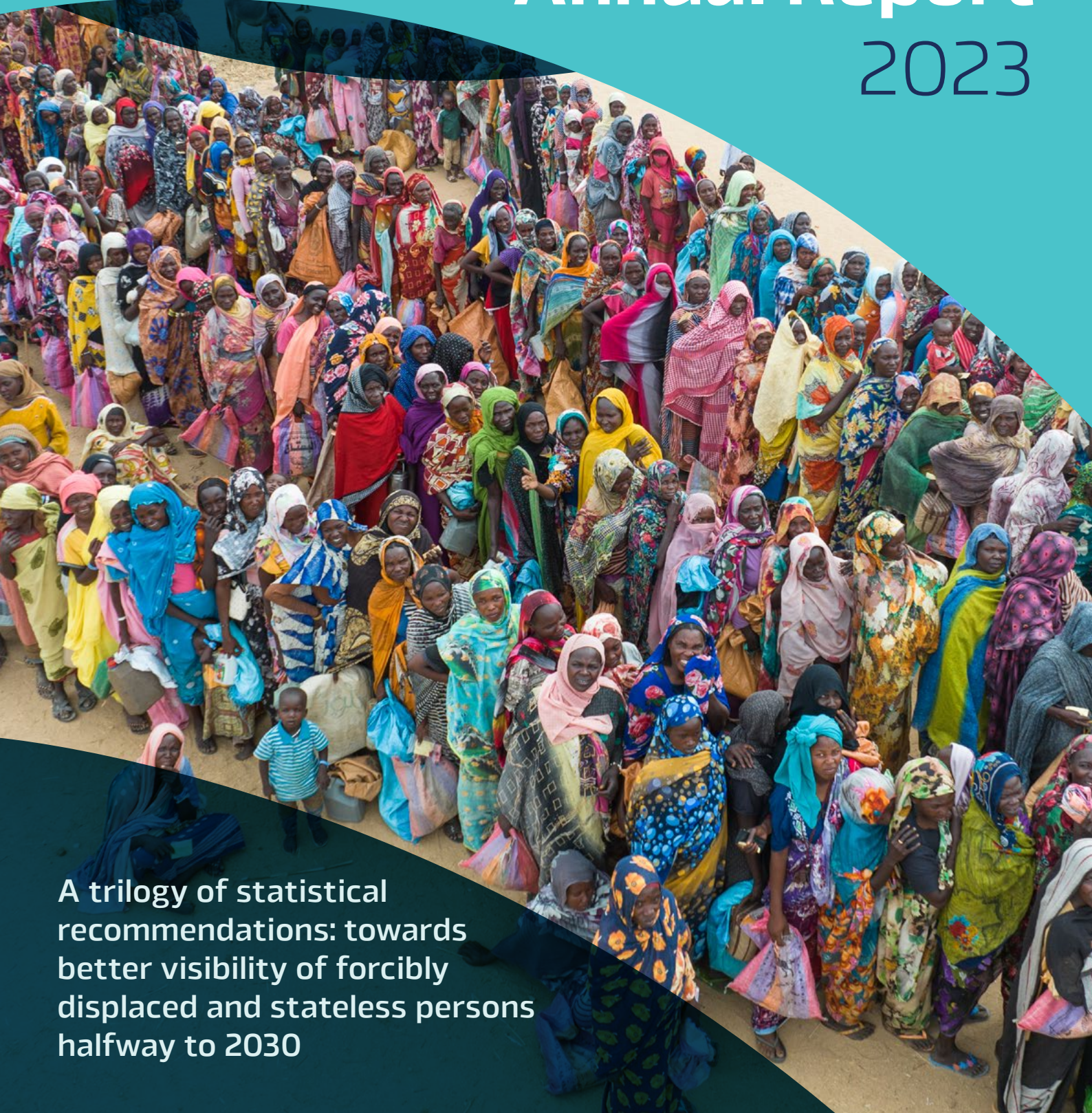


EGRISS Annual Report 2023



A trilogy of statistical
recommendations: towards
better visibility of forcibly
displaced and stateless persons
halfway to 2030

AFGHANISTAN. *UNHCR help to
create thriving village for formerly
displaced Afghans*
21 March, 2023.
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PRODUCTION





Acknowledgements

The 2023 Annual Report of the Expert Group on Refugee, IDP and Statelessness Statistics (EGRISS) is the result of the collaborative efforts of the EGRISS community. Words of appreciation are extended to members and partners who supported the activities described throughout.

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Foreword

A trilogy of statistical recommendations: towards better visibility of forcibly displaced and stateless halfway to 2030

2023 closed with the second Global Refugee Forum held five years after the UN General Assembly endorsed the Global Compact on Refugees. Embodying the commitment to pursue more inclusive policies, systems, and societies to improve the lives of refugees and stateless persons, the attention bestowed on the added value of reliable national statistics on these populations was a natural fit.

Momentum also grew in 2023 through the UN Secretary General's Action Agenda on Internal Displacement and the efforts of the UN Special Adviser on Solutions to Internal Displacement, including on the continued data challenges. The relevance of the International Recommendations on IDP Statistics received renewed attention in this context.

2023, however, also marked the halfway point in the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda and the daunting recognition that the world is at risk of not meeting the stated goals or the commitment to leave no one behind. New and continued displacement crises in and around Afghanistan, Gaza, Sudan, Ukraine, and Venezuela, among others, made 2023 a daunting year for affected communities and a setback for the forced displacement agenda.

This combination of global realities speaks to the relevance and added value of the Expert Group on Refugee, IDP and Statelessness Statistics (EGRISS) – a platform that brings countries and international partners together to improve national statistics on forcibly displaced and stateless people. Representing the wider membership and Steering Committee, we are delighted too hereby introduce the Group's third Annual Report.

Last year was a productive year for EGRISS, full of concrete achievements. It saw the endorsement of International Recommendations on Statelessness Statistics (IROSS) at the UN Statistical Commission, the publication of a revised Compilers' Manual on Forced Displacement Statistics and the launch of a new E-learning

that reached well over 400 practitioners. 2023 also saw the official translations of the Refugee and IDP Recommendations into French, Spanish, Arabic and Russian thanks to the leadership of Eurostat, which worked in collaboration with several experts to ensure the quality of the final publications.

Organisationally, 2023 witnessed new members joining the group. The UN Development Programme (UNDP) welcomes the collaboration with EGRISS and its members and sees its membership as a key step forward to ensure that all refugees, IDPs and stateless persons are counted, included, and can contribute towards solutions. Last year also saw the regionalization of EGRISS' engagement strategies, which resulted in concrete progress in Latin America and the Caribbean as well as in several other planned initiatives in other regions that are expected to bear fruit in 2024.

Methodologically, EGRISS launched its first two methodological papers to help advance topical debates and address common challenges identified by practitioners. These included a paper on identifying refugees and IDPs in household survey instruments, and another on measuring vulnerabilities of internally displaced persons as a way to statistically measure the "end" of displacement.

In addition, EGRISS' efforts to systematise its approach to monitor global progress on how national statistical systems are producing data on forced displacement and statelessness – including through the use of the International Statistical Recommendations – has further underlined the unique role and added value of the group. The 2023 results of the Global Annual Inclusion (GAIN) Survey provide the international community with a concrete baseline against which to measure progress towards statistical inclusion in years to come. From the perspective of the Kurdistan Region of Iraq which hosts large populations of both refugees and internally displaced, we look forward to sharing our own progress to strengthen statistical inclusion informed by the IRRS and IRIS.

All of these achievements and more are described and analysed in this report. As you read through it, we encourage partners who are not yet engaged but who can contribute to this agenda in their specific national, regional, or international contexts, to take the required steps to get involved. EGRISS is an inclusive group always welcoming new members committed to its common goal. Join us!



Serwan Mohamed

Deputy Minister of Planning
& President of the Kurdistan
Regional Statistical Office



Shoko Noda

Assistant Secretary-General,
Assistant Administrator and
Director of the Crisis Bureau

United Nations Development
Programme (UNDP)



CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC. *Sudanese civilians and Central African returnees seek refuge from fighting in Sudan*
24 May, 2023
© UNHCR/XAVIER BOURGOIS

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Introduction

2023 marks halfway through the era of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, hosted the world's second Global Refugee Forum, and witnessed the completion of the first full year of work for the UN's Special Advisor on Solutions to Internal Displacement. It was a year that also – again – saw increasing global levels of refugees, IDPs and stateless persons and witnessed both new and continuing displacement crises in many parts of the world.¹ Concerning development data more specifically, 2023 hosted the second International Forum on Migration Statistics and the fourth UN World Data Forum, both of which demonstrated the persistent challenges and continued need to work on improving nationally produced statistics on forced displacement and statelessness.

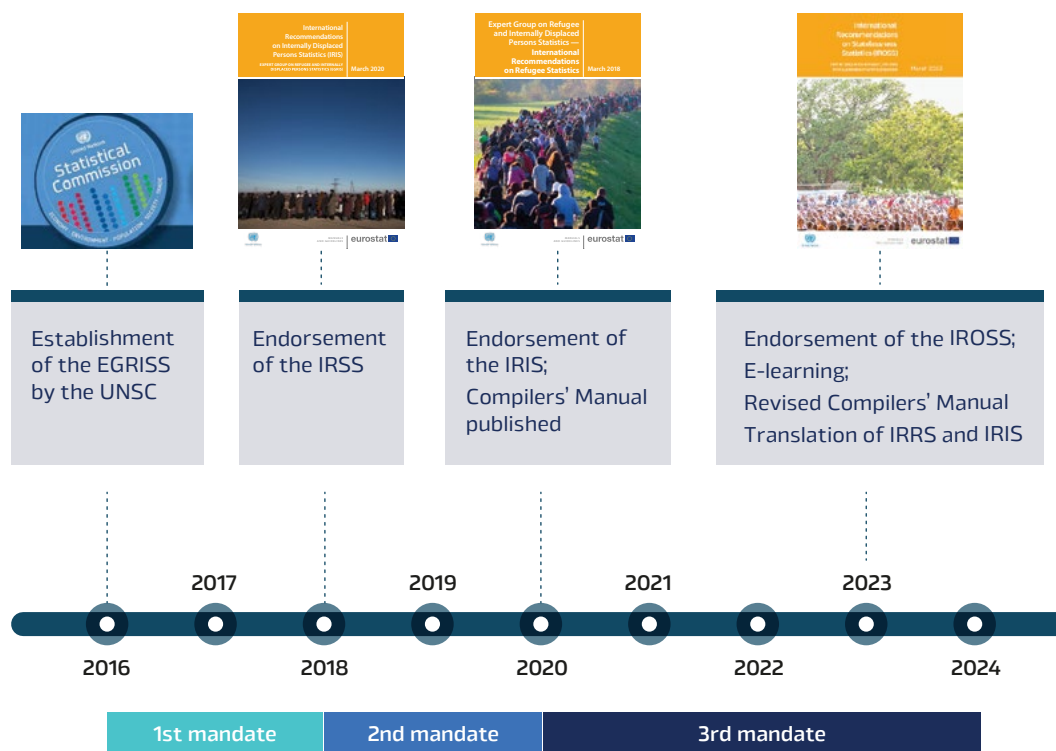
During the same year, the Expert Group on Refugee, IDP, and Statelessness Statistics (EGRISS) has made significant progress in achieving its core objective to improve official statistics on forced displacement and statelessness. This Annual Report, the third publication in the series, seeks to summarise the Group's accomplishments and reflect on progress made.

Seven years after its establishment by the UN Statistical Commission (UNSC) in 2016, the Expert Group continued to work with its growing membership – reaching 57 country members and 36 international and regional organisations during 2023 – to promote and support the implementation of the International Recommendations on Refugee Statistics (IRRS) and the International Recommendations on IDP Statistics (IRIS). Through a first E-Learning course, a revised Compilers' Manual, and official translations of the International Recommendations, EGRISS members have worked together to make available critical resources that support countries to make use of the Recommendations in practice. In addition, via a range of different events, publications, and communications activities, EGRISS has created different platforms to facilitate peer-to-peer exchange and learning between experienced practitioners working in national, regional, and international organisations.

¹ See: [UNHCR Global Trends](#).

Significantly, 2023 also saw the endorsement of the International Recommendations on Statelessness Statistics (IROSS) at the 54th UN Statistical Commission – representing the third set of statistical recommendations produced by EGRISS – alongside efforts made to promote and disseminate them.

Figure 1: **Timeline of key achievements for EGRISS**



Approaching the final year of the Group's current mandate in 2024, and with the expectation of an extension, focus has been on harvesting momentum through increased engagement at the regional level now extending to all regions of the globe, improved monitoring systems to be able to track progress and consolidating lessons learnt to enable further collective progress implementing the IRRS, IRIS, and IROSS to strengthen available forced displacement and statelessness statistics. This Report summarises the work undertaken in 2023, showcases a selection of country case studies, and reflects on experience of the year in coordinating these efforts that have helped outline priorities for 2024.

EGRISS Overview

Figure 2: **EGRISS overview**

What?

Expert Group mandated by the UN Statistical Commission (UNSC).

Why?

Improving national statistics on forced displacement and statelessness.

When?

Established in 2016 and now under its third mandate - spanning 2020-2024. Read the Group's Terms of Reference [here](#).

Where

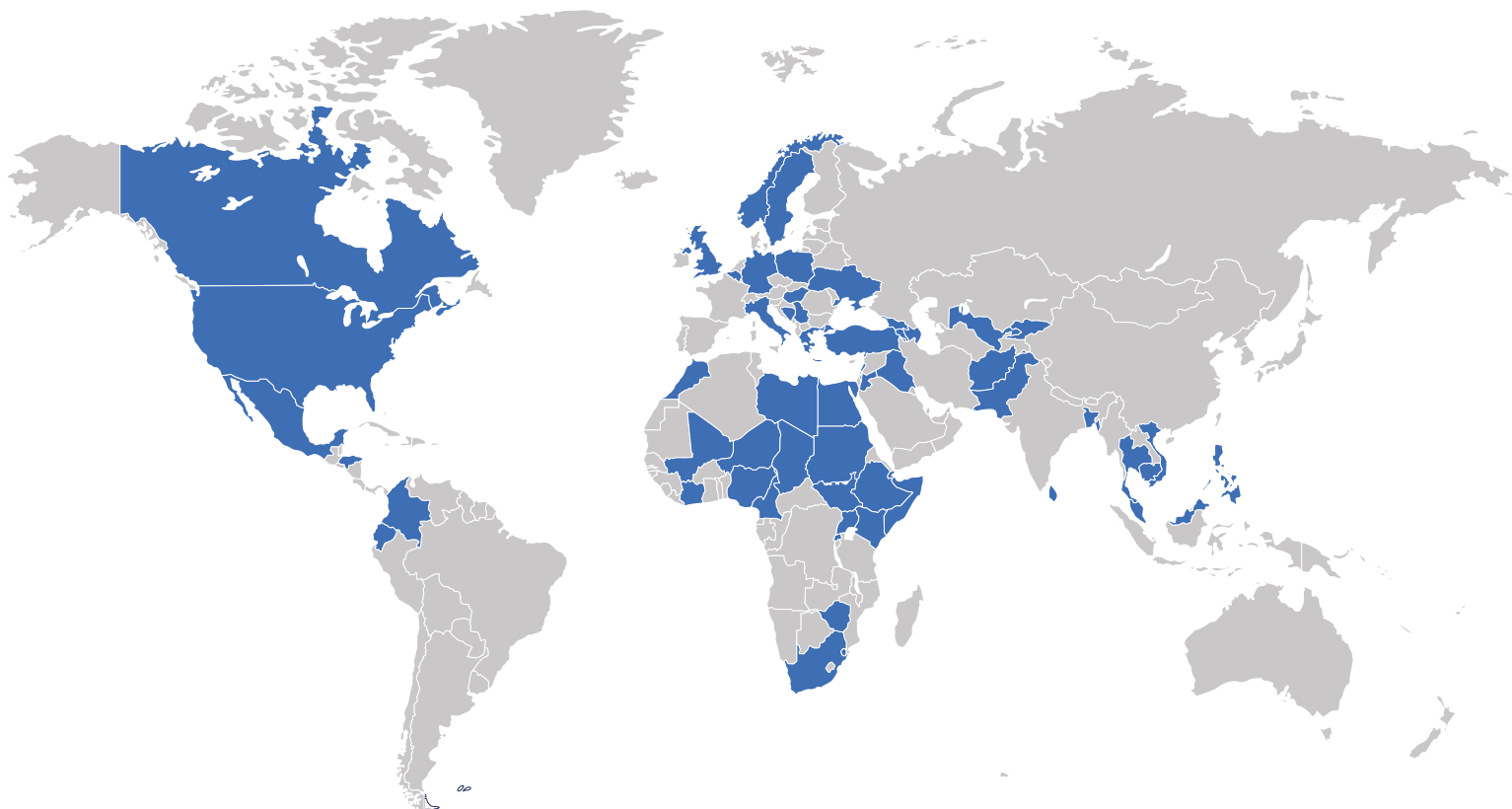
Global, with focus on countries affected by forced displacement and statelessness.

Who?

Multi-stakeholder group including 57 countries and 36 international and regional organisations as of December 2023. During the year, UNDP and Democratic Republic of Congo joined the membership.



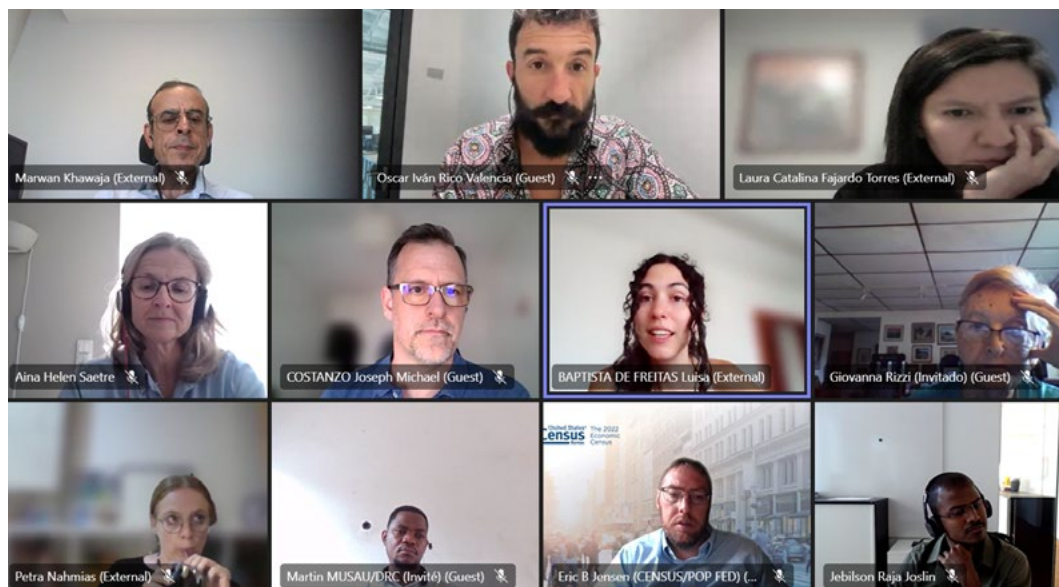
Figure 3: **EGRISS country membership map in 2023**



EGRISS members' collaboration is built around dynamic platforms. Technical Subgroups (TSG) focus on concrete tasks and deliverables, bringing members together around common workplans.

During 2023, TSGs were restructured resulting in two core groups: TSG 1 on 'Regional Engagement & Capacity Development' and TSG 2 on 'Methodological Research & Guidance Development'. TSG 1 is co-lead by the Joint IDP Profiling Service (JIPS), IOM and UNHCR, whilst TSG 2 is co-led by the Joint Data Centre (JDC) and the Somalia National Bureau of Statistics. Both groups are further sub-divided around task teams that focus on specific regions, research questions or deliverables. Following the finalization of the IROSS, the previously existing Stateless Statistics Subgroup was disbanded, and IROSS-related activities were integrated into other workstreams.

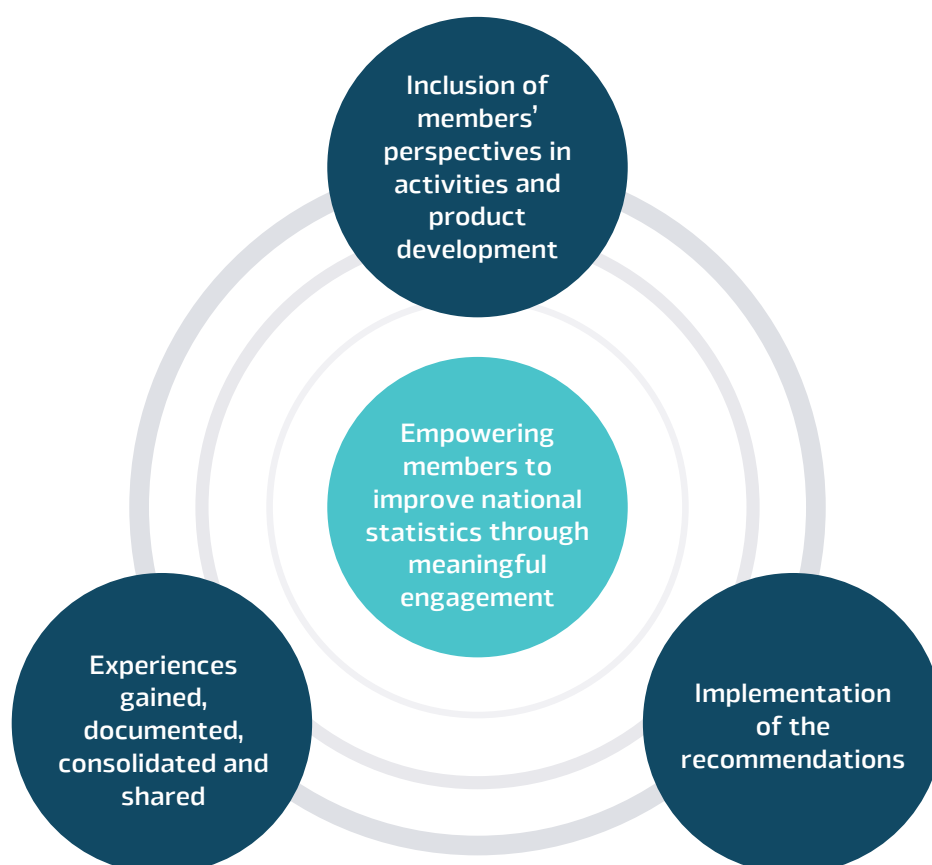
To complement the oversight of the UN Statistical Commission and benefit from guidance of its membership, EGRISS has an active Steering Committee which provides regular guidance to the Group, meeting every 6 weeks at the technical level and once a year at senior management level. In 2023, UNDP and the Philippine Statistical Agency joined the Steering Committee.



Screenshot from Technical Subgroup meeting

The cornerstone of the EGRISS' working methodology – and a key success factor of many of its achievements – is its participatory approach. 'How' EGRISS works is a central feature of the Group. The collaborative approach – and associated organisational structure – ensures quality and relevance, favouring buy-in and transforming members into "EGRISS champions".

Figure 4: **EGRISS participatory working methodology**





KENYA. Statelessness. Birth registration in 2023. 13 July 2023.
© UNHCR/CHARITY NZOMO

International Recommendations on Statelessness Statistics

THE NEED FOR STATELESSNESS STATISTICAL RECOMMENDATIONS

Stateless persons are one of the world's most vulnerable populations. The repercussions of not being recognised as a national by any State impacts fundamental aspects of life, negatively affecting entire communities. Despite this acute vulnerability, reliable statistics on the magnitude of the situation globally do not exist, with data sources remaining incomplete and unharmonised.

The [International Recommendations on Statelessness Statistics](#) (IROSS) were developed and subsequently endorsed by the UN Statistical Commission in 2023 to address this challenge by providing the world's first statelessness statistical framework and associated guidelines. Following in the footsteps of the [International Recommendations on Refugee Statistics](#) (IRRS) and the [International Recommendations on Internally Displaced Persons Statistics](#) (IRIS), the IROSS are the third set of international statistical recommendations produced by the EGRISS. They aim to improve the quality of statelessness statistics by encouraging and helping to harmonise data produced by national statistical systems.

Being stateless is being denied the right of a legal identity. It often means that people like me are not included in the official data or statistics, making it even more challenging to identify and address our specific needs.

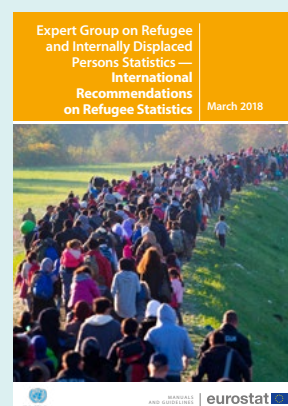
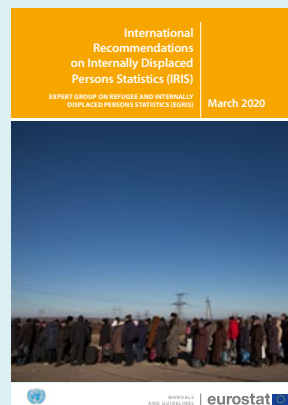
Karina Ambartsoumian-Clough, Executive Director of United Stateless and stateless person at 2023 UNWDF 'Including the excluded: better data on statelessness' side event.

These recommendations will serve as a valuable guide for countries to improve their statistics on statelessness. With better data on statelessness, governments and international organisations can better optimise their efforts and monitor their impact.

Norway at 54th UNSC- IROSS Written Statements of Support (Agenda Item 4e)

What are the IRRS and IRIS and what do they contain?

- Internationally endorsed statistical recommendations for how official statistics on refugees and IDPs (as well as related populations) should be produced.
- Developed by EGRISS and intended for use by national statistical systems and their international partners.
- Endorsed by the UN Statistical Commission in 2018 (IRRS) and 2020 (IRIS).
- Including:
 - » Statistical frameworks defining population categories.
 - » Lists of basic statistics and indicators to be produced, aligned to relevant legal/ policy frameworks.
 - » Guidance on how to use and adapt data sources to produce better statistics on refugees and IDPs.
 - » Identification of socioeconomic indicators and methodologies to support measurement of well-being and integration (refugees) or progress towards durable solutions (IDPs).
 - » Steps to improve statistical coordination at national, regional, and international levels, building on existing platforms and mechanisms such as National Strategies for the Development of Statistics (NSDS)

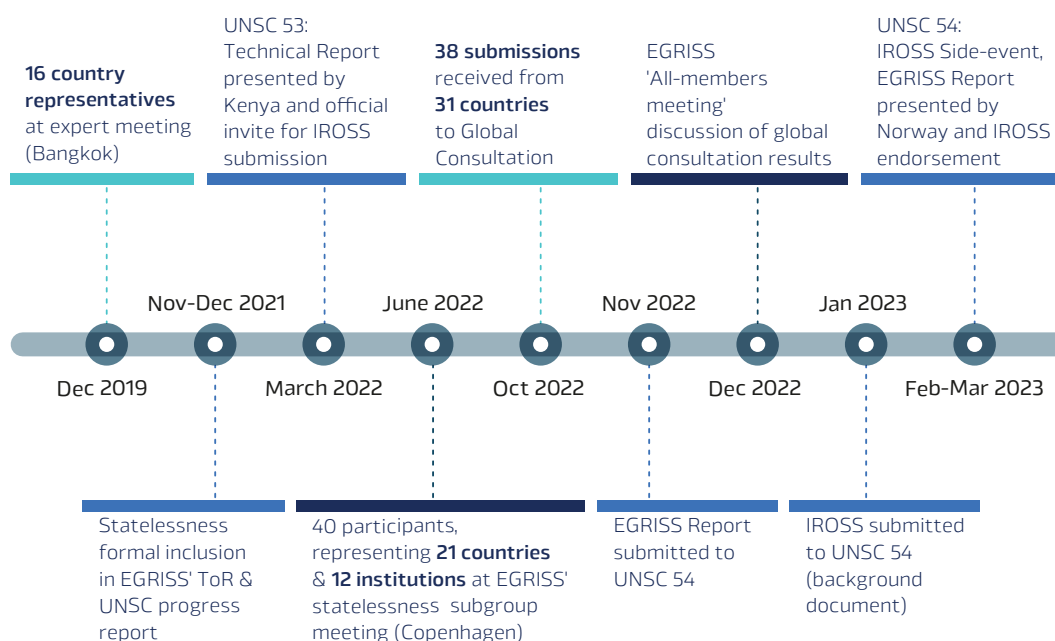


COLLABORATIVE EFFORT TO DEVELOP THE IROSS

The development of the IROSS was initiated in 2019 and officially incorporated into EGRISS' terms of reference in 2021. Following some delays related to the COVID-19 pandemic, work was successfully completed in 2023 when the UN Statistical Commission unanimously endorsed the Recommendations. Guidance received from the UNSC in 2022 as well as substantive contributions from affected countries, regional and international institutions and the wider stakeholder community, were critical for the completion of the development process.

The multi-stakeholder, consultative process was key to ensure the quality and relevance of the final set of recommendations, and to build consensus around the final product. Financial support from the World Bank-UNHCR Joint Data Centre on Forced Displacement (JDC) and UNHCR enabled these critical contributions through stakeholder meetings and adequate human resources.

Figure 5. **IROSS development process**

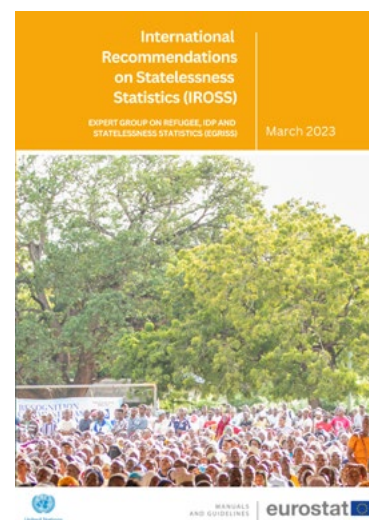


EGRISS Statelessness Subgroup meeting, June 2022

WHAT IS IN THE IROSS?

The IROSS follow a similar structure to the IRRS and the IRIS. It begins by presenting the relevant legal framework and then translates this into a statistical framework and definitions. It then outlines essential recommendations concerning which data to collect, how they can be collected using different data sources, and which statistics should ideally be produced. Recommendations to strengthen statistical coordination practices concerning statelessness statistics are also included. The below points provide an overview of the IROSS' content.

- Legal framework: describes the legal foundation for the definition of statelessness from the 1954 Convention Relating to the Status of Stateless Persons and the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness, discusses variations and challenges.
- Statistical framework: presents the statistical definitions of the population categories within the statelessness framework and outlines stocks and flows.
- Statistics on statelessness for countries to produce: outlines the basic statistics recommended for stocks and flows and to characterise stateless persons.
- Data sources and data integration: provides recommendations on how different data sources can be used to capture statelessness statistics, including traditional data sources (censuses, surveys, and administrative registries) and non-governmental actors' data (including citizen-generated and data integration).
- Statistical coordination and the data ecosystem: discusses the importance of coordination at the national, regional, and international levels. It recommends methods to build statelessness statistical capacity by leveraging existing capacity.



Malaysia agrees with the structure and content of the international recommendations on statelessness statistics, which highlight the challenges associated with collecting statelessness data, provide the legal framework and definition of stateless persons, provide statistical framework and coordination, as well as the information on data sources and data integration.

Malaysia at 54th UNSC- IROSS Written Statements of Support (Agenda Item 4e)

UNANIMOUSLY ENDORSED BY THE 54TH COMMISSION

On the 28th February – 3rd March 2023, the 54th session of the UNSC was held at the UN Headquarters in New York. During the session, the International Recommendations on Statelessness Statistics (IROSS) were unanimously endorsed (decision 54/121)². Support was made clear by 16 written and oral statements of support, including two from groups of countries in Western Asia and Africa representing 74 countries combined.³

Ahead of the endorsement of the recommendations, EGRISS organised a side event entitled “Making the Invisible Visible: Developing International Recommendations on Statelessness Statistics”, the event highlighted the potential of the IROSS to strengthen statistics in the spirit of Agenda 2030.⁴

LOOKING TO THE FUTURE

Following the endorsement of the IROSS, EGRISS has worked to support their dissemination through a myriad of streams, including an event at the UNWDF. Efforts have also been made to increase awareness of the recommendations within UNHCR through meetings with statelessness regional officers to identify potential avenues to further disseminate and implement the recommendations.

Steps have also been taken to integrate IROSS-related activities into the workplans of the Technical Subgroups 1 and 2 for 2023-2024. Under the leadership of TSG 1, efforts are ongoing to make the IROSS more accessible through the development of a dedicated module which will feature in the revised [EGRISS' E-learning course](#), that will be launched in April 2024. TSG 2 will incorporate IROSS into the Compilers' Manual in due course as learning from country experiences becomes available.

The IROSS represents the first time there has been an internationally endorsed framework on how to define stateless persons for statistical purposes.

[Natalia Krynsky Baal, Head of the EGRISS Secretariat- at 2023 UNWDF 'Including the excluded: better data on statelessness' side event.](#)

The Expert Group continues to work with countries and international organisations to build statistical capacity where needed to improve data on forcibly displaced and stateless persons, recognising the need for a clear and coordinated allocation of resources in this regard.

[UNSC - 54th UNSC Report \(Decision Agenda Item 4e\)](#)

² See: [UNSC Report on the fifty-fourth session \(28 February – 3 March 2023\)](#).

³ See: [IROSS Written Statements of Support \(Agenda Item 4e\)](#).

⁴ See: [54th UNSC Side Event Concept Note](#).

NIGER. *S*Refugee children have access to birth certificates and fight the risk of statelessness. 4 May, 2023.

©UNHCR/ANTONIA VADALA



Implementation of IRRS, IRIS and IROSS

The International Recommendations on Refugee, IDP and Statelessness Statistics (IRRS, IRIS and IROSS) are used by entities worldwide, concretely improving data collection, analysis, and coordination. EGRISS actively works to promote and support their implementation, and to do so effectively has worked in 2023 to improve its monitoring efforts.

Implementation information is collected primarily through an annual survey. In 2023, the survey was expanded and improved to strengthen data quality, increase thematic coverage, and extend its reach (through global dissemination supported by UNSD). It was also named in 2023 as the Global Annual Inclusion (GAIN) Survey.⁵

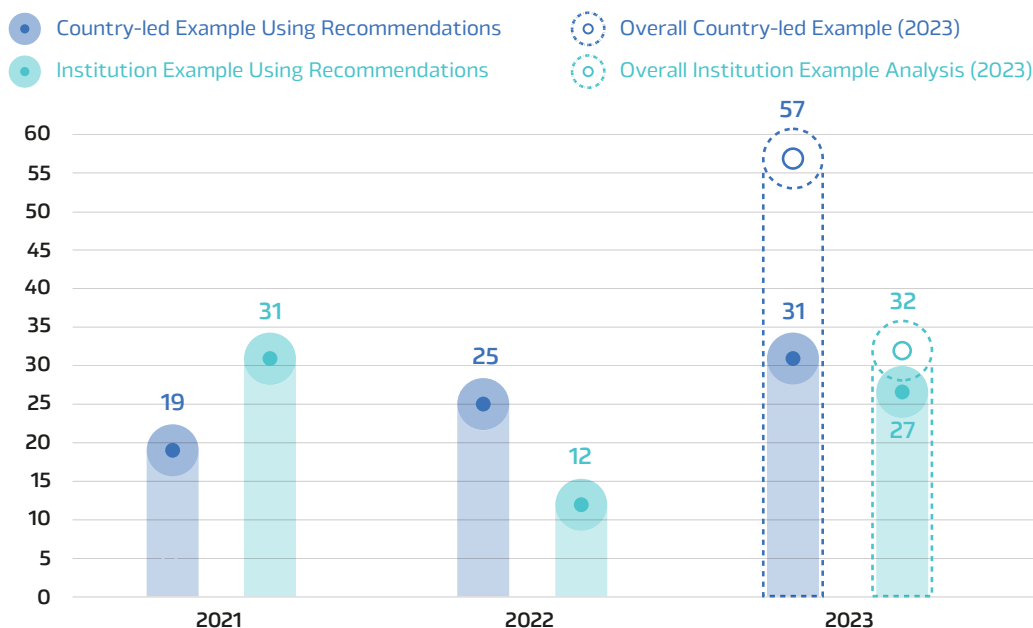
This section presents key results from the 2023 GAIN Survey, followed by analysis and examples of country-led implementation and examples led by institutions.⁶

⁵ More information on the GAIN survey and its 2023 revision is available [here](#).

⁶ More results on the GAIN survey results are accessible in an inter-active dashboard [here](#).

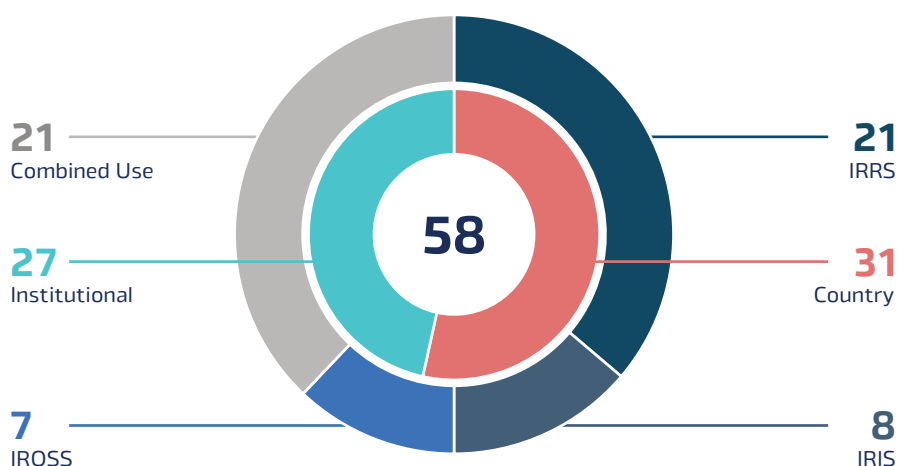
OVERVIEW

Figure 6. **Trend of Implementation of Country and Institution Led Examples**



In total 89 projects were reported through the GAIN Survey in 2023. Out of these, 58 used at least one set of EGRISS recommendations, including 31 country-led examples (across 24 distinct countries – see map on page 22) and the remaining 27 were led by institutions.

Figure 7: **Overview of the Implementation of the IRRS, IRIS and IROSS in 2023**



IRRS was more frequently used than the IDP or Statelessness Recommendations, as the graph shows. The 21 examples using the IRRS compares to 8 using the IRIS and 7 the IROSS. In addition, a significant proportion of examples (22) used a combination of more than one.

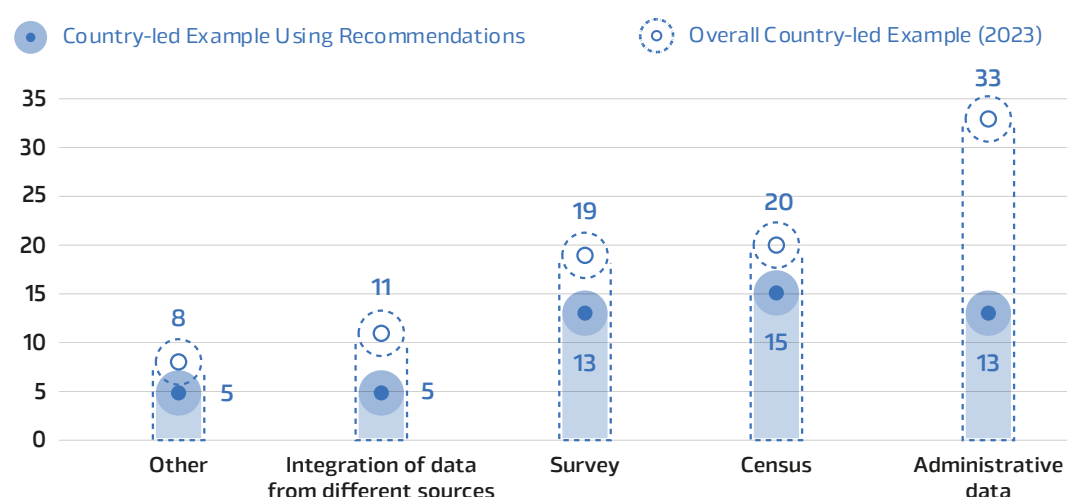
Overall, year-over-year trends indicate a growing uptake of International Recommendations within national statistical systems, and this holds true even as the GAIN's scope has broadened. However, institution-led examples show as less linear picture. 2023, as the first year to monitor use of IROSS in addition to IRRS and IRIS, also demonstrates the relevance through use of all three sets of International Recommendations produced by EGRISS.

COUNTRY IMPLEMENTATION

Country-led examples include activities led by National Statistical Offices or another Government body conducted in their national context, usually as part of the National Statistical System. Compared to previous years, data shows a steady increase in use of the statistical recommendations (see Fig 6 above). Out of the 57 country-led examples reported in 2023, 31 used the EGRISS Recommendations (compared to 25 in 2022 and 19 in 2021). Most of these were implemented in Europe (10), followed by Africa (8), then North America (3), South America (2), Asia (4), and Middle East (4).

Administrative data emerged as the most frequently reported method for producing data on refugees, IDPs and stateless persons, with 33 country-led examples out of the full 57 reported. Yet, fewer than half of these examples (13) have reported making use of the Recommendations. Following the COVID-19 pandemic which caused delays in many planned censuses⁷ and surveys, the census became the second most reported data source in 2023, with 20 examples reported, 15 of which made use of the Recommendations (compared to 4 in 2022). Surveys came third, with 19 examples reported in total, of which 13 implemented the recommendations.

Figure 8. **Overview Data Sources and Tools for Country-led Examples**

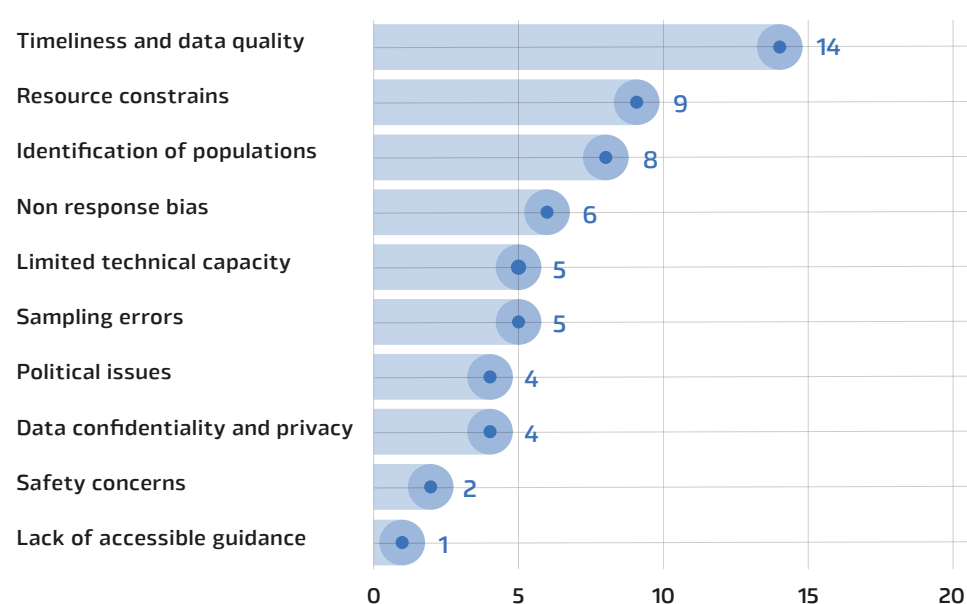


⁷ See: [UNFPA Technical Brief on the Implications of COVID-19 on Census](#).

Of all the country-led examples using the IRRS, IRIS and/or IROSS, the most frequently used components were the statistical frameworks and data source recommendations, with more than half of the reported examples (18 for each) referencing their use. This is a highly relevant finding, given the population definitions are the key innovation of these new standards which could pave the way for more comparable statistics.

The graph below summarises the data on the challenges in country-led efforts to produce refugee, IDP or statelessness statistics timeliness and ensuring the quality of data, followed by resource constraints, and accurately identifying population groups. Examples can report multiple challenges faced.

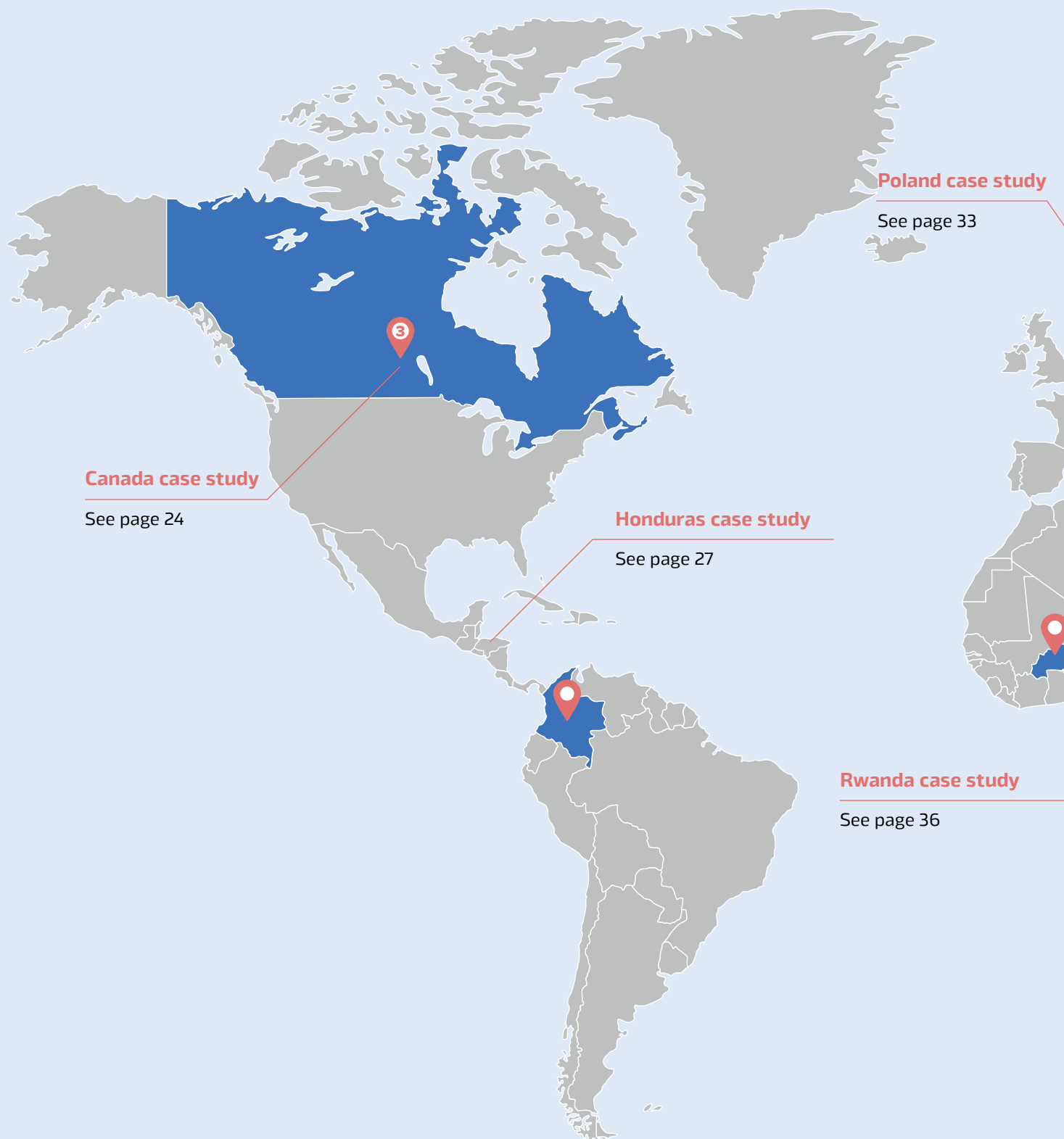
Figure 9. **Challenges Reported in Country-led Examples**

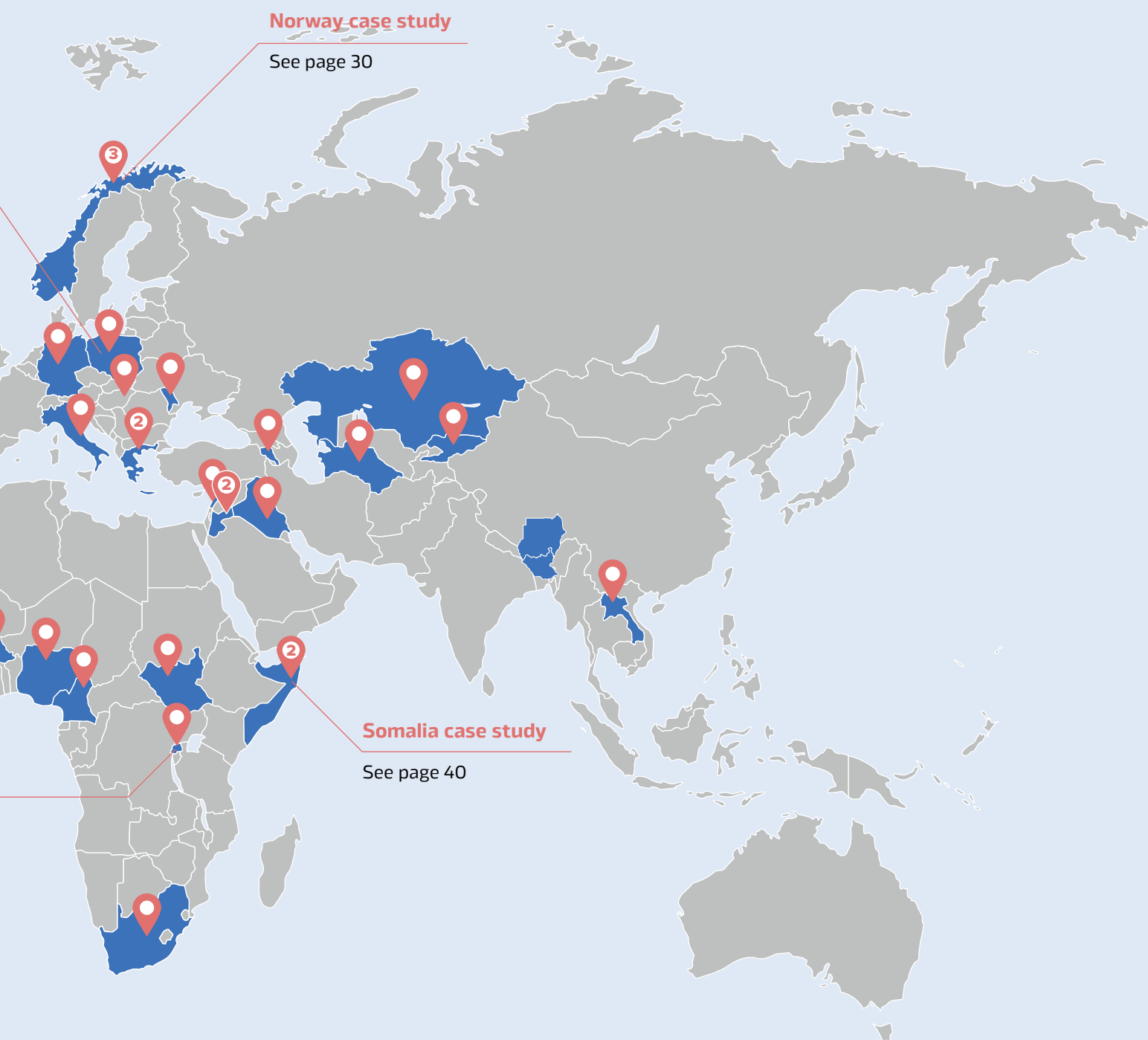


Partnership and collaboration remain a central part of producing national statistics on forced displacement and statelessness, with 85 percent of country-led examples including partners. 80 percent of these involved national partners (primarily line ministries and government departments) and almost half (46 percent) involved international organisations. UNHCR (8, with 1 supported through JDC), World Bank (8, with 3 supported through JDC), UNFPA (4) and IOM (4), are most frequently reported international partners.

Overall, GAIN 2023 data reveals a positive trajectory of country-led implementation and underpins the value of partnership to improve official statistics on forced displacement and statelessness. Gaps in certain regions/countries, as well as the relatively limited use of the Recommendations when administrative data sources are utilised, however, indicate the need for EGRISS to focus more on these areas moving forward. In the next section, a selection of specific country case studies is presented, followed by analysis of the remaining GAIN data representing examples led by global and regional organisations.

Figure 10: **Implementation Map**





Canada

Data integration
for better analysis
of socio-economic
outcomes for
refugees



Background

Canada's immigration levels reached a record high including both permanent immigrants and non-permanent residents (NPRs). These trends have raised political and media attention, leading to an increased demand for accurate and timely statistics, research, and analysis.

With a robust statistical system built on administrative records, Canada regularly produces high quality and disaggregated refugee statistics. In response to the growing demand, Statistics Canada, Canada's national statistical organisation, is taking steps to strengthen the timeliness of its data products and to produce more statistics on the socio-economic outcomes of refugees and asylum-seekers.

Central to this effort are the administrative records managed by the Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) department. In partnership with Statistics Canada, IRCC data were integrated with other key data sources, notably the Census of Population and quarterly demographic estimates.

Longitudinal Immigration Database

Statistics Canada, in collaboration with IRCC, has developed the Longitudinal Immigration Database (IMDB) that identifies key socio-economic outcomes, including for refugees. Created in 1998, it includes data for all immigrants since 1952 and non-permanent residents since 1980, linking IRCC immigration data with other databases including, primarily, information on taxation from the Canada Revenue Agency.⁸

⁸ See: [Longitudinal Immigration Database \(IMDB\)](#)

The IMDB is annually updated and contains long-term outcomes by admission category, including refugees, and non-permanent resident type, such as asylum claimants. The data covers socio-demographic characteristics such as knowledge of official languages, country of birth, education, admission category, and economic characteristics such as income and geographic mobility. It is linked to other administrative data and surveys conducted by Statistics Canada such as the census and the Postsecondary Student Information System with in-depth information on outcomes of immigrants and non-permanent resident population in Canada.

Census of Population

Statistics Canada has worked to improve data and analysis on refugees and statelessness through the Census of Population. Conducted once every five years, the Census has collected information on immigrant status, year of immigration and citizenship since 1901 and place of birth since 1871.

In 2016, the census integrated IRCC's administrative data to include the admission category of immigrants. The mixed methodology approach provided detailed information on the conditions under which immigrants were granted the right to live in Canada.

Since 2021, data on immigrant status and year of immigration are no longer asked on the census questionnaire and are replaced by administrative records to reduce burden and improve data quality. This change has allowed for more disaggregated data for refugees and can provide information on place of birth, place of birth of parents, languages, ethnocultural and religious characteristics and socio-economic outcomes such as education, income and labour force engagement.

Results for the 2021 Census were published in October 2022.⁹ They also provide information on the stateless population using the citizenship question.

Demographic Estimates

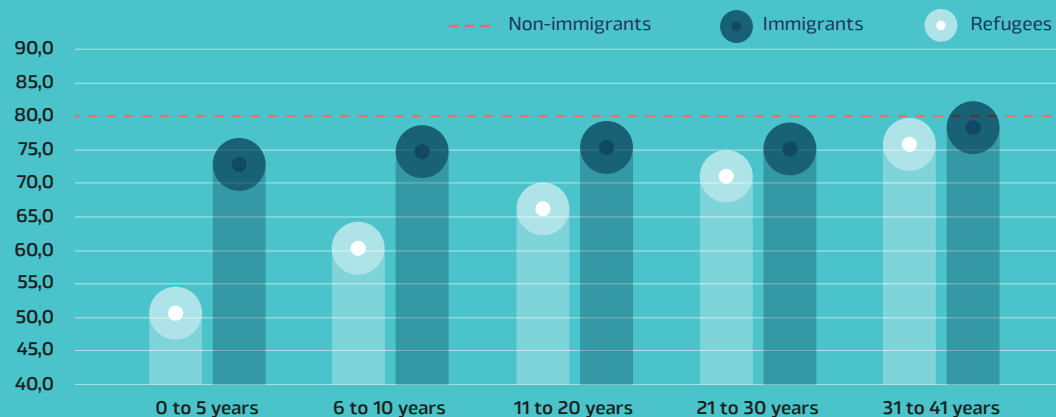
Based on the integration of census and administrative data, the Demographic Estimates Program (DEP) provides accurate and timely data on quarterly migration flows.¹⁰ Refugees are included as immigrants. Data on the number of NPRs by permit type, where asylum claimants are a category, are also disseminated quarterly.¹¹

⁹ See: [Sixth set of results from the 2021 Census](#)

¹⁰ See: [Estimates of the components of international migration, quarterly](#)

¹¹ See: [Estimates of the number of non-permanent residents by type, quarterly](#)

Figure 11: **Employment rate by years since admission to Canada for non-immigrants, immigrants and refugees ages 25 to 54, 2021**



Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Population, 2021

The use of the International Recommendations

Although refugee data has been produced by Canada's national statistical system for many years, the International Recommendations on Refugee Statistics (IRRS) are recognised and used as a reference point for Statistics Canada's ongoing work. The IRRS have become a useful reference guide informing the selection and validation of indicators and have helped refine identification approaches for refugees within the wider immigrant population.

The statistical coordination recommendations outlined in the IRRS, also remain relevant in the Canadian context. Partnership and collaboration between data providers and producers of official statistics, where regular information sharing and a clear recognition of the mutually beneficial relationship, are essential.

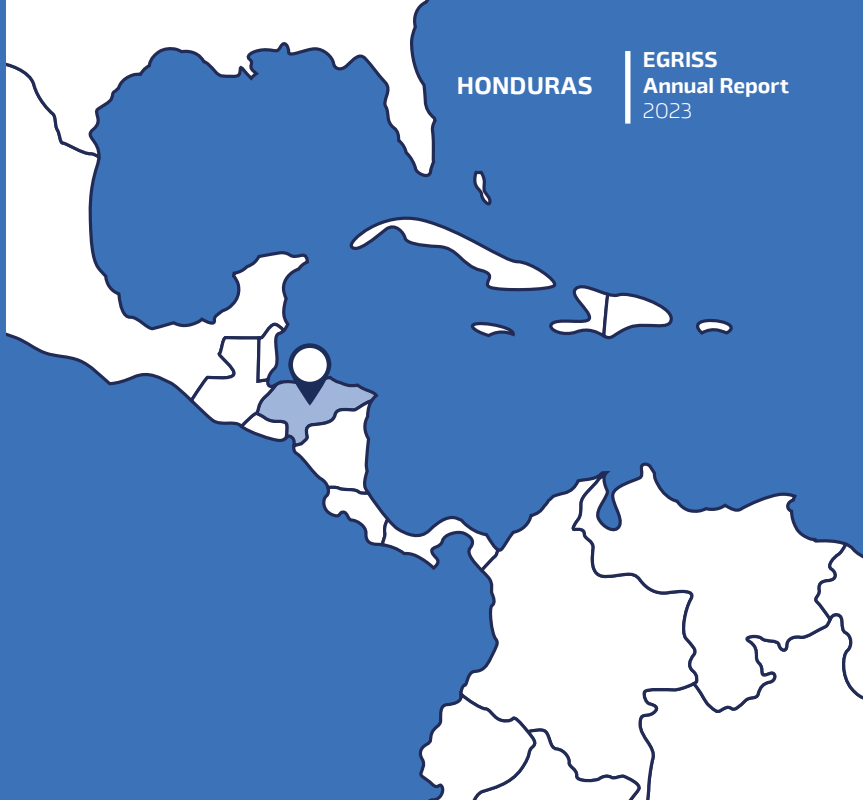
Conclusion

This case presents an interesting example on how data integration, based on administrative data, has made available comprehensive and detailed information on refugees. Statistics Canada has combined different strategies, to reach both robust and detailed information as well as timely statistics.

With the IRRS as the guiding framework, Statistics Canada regularly reviews compliance and opportunities to better refugee statistics with a focus on internationally comparable indicators while responding to country-specific demands such as linguistic characteristics. The case study illustrates the value of effective statistical coordination.

Honduras

Informing durable solutions for IDPs with national statistics



Background

Since the 1990s, Honduras has experienced increasing levels of violence from criminal groups and local gangs called 'maras', resulting in many people being forced to leave their homes. With a lack of clarity on the magnitude of the phenomena, efforts were made to estimate the number of people affected based on human rights violations complaints data. In 2014, the Inter-Institutional Commission for the Protection of Persons Displaced by Violence coordinated the first Study on the characterisation of internal displacement in Honduras, representing an estimated 2.1% of the total population.¹²

Displacement in the country also peaked in 2020 due to Hurricanes Eta and Iota. Forced displacement was officially recognised in 2023 and reflected in a legal framework with the approval of the Law for the prevention, care, and protection of internally displaced persons. Producing an official estimate on the number of IDPs in the country became a priority, in addition to other data needs to support efforts to secure durable solutions.

Honduras' National Institute of Statistics (INE) is working to meet these data needs by including a module to identify persons and households who have suffered from forced internal displacement during their lives. Led by INE, in partnership with the Secretariat for Human Rights (SEDH) and UNHCR, data suggest that 3-4% of the population in 2023 have been displaced due to a combination of violence and climate disasters. Results are expected to be published during the second quarter of 2024.

¹² See: [Estudio de caracterización del desplazamiento interno por violencia en Honduras 2004-2018](#).



INE tackles internal displacement data in Honduras, INE

Including IDPs in the 2023 multipurpose household survey

Building on previous efforts made¹³, in 2018 SEDH, INE and UNHCR agreed to carry out a study¹⁴ and INE has since worked towards the inclusion of IDPs in national data production processes.

The concrete decision was to include IDPs in the multi-round Permanent Multipurpose Household Survey 2023 (EPHPM).¹⁵ This nationally representative survey with departmental data results therefore included questions to identify those who had been forced to flee, as well as specific displacement event and return. The survey was conducted with national funds and financed by the World Bank – UNHCR Joint Data Centre on Forced Displacement, with UNHCR's technical support.

As the first effort to incorporate questions on displacement within a national survey, the experience has identified key lessons for future methodological enhancement, which were discussed in a workshop held in October 2023 with INE technicians, enumerators and UNHCR and a February 2024 meeting with SEDH, Mexico's National Institute of Statistics and Geography (INEGI), JDC and UNHCR.

The process has encountered operational and data quality challenges related to the collection of data within an insecure environment, reflected in the low response rate and interviews that were not possible to conduct. Challenging security considerations were very real with threats and incidents involving respondents and NSO personnel as well as the respondents' fear of retaliation expressed by surveyors in qualitative focal groups. Further advancements are

¹³ See: [Caracterización del desplazamiento interno en Honduras](#)

¹⁴ See: [Secretaría de Derechos Humanos, INE y el ACNUR firman convenio para realizar estudio de caracterización del desplazamiento interno](#)

¹⁵ See: [Encuesta Permanente de Hogares de Propósitos Múltiples](#)

planned for 2024, such as a thematic report to be presented to the government, civil society, media and other stakeholders and four more EPHPM rounds including the module are planned.

The use of the International Recommendation

The International Recommendations on IDP Statistics (IRIS) were used throughout the process, guiding the overall statistical framework and the specific identification questions used although changes were required to adapt to the Honduran context (e.g., adding an explicit mention of criminal group and gang activity to classify insecurity and eviction displacement events).

Moreover, the availability of the recommendations helped the Government to prioritise this statistical activity and their content supported inter-institutional team discussions between INE and SEDH throughout the process, with UNHCR's support.

Having been involved in the EGRISS regional Task Team for Latin America and the Caribbean, learning from peers has been proactively pursued by INE. The November 2022 workshop with the Central American Statistical Commission (CENTROESTAD) of the System of Integration of Central America (SICA) and hosted by Honduras was a relevant starting point. ¹⁶

Conclusion

This EPHPM displacement module demonstrates the country's commitment to strengthen official statistics on displacement using the international recommendations. Despite challenges faced, this marks a key milestone in the LAC region.

As an active EGRISS member since 2022, the INE was able to learn from peers in the LAC region and share their experience with others as well. Considering the context in Honduras, it also serves as a relevant case study for collecting data in situations of continued insecurity and highlights the importance of building trust with affected communities.

Looking forward, INE is considering including a question on internal mobility as part of its 2024 Population and Housing Census. In addition, they look forward to leading a recently approved working group on migration and forced displacement statistics under the region's Statistical Commission. ¹⁷

¹⁶ See: [SICA Regional Workshops](#)

¹⁷ See: [CEA-CEPAL Group on Migration and Forced Displacement Statistics](#)

Norway

Identifying stateless persons in the Population Register



Background

Most stateless individuals in Norway came as resettlement refugees or asylum seekers, many of them with Palestinian background. In addition, a few stateless individuals are born in Norway each year. The main problem facing stateless individuals living in Norway is the lack of a passport, limiting their ability to travel internationally. Despite being a small group of people, statistics on stateless persons and those who might be stateless, are still important for Norway given the recognition that all persons have the right to a nationality and a legal identity before the law, as well as the country's citizenship laws.

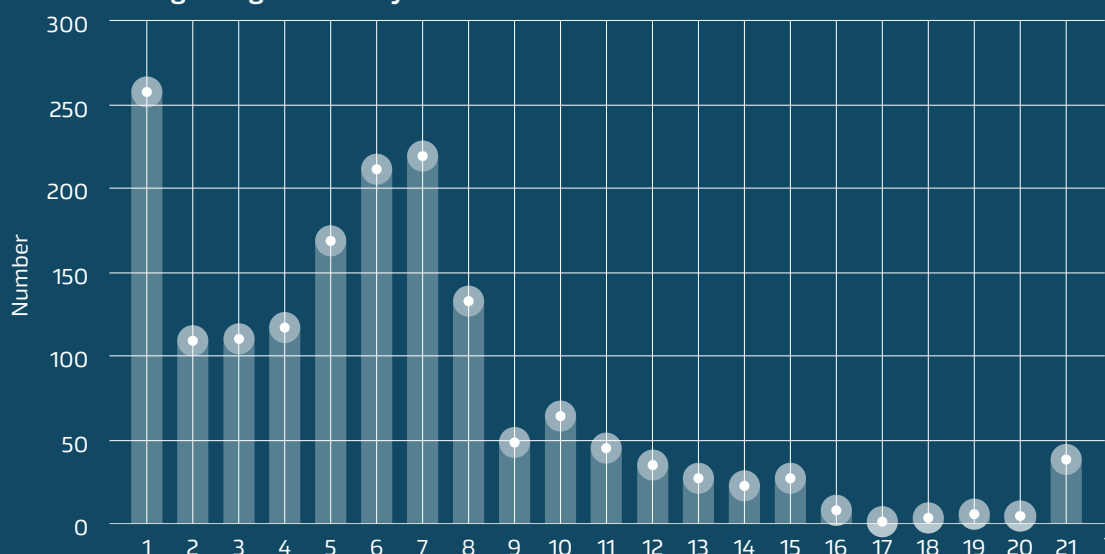
In Norway, *residence* matters more than *citizenship*. Stateless persons with permanent residence in Norway have access to almost all the same rights as Norwegian citizens, and the same as other non-Norwegian citizens. The main difference is that stateless persons can apply for Norwegian citizenship sooner than most other non-citizens.

Identification of stateless persons in the Population Register

The digital version of the National Population Register (NPR) was established as an administrative register by Statistics Norway in 1964 based on the 1960 Population Census. At the same time an ID number was assigned to all residents of Norway. In 1991 the population register was transferred to the Norwegian Tax Administration. The two institutions cooperate very well on the use of the register.

The NPR includes information on citizenship, name, year of birth, sex, address, and country of birth. Where relevant, it also contains data on country of emigration and date of immigration to Norway. Data on the families and households, such as children, spouse and parents, and persons living in the same dwelling as stateless persons, may also be captured in the NPR using PINs of parents and spouses. Dwelling numbers are used by Statistics Norway to establish households.

Figure 12. **Resident stateless persons on 1 January 2023 by number of years since first immigrating to Norway.**



Source: Statistics Norway

Citizenship is determined when an immigrant applies for residence in Norway, based on available documents and registered by the Directorate of Immigration (UDI), which transfers this information to the NPR. UDI also registers the reason for immigrating to Norway, which is transmitted to Statistics Norway.

Statistics Norway publishes its population statistics regularly online and in its Statistics Bank.¹⁸ **Statistics on statelessness are an integral part of population statistics – as part of citizenship statistics.**

Statistics on the citizenship of the *flows* of immigrants and emigrants are published quarterly since 2007 and on the *stock* of stateless persons annually for all 356 municipalities since 2016. Statelessness is also one of the categories in the statistics on educational attainment (since 2014)¹⁹, employment, participation in elections, etc. *Historical Statistics* include nationality statistics from population censuses 1910-1960.²⁰

The NPR records 264 different citizenships for residents of Norway, including 'Stateless' (1,654 on 1.1.2023) and 'Unknown' (43 on 1.1.2023). These numbers vary significantly from year to year.²¹

"Norway's system of good administrative registers makes it possible to produce all or most of the statistics on statelessness stocks and flows recommended by IROSS."

Helge Brunborg, Statistics Norway.

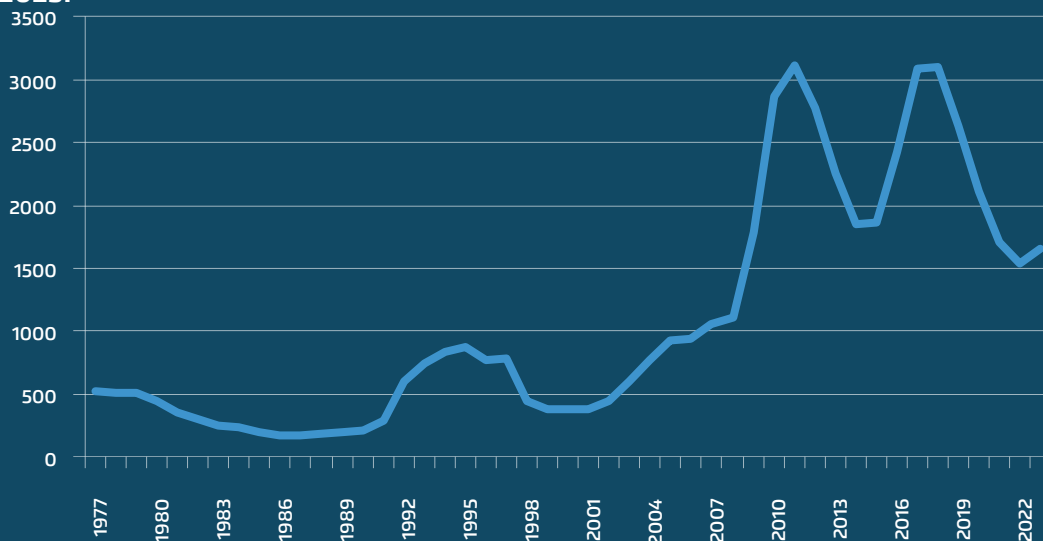
¹⁸ See: [Statistisk sentralbyrå](#)

¹⁹ See: [Educational attainment of immigrants, by country background \(region\), reason for immigration and sex 2014 – 2022](#)

²⁰ See: [Historisk Statistikk](#)

²¹ See: Brunborg, Helge (2016): [Statsløshet – et stort globalt problem. Statsløse: mange i verden, få i Norge.](#) (in Norwegian). Samfunnsspeilet 4/2016. Statistisk sentralbyrå

Figure 13. **Number of stateless individuals residing in Norway on January 1, 1977-2023.**



Source: Statistics Norway

The use of the International Recommendations

Statistics Norway can produce statistics on most or all categories recommended by IROSS, both for stocks and flows of stateless persons, and disaggregated by country of birth. Norway's experience has informed the development of IROSS, particularly for countries with existing or planned population registers. The content of the international recommendations presents an opportunity to validate and inform future statistical development.

The primary limitation of the Norwegian data in relation to IROSS is that there are missing data on siblings, parents and grandparents for many individuals born abroad. It is also challenging to compile statistics on statelessness-*related* individuals, since it requires current and retrospective data for the entire population on the household composition.²²

Conclusion

Norway is one of few countries where the statistical office regularly receives good data on citizenship, including on statelessness, from the administrative National Population Register, which covers all residents of Norway, regardless of their citizenship. Most of the IROSS recommendations can be followed by using administrative data for Norway.

²² See: Vassenden, Kåre (2020). [Fra utenlandsk til norsk statsborgerskap gjennom mer enn førti år](#) (in Norwegian). Reports 2020/31, Statistisk sentralbyrå

Poland

Official and experimental refugee statistics



Background

As a result of the war in Ukraine following the escalation of the Russian invasion in February 2022, large numbers of refugees arrived in neighbouring Poland, with many continuing to reside in the country into 2024. Establishing a robust data system to track the number of refugees, as well as their demographic characteristics, living conditions and needs has been essential for effective decision-making and policy development.

Under the leadership of Statistics Poland several investments have been made to strengthen both official and experimental statistics. This included the establishment of an integrated register of refugees, thematic surveys in collaboration with international partners, and the use of big data sources in partnership with the private sector.

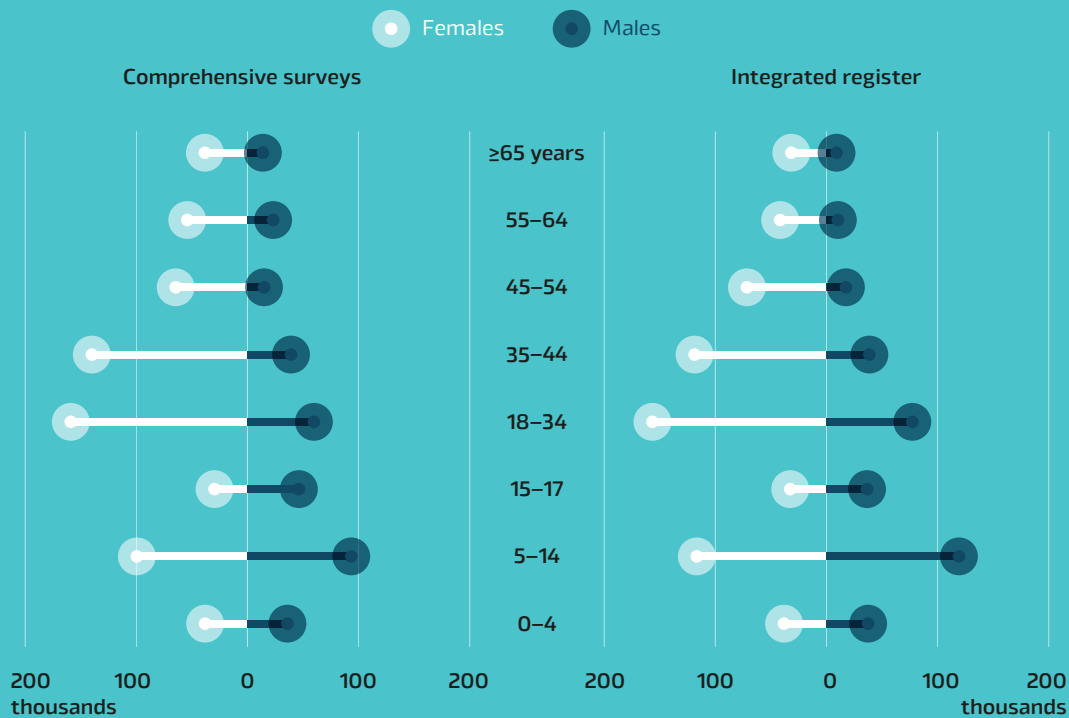
Developing an integrated register of refugees

Based on the Register of Ukrainians managed by the Polish Headquarters of the Border Guards (KGSG) as the master record, Statistics Poland established the Integrated Register of Refugees from Ukraine that incorporates data from a total of eight different administrative registers. These included the Population register (PESEL), the Register of Personal Identity Cards (RDO) as well as various other registers on social assistance, education, and insurance.

The work was facilitated by well-established data sharing protocols that enabled Statistics Poland to easily access the different databases, and unique ID numbers that helped identify and control for duplicates. A final data validation phase using birth and death registers, ensures quality results that provide official estimates of Ukrainian refugees in Poland (997,737 as of March 2023) with a full breakdown of sex and age available.²³

²³ See: [Residents of Ukraine under temporary protection](#)

Figure 14: **Number of refugees by gender in age group: comprehensive surveys and the integrated register in 2023**



Sample surveys to assess refugee health status

Recognising the limitations of the register given the dynamic population movements in the border region as well as the breadth of data available for the whole population, Statistics Poland embarked in 2022 on a series of complementary surveys. In collaboration with WHO, Statistics Poland has completed two rounds (2022 and 2023) of a refugee health survey.

The first round focused on the reception points located in two regions (Podkarpackie and Lubelskie voivodeships), while the second expanded to also include other locations. The process combined three main samples using distinct sampling frames: refugees in households, refugees in accommodation establishments and refugees at the border crossings. Using a combination of questionnaires – one covering demographic information and health-related indicators and the other capturing behavioural insights through in-depth interviews - results provide a rich data source for decision-makers in the region. With two rounds conducted, data can also be compared over time.²⁴

Survey results were presented at a national conference organised with the Podkarpackie, Lubelskie and Lviv regional governors, medical and sanitary services, as well as local authorities. Findings informed resource allocation for example concerning dental care and acute illness. Results were also presented, together

²⁴ See: [Health of refugees from Ukraine in Poland 2022: Household survey and behavioural insights research](#)

with WHO, during the 2023 and 2024 UN Statistical Commissions and other conferences.

Big data and experimental refugees' statistics

Complementing these key data sources, Statistics Poland has started to work with private sector partners to venture into experimental statistics using data from mobile operators and banks. Analysing data of active SIM card usage (following the distribution of free SIM cards to Ukrainian refugees) and usage of VISA payment cards (issued in Ukraine and used in Poland), new analysis became possible. However, data sharing limitations due to the European Union's General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) and other operational limitations such as the lack of mobile network coverage in border areas created some challenges.

Using modelling techniques, analysis has produced new estimates of the number of Ukrainian refugees in Poland, information about population movements within the country and expenditure patterns. However, because results differ significantly from official sources described above, Statistics Poland is currently working to determine how results can be used to complement official sources.

"In-depth analyses of data from sample surveys, in combination with integration of data from various sources, can be helpful to adequately address assistance for Ukrainian refugees. Because of the possibility of simultaneous access to different data sources and the profile of its activities, Statistics Poland becomes a natural leader for such undertakings".

Cierpiat-Wolan Marek, Director of the Statistical Office in Rzeszów, Statistics Poland

The use of the International Recommendation

Although Statistics Poland was not aware of the International Recommendations on Refugee Statistics (IRRS) at the start of the refugee crisis in 2022, having since become a member of EGRISS and becoming familiar with this resource, they have been used to validate the NSO's work. In particular, the integral role of the statistical office to lead and coordinate efforts to produce national statistics on displacement, the delineation of the statistical framework outlined by IRRS and the data source and data integration guidelines. In addition, the IRRS' guidance on coordination with both national and international stakeholders has proved useful in the Polish context.

Conclusion

The case study illustrates the added value of NSO leadership concerning statistics on forced displacement and how data integration across a range of data sources (administrative registers, sample surveys and big data) can be a powerful tool strengthen analysis.

Rwanda

Including refugees and statelessness in the population census

Background

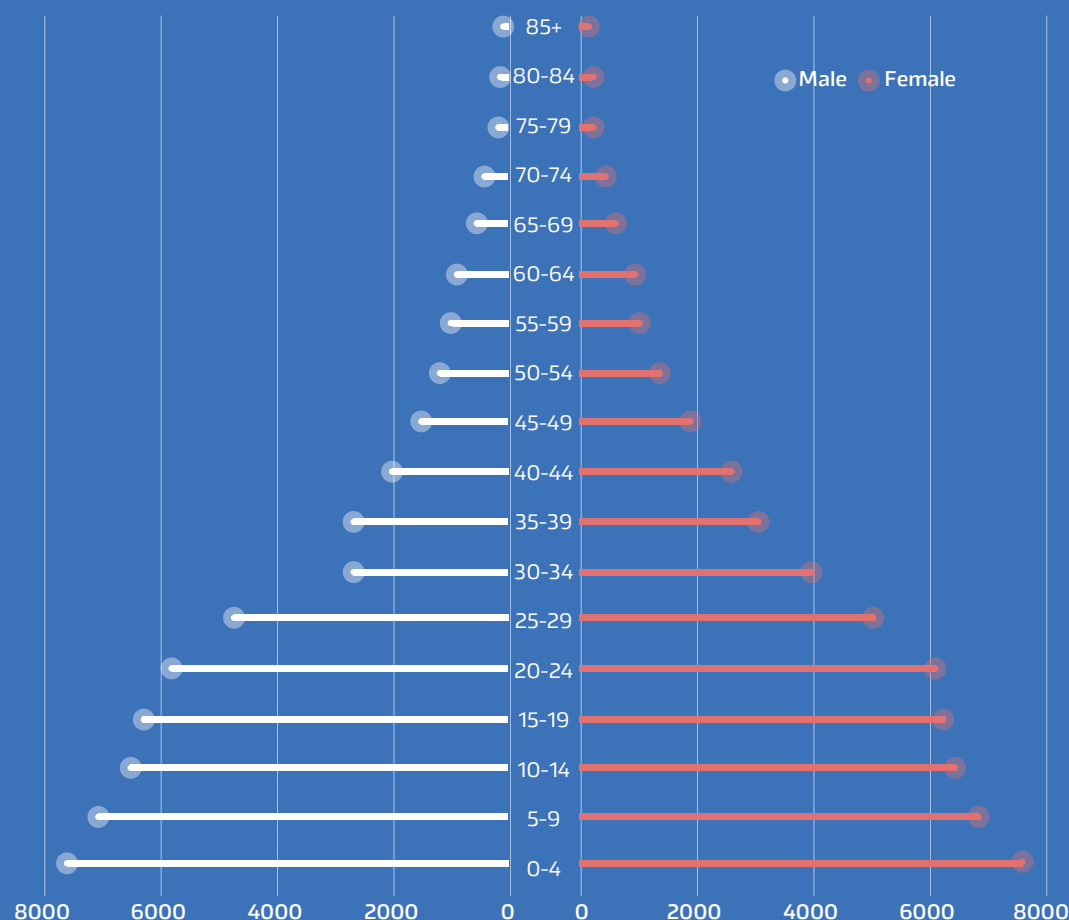
Rwanda hosts significant numbers of refugees, with many of them residing in the country for decades. The country also has populations effected by or at risk of statelessness for a variety of reasons including those associated with their migratory history, cross-border communities and nationality laws and associated administrative procedures.

Demonstrated by adherence to the 1954 and 1961 Statelessness Conventions, 1951 Refugee Convention, 1967 Additional protocol and the 1969 Organisation of African Unity Convention, Rwanda's commitment to eliminate statelessness and enable the inclusion of refugees is clear. Moreover, as expressed through public pledges made in the context of both regional and international conferences, the Government has concretised these commitments into national policies that create a favorable environment for the protection and socio-economic integration of refugees and asylum seekers, as well as safeguarding children from statelessness²⁵.

Improved national statistics on refugees and statelessness have therefore become a priority for the Government and the National Institute of Statistics of Rwanda (NISR). Work to modernise and strengthen its civil registration system falls within this scope, as do efforts to include relevant populations in the 5th Rwanda Population and Housing Census (RPHC-5).

²⁵ See: [Ministerial Instructions of Determining and Management of Refugees and refugee](#), 2016, article (12/e)

Figure 15: Refugees Population Age structure



Source: 2022 Rwanda Population and Housing Census, NISR

Population and Housing Census

The RPHC-5, conducted in August 2022, is a pivotal project aligned with the third National Strategy for the Development of Statistics (NSDS3) in Rwanda. The census form incorporated questions related to the country of origin/birth, duration of stay in the country, nationality, and ID documents, enabling the inclusion of refugees and stateless individuals.

Alongside the Government of Rwanda's commitment to address statelessness, several factors contributed to a successful census including the active engagement of stakeholders such as the Directorate General of Immigration and Emigration (DGI&E), the Ministry of Emergency and Management (MINEMA), the National ID Agency, the Human Rights Commission and local government authorities, as well as various regional and international partners. Comprehensive awareness campaigns, quality training and the use of technologies to facilitate data collection were also key. The participation of stateless persons and refugees at different stages was crucial.

Results, published in December 2023, enable the comparison of refugees to the national population and cover both demographic and socio-economic statistics. They show that refugees constitute 1% of the population, with 71% of them aged below 30, and present important findings concerning access to medical insurance, improved drinking water and primary and secondary school. A thematic report is under development; however, data is already available.²⁶

The dissemination of census results was conducted at national and sub-national levels (Provinces and districts) in order to facilitate their use for decision-making, supported by 30 district profiles.²⁷ 18 thematic reports and a census population atlas have also been produced.²⁸

Findings on the stateless population however are more limited. Given the intricacies of fully identifying stateless populations in Rwanda, census results show “hot spot” areas where possible stateless populations reside. An additional mini census will be conducted in these areas to deepen the understanding of statelessness and inform policy implementation.

“Complete, reliable, timely and internationally comparable statistics concerning forcibly displaced persons are essential to facilitating their inclusion in national systems and improving their living conditions. Everyone counts. Let’s get them counted”.

Venant Habarugira, Director of Censuses Department, National Institute of Statistics Rwanda (NISR)

The use of the International Recommendation

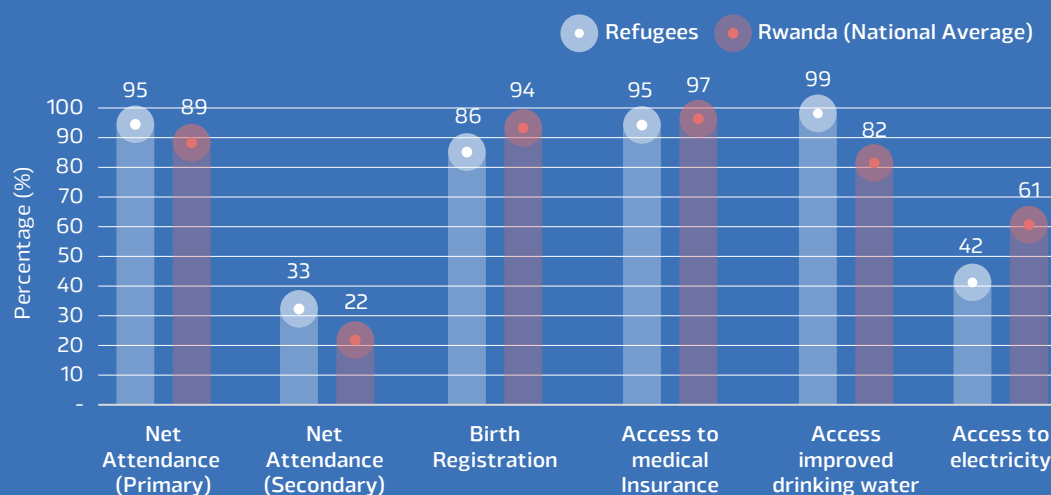
The NISR leveraged the International Recommendations on Refugee Statistics (IRRS) and the draft International Recommendations on Statelessness Statistics (IROSS) to include relevant identification questions in the census. In addition, these frameworks have served as guidance to provide a demographic disaggregation of the census indicators by refugee status, enabling better harmonisation of data.

Rwanda’s active involvement in the development of the IROSS as a member of the EGRISS, contributed to the commitment of the inclusion of statelessness in the census. Moreover, Rwanda’s experience contributes to validate the Recommendations’ content concerning the potential of censuses to identify likelihood of statelessness as opposed to specifically identifying this population.

²⁶ See: [Socio-Economic Status of Refugees in Rwanda \(NISR\)](#)

²⁷ See: [Statistical reports – District Statistics \(NISR\)](#)

²⁸ See: [Statistical reports – Population size and Population characteristics \(NISR\)](#)

Figure 16: **Indicators for Refugees and Rwanda's population**

Source: 2022 Rwanda Population and Housing Census, NISR

Conclusion

The inclusion of refugees and statelessness in the RPHC-5 was successful due to the commitment of the Government, leadership and capacity of NISR and collaboration with key stakeholders. The case presents a concrete example of implementation of the International Statistical Recommendations. Results will inform national and sub-national policies related to the socio-economic inclusion and wellbeing of refugees and will inform further analytical work on statelessness.



Dissemination of the 2022 Population and Housing Census with local leaders in 2024, NISR



Somalia

Strategic planning for improved national statistics on internal displacement

Background

In 2023, around 3 million people in Somalia were internally displaced due to conflict, insecurity, and climate-related disasters – representing about 30% of the population²⁹. In addition to the impact on those directly affected, this displacement negatively impacts the social and economic conditions of host communities, undermines national peace efforts, and contributes to fragility in the Horn of Africa. Better IDP statistics has become a priority to support the Federal Government of Somalia in developing and implementing a National Durable Solutions Strategy (NDSS)³⁰ that aims to address the root causes and consequences of displacement.

To address this need, the Somalia National Bureau of Statistics (SNBS) developed an initial IDP Statistics Sectoral Plan in 2022. In 2023, IDP Statistics priorities were integrated into the second National Strategy for the Development of Statistics (NSDSII)³¹ and the existing technical working group on migration statistics was expanded to cover displacement thereby enhancing statistical coordination.

Including IDP statistics into the NSDS

Somalia's NSDSII, validated in October 2023, will cover the period of 2024-2029. As it encompasses the overall priorities for statistical production over the next six years, the incorporation of IDP statistics within its implementation plan is significant.

IDP Statistics have been included in the NSDSII in several ways including:

- Steps to enhance coordination through Technical Working Groups, the development of MoU with donors and biannual meetings between SNBS and

²⁹ See: [Country overview – Somalia \(UNHCR\)](#)

³⁰ See: [The National Durable Solutions Strategy \(2020 – 2024\)](#)

³¹ See: [National Strategy for the Development of Statistics \(NSDSII\) 2024 – 2029](#)

the Durable Solution Unit (DSU)/Durable Solutions Secretariat (DSS) of the Ministry of Planning, Investment and Economic Development (MOPIED).³²

- Work to improve data availability and quality through improved IDP identification, inclusion in national surveys (the Multiple Indicator Cluster Surveys (MICS), Demographic and Health Surveys (DHS) and Labor Force Surveys (LFS) are highlighted), and use of civil registration data.

Whilst the sheer magnitude of displacement in Somalia, combined with existing data gaps, provided a strong incentive to include IDP statistics as a priority in the NSDSII, it was further facilitated by strong leadership within key institutions and departments and the availability of concrete recommendations from the 2022 draft IDP Statistics Sectoral Plan. Furthermore, regional and international engagements through bodies like IGAD and EGRISS facilitated exposure of SNBS staff to available resources and experiences from other countries, that also contributed to this milestone.

"Producing IDPs statistical data is very significant in Somalia, and the Somali National Bureau of Statistics has taken a leading role by implementing the IRIS and coordinating with stakeholders, within and beyond the government".

Sharmarke Mohamed Farah, Director General of the Somali National Bureau of Statistics

Expanding existing coordination platforms to address displacement

To enhance coordination around IDP statistics and better connect it to broader migration statistics endeavours, SNBS took advantage of an existing coordination structures – the Technical Working Group on Migration Statistics, created in 2022 – and expanded it to cover both migration *and* displacement.

During 2023 participants were officially nominated from several government bodies to take part in the group, including the SNBS (as the chair), the Ministry of Planning, Investment and Economic Development, the Immigration and Citizenship Agency, the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs, the National Commission for Refugees and IDPs, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation and the Office of the Special Envoy for Migrants' and Children's Rights.

The Working Group was established following a consultation workshop supported by IOM, and aims to improve migration and displacement data production, analysis, sharing, usage, and dissemination between relevant ministries, departments, and agencies.

It also provides a platform for capacity development through international cooperation, with a study visit to Statistics South Africa planned for 2024 and regular engagement with IGAD's regional migration statistics working group.

³² [Durable Solutions Unit - Ministry of Planning \(mop.gov.so\)](https://mop.gov.so)



Validation workshop 2nd NSDS-II in Kenya in 2023, SNBS.

The use of the International Recommendation

The International Recommendations on IDP Statistics (IRIS) provided a foundational entry point for the development of the IDP Statistics Sectoral Plan (the development of which was supported by EGRISS through the Joint IDP Profiling Service), which then directly informed IDP-related priorities included in the NSDSII. Almost all parts of the IRIS have therefore been utilised in the case of Somalia, including the IDP statistical framework, data source recommendations, proposed indicators, and statistical coordination practice. SNBS' involvement in regional and international engagements through bodies like the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) and EGRISS further motivated and informed these efforts.

Conclusion

By incorporating IDP statistics into the NSDS, Somalia emerges as a pioneering country example for EGRISS, despite having a young NSS and a relatively recently established independent NSO. This case study illustrates an important example of using the International Recommendations to inform national statistical plans, enabled by clear NSO leadership and commitment.

Looking ahead, SNBS is advocating for the validation of the IDP Statistics Sectoral Plan and will work closely with key Federal Government Ministries, regional, and international partners to achieve this. Moreover, they are working to include IDPs into the MICS-7 and are coordinating with MoPIED on durable solutions data.

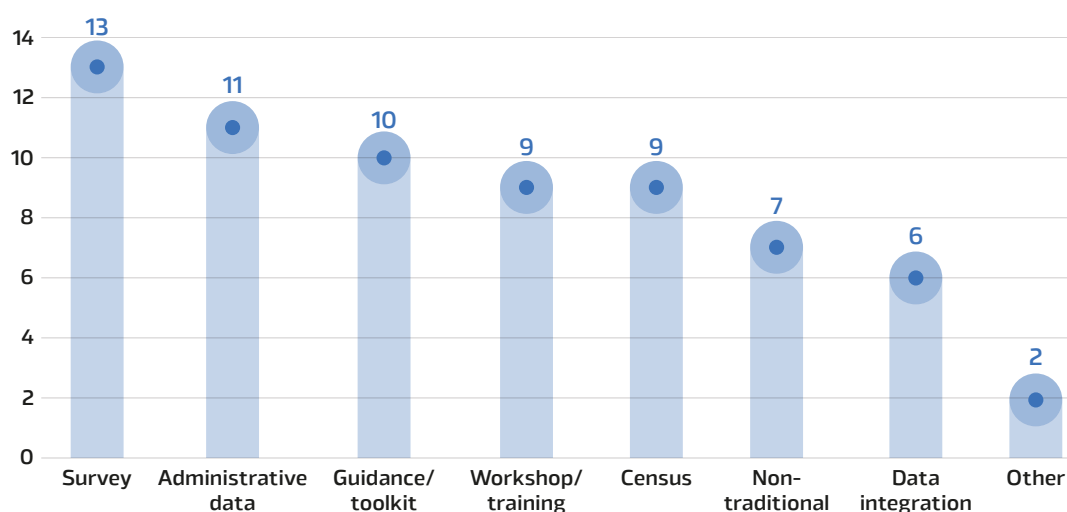
INSTITUTIONAL IMPLEMENTATION

Institutional examples include initiatives driven by international organisations, and can be conducted at the global, regional, or national level. GAIN Survey data helps illustrate the role of international and regional organisations to support countries to pursue statistical inclusion of refugees, IDPs and stateless persons and the different ways in which they are using the IRRS, IRIS and IROSS to do so.

In 2023, a total of 32 institutional examples were reported in the GAIN Survey, where the majority (27) have used the international recommendations. Half of institution-led examples were implemented at the regional level in 2023 (16, with 13 using the recommendations), a third of examples were implemented at the global level (10 examples, with 9 using recommendations), and 6 at the country level (5 using the recommendations).

Institutional examples reported were asked to elaborate on data sources or tools used, with multiple responses possible. Nearly half of the institution-led examples referenced surveys, either supporting direct data collection, developing technical frameworks for surveys or providing overviews of regional survey data collection (15 examples, with 13 incorporating recommendations). A comparable number employed administrative data (14 examples, with 11 incorporating recommendations), through support to workshops and other capacity building activities in this area, or analysis of administrative data to produce reports. Other significant tools and sources reported for institutional-led examples include census (11, all using recommendations), which were used to produce reports and aggregate national level census data to regional level. Institutions have also reported organising other workshops (10), guidance documents or toolkits (also 10).

Figure 17. **Institutional Examples Using Different Types of Data Source or Tools**



Out of the institution-led examples, UNHCR appeared in the highest number (12 reported by UNHCR and 9 other institution-led examples mentioned UNHCR as a partner), all of which made use of the Recommendations, demonstrating a strong commitment to EGRISS' common goal. One of the examples reported was an effort by UNHCR to improve refugee estimates in Europe, using demographic modeling to enhance the accuracy of population figures for refugees in 14 countries. The methodology enables estimates to be broken down by age and sex, and allows for straightforward updates in subsequent years. IRRS was used to inform the development of this methodology.

Other examples, either led or supported by institutions, involved a range of different international institutions including OECD (3 reported and 2 supported), UNICEF (1 reported and 4 supported), and IDAC (2 reported). Interestingly, GAIN 2023 data shows the relevance of the Recommendations to both UN and intergovernmental regional bodies with IGAD, EAC, ECOWAS, UNECE and UNESCWA reporting or supporting institutional-led examples. Reported data also reveals some examples of bilateral cooperation of technical support provided by one NSO to another, as demonstrated by 2 examples reported by the US Census Bureau.

The 2023 GAIN data on institutional examples provides interesting insights into the types of initiatives being undertaken by some international and regional organisations to promote and support but also directly make use of the Recommendations in practice. However, closer analysis reveals the need for a more systematic approach in applying EGRISS recommendations, particularly by key institutional partners.



COLOMBIA. *Embera indigenous communities of Bogota return to Alto Andágueda in 2023.*
©UNIT FOR COMPREHENSIVE CARE AND REPARATION FOR VICTIMS OF COLOMBIA UARIV

EGRISS Achievements in 2023

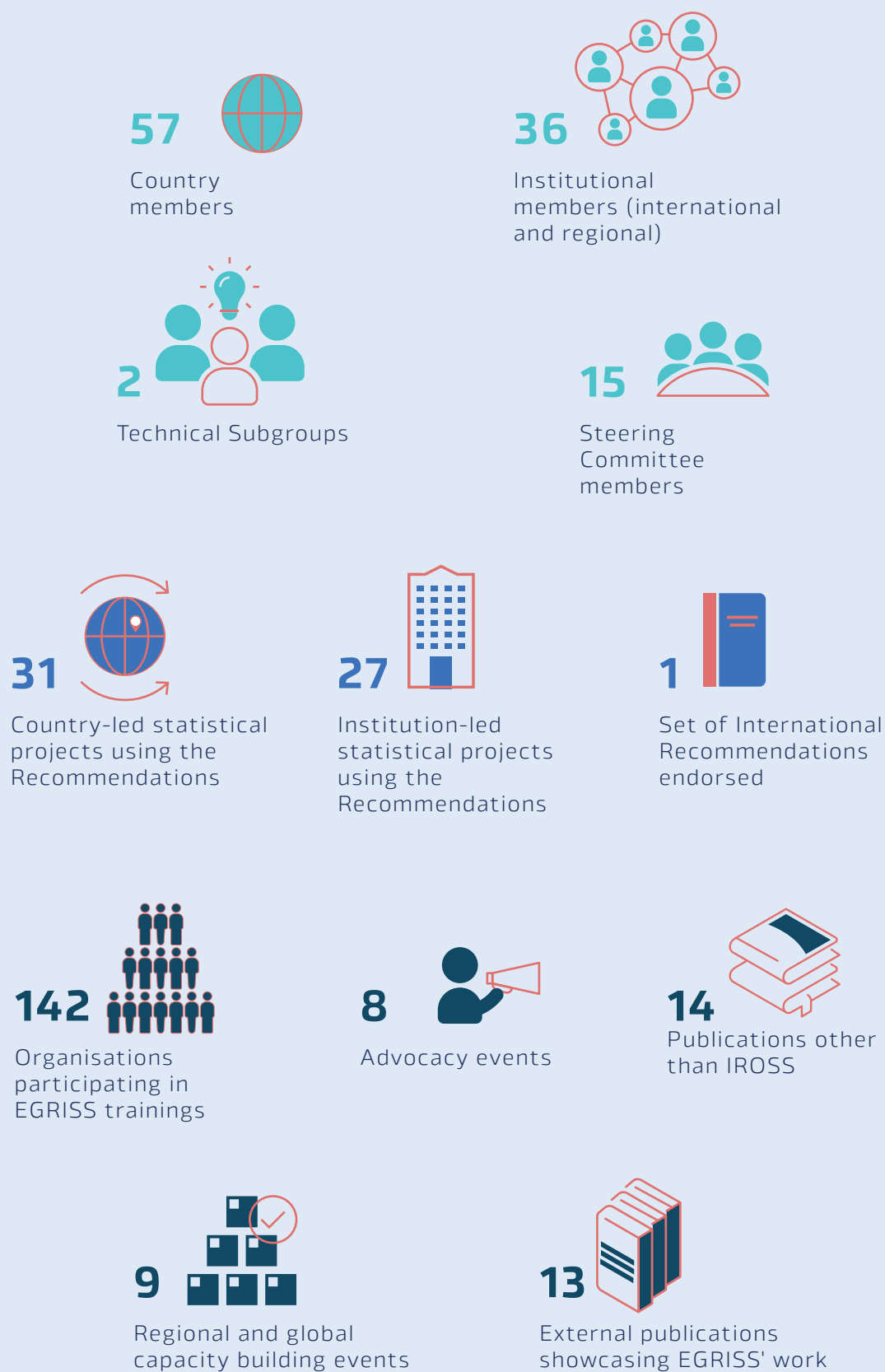
2023 was a productive year for the EGRISS community following momentum gained in the All Members Meeting in December 2022 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.³³ This section presents highlights from the Group's 2023 achievements, first providing a quantitative overview and second by showcasing a selection of them in some more detail (in addition to the IROSS already showcased in an earlier section).



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

³³ Read more about the 2022 EGRISS All Members Meeting [here](#).

Figure 18: **Overview of EGRISS achievements in 2023**



FURTHERING ACCESSIBILITY OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS: TRANSLATING THE IRRS AND IRIS

To fulfill the goal of supporting implementation of the refugee and IDP statistical recommendations, ensuring their availability in different languages remains critical. Under the leadership of Eurostat who committed the required financial and technical resources in 2023 (and as part of TSG1's 2023 workplan), the official translations of the IRRS and IRIS into Arabic, French, Spanish, and Russian have been completed.

Capitalising on the expertise and engagement of many EGRISS members and recognising regional differences and linguistic nuances relevant for the associated language on displacement, a collaborative validation process was carried out during the year to review each translated text. Volunteers from national statistical offices and international organisations came together to review the translations, including Mexico's National Institute of Statistics and Geography (INEGI), Colombia's National Administrative Department of Statistics (DANE), Kurdistan Region Statistics Office (KRSO), IOM, UNHCR, and JIPS.

By the end of 2023, IRRS and IRIS were published in French, Spanish and Russian. The IRIS was also made available in Arabic and IRRS will be by the first quarter of 2024. The full set will be launched and further disseminated during 2024, although are already available on the EGRISS website.

Figure 19: **IRRS and IRIS translations to Arabic, French, Spanish, and Russian**



CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT FOR A GLOBAL AUDIENCE: E-LEARNING & THEMATIC WEBINARS

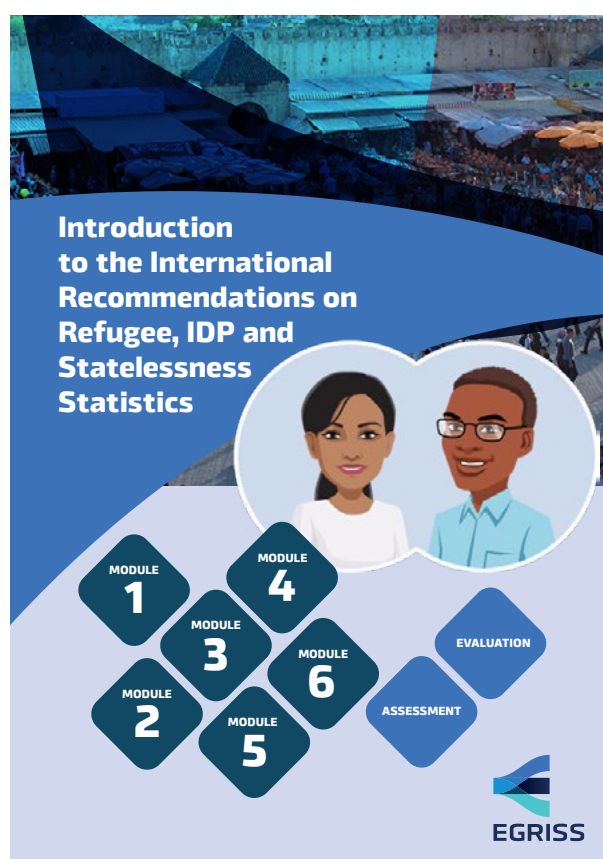
During 2023, the EGRISS E-Learning course – *Introduction to International Recommendations on Refugee and IDP Statistics* – was rolled out through a facilitated online course followed by self-paced learning programme. Intended to familiarise statistical practitioners with the IRRS and IRIS frameworks, the course aims to enhance the capacity of participants to make use of the recommendations in practice.

Developed in 2022 (as part of TSG 1's workplan) the course benefitted from the leadership of the United Nations Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific (UN-SIAP) - a professional statistics training centre for government officials and others working on official statistics. The five-module facilitated course was held in March-April 2023, through a combination of interactive weekly webinars, online modules, and a comprehensive final assessment. Expert facilitators from NSOs and international organisations (including Statistics Norway, Kenya National Bureau of Statistics, Somalia National Bureau of Statistics, and Statistics South Africa, as well as UN ESCAP, UNHCR, IOM, JIPS, and IGAD) led the webinar discussions.

The facilitated course welcomed participation from 420 enrollees, with 72% of those who took the final assessment, acquiring the certificate of completion. In May 2023, the self-paced version was made available, offering a flexible learning opportunity for other participants. Development of a revised version of the course – including content from the IROSS – was also undertaken in 2023 and will be launched in 2024.

In addition to the E-learning, EGRISS organised capacity building activities during 2023. These included two webinars on inclusion of refugees and IDPs in key national data sources. The first focused on the identification of forcibly displaced persons in surveys and was organised together with the Inter-Secretariat Working Group on Household Surveys (ISWGHS) with presentations from the Kurdistan Region Statistics Office and the JDC and over 130 participants. Approximately 85 participants joined the second, focused on census and featuring presentations from the Statistical Committee of the Republic of Armenia, Mali's Institut National de la Statistique, UNHCR, and UNFPA.

Figure 20: **E-learning at a Glance**



PRACTICAL GUIDANCE AND RESEARCH: REVISED COMPILERS' MANUAL AND METHODOLOGICAL PAPERS

The Compilers' Manual (CM) is EGRISS' flagship guidance document aimed at supporting implementation of the IRRS and IRIS. Offering clear guidance on how to apply the International Recommendations through a series of identified use cases, it complements the Recommendations with hands-on advice for practitioners.

Whilst the original version was presented as a "living document" and formally welcomed by the UNSC in 2020 (Decision 51/116), the revision process was undertaken in 2022-2023 led by the Technical Subgroup on 'Methodological Research and Guidance Development' (TSG 2) who were able to capitalise on the collective experience of EGRISS members, under leadership of the JDC. Published in August 2023 following a group-wide review, the CM can be accessed as a complete manual or through individual use cases (see box). Future revisions aim to incorporate the IROSS.

The 2023 edition is structured around a series of Use Cases or scenarios in which National Statistical Offices may consult the IRRS and IRIS:

- A: Including refugees or IDPs in a **population census**
- B: Including refugees in a **sample survey of the national population, or running a stand-alone survey** of refugees
- C: Including IDPs in a **sample survey of the national population, or running a stand-alone survey** of IDPs
- D: Using Governments **administrative data**
- E: Sources of **operational data from humanitarian organisations**
- F: **Non-traditional data** sources
- G: **Coordinating and planning** refugee and IDP statistics in national statistical systems.

Figure 21: **Compilers' Manual and Use Cases**



Complementarily, EGRISS invests in methodological research projects that aim to contribute to debates in displacement or statelessness statistics and address commonly experienced challenges. Results of this research conducted by members of TSG 2, are published through a series of Methodological Papers, the first two being released in 2023. The first considered the application of IRRS and IRIS through survey instruments and developed a set of questions to identify refugees and IDPs in existing surveys, with contributions from UNHCR, JIPS, JDC, and the EGRISS Secretariat.³⁴ The second explores the existing IRIS guidance on how exits from the IDP stock should be considered for those IDPs who have overcome their displacement-related vulnerabilities. Authored with contributions from the Stanford University's Immigration Policy Lab, UNHCR, JDC and JIPS, the paper assesses the remaining gaps and challenges therein as an effort to support EGRISS' completion of these Recommendations in 2024.³⁵

³⁴ See: [Methodological Paper No. 1 Towards a standardized approach to identify IDPs, refugees and related populations in household surveys](#)

³⁵ See: [Methodological Paper No. 2 Towards a harmonized statistical measure for exits from the stock of internally displaced persons](#)

SYNERGIES AT REGIONAL LEVEL: THE LAC TASK TEAM EXPERIENCE

The EGRISS Latin America and the Caribbean Task Team, led by UNHCR, the Central American Statistical Commission (CENTROESTAD), JIPS, and IOM, consolidated a strategic partnership in 2023 with the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) to strengthen statistical production on internally displaced persons, refugees, and stateless persons.

First, in advance of the Americas Statistical Conference, a series of webinars to raise awareness of the International Recommendations and present good practices were organised between May and August 2023 with the ECLAC Knowledge Network under coordination of UNHCR, CENTROESTAD, JIPS and IOM.³⁶

Subsequently, in November 2023, during the twelfth meeting of the Statistical Conference of the Americas (SCA) of ECLAC in Santiago (Chile), a working group was formalised for the 2024-2025 period.³⁷ It aims to contribute to policy development and monitoring international commitments such as the Global Compact on Refugees and the Global Compact for Migration. Coordinated by Honduras' National Institute of Statistics (INE), the EGRISS LAC Task Team supported the preparation of the working group's Terms of Reference.

During the first weeks of 2024, eleven statistical offices from LAC expressed interest in joining. International organisations, such as UNHCR, the Latin American and Caribbean Demographic Centre (CELADE), and IOM, will join as the technical secretariat and the EGRISS LAC Task Team, led by JIPS, will provide technical assistance.



Statistical Conference of the Americas (SCA), November 2023

³⁶ More information on the LAC sessions available at: <https://egrisstats.org/workshop/cea-cepal-regional-sessions-on-international-recommendations/>.

³⁷ More information on the working group approved within CEA CEPAL available at <https://egrisstats.org/event/cea-cepal-group-on-migration-and-forced-displacement-statistics/>.

PROMOTING STATISTICAL INCLUSION AND USE OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS

The statistical inclusion message guided much of the EGRISS' promotion and dissemination activities during the year. These included several events and the integration of EGRISS' international Recommendations or other resources and experience in key reports and policy processes. A selection are highlighted here.

JANUARY

International Forum on Migration Statistics

EGRISS started the year participating in the third International Forum on Migration Statistics, held 24-26 of January in Santiago, Chile, Jointly organised by IOM, UNDESA and OECD, the event was hosted by UN-ECLAC. Forced displacement was a central theme throughout the Forum, and the collaborative efforts of EGRISS' members received significant attention and interest, including through two EGRISS co-organised side events and the opening and closing ceremonies.



FEBRUARY

54th UN Statistical Commission

Beyond statelessness (see section 'Statelessness at the 54th UNSC and Endorsement'), the UN Statistical Commission held from 28th February to 3rd March demonstrated continued support to EGRISS' agenda. The group co-organised a side event on including refugees and IDPs in national household surveys. Moreover, the decision on the Classifications of Statistical Activities (CSA 2.0) determined the inclusion of internally displaced persons within the scope of migration statistics, which is now itself a separate classification from population statistics.³⁸



³⁸ Read more about EGRISS at the 54th UNSC [here](#).

APRIL

UN World Data Forum

EGRISS was involved in the organisation of three events at the April United Nations World Data Forum (UNWDF) in China, embedding the IROSS and 'statistical inclusion' in the agenda. Contributions from many members were showcased, underlining the relevance of improving national data on refugees, IDPs and stateless persons as part of global data priorities in the road towards 2030.



JUNE

Cross-Regional Forum on Implementing Laws and Policies on Internal Displacement



The first Cross-Regional Forum on Implementing Laws and Policies on Internal Displacement was organised by the UN Special Rapporteur on the Human Rights of IDPs and the Global Protection Cluster's Task Team on Law and Policy in June 2023. With peer-to-peer exchange at the centre, government representatives from 10 countries shared experiences and identified solutions. EGRISS joined the facilitation team so support discussions around data and raise awareness of the IRIS.

OCTOBER

Inter-agency and Expert Group on SDG Indicators Meeting

The 14th Meeting of the Inter-agency and Expert Group on SDG Indicators (IAEG-SDGs) took place from 23 to 25 October in Copenhagen, Denmark. EGRISS advocated for the inclusion of forcibly displaced and stateless persons, as per the priority SDG indicators identified in 2018 currently being updated by TSG 2, and the measures recommended in the IROSS.



NOVEMBER

Data for Solutions to Internal Displacement (DSID) and IOM's PROGRESS

Established by the Office of the Special Adviser on Solutions to Internal Displacement, the Data for Solutions to Internal Displacement (DSID) Taskforce, developed a proposal to strengthen data and analysis on internal displacement in solutions contexts, that builds upon the IRIS. The Taskforce is co-led by IOM and UNDP.

In addition, IOM's first PROGRESS report, developed with Georgetown University, aims to provide a data-driven understanding of the IDP experience of solutions. This report is also informed by the IRIS.³⁹



Global Compact on Refugees indicator report and launch

In November, UNHCR launched the 2023 Global Compact on Refugees Indicator Report. For the first it included a dedicated section on data that highlighted the value of the IRRS and statistical inclusion supported by data from the GAIN Survey.⁴⁰ Mirroring the report, the launch put a strong emphasis on statistical inclusion and capacity development.



UNESCO and UNHCR report on refugee inclusion in education

In November, UNESCO and UNHCR published a data overview on the inclusion of refugees in national education systems. The report identifies data gaps and makes recommendations to enhance the availability and quality of refugee education data, referencing EGRISS and the IRRS.⁴¹



DECEMBER

Pledges at the Global Refugee Forum

The EGRISS, JDC and Djibouti, with support from UNHCR, co-led a pledge on statistical inclusion of refugees, IDPs and statelessness at the 2023 Global Refugee Forum. Results, including close to 100 commitments made by different stakeholders, signify increased momentum to improve national statistics using EGRISS Recommendations. An associated side event was also held at the Forum with NSOs from Chad and Peru.



³⁹ See: [PROGRESS 2023: Periodic Global Report on the State of Solutions to Internal Displacement](#)

⁴⁰ See: [2023 Global Compact on Refugees Indicator Report](#)

⁴¹ See: [A Global Overview of Refugee Education Data Report](#)

FOSTERING THE EGRISS COMMUNITY

Enhancing EGRISS member engagement became a strong focus for 2023, with a range of different strategies implemented as outlined below:

- The 2023 Technical Subgroups restructuring described in the 'EGRISS Overview' section was accompanied by the regionalization of TSG 1 by establishing regional Task Teams, as a strategy to implement engagement and capacity development efforts in Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean, Asia and Pacific, Europe, and Western Asia.
- During 2023, EGRISS' website was regularly updated and information on progress towards the International Recommendations' implementation was strengthened with the inclusion of a global overview interactive dashboard, access to the GAIN survey and a section on the Statistical Inclusion pledge. ⁴²
- From a communications standpoint, the monthly emails updating the full Expert Group membership on recent, ongoing, and upcoming activities throughout the year have received positive feedback since its launch in August 2023.
- Beyond EGRISS membership, the quarterly newsletters allow for wider dissemination, witnessing increased 30% reach - from 267 subscribers in February 2023, to 347 in November.
- An additional 2023 membership engagement strategy was the creation of a photo repository, gathering pictures from statistical initiatives carried out by members. It provided visual material for the year's publications and seeks to boost ownership of participating institutions, enhancing dissemination.

⁴² More information on the International Recommendations' implementation progress [here](#).

Figure 22. **Implementing the recommendations in practice: photos shared by EGRISS country members**





Reflections from the Secretariat

To facilitate the work of EGRISS, the Secretariat acts as a catalyst for change, making efforts to assist and coordinate both members and activities as and when needed. Involved in the day-to-day tasks at the centre of this eclectic and ambitious group, the Secretariat has a unique vantage point and can observe the group's work from this particular perspective. Summarised below are some reflections from the Secretariat based on 2023 achievements, challenges, and engagements.

COMPLETING THE “EGRISS RECOMMENDATIONS TRILOGY”

The first months of 2023 saw the completion of development work on the International Recommendations on Statelessness Statistics (that was initiated in 2019) and their unanimous endorsement by the UN Statistical Commission. This milestone marked the completion of EGRISS' third set of International Recommendations since the Group was formally established in 2016. Moreover, it signified the added value of the Group's collaborative working methodology – bringing together statistical and legal experts from affected countries and international organisations – to tackle politically sensitive and challenging statistical topics.

This success injected a sense of accomplishment early in the year, generating much excitement. However, the excitement was accompanied by an awareness of the challenges ahead to support implementation of the IROSS. Learning from experience in rolling out the IRRS and IRIS, a revision of the EGRISS E-learning to incorporate the IROSS was prioritised to enable effective dissemination of the IROSS amongst the global community of statistical practitioners. The revised E-learning course will be launched in 2024, and many other plans to sensitise the community, enhance accessibility and build capacity to make use of the new Recommendations will be conducted.

SIGNIFICANT MOMENTUM AROUND STATISTICAL INCLUSION OF REFUGEES

With the International Forum on Migration Statistics in January and the Global Refugee Forum in December, the year opened and closed with significant attention on refugee statistics. The former confirmed their place in broader migration statistical efforts, and the latter highlighted the necessity of their inclusion in national statistical data production to foster inclusive policy implementation in areas such as health, education, and social protection.

In addition, throughout the year, exciting progress in many different countries was underway, grounding global policy dialogue in specific national contexts. As GAIN Survey results have confirmed and EGRISS case studies show countries as far apart as Rwanda, Canada, Poland, and Peru have been working hard to improve their data on refugees and asylum seekers, often making use of the IRRS to do so. With close to 100 pledges for statistical inclusion in the context of the Global Refugee Forum – including around 15 from countries working on refugee statistics – the future holds even more promise.

HEIGHTENED ATTENTION ON IDP STATISTICS

As the first full year of work for the Office of the UN Special Adviser on Solutions to Internal Displacement, 2023 also saw heightened interest on IDP statistics and the role of the IRIS. In particular, partners returned to long-standing questions about measuring the “end of displacement” and how this can be implemented in different contexts to inform both policy and operational decision making.

Concerning official statistics, whilst the IRIS made clear progress in this space, the recommendations fall short of proposing a complete statistical measure. Methodological options to develop this statistical measure were explored, however further work is needed to shape the way forward. As guided by the EGRISS’ High-Level and regular Steering Committee, this work will be prioritised in 2024 with the re-establishment of the IDP Subgroup.

More widely, countries have been working to implement the IRIS in different displacement contexts notably including the integration of IDP statistics in Somalia’s National Strategy for the Development of Statistics and the inclusion of internal displacement in Honduras’ Permanent Multipurpose Household Survey 2023 (EPHPM). Increasing interest in the IRIS and its potential as a tool for Governments was confirmed through engagement with participants at the Cross-Regional Forum on Implementing Laws and Policies on Internal Displacement described earlier. Based on this experience and feedback more capacity development will be needed.

REACHING THE HALFWAY POINT TO 2030

As reported through this series of EGRISS Annual Reports, from the Secretariat's perspective, progress in the work of the Expert Group is undeniable. With growing membership, well-received new resources, increased interest, and traction at global and regional levels, as well as progress in many national contexts to put the Recommendations into practice, there is a lot of excitement within the EGRISS community about our collective achievements and a confidence to address challenges head-on.

Taking a step back however and considering 2023 as the halfway point on the road to 2030 and the planned achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, the picture becomes much less rosy. Visibility of refugees, IDPs and stateless persons within the SDGs is far from ideal even in countries that host large numbers of affected population groups. Although resources and contributions from EGRISS members are welcomed by the Inter-Agency Expert Group on SDG Indicators (IAEG-SDGs), greater attention is needed in the coming years to ensure the new data produced through ongoing statistical inclusion efforts is concretely used by governments and development practitioners in relevant analysis and planning processes. This challenges EGRISS' members to move beyond ad hoc or individual efforts and to think critically and strategically on how to systematically pursue statistical inclusion of refugees, IDPs and statelessness through use of the International Recommendations and associated capacity development initiatives. Importantly, this applies equally to countries and international and regional organisations.



Next Steps and Priorities for 2024

Looking forward to 2024, the core focus areas of the Expert Group on Refugee, IDP and Statelessness Statistics (EGRISS) include:

- **Capitalise on regionalization of TSG1 to build momentum and invest in capacity development through existing platforms**, including workshops in Asia-Pacific, Europe, and Africa and supporting workstreams of the LAC CEA working group.
- **Continue to ensure methodological advancement**, particularly on priority SDG indicators and re-prioritizing the IDP statistics workstream to complete the IRIS' measure for exiting the stock of IDPs.
- **Invest in dissemination and promote use of the Recommendations**, with a focus on IROSS as the most recently endorsed set of Recommendations, including through the launch of the updated E-Learning course and ensuring alignment of the 2030 Principles & Recommendations for Population & Housing Census with the IRRS, IRIS and IROSS.
- **Engage in strategic partnerships to enhance technical support and guidance provided** with a particular focus on using administrative records to produce forced displacement and statelessness statistics and ensuring National Strategies for the Development of Statistics (or other similar plans) incorporate the IRRS, IRIS or IROSS where appropriate.
- **Better target advocacy and awareness raising activities**, including through global platforms such as the UN World Data Forum, by enabling national perspectives and experience to be front and centre.

- **Improve the accessibility of key EGRISS resources** including through short “Recommendations at a Glance” documents to introduce the content of the IRRS, IRIS and IROSS and plan for translation of the IROSS, Compilers’ Manual and E-Learning.
- **Further enhance monitoring of statistical inclusion and use of the Recommendations**, with eyes on enhancing the GAIN Survey, strengthening case studies, and exploring ways to map future/planned activities.
- **Prepare for and confirm EGRISS’ mandate extension**, including through a consolidation of learning from the current mandate, submitting an official request to the UNSC and planning collaborating with EGRISS members during the 2024 All Members Meeting.

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

- **Strong and engaged membership** of countries, as well as regional and international organisations, who are at the centre of all the EGRISS achievements. Regular communications and engagement activities that prioritise the empowerment of “EGRISS champions” will be crucial, as will meeting in-person at the EGRISS All-Members’ Meeting.
- **Secure financial resources for 2024 (and beyond)** to complement existing resources from the WB-UNHCR Joint Data Centre on Forced Displacement, the US State Department’s Bureau for Population, Refugees and Migration and UNHCR, primarily to facilitate all EGRISS activities and maintain the EGRISS Secretariat’s coordination function.
- **Strengthened partnerships** with existing and new counterparts within the statistical, humanitarian and development communities, to support achievements, further capacity development and implementation of the recommendations.



POLAND. UNHCR protection monitors assess needs of refugees from Ukraine. 15 December, 2022.
© UNHCR/ANNA LIMINOWICZ

COVER PHOTO

CHAD. *New Sudanese refugee arrivals from Sudan 29 April 2023*

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EGRISS

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