

# EGRISS 2024 Annual Report

**Pursuing sustainable change in refugee,  
IDPs, and statelessness statistics:**  
mainstreaming the International Recommendations  
and advancing regional engagement



**SYRIA.** Thousands of people  
fleeing Israeli airstrikes arrive  
from Lebanon at the Jdeidet  
Yabous border crossing.  
28 September, 2024.  
© UNHCR/Akihito Okuda





## Acknowledgments

The 2024 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 this document.

For the Report's development, the work of the Secretariat is recognised, and thanks are extended to Eric Machado Raupp, who led the project, as well as Natalia Baal, Filip Mitrovic, Dikago Puoeng, Charis Sijuwade, and Ladina Schlatter, who all contributed.

Gratitude is due to the foreword signatories, Dr. Diene Keita Deputy, Executive Director-Programme/Assistant Secretary General at United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), and Dr. Ibrahim Abdi Hadi, Director General of the National Institute of Statistics of Djibouti (INSTAD), and the EGRISS Steering Committee members for their guidance during the process. They include the African Union (AU), Colombia's National Administrative Department of Statistics (DANE), Eurostat, the Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre (IDMC), the International Organization for Migration (IOM), the Joint IDP Profiling Service (JIPS), Kurdistan Region Statistics Office (KRSO), the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA), Statistics Norway, the Unit for the Attention and Integral Reparation to the Victims (UARIV), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Refugee Agency (UNHCR), the United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD), the World Bank, the World Bank-UNHCR Joint Data Center on Forced Displacement (JDC).

For their submission to the GAIN survey, thanks are extended to all respondents within and beyond the EGRISS membership. Special thanks go to the countries that shared their experiences through the case studies and devoted time to review the content. Specifically, to the following institutions and colleagues: Kurdistan Region Statistics Office (Serwan Mohamed and Gohdar Mohamed), Nigeria's National Bureau of Statistics (Geofrey Akor), Djibouti's National Institute of Statistics (Omar Moussa Ali), Moldova's National Bureau of Statistics (Aurelia Spataru and Oleg Cara), and Kosovo's Agency for Statistics (Avni Kastrati).

The design work done by Eric Machado Raupp is appreciated. Financial support was made available by the WB-UNHCR Joint Data Center.



# Foreword

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The global displacement crisis reached unprecedented levels in 2024, with over 122 million people forcibly displaced worldwide and an estimated 4.4 million stateless persons living in legal limbo. Throughout the year, new escalations and key shifts emerged in some of the world's most visible displacement crises — including in Gaza, Sudan, and Syria — while many protracted, less visible situations remained unresolved, and migration routes continued to pose significant dangers. The need for robust statistical frameworks to support inclusive development data and evidence-based policies that leave no one behind has, therefore, intensified, underscoring the relevance of the Expert Group on Refugee, IDP, and Statelessness Statistics (EGRISS).

As representatives of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and the Institut de la Statistique de Djibouti (INSTAD), we present EGRISS' 2024 achievements in this Annual Report, offering both global and national perspectives. The convergence of these vantage points reflects the Group's collaborative nature, which has ensured the successful development of the International Recommendations on Refugee Statistics (IRRS), the International Recommendations on IDP Statistics (IRIS), and the International Recommendations on Statelessness Statistics (IROSS), along with numerous other achievements. We commend the collective action demonstrated by EGRISS members across regions, institutions, and technical domains, working in cooperation with national statistical systems to advance the Sustainable Development Goals.

As a co-lead of the Global Refugee Forum's Multi-Stakeholder Pledge on 'Inclusion of Forcibly Displaced and Stateless Persons in National Statistical Systems and Surveys' alongside EGRISS, INSTAD recognises that effectiveness depends on action. The realisation of Djibouti's national population and housing census in 2024 exemplifies our commitment to operationalising this pledge and integrating EGRISS Recommendations into our activities.



Djibouti's position at the nexus of displacement corridors in the Horn of Africa provides unique insights into the region's distinctive challenges. We therefore commend EGRISS' emphasis on regional engagement as described in this Report. Structured workshops in the Asia-Pacific, Europe, and Western Asia Structured workshops in Asia-Pacific, Europe, and Western Asia have accounted for geographical dynamics while strengthening national capacities, facilitating knowledge exchange, and advancing collective advocacy for statistical inclusion.

For UNFPA, a member of EGRISS since its establishment in 2016, the Group's achievements in 2024 are particularly significant as they reinforce our goal to count everyone — because everyone counts. The results of this work are evident in the Implementation section of this Report, which presents findings of the 2024 Global Annual Inclusion (GAIN) Survey. This section highlights the growing comprehensiveness and inclusivity of various data sources, with 108 reported examples using IRRS, IRIS, and/or IROSS implementation during the year. Notably, 26 censuses were reported, all incorporating at least one of the EGRISS' Recommendations. Many of these censuses received technical and financial support from UNFPA to ensure that they are of high-quality, adhere to international principles and have broad data dissemination.

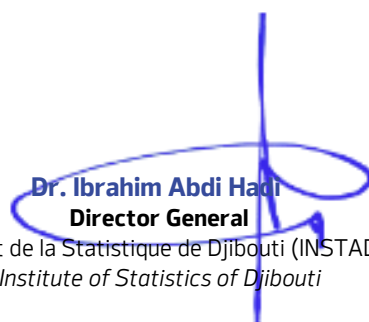
In 2024, EGRISS strategically worked to integrate its Recommendations into broader statistical frameworks, expanding their impact for future years. Key examples include the revised Principles and Recommendations for Population and Housing Censuses (Revision 4) and the Recommendations on Statistics of International Migration and Temporary Mobility, both endorsed at the 56<sup>th</sup> session of the UN Statistical Commission in March 2025. Additionally, efforts to shape the UN's System-wide Approach to Internal Displacement merit recognition. With guidance from EGRISS, the principles and content of the IRIS have been incorporated into key commitments and frameworks coordinated by the Office of the Special Advisor on Solutions to Internal Displacement, which will guide collective efforts in the coming years.

At a critical juncture — EGRISS' final phase under its current mandate and the world's entry into the last five years of the 2030 Agenda — this Report documents key achievements while outlining strategic priorities for inclusive development data on refugees, IDPs, and stateless populations. Resource constraints and the inherent complexity of displacement dynamics may challenge the full realisation of the Group's goals. EGRISS has consistently demonstrated a remarkable ability to transform obstacles into opportunities through its now well-established and thriving community.

We extend an invitation to stakeholders across humanitarian, development, and statistical domains: engage concretely in this evolving work and contribute to the construction of truly inclusive data infrastructures. In an era of unprecedented global challenges, ensuring precise, dignified statistical representation is not just a technical necessity — it is essential for fostering just societies and effective development.



**Dr. Diene Keita**  
Deputy Executive Director -  
Programme/Assistant Secretary General  
United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)



**Dr. Ibrahim Abdi Hadi**  
Director General  
Institut de la Statistique de Djibouti (INSTAD)  
Institute of Statistics of Djibouti





**CHAD.** More than 10,400 new Sudanese refugees arrive in Kalma, in the province of Sila, 24 January, 2024.  
© UNHCR/Andrew McConnell



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# Introduction

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Displacement and statelessness continued to challenge societies in 2024. Millions endured uncertainty and marginalisation amid political turmoil, environmental crises, and humanitarian emergencies. The global landscape was marked by intensifying displacement crises in Gaza, Sudan, and Ukraine, alongside shifting dynamics in longstanding situations like Syria. These threats, often interconnected, compound one another, creating complex and mutually reinforcing dangers, and underscoring the critical need for reliable data. Against this backdrop, the work of the Expert Group on Refugee, IDP, and Statelessness Statistics (EGRISS) to improve harmonised official statistics that can be trusted and used by governments to inform policy and international dialogue has proved to remain fundamental and urgent.

Established in 2016 by the United Nations Statistical Commission (UNSC), EGRISS was originally created to respond to the pressing need for standards to guide the production of better national statistics on displaced and populations. Over the years, the Group has expanded its scope to include statelessness and delivered three sets of groundbreaking International Recommendations: on Refugees (**IRRS**), IDP (**IRIS**), and Statelessness (**IROSS**), respectively in 2018, 2020, and 2023. These frameworks have become cornerstones for statistical standardisation and innovation in this field. In 2024, with a membership of 61 countries and 38 regional and international organisations, Group members worked together to lay the ground for sustained progress in the years ahead through two key channels: mainstreaming EGRISS recommendations and engaging with countries and partners at regional level to support their dissemination.

Globally, EGRISS made strides in integrating IRRS, IRIS, and IRIS within broader statistics frameworks. This trilogy contributed to the revision of the Principles & Recommendations for Population and Housing Censuses and the updated Recommendations on Statistics of International Migration and Temporary Mobility, ensuring alignment with international

standards. Beyond statistics, IRIS was incorporated into the UN-sponsored approach to improving operational data on IDP solutions, highlighting EGRISS' broader relevance. Building on the momentum from Latin America and the Caribbean in 2023, 2024 was pivotal for expanding regional initiatives. Workshops across Europe, Asia-Pacific, and Western Asia — with plans for Africa in 2025 — strengthened peer learning, capacity-building, and context-specific solutions while reinforcing ethical and methodological rigor.

This Annual Report highlights EGRISS's efforts to bridge global frameworks and regional contexts, fostering inclusive and high-quality statistics on forced displacement and statelessness. It shares insights from initiatives that took place in 2024, focusing on capacity development initiatives, which have empowered National Statistical Systems to implement the Recommendations, advocacy and community enhancement efforts, central to share light in the advantages of statistical inclusion, and methodological refinements initiatives, tailored to fill gaps emerging from the ever-evolving international landscape. From capacity-building workshops to peer-learning networks, and from technical papers to advocacy campaigns, these activities reflect our comprehensive approach to improving displacement statistics globally.

The Report also features country case studies demonstrating successful implementation of the Recommendations, offering learning opportunities for others. Furthermore, it identifies key priorities that will shape the Group's path forward. As EGRISS approaches the conclusion of its current mandate in 2025, this iteration not only reflects on the significant progress achieved in the last year but also lays the groundwork for anticipated future endeavours, particularly in strengthening statistical systems' capacity to respond to emerging displacement challenges.



# EGRISS Overview

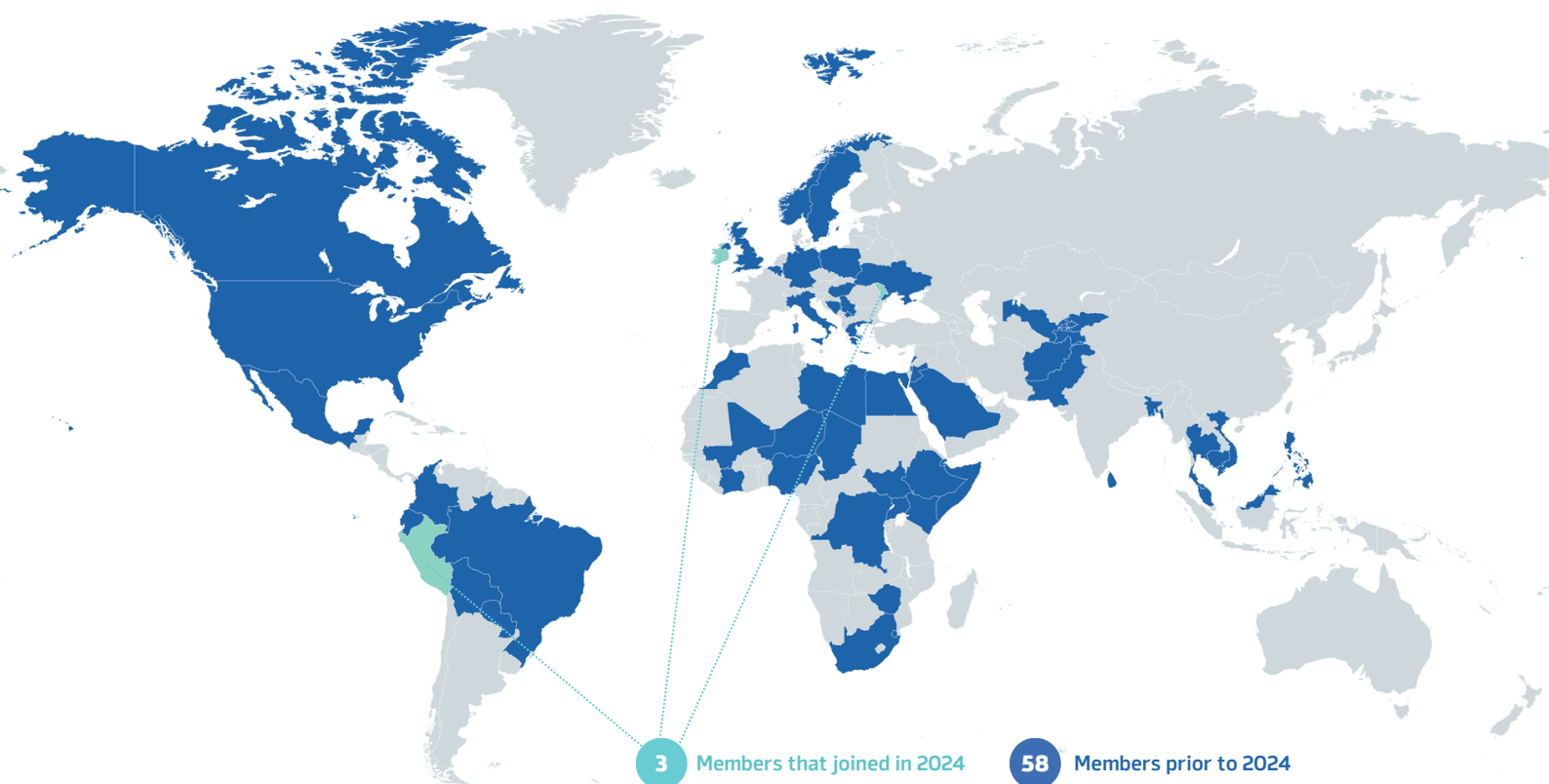
<b>What</b>	Expert Group mandated by the United Nations Statistical Commission (UNSC)
<b>When</b>	Established in 2016, currently on its <b>third mandate</b> (2020-2025)
<b>Why</b>	Improving national statistics on forced displacement and statelessness
<b>Where</b>	Global, with focus on countries and regions affected by forced displacement and statelessness
<b>Who</b>	Multi-stakeholder group including 61 countries and 38 international and regional organisations
<b>How</b>	Through a working methodology anchored on participatory approach

**EGRISS developed and works to promote and support the implementation of the International Recommendations on Refugee (IRRS, 2018), IDP (IRIS, 2020), and Statelessness (IROSS, 2023) Statistics**



The Recommendations were developed through a collaborative process, including national authorities and international agencies. IRRS, IRIS, and IROSS are aligned to existing statistical guidance, grounded in recognised legal/policy frameworks, and offer critical guidance on how to improve the quality and availability of official statistics. Until their development, the lack of common standards led to divergent practice and unharmonised data. Through their **implementation**, statistics on refugees, IDPs and statelessness are being improved.

Figure 1: EGRISS country membership in 2024 (61 countries)



Our inclusion in the Group will facilitate the improvement of the production and dissemination of statistics on refugees, internally displaced persons and stateless persons to meet the needs for information for developing of public policies at national, regional, and local levels, as well as the demand of international organisations”.

— Instituto Nacional de Estadística e Informática (INEI), Peru

EGRISS activities are undertaken by the broader membership, organised in two thematic Technical Subgroups (TSG). Dedicated task teams focus on specific regions, research questions or deliverables:

- **TSG 1 on Regional Engagement & Capacity Development**, co-led by IOM, the Joint IDP Profiling Service (JIPS), and UNHCR.
- **TSG 2 on Methodological Research & Guidance Development**, co-led by the Joint Data Center (JDC) and the Somalia National Bureau of Statistics (SNBS).

A **Steering Committee** with 15 members, including National Statistical Offices, regional, and international organisations, guides EGRISS' work. A High-Level Steering Committee sits once a year to provide strategic advice and guidance.





**DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO.** The Mugunga displacement site near Goma, eastern DR Congo, is receiving new arrivals from among more than 135,000 people who have been forced to flee the violence in Sake in North Kivu province, 14 February, 2024  
© UNHCR/Blaise Sanyila



# Achievements *from* 2024

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Building on the successes of 2023, such as the **endorsement of the IROSS**, the revision of the **e-learning course**, the publication of the **Compilers' Manual**, and **over 100 pledges on statistical inclusion** at the Global Refugee Forum (GRF), EGRISS strengthened in 2024 investments for the sustainable transformation of national statistics on refugees, IDPs, and statelessness through the implementation of the International Recommendations. To capitalise on this opportunity, the Group worked in the following areas:

- **Regional engagement** to enhance knowledge about the Recommendations and peer-to-peer learning opportunities.
- **Mainstreaming the IRRS, IRIS, and IROSS** to strengthen coherence and alignment across various international frameworks.
- **Capacity development** to empower and enable national statistical systems and other stakeholders to implement the IRRS, IRIS, IROSS in diverse contexts.
- **Advocacy and community enhancement** to shed light in the advantages of statistical inclusion efforts and promote the use of the Recommendations.
- **Methodological refinement** to ensure that EGRISS' outputs remain technically sound and responsive to real-world challenges.

Facilitated by the broad and active engagement of many EGRISS members, at national, regional, and global levels, the above workstreams have helped to ensure that the Recommendations are more concretely disseminated and widely recognised in a manner that reinforces the global and regional statistical systems. Successes in all areas required a holistic, collaborative approach that leveraged the capacities and proactivity of many EGRISS members to whom we remain grateful.



# Regional engagement

Global frameworks and standards are only as impactful as their adoption and application on the ground by national statistical systems and their international partners. In default of this, they risk remaining abstract ideals. To allow targeted support, peer-to-peer learning, and the contextualisation of the Recommendations to the unique circumstances of different parts of the world, EGRISS intensified in 2024 its engagement with national and regional level stakeholders. The Group and its regional task teams members organised workshops which provided a platform for sharing experiences and addressing context-specific challenges.

## Asia-Pacific

Bangkok, Thailand, became a hub of knowledge as participants from Cambodia, Indonesia, Timor-Leste, Malaysia, Nepal, Philippines, Lao PDR, Vietnam, India, Sri Lanka and Thailand gathered for a workshop on **“Implementing Guidance on Inclusive CRVS Systems with a Focus on Forced Displacement, Statelessness, and Children on the Move.”** Organised through the joint efforts of EGRISS members — UNESCAP, UNHCR, UNICEF — and the International Data Alliance for Children on the Move over four days in March, the event resonated deeply, as Civil Registration and Vital Statistics Systems are vital for ensuring the inclusion of stateless and displaced populations in administrative and statistical frameworks.

## Europe

EGRISS members co-organised a **workshop on Refugee, IDP, and Statelessness Statistics** in Geneva in May. This event, held alongside the regular meeting of the UNECE Group of Experts on Migration Statistics, brought together 33 NSOs from European, Central Asian, and North American countries. Discussions focused on enhanced statistical cooperation, the use of administrative data sources, and the power of collective action. Participants were encouraged to work together, share ideas, and identify opportunities to strengthen regional cooperation to bolster national practices.

*Through establishing regional task teams and organising in-person workshops, like the ones in Thailand (L) and Switzerland (R), EGRISS intensified its engagement with national and regional level stakeholders / © UNESCAP, © UNECE*





*EGRISS' workshop in Egypt equipped Arab region member states with international standards for collecting and analysing refugee, IDP, and stateless population statistics / © UNESCWA*

## Western Asia

EGRISS' first-ever **workshop on IRRS, IRIS and IROSS** for countries in the region was held at the League of Arab States Headquarters in Cairo, Egypt, in November. The event—organised in cooperation with the UNESCWA and the Arab Institute for Training and Statistical Research, alongside UNHCR, UNRWA, UNFPA, and JIPS — connected representatives from Djibouti, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Mauritania, Morocco, Palestine, Somalia, Sudan, Syria, Tunisia, and Yemen to learn about the International Recommendations and exchange experiences related to producing statistics on refugees, IDPs, and stateless populations in different national contexts.

## Latin America and the Caribbean

Although 2024 did not host a regional workshop for countries in the region as such, it witnessed the launch of the **CEPAL working group for production of harmonised statistics on forced displacement and migration**, following the 2023 approval of its workplan by the Conference of American Statisticians (CEA) in the previous year. Under the leadership of INE Honduras, with support from secretariat members (SICA, UNHCR, IOM and JIPS), group membership was established including Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Guatemala, Mexico, Panama, Paraguay, and Peru. A regional mapping survey was designed and completed; results will be delivered at the end of 2025.

## Africa

The African Union's Institute for Statistics and Statistics Sweden have partnered with EGRISS' regional task team for Africa to organise the fourth African School on Migration Statistics (ASMS) in 2025, with a focus on forced displacement and statelessness. A key feature of this iteration of the School will be the emphasis on practical applications, highlighting examples where the Recommendations have been used to enhance official statistics.

# Mainstreaming of the Recommendations

Promoting the use of the IRRS, IRIS, and IROSS also requires engagement beyond EGRISS' own community of partners; it is necessary to step outside our own comfort zone to connect with and influence other statistical and policy processes. This includes broader processes in the world of statistics, but also in the policy sphere concerning forced displaced and stateless persons. In 2024, EGRISS seized this opportunity to make sure such standards and policy frameworks recognise the value and align with the International Recommendations on Refugee, IDPs, and Statelessness Statistics, as appropriate.

## Population and Housing Census

The revision of the Principles and Recommendations (P&R) for Population and Housing Censuses to support the 2030 census round took place in 2023-2024. Following the advice of its High Level Steering Committee, **EGRISS engaged with the P&R's Expert Group to influence the revision process** and ensure relevant alignment with the IRRS, IRIS, and IROSS and the **Compilers' Manual Use Case A**. Mobilising countries and partners that participate in both expert groups, EGRISS advocated for stronger alignment through participation in meetings and consultative review processes. The revised P&R are presented to the UN Statistical Commission in 2025 and are expected to foster increased incorporation of the EGRISS Recommendations in the next census round.

## International Migration Statistics

In line with the changes in migratory movements, the UNSD has been leading the revision of the 1998 Recommendations on Statistics of International Migration, under the guidance of the **United Nations Expert Group on Migration Statistics** (EGMS). Thanks to technical guidance from UNHCR's participation in the EGM, and engagement from EGRISS Secretariat, the Recommendations on Statistics of International Migration and Temporary Mobility has incorporated key elements of the IRRS, ensuring **better alignment between the two frameworks**, and several references to guidance from the IROSS and the **EGRISS Compilers' Manual**. Building on previous Commission decisions, the complete revised Recommendations will be presented to the UNSC's 56<sup>th</sup> session in March 2025.

## Other statistical alignment efforts

In 2024, EGRISS Secretariat and diverse members have taken steps to work with partner organisations and groups to encourage **alignment with other statistical recommendations**, including the:

- International Conference of Labor Statisticians (ICL) Guidelines concerning Statistics of International Labor Migration
- UN Handbook on Household Surveys
- New framework for Citizen Data

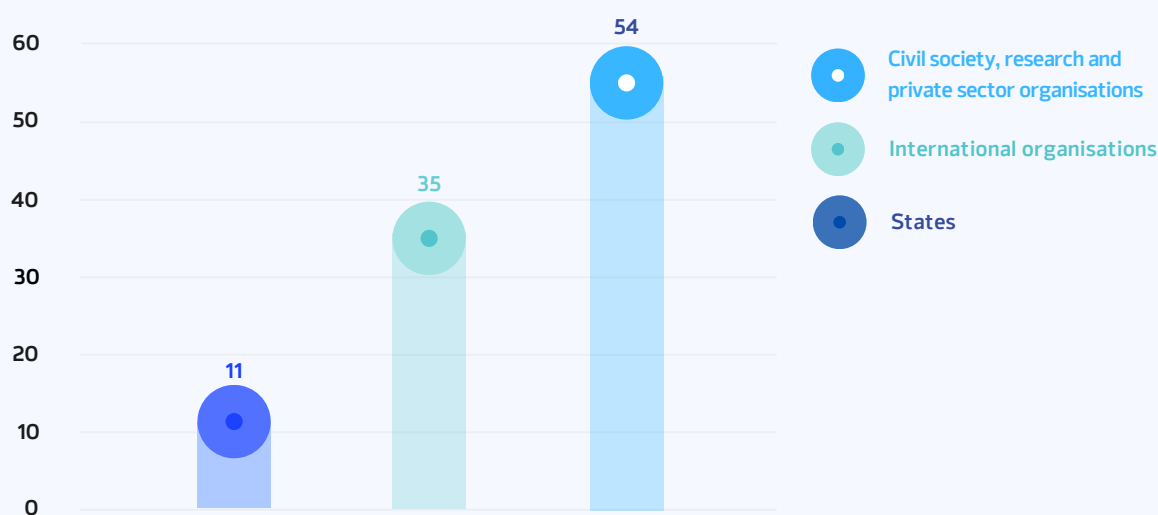
This use case describes how displaced populations can be included in a population census



## GRF pledges on statistical inclusion

Going beyond the statistical system and avoiding working in silos, EGRISS also built on the 2023 success of securing over 100 pledges on the **Inclusion of Forcibly Displaced and Stateless Persons in National Statistical Systems and Surveys** at the Global Refugee Forum. Co-led by EGRISS, JDC, and L'Institut National de la Statistique de Djibouti (INSTAD), progress on pledge implementation was highlighted in the **Second Quarterly Informal Briefing on the Global Compact on Refugees** in June, when 35% in progress and 5% concluded was reported. Progress since then has also been monitored by UNHCR's global monitoring system complemented with data collected through GAIN.

Figure 2: **Number of pledges on statistical inclusion by submitting entity**



Source: UNHCR

## Data for solutions to internal displacement

Focusing on IDPs, the incorporation of IRIS into deliberations coordinated by the Office of the Special Advisor on Solutions to Internal Displacement to enhance the UN's System-wide Approach to Internal Displacement, represents another win concerning EGRISS' efforts to inform key policy processes and mainstream the Recommendations. The **Report of the High-level Committee on Programmes (HLCP)** from its 48<sup>th</sup> session recognises the value of the IRIS and praises the "increasing emphasis on the production of nationally owned data and the inclusion of IDPs in national statistics, championed by the Expert Group on Refugee, IDP and Statelessness Statistics (EGRISS) and its many members." Similarly, the forthcoming UNSDG-IASC Solutions Guidance and related Data for Solutions to Internal Displacement Initiative, support and reinforce the implementation of the IRIS.

# Capacity development

## Expanded and self-paced e-learning courses

To keep on track with the dynamic scenario of displacement and latest developments in the field, EGRISS' **Technical Subgroup on Regional Engagement and Capacity Development** and the United Nations Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific (UN-SIAP) updated their e-learning course to include statelessness and the IROSS. Revised and expanded, the course **"Introduction to the International Recommendations on Refugee, IDP and Statelessness Statistics"** was delivery throughout seven weeks, from April to May.

Over 490 people enrolled in the initiative – attendees from national statistical offices, relevant line ministries and institutions, international and regional organisations and NGOs working with our populations of interest. The course encompassed six webinars facilitated by EGRISS members and partners: Statistics Norway, JIPS, SNBS, UNHCR, Armstat, KNBS, Statistics South Africa, ISTAT, IOM, and IGAD.



**The course is highly informative and well-structured. The detailed modules and practical examples have significantly enhanced my understanding and skills. The interactive elements and quizzes helped reinforce the learning.**

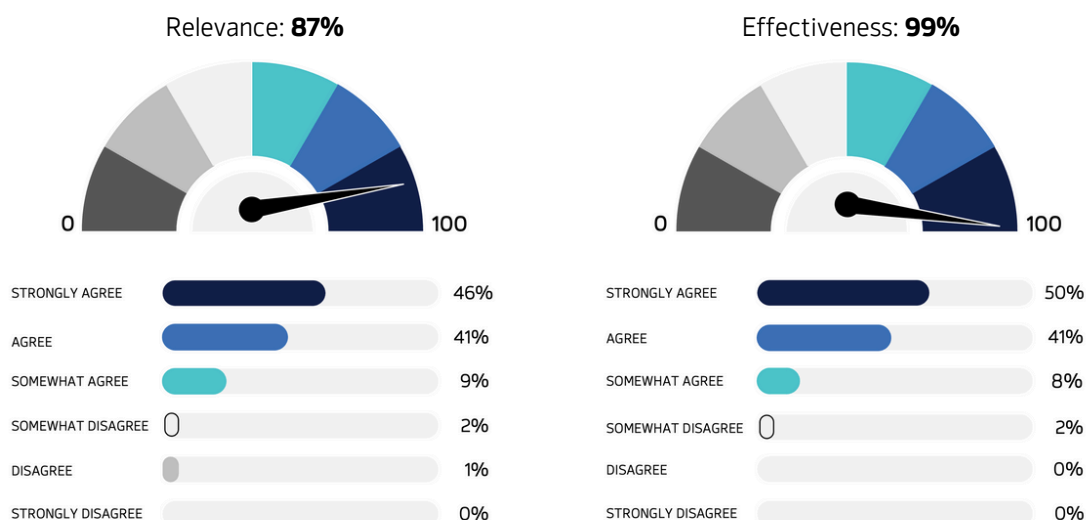
— Human Mobility Specialist, UNDP, Colombia

**"The training was highly relevant to my current work, which involves analysing immigration data. The methodologies and techniques taught tcan be directly applied to my tasks.**

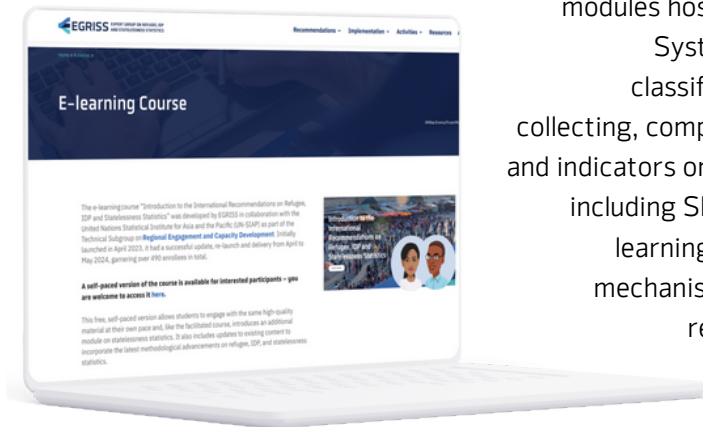
— Statistician and Data Analyst, Somalia Bureau of Statistics



Figure 3: **Evaluation from participants**





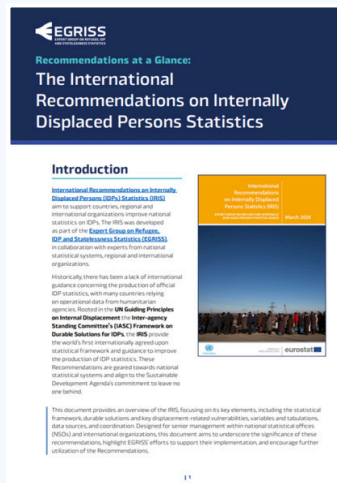


An updated **self-paced version of the e-learning** was launched on the 10<sup>th</sup> of June. With six interactive modules hosted on the SIAP Learning Management System, it introduces concepts, definitions, classifications and methodologies relevant to collecting, compiling, analysing and disseminating data and indicators on refugees, IDPs, and stateless persons, including SDG indicators. The course also features learning content on data sources, institutional mechanisms, and coordination. Participants can receive a certificate upon passing a final assessment after all modules and completing an evaluation form.

## “Recommendations a Glance” series

Besides the e-learning course, EGRISS published in July the trilogy **Recommendations at a Glance**, offering an easy-to-digest overview of the key elements of IRRS, IRIS, and IROSS. Designed for senior managers from National Statistical Offices, other government institutions, and regional and international organisations, this mini-series underscores the significance of the Recommendations, summarising the respective statistical frameworks, a list of stock and flow statistics and tabulations on population categories that countries are encouraged to produce, and a summary of data source recommendations.

**The series encourages the utilisation of the Recommendations in practice and introduces complementary EGRISS resources to further facilitate efforts to pursue statistical inclusion of displaced and stateless persons.**



# Advocacy and community enhancement

## UN Statistical Commission

Early in the year, in the lead up to the **55<sup>th</sup> session of the UNSC**, EGRISS organised an online **side-event on the inclusion of displaced and stateless population groups** in national data production processes. The focus on Population and Housing Censuses given the ongoing revision of the Principles & Recommendations, featured lessons learnt from **Rwanda's effective inclusion of refugees and stateless persons** in their 2022 census and Moldova's commitment to include refugees in the 2024 census (**see country case study**) and use of the IRRS in its preparations. In addition, UNESCAP's intervention identified opportunities and challenges in Asia and the Pacific region, with a focus on inclusive CRVS and EGRISS was able to report on progress with data from the 2023 GAIN survey.



*EGRISS event at the 55<sup>th</sup> session of the UNSC had more than 70 attendees and was moderated by the head of the JDC, Aissatou Dicko.*  
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## Engaging membership

Throughout 2024, EGRISS has consistently engaged its members through technical subgroup meetings, providing a platform for in-depth discussions and technical advancements, as well as monthly updates to keep members informed of key developments and quarterly newsletters offering comprehensive insights into ongoing activities, progress, and emerging priorities.

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## UN World Data Forum

Complementing the Commission, the 5<sup>th</sup> United Nations World Data Forum (UNWDF) took place in November, hosted by the National Administrative Department of Statistics (DANE) in Medellín, Colombia. To engage with a global audience, the EGRISS joined forces with the Collaborative on Administrative Data and hosted a session on the **importance of national statistics on forcibly displaced and stateless populations** and the added value of administrative data and regional cooperation to advance this agenda.

Building upon the working methodology of both entities, the event brought together national and international experts, including the Directors General of the National Statistics Offices of Somalia and Honduras, as well as the Head of Census and Demographic Direction from DANE, the EGRISS Secretariat, UNSD/DESA, and JIPS. The discussions showcased experiences that can be applied by NSOs and regional bodies worldwide and shared concrete recommendations for a capacity development roadmap to leverage administrative data for improved statistics on our target populations. In this way, the side event was closely associated with the key themes of the UNWDF overall, where partnership and innovation were highlighted as key enablers for more robust, trusted, and inclusive data ecosystems.

Tip:  
Check the  
Compilers'  
Manual  
Use case D

“

**Reliable and inclusive data is the foundation for policies that leave no one behind. When organising the 5<sup>th</sup> UNWDF, we noted strong interest to focus on better statistics on refugees, IDPs, and statelessness with 15 (out of over 700) sessions proposed and 4 of them approved. I believe this achievement is due to the excellent advocacy role of EGRISS and its members such as JIPS. We call upon partners to ensure that the Medellín Framework for Action on Data for Sustainable Development can be interlinked with other agendas and succeed in its purpose”**

— Camilo Andres Mendez Coronado, Coordinator of Alliances & International Affairs, DANE



© INE Honduras



© Paris 21

The UNWDF was also the global platform for the launch of the **“Commit to Data” campaign**, which aims to drive sustainable development with robust data systems, ensuring the event accelerates progress and delivers tangible, positive impacts worldwide. EGRISS joined the movement with a commitment to strengthen the capacity of national statistical systems to collect data on refugee, IDP, and statelessness statistics by raising awareness, enhancing accessibility, and accelerating the global implementation of the IRRS, IRIS, and IROSS. Achieving this objective will be critical to fulfilling the central tenet of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development: leaving no one behind.

# Methodological refinement

## Priority SDG indicators

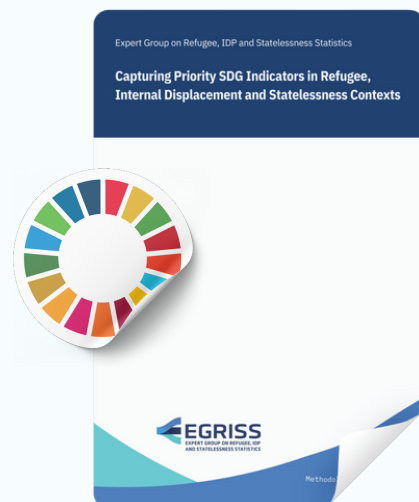
In October, EGRISS released its third publication in the **Methodological Paper Series**, examining data collection practice and computation methods for 12 priority SDG indicators identified for forced displacement, as well as an additional two indicators acknowledged in the IROSS. The publication, led by the EGRISS Secretariat and IOM, reveals a promising path forward: no sweeping changes are needed in the methodologies already defined for the general population to generate data that can be disaggregated for these groups. Furthermore, it underlines two fundamental conditions that must be met as a precursor for survey teams: ensuring adequate inclusion through sampling and proper identification.

The paper also identifies several specific considerations for each indicator that will improve data quality for refugee, IDP or stateless populations, and aims to uphold and inspire endeavors of National Statistical Systems. These outcomes are relevant to support efforts in monitoring the 2030 Agenda and realising global commitments to leave no one behind. They are also timely, as the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators (IAEG-SDGs) completes its planned **2025 Comprehensive Review of the global indicator framework** and stakeholders initiate plans for development monitoring frameworks post-2030.



**We enjoyed reading the paper and found it very helpful for data producers. Your conclusion that there are no significant modifications required to household surveys to collect indicator data on refugees, IDPs and stateless populations, is very powerful and can hopefully spearhead this agenda even further.”**

— World Bank’s feedback from review by  
SDG indicator custodian agencies



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To engage in this debate and stimulate countries to pursue inclusive statistical systems and disaggregated data, **EGRISS joined the 15<sup>th</sup> meeting of the IAEG-SDGs** in Oslo, Norway, in October. There, in a joint presentation with Statistics Moldova, the EGRISS Secretariat highlighted experience from countries pursuing statistical inclusion of refugees, and shared global trends in terms of statistical inclusion and use of the IRRS, IRIS and IROSS.

## Comparator populations and “host communities”

Following the goal of complementing the Recommendations through methodological refinement, EGRISS also advanced in the collective work to statistically describe the term “host community” to better measure integration and set the benchmark of overcoming vulnerabilities of IDPs in official statistics. Although both the IRRS and the IRIS highlight the need to compare official numbers and indicators for the protection and wellbeing of displaced persons to the “host community”, what is meant by this concept is not standardised across contexts and a characterisation that guides data production for official statistics has not been developed yet.

That is why the TSG2 is discussing limitations, challenges and advantages of current existing definitions to hereafter suggest a direction for a standardised statistical definition of the “comparator” population. UNHCR and Stanford University are leading the development of the paper, expected to be published in the first quarter of 2025.



Ichwa IDP camp in Makurdi in Nigeria's central Benue State was established five years to shelter the growing number of people in the region forced to flee violent attacks on their farms and villages by nomadic cattle herders. 15 October, 2024. © UNHCR/Colin Delfosse





**COLOMBIA.** Indigenous leader Esneda Saavedra, her husband, Luis Joaquin Uribe Ramirez, and relatives walks through the forrest in the Sokorpa reserve. 24 September, 2024. © UNHCR/Marina Calderon



# Implementation of IRRS, IRIS, and IROSS

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The set of International Recommendations on Refugee, IDP, and Statelessness Statistics (IRRS, IRIS and IROSS) is used by national, regional, and international partners to concretely improve data collection, analytical processes, and interagency coordination regarding these vulnerable populations. EGRISS actively works to promote their visibility, support their implementation, and monitor application across diverse contexts. In recent years, the Expert Group has enhanced its monitoring efforts, refining the tools used to track progress.

Implementation data is systematically collected since 2021, primarily through the **Global Annual Inclusion (GAIN) Survey**. In 2023, this instrument underwent technical enhancements to strengthen data quality, expand thematic coverage, and foster engagement with key stakeholders, providing a more comprehensive picture of how the Recommendations are being applied globally.

This section presents key results from the 2024 iteration of the GAIN Survey, followed by analysis of patterns, in-depth case studies illustrating country-led implementation initiatives, and examples led by other institutions. Target respondents were EGRISS members, participants in the 2023 edition, focal points for GRF statistical inclusion pledges, and participants in our capacity building activities.

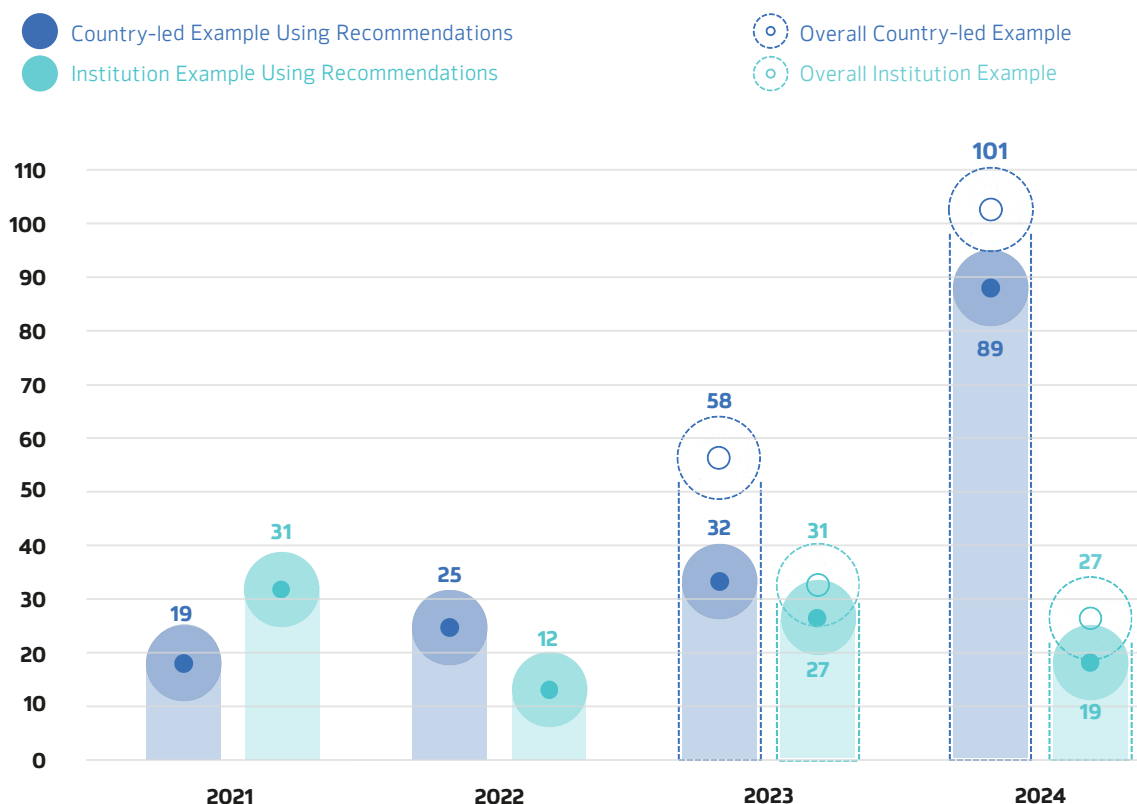
More information about the GAIN Survey and an **interactive dashboard** enabling dynamic exploration of results are available on the EGRISS website.

## Overview

Implementation of the International Recommendations continues to grow since the first iteration of the GAIN Survey. A total of 128 examples was reported in 2024, as indicated on the graph below: 101 were led by countries or governments, and 27 by other institutions (including a variety of international, regional, and national organisations).

The year-over-year trend indicates a growing uptake of Recommendations within national statistical systems (19 in 2021, 25 in 2022, and 32 in 2023 compared to 89 in 2024), while a less linear but still positive development can be seen in institutional examples.

Figure 4: **Trend of country and institutional-led implementation examples from 2021 to 2024**

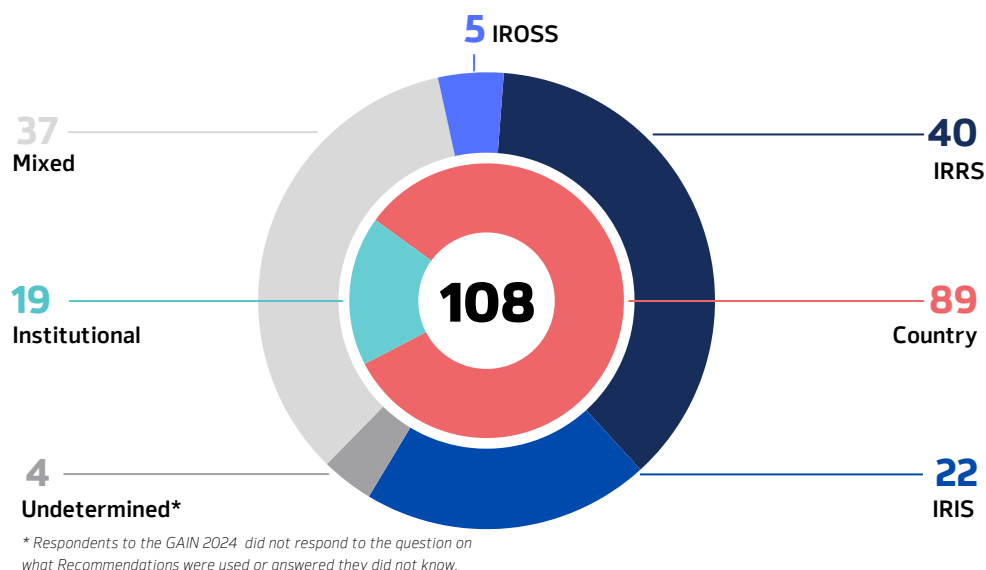


Among all the examples documented in 2024, 108 used at least one set of the EGRISS Recommendations. Of these, a majority of 89 were led by countries or national governments, across 46 distinct countries (see map on page 32). The chart below shows that the IRRS was the most widely implemented set, with 40 examples compared to IRIS (22) and IROSS (5).

Notably, 37 examples demonstrated an integrated approach, incorporating multiple sets of Recommendations simultaneously. The most common combinations, both appearing in 16 examples, were IRRS and IRIS, and the use of three sets concurrently.



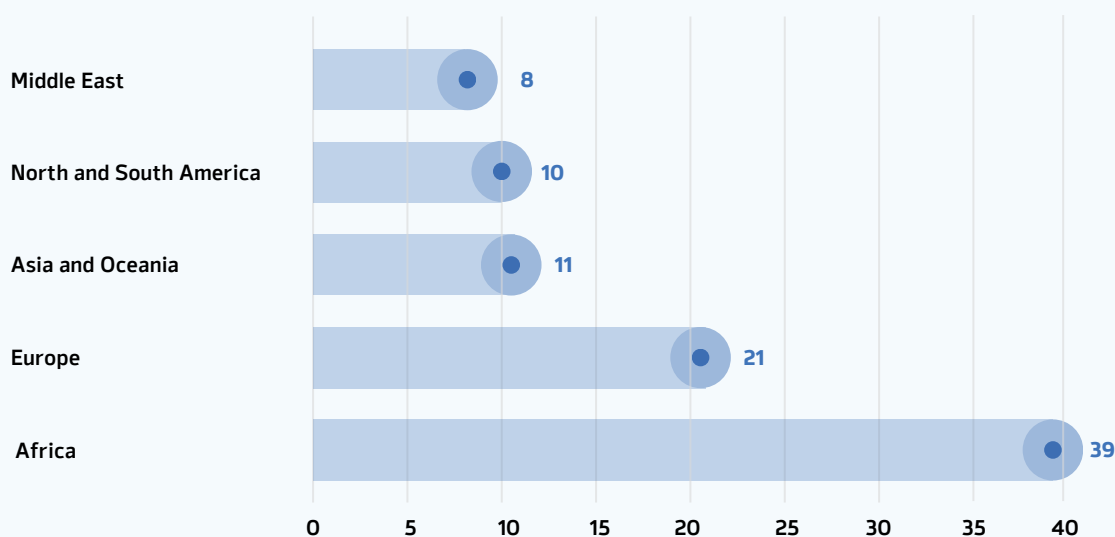
Figure 5: **Overview of the Implementation of the IRRS, IRIS and IROSS in 2024**



## Country implementation

Country-led examples include activities led by National Statistical Offices or another Government entity conducted in their national context, usually as part of the national statistical system. Out of the 101 country-led examples identified in 2024, a significant majority (89) used the EGRISS Recommendations. A breakdown of implementation by region is presented in the graph below and shows a majority of reported examples coming from Africa (39), followed by Europe (21), Asia and Oceania (11), then North and South America (10) and lastly the Middle East (8).

Figure 6: **Country-led implementation of the Recommendations by region**







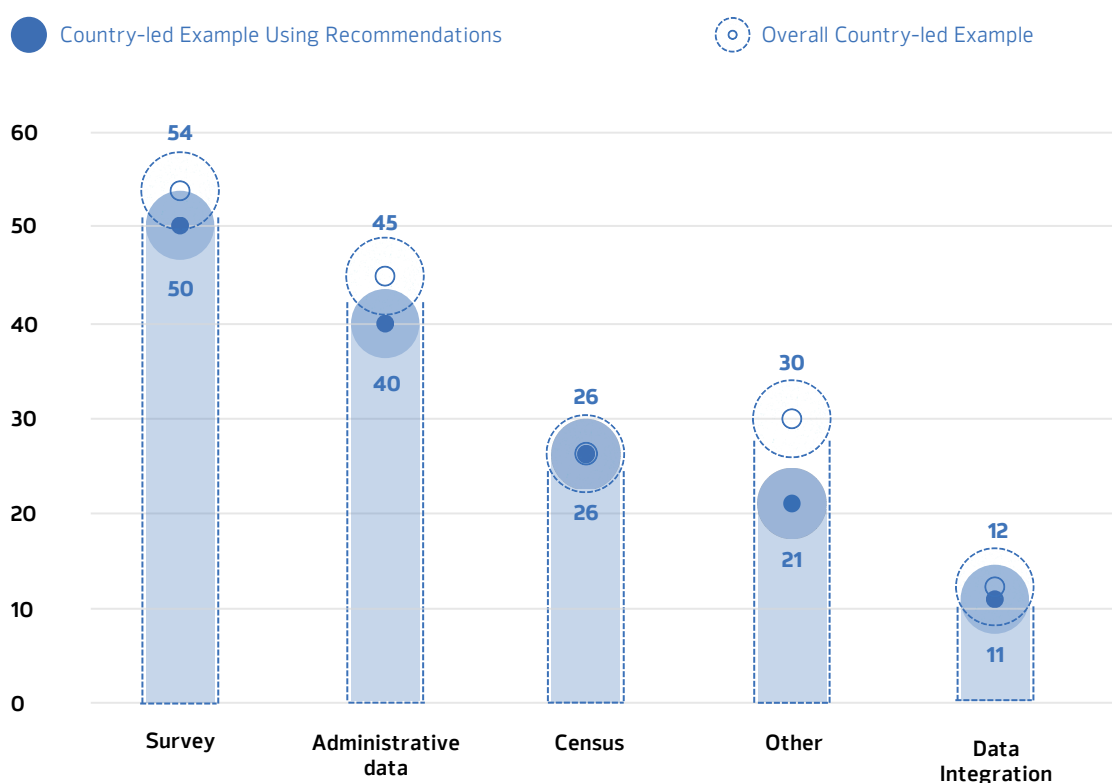
**SOUTH SUDAN.** Gendassa transit centre where Sudanese refugees are received, spend a maximum of two days before being settled in one of the refugee camps in Maban County. 06 February, 2024. © UNHCR/Samuel Otieno



Respondents were asked about the data sources and tools applied in their examples, with the possibility of featuring multiple responses. Sample surveys were the most informed method, mentioned in more than half (54) of the 101 country-led examples. Out of this, 50 implemented the Recommendations. Administrative data came second, with 45 examples, of which 40 were reported to have used either IRRS, IRIS, or IROSS. This is a significant increase from 2023, when only 13 have done so.

National population censuses came third, with all 26 examples informed using the Recommendations. Following, 21 out of 30 workshops/trainings, guidance/toolkits, non-traditional data sources and strategies — grouped as “Other” in the following graph — used the Recommendations. Data integration (combination of multiple sources) makes the remaining 12 examples.

Figure 7: **Overview of Data Sources and Tools for Country-led Examples 2024**

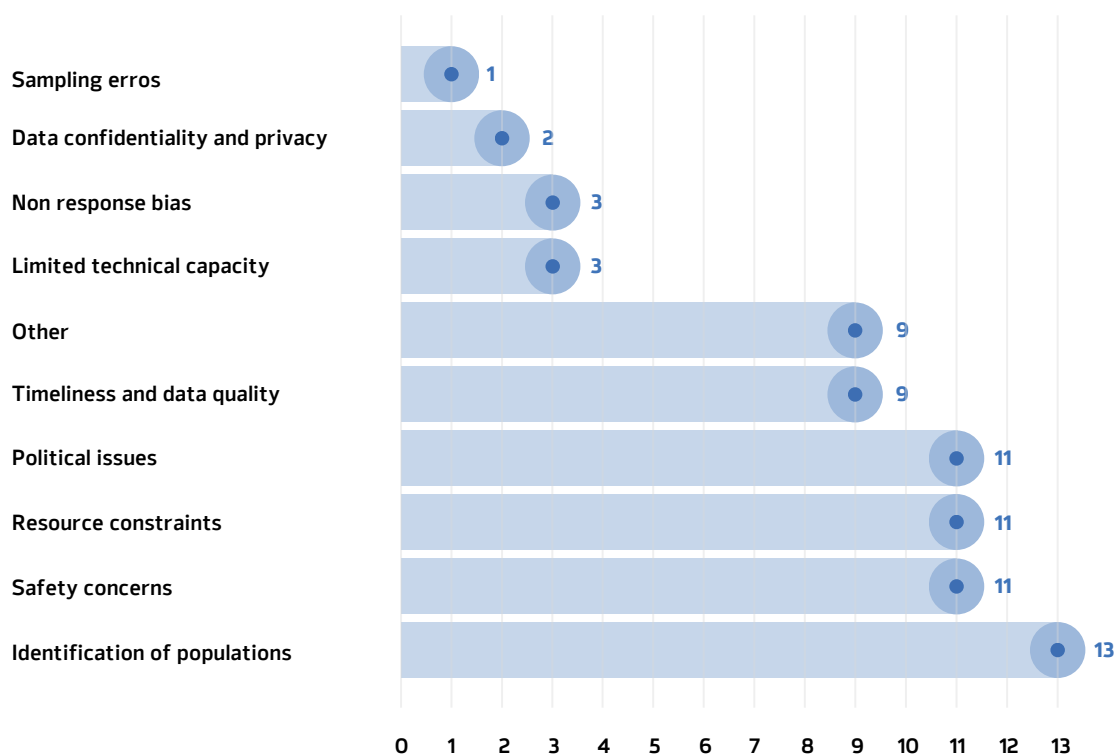


Respondents also reported what components of the International Recommendations they most frequently use in each example. More than half cited that **statistical frameworks** were used (84 in total, with 40 for IRRS, 33 for IRIS and 11 for IROSS), followed by the recommendations for designing/adjusting data sources. This is a highly relevant finding, given the population definitions are the key innovation of EGRISS Recommendations and could pave the way for more comparable statistics.



The GAIN Survey also asked about challenges faced during implementation of the different examples, with the possibility of selecting multiple answers. Challenges were identified in 35 of 89 country-led examples using the Recommendations. The graph below highlights that the most reported issues were difficulties in the identification of populations (13), followed by safety concerns, resource constraints, and political issues, all informed by 11 respondents.

Figure 8: **Challenges Reported in Country-led Examples in 2024**



Partnership and collaboration continued to play a central role for countries to produce statistics on refugees, IDPs and statelessness, as 47 out of the 101 country-led initiatives involved collaboration with either national, regional or international organisations. A majority of 29 examples included at least one national partner, while 28 had at least one international organisation. Other 2 partnered with academia. Among international partners, UNHCR and IOM participated in 10 projects each, while UNFPA and the World Bank supported 5 and 4 initiatives, respectively.

Overall, GAIN 2024 data reveal a positive trajectory of country-led implementation and underpins the importance of partnership and coordination to improve official statistics on forced displacement and statelessness. The increased number of examples reported reflects the growing recognition of EGRISS' monitoring function, as well as refinements in the GAIN methodology and expansion of its outreach and coverage. Gaps in certain regions/countries as well as the relatively limited use of the Recommendations when administrative data sources are utilised, however, indicates the need for EGRISS to focus more on these areas moving forward.





**NIGERIA.** Mimi Kiva volunteers as a teaching assistant at Ichwa camp, where she arrived in 2021 from Guma Local Government Area. One day, herdsmen killed her husband and daughter. A hunter later found her unconscious and helped her to reach the camp where she was reunited with her two sons, aged 11 and 15. 15 October 2024.  
© UNHCR/Colin Delfosse



Figure 09: Map of countries that reported examples using the Recommendations through the 2024 GAIN Survey

# Country implementation case studies

The 89 country-led examples using the Recommendations took place across 46 countries

Kosovo case study  
Page 45

Moldova case study  
Page 42

Iraq case study  
Page 32

Djibouti case study  
Page 36

Nigeria case study  
Page 39



Iraq

# Including refugees, IDPs, and statelessness in the Population and Housing Census



## Background

Iraq has experienced multiple waves of forced displacement through its history, driven by conflict, political instability, and economic crises. The Iran-Iraq War (1980–1988), the Gulf War (1990–1991), and the Iraq War (2003–2011) triggered mass movements within and beyond borders, leaving a long-lasting impact on the population. More recently, the rise of the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS), between 2014 and 2017, and the outbreak of the Syrian civil war in 2011 contributed to an increased numbers of both internally displaced persons and refugees.

The Kurdistan Region of Iraq (KRI), which holds a unique semi-autonomous status with the Kurdistan Region Government (KRG) as its legislative authority, hosts most of the country's displaced persons. This population is estimated to be over 327,000 refugees and asylum-seekers and over one million IDPs.<sup>1</sup>

Decades of political disruption and war also hampered the country's statistical development efforts, including its ability to conduct a full and trusted national census. Years of negotiations led to a long-awaited, comprehensive national census being conducted in November 2024. Iraq's **Authority of Statistics and Geographical Information System** (ASGIS) led the process, with cooperation from the Kurdistan Region Statistics Office (KRSO).

## Overcoming challenges in the planning

The last national census took place in 1987, although results are not trusted by all communities in Iraq. A following iteration happened in 1997 but did not include KRI so, for many years, the 1957 census — conducted during the monarchy era — remained the most widely recognised and impartial. Since then, there have been several efforts to conduct another counting, although plans were derailed for diverse reasons. The 2005 new

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1. UNHCR Iraq fact sheet, Q3 2024. See [here](#).

Constitution of Iraq set a legal framework, determining that the federal government shall have exclusive authority to collect economic, social and demographic data on the population. A significant breakthrough came in 2008 when the Iraqi Parliament enacted the **General Population and Housing Census Act No. 40** to regulate the process. Technical and administrative preparations were completed for an implementation in the next year, but political resistance emerged regarding arrangements to include the governorates adjacent to the KRI, considered disputed territories.<sup>2</sup>

The inclusion of questions on ethnicity in the questionnaire were a central concern in the negotiations between Baghdad and Erbil. The issue remained contentious, and after a lack of agreement, the Federal Government of Iraq (FGI) delayed implementation for one year. The same disputes resurfaced, and with no resolution, the process was indefinitely postponed. Nearly a decade later, in 2018, the FGI, decided to restart preparations. By 2019, discussions with the KRG led to a consensus that the ethnicity question would not be included, however the Covid-19 pandemic, followed by a severe economic crisis, contributed to further delays.

Finally, the government announced in July 2023 that the Council of Ministers had approved the requirements for the implementation of the General Population and Housing Census. The national-wide census was finally conducted, with nearly 120,000 workers capturing the required data electronically, on the 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> of November 2024.

## An historical census

To oversee the 2024 census, a High Committee for the General Population and Housing Census chaired by the Minister of Planning was formed on national and regional levels. Members of this body included the presidents and high-level representatives of both ASGI and KRS; a representative of the General Secretariat of the Council of Ministers, the House of Representatives, and the Baghdad Municipality; and the Director General of the Iraqi Media Network. On the level of each province (Governorate), there was a parallel committee chaired by the governor.



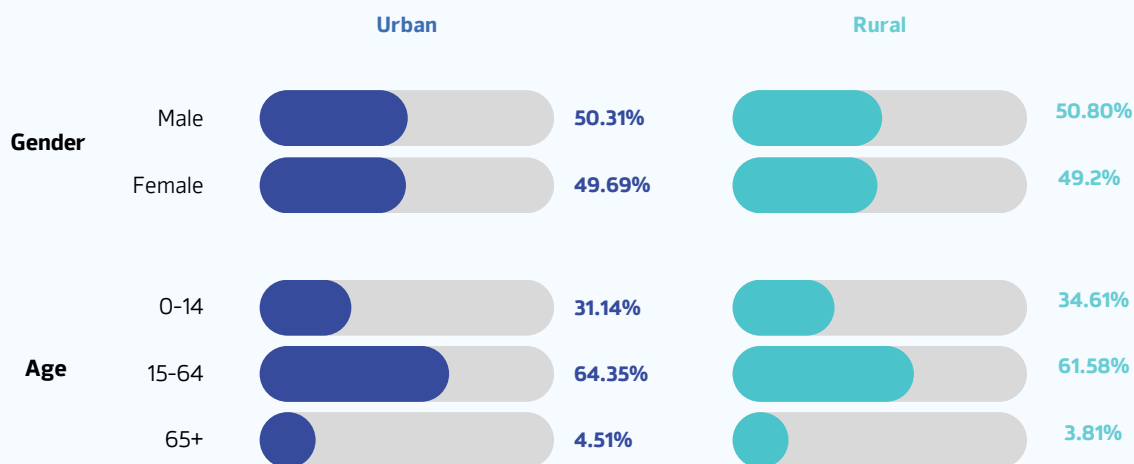
Nearly 120,000 workers were involved in the enumeration process | ©KRSO

<sup>2</sup> Article 140 of the Iraqi Constitution seeks to reverse the Arabisation policy, stipulating a normalisation process, a census, and a referendum in Kirkuk and other disputed areas “to determine the will of their citizens.” See [here](#).

Preparations, including sensitive issues around questionnaire development and logistics planning, were conducted jointly between Baghdad and Erbil. The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) worked closely to provide technical support and in some instances to moderate the talks. Key decisions included the exclusion of questions on ethnicity and the appointment of enumerators and supervisors from the Kurdish, Arab, and Turkmen communities to conduct the counting in the disputed territories, to ensure the questionnaire would be filled and completed without bias. In addition, the FGI accepted KRG's request to use Iraq's 1957 census as the basis for data cross matching with the 2024 census in the disputed areas.

National level preliminary results have already been **released by the federal government**, with more granular data and thematic reports planned, including one on displacement. Moreover, the FGI and the KRG are currently developing mechanisms for crossmatching the data from the 1957 and 2024 censuses to provide a clearer picture of Iraq's demographic evolution. Governorate-level census results will only be released after this historical comparison is completed.

Figure 10: **Demographic distribution by area in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq: gender and age group comparison (%)**



Source: KRSO

## The use of the International Recommendations

The participation of the KRI in the census was extremely relevant, as the International Recommendations on Refugee and IDP Statistics (IRRS and IRIS) advises for efforts to be made to ensure that fieldwork is designed to include displaced people, by adapting to cover the locations where they are likely to be found. The census questionnaire, developed by the ASGIS and KRSO, incorporated key principles from the IRRS and IRIS, with the necessary adaptations to reflect the relevant national context.

The census questionnaire contained various modules including identification data, general information, characteristics of family members, medical difficulties, education, work, housing,



water sources, electricity, sewage, waste disposal, and household ownership of durable goods. It sought to identify displaced populations by asking questions on nationality, country of origin, reason and duration of displacement, and date of arrival in Iraq. For refugees and asylum seekers, a streamlined version of the form was used to focus on their specific circumstances. The foreign-born count in Iraq did not include all the detailed questions present in the general census form.



*A two-days curfew was imposed during the census | ©KRSO*

“

**When the questionnaire was designed, KRSO used its knowledge about the Recommendations, through our participation in EGRISS, to make sure that the questions were aligned”**

— Serwan Mohamed,  
Deputy Minister of Planning of  
Kurdistan Region, President of  
Kurdistan Region Statistics Office

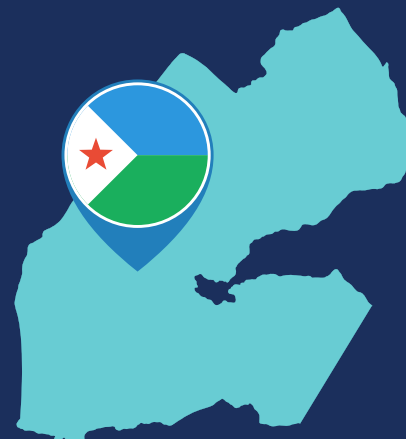
## Conclusion

The successful completion of Iraq’s 2024 census represents a crucial step toward obtaining accurate and nationally owned data, including on the displaced populations in the country. Yet, it highlights the persistent complexities of conducting a nationwide population count amid political and ethnic sensitivities. With KRI hosting most Iraq’s refugees and internally displaced persons (IDPs), its participation in the census provides long-overdue visibility into the region’s demographic realities. By incorporating the IRRS and IRIS, the census ensures that displaced communities remain visible.

Effective cross-referencing with historical records and sustained commitment to international statistical standards will be essential in developing long-term solutions for displaced communities. The census not only strengthens the foundation for evidence-based decision-making at both federal and regional levels but also sets a precedent for future data collection efforts that reflect the true scope of displacement in Iraq. Ensuring that this momentum translates into policy action will be the next critical step for both governments in Baghdad and Erbil.

Djibouti

# Putting GRF pledges into action through including refugees and displaced persons in the 2024 Census



## Background

Djibouti's has long been a point of convergence for diverse populations fleeing conflict and persecution due to its location in the Horn of Africa. It hosts approximately 31,500 refugees and asylum seekers,<sup>3</sup> mostly from conflict-affected neighbours Somalia, Ethiopia, and Yemen. Furthermore, the escalating impacts of climate change, such as prolonged droughts and desertification, have disrupted traditional livelihoods within the territory, causing internal displacement, as many abandon their lands and seek protection in urban centres.

The country has traditionally pursued refugee policies and, in 2017, made important strides with the adoption of the **2017–2022 Action Plan** of the Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework (CRRF) and the implementation of a **new Refugee Law**. In addition to four initial commitments made at the Global Refugee Forum (GRF) in 2019, the inclusion of refugees in the 2024 national census was one of two new commitments made by the government at the second GRF in 2023.

## The 3<sup>rd</sup> General Population and Housing Census

Djibouti's National Institute of Statistics (INSTAD) carried out in 2024 the third edition of the General Population and Housing Census (RGPH-3), under the supervision of the Ministry of Economy and Finance. Funded by the World Bank, the RGPH-3 was originally planned for 2019 but was delayed by the Covid-19 crisis. It is the third census conducted in Djibouti since its independence, following the first and second editions in 1984 and 2009. After the pandemic, planning resumed in 2021, with the organisation of various consultative meetings with national stakeholders on the census topics. A **Technical Committee** was set up with members from different institutions that are also part of the country's broader **Committee for Statistical Programming and Methodologies** (CPSM).

3. UNHCR Country Overview: See [here](#).

During 2022 and 2023, questionnaire design, mapping, pilot tests and necessary corrections were carried out. To ensure accurate data collection, enumerators received extensive training. More than 1,550 agents were mobilised to conduct the population count covering all households in May–June 2024 using two main questionnaires: one for regular households and the collective household and homelessness questionnaire. For the latter, enumerators recorded the name of the locality or neighbourhood where the homeless person was encountered, along with the GPS coordination — data collection for homeless individuals often occurred during nighttime hours.

The RGPH-3, presented an important opportunity to improve available data on forcibly displaced populations. With input and guidance from the Ministry of Interior's Office National d'Assistance aux Réfugiés et Sinistrés (ONARS, National Office for Assistance to Refugees and Disaster Victims) and the UNHCR, questions were included on nationalities, country of origin/birth, possession of official identification documentation, place(s) of previous residence, reasons for moving, and refugee/asylum-seeker registration. Whilst the main questionnaire was used in the refugee villages of Hol-Holl and Ali Addeh, a collective household questionnaire was applied in the Markazi refugee camp. Currently, INSTAD is working on the tabulation of data and expects to publish during 2025 the results in 24 thematic reports, including one on refugees.

## The use of the International Recommendations

Technical support from EGRISS also played a crucial role in refining the census form and ensuring alignment with international best practices. The inclusion of questions to identify refugee, IDP, and stateless populations in national census instruments is a key recommendation from each of the IRRS, the IRIS, and the IROSS. Together, the trilogy was a useful resource for INSTAD and partners to draw from. They guided the formulation and placement of questions to identify refugees, asylum-seekers, IDPs, and populations who may potentially be stateless.



*The RGPH-3 was originally planned for 2019 but was delayed by the pandemic | ©INSTAD*

**“The census was our opportunity to capture as much as possible and we were very fortunate to learn about EGRISS and the International Recommendations. So, we reached out to EGRISS, and we got very useful input. Even when we did the pilot, we saw how important the IRIS and the IRRS were.”**

— Omar Ali, Director of Demographic and Social Statistics, INSTAD



The inclusion of questions related to internal displacement proved particularly valuable as official statistics did not previously cover this group. By asking about past residence and reasons for migration, the census revealed a significant number of people internally displaced due to factors such as drought. Similarly, using the IROSS, the RGPH-3 can produce estimates of those who may be stateless or of unrecognised nationality status. The questionnaire included options for individuals without any official documents, such as birth certificates or identity cards, which are crucial for establishing nationality, and captured individuals whose nationality could not be definitively determined. It further allowed individuals to self-identify as stateless if they believed they belonged to this category.



More than 1,550 agents were mobilised to conduct the population count covering all households | ©INSTAD



## Conclusion

Djibouti's 2024 census marks a significant stride in the country's efforts to improve the inclusion and protection of refugees and displaced populations, in line with its commitments at the GRF. This initiative's success owes much to INSTAD's leadership and fruitful multi-stakeholder collaboration. Such a proactive approach, guided by international best practices and informed by the EGRISS Recommendations, represents a crucial step forward. Beyond the direct impact of census results on public policy, the census data will also inform the sampling frame of the upcoming 2025 Household Living Conditions Survey. Together these data processes will enable the production of disaggregated data on refugees for the 14 prioritised SDG indicators.

The RGPH-3 was designed with a long-term vision: to serve as a foundation for improving the accuracy and consistency of administrative data across Djibouti's government institutions. Work has already started to create a harmonised approach to data collection across different sectors, such as education, health, and labour, building on the RGPH-3 instruments, leading to more reliable and comparable data on refugees and displaced populations.

Nigeria

# Strengthening national ownership in data collection and analysis on internal displacement



## Background

Internal displacement has impacted Nigeria for many years as the country grapples with a complex tapestry of security concerns. The insurgency of Boko Haram in 2009 in the Northeast territories and its spread into neighbouring regions, lead to widespread violence, the destruction of infrastructure, and the displacement of communities. More recently, communal clashes, armed conflict and banditry have caused further displacement in other parts. Latest estimates report over 3.3 million IDPs in the nation at the end of 2023.<sup>4</sup>

Government leadership on responses to the issue has been clear for some time, as evidenced by the **2021 National Policy on Internally Displaced Persons** and other national and sub-national legislative actions. Following the adoption of the **National Commission for Refugees, Migrants, and Internally Displaced Persons Act Bill**. In 2023, the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) was empowered to carry out its first ever Survey on Internally Displaced Persons under the leadership of the Statistician General. Inspired by their participation in EGRISS' All Members Meeting in 2022 and the IRIS, the goal was to produce nationally owned data on IDPs that captured this population's demographic composition, diagnose challenges experienced, and identify opportunities to foster durable solutions.

## The IDP Survey

Fully funded by NBS, the IDP Survey was a collaboration with more than 20 partners: an ad-hoc Technical Working Group (TWG) with representatives from the Interministerial Technical Working Group on Migration and Development, in addition to external national and international stakeholders, was set up to coordinate the work. Members of the TWG included the National Commission for Refugees, Migrants, and Internally Displaced Persons (NCFRMI), well as UNHCR, and IOM. The group supported the development of the survey instruments used and helped to design the enumerator training.

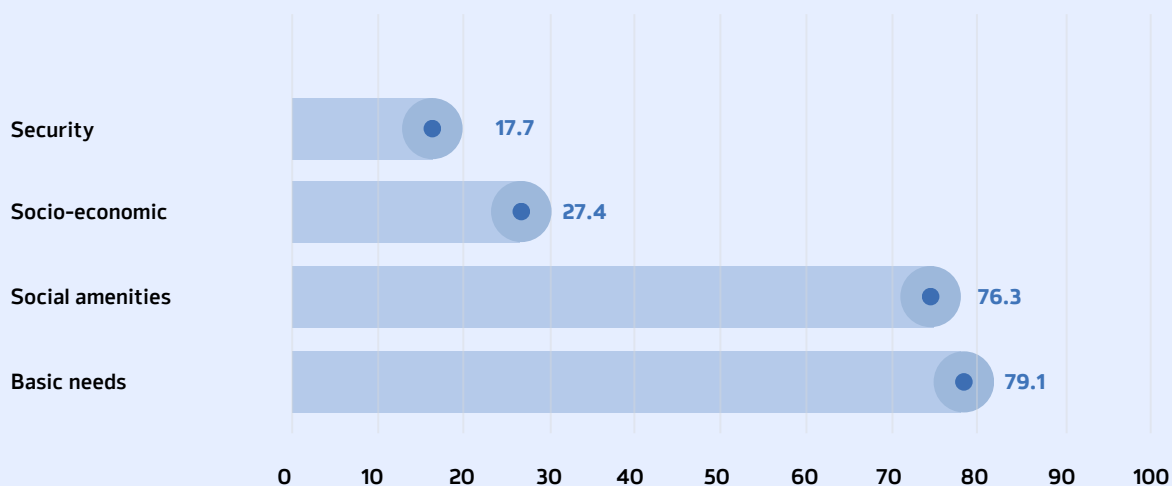
<sup>4</sup>. Estimate produced by IOM and reported in IDMC Global Database. See [here](#).

Due to financial restraints and security considerations, the survey was conducted only in seven states heavily affected by displacement — Adamawa, Yobe, Borno, Sokoto, Katsina, Benue and Nasarawa. Over a 12-day period, 120 field personnel realised the data collection, covering the IDP population in 340 camps and camp-like settings, and a sample of host communities in 36 locations. However, IDPs residing in host communities were not included given challenges of reliably identifying them.

Survey findings were validated by the TWG and shared in a **Report** in September 2024. The results show that 50.2% of the IDPs were under 18 years, which indicates that the dependent population is high. Significantly, a majority (77.3 %) indicated their willingness to return to their place of former residence, despite only 22.2 % of this group agreeing that it is safe to go back. A higher percentage of rural households (92.3%) are more willing to return compared to urban households (54.3%).

As indicated in the graph below, basic needs challenges, including bad shelter, inadequate clothing, and inadequate clothing, remain acute among the internally displaced population, affecting 79.1% of them. Social amenities issues (inadequate drinking water, power supply, health care services, and bad sanitary condition of the camp and toilet facilities) come second, with 76.3%. Socio-economic challenges are low (27.4%), despite 35.9% of the IDPs informing that they have suffered discrimination by the host community or camp workers. Lastly, security challenges such as abduction, sexual assault, physical attack, and threats impact a minority of 17.7%

Figure 11: **Challenges faced by IDPs in selected Nigerian States (%)**



Source: NBS Nigeria



## The use of the International Recommendations

National ownership data enables better informed Government action, as underlined by the International Recommendations on Internally Displaced Persons Statistics (IRIS). As such, the 2023 IDP Survey embodies a central tenant of the IRIS. While the recommendations encourage integrating displaced populations into existing national surveys or other data sources, this standalone survey realised a significant initial step toward strengthening national responsibility for IDP statistics.

More specifically, the IRIS informed the questionnaire design including the identification of IDPs and questions to capture the socio-economic characteristics of the population to better inform pathways to durable solutions. The inclusion of host communities is strongly advised by the IRIS, enabling some comparative analysis between the different groups.

“

**The use of the International Recommendations was key. For your findings to be accepted, you need to go in line with international standards, but also look at the local context, which is a unique case in Nigeria.”**

— Geoffrey Akor, Migration Desk Officer,  
National Bureau of Statistics



*Teams comprised of three enumerators covered 40 households per camp. In the photo, enumerators work in Sokoto | © NBS Nigeria*

## Conclusion

As a signatory of the **Kampala Convention** and having pushed forward a range of national and sub-national legislation on internal displacement, Nigeria has made significant strides in the political sphere to address the challenge. In the statistical field, the IDP Survey described here, demonstrates a willingness to enhance national ownership also around data.

Results are expected to inform the development of more evidenced-based policies and the evaluation of existing ones that aim to foster durable solutions to displacement in a way that accounts for the interconnected dynamics of both displaced populations and communities that host them. Beyond this survey and availability of adequate resources, NBS plans to conduct a similar survey in the other parts of the country (in particular those impacted by climate-induced displacement) and explore opportunities to identify and over-sample IDPs residing in host communities so they can be effectively incorporated into wider household surveys.

Moldova

# Capturing displacement in the Population and Housing Census for inclusive policies and planning



## Background

The phenomena of displacement and statelessness in Moldova have deep historical roots. Following the Soviet Union's dissolution, political and territorial disputes in Transnistria<sup>5</sup> displaced many people, while documentation issues persist due to the unresolved situation. National authorities have been working to address this, including through **amendments to the Citizenship Law** in 2023 and the national programme on human rights for 2024–2027.

The war in Ukraine has added a new dimension to Moldova's displacement landscape with over 1.2 million border crossings from Ukraine recorded since February 2022, according to the UNHCR.<sup>6</sup> This influx prompted a swift governmental response, including a **Temporary Protection Mechanism** (later **prolonged**) and the 2024 **Refugee Response Plan (RRP)**. As of 31<sup>st</sup> of January 2025, UNHCR estimated 127,786 refugees remain in the country, while almost 66 thousand persons have been registered since March 2023 as beneficiaries of temporary protection according to the General Inspectorate for Migration.

The crisis also revealed gaps and inconsistencies in available data and the need for stronger nationally owned statistics on displacement. As a result, the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) incorporated displacement and statelessness into the Population and Housing Census conducted in 2024.

## The 3<sup>rd</sup> General Population and Housing Census

This iteration was the third census since Moldova's independence, financed primarily by the State budget, with technical assistance from the European Union and the UNFPA amongst others. The legal and regulatory framework were created in 2022, when the **Law on the Population and Housing Census** was adopted, and the Government **decision on the 2024**

5. According to the Law no. 173/2005, Transnistria is an inalienable component part of Moldova being and autonomous territorial unit with special legal status. Transnistria (Pridnestrovie) declared pseudo-independence under the name of the Dniester Moldavian Republic on 2<sup>nd</sup> September 1990, with the support of external political factors. However, its independence is not recognised internationally. See [here](#).

6. Data from the UNHCR. See [here](#).

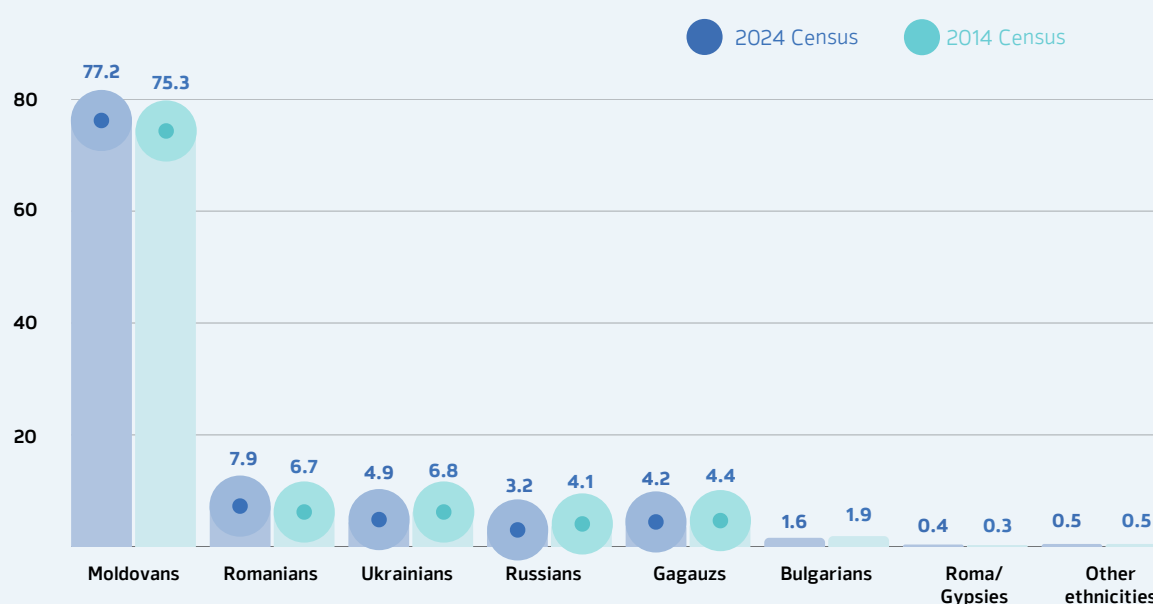
census conduct was approved. A **National Commission** was established to oversee the process and approve key decisions. It comprised 28 members (of which 21 with a voting right) including high-level representatives from ministries, other public institutions, academia, civil society and international agencies. To ensure coverage, 35 **Territorial Commissions** were also established by district and municipal councils.

During census preparations, the NBS benefited from **public consultations** on the list of variables to be captured in the census, as well as on the census questionnaires, and were also able to consider the experience of previous censuses and relevant international standards. The inclusion of refugees, IDPs, and statelessness in the 2024 census was a direct response to the needs expressed by key data users during the consultations, including the Ministry of Internal Affairs, the General Inspectorate for Migration, the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), IOM, and UNHCR.

A pilot was conducted in mid-2023 and, after the necessary revisions, the census was carried out by over 4000 enumerators through face-to-face computer-assisted interviews between 8<sup>th</sup> April and 7<sup>th</sup> July 2024. Broad coverage was achieved, including persons living in collective living quarters, such as refugee camps, reception centres, temporary structures and collective accommodation. Nevertheless, enumeration did not cover Transnistria and some areas of the security zone, where security measures for census staff and equipment could not be ensured.

**Preliminary results were disseminated** in January 2025 covering data on population size and structure by sex, age, urban/rural area, and country of birth, as well as the distribution of the population by development regions and ethno-cultural characteristics. Concerning citizenship, preliminary results show that 83.4% declared that they had citizenship of Moldova, 15.6% declared having the citizenship of Moldova and another state(s), while 0.9% declared they had foreign citizenship or no citizenship at all (an increase by 0.4% compared to the 2014 census). Final results will be published in two stages: August 2025 and February 2026.

Figure 12: **Population structure (%) by ethnicity: 2024 and 2014 censuses**



Source: Statistica Moldovei



## The use of the International Recommendations

Moldova's census was conducted based on international recommendations<sup>7</sup> and advanced practices. The **census' individual questionnaire** also included the core variables recommended by the IRRS, IRIS, and IROSS. This included questions on country of birth, country of birth of parent(s), year of arrival, country of citizenship (including stateless, undetermined status and multiple citizenship), and country of previous or last residence (for both refugees in the country and refugees returning from abroad). It also asked the reason for migration for foreign-born migrants, with response categories including forced displacement, and about legal residential/international protection status, with options for refugees, asylum seekers, and temporary protected status.

Enumeration was conducted in two main languages (Romanian and Russian). In addition, **translations** of the questionnaire in other five languages (Gagauz, Ukrainian, Bulgarian, Romani, and English) were available for enumerators to use to explain/guide the process with these linguistic groups.

During data collection, the NBS observed that the participation among refugees and IDPs was lower than the general population. To address this, some dedicated meetings took place with NGOs to ask for their help in convincing refugees to accepted being enumerated, as many were afraid that their info will affect them. Similarly, a workshop with organisations that promote displaced persons' rights was organised, informing a dedicated communication campaign developed by the NBS with support from partners (UNHCR, OHCHR, IOM and UNPFA) to improve response rates. This included tailored advocacy materials and hiring community mediators from the Ukrainian and Roma populations.



## Conclusion

The war in Ukraine, alongside Moldova's status of EU candidacy negotiations, significantly increased the urgency for accurate and nationally owned data on refugees and IDPs. The 2024 census presented a key opportunity to respond to these needs by incorporating the International Recommendations produced by EGRIS. With NBS' leadership and support from partners, that ensured the inclusion of refugees and other vulnerable populations in the enumeration, Moldova has strengthened its capacity to address the social and economic challenges associated with large-scale displacement with census results informing national decision-making. In addition, the census will inform future statistical efforts including the improved sampling frame for household surveys and enhanced use of administrative data for timelier response and better statistics.

*Moldova's  
multilingual  
communication  
materials |  
© Statistica  
Moldovei*

<sup>7</sup> UN Principles and Recommendations for Population and Housing Censuses, Revision 3, **CES Recommendations for the 2020 Censuses of Population and Housing**, Regulation (EC) No 763/2008 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 9 July 2008 on population and housing censuses.

## Kosovo

# Describing displacement and statelessness dynamics in post-conflict contexts through the Census



## Background

Kosovo's history of displacement and statelessness reflects the Balkans's trajectory of political instability and conflict. As an autonomous province of the former Republic of Yugoslavia, Kosovo faced growing instability when the country began to break apart along ethnic lines. Despite being a majority, **around 850,000 ethnic Albanians were expelled** during the 1998–1999 Kosovo War — many fleeing to neighbouring countries such as Albania, North Macedonia, and Montenegro —, while thousands more were internally displaced.

As international efforts facilitated their return, ethnic Serbs and other minority communities left, fearing retaliation. The March 2004 unrest targeted at the Serb, Roma, and Ashkali communities, resulted in further displacement. When Kosovo declared independence in 2008, new challenges arose regarding documentation and citizenship, as many inhabitants refused to accept Kosovo-issued documents, choosing instead to retain Serbian citizenship.

The Kosovo government has moved forward with the process of normalisation and reconciliation, including for displaced and stateless persons in the past decades, resulting in the 2018 **Regulation on the Return of Displaced Persons and Durable Solutions** and the introduction of a **statelessness determination procedure (SDP)** in 2020. In the statistical field, the Kosovo Agency of Statistics (KAS) have taken steps to ensure that displaced and stateless populations are counted, for instance, in their inclusion in the 2011 Census of Population, Family Economy and Housing and the **2018 sample-based profiling of IDPs**. This effort was expanded in the 2024 Census.

## The 2024 Census of Population, Family Economy and Housing

The 2024 Census (the country's second since it declared independence), guided by the **Law on Population and Housing Census**, was initially scheduled for 2021; however, it was deferred due to the pandemic. Following two subsequent attempts in September and November 2023, the census was finally carried out from the 5<sup>th</sup> of April to the 24<sup>th</sup> of May 2024, in around 650 thousand buildings, through the work of over 3,500 enumerators and

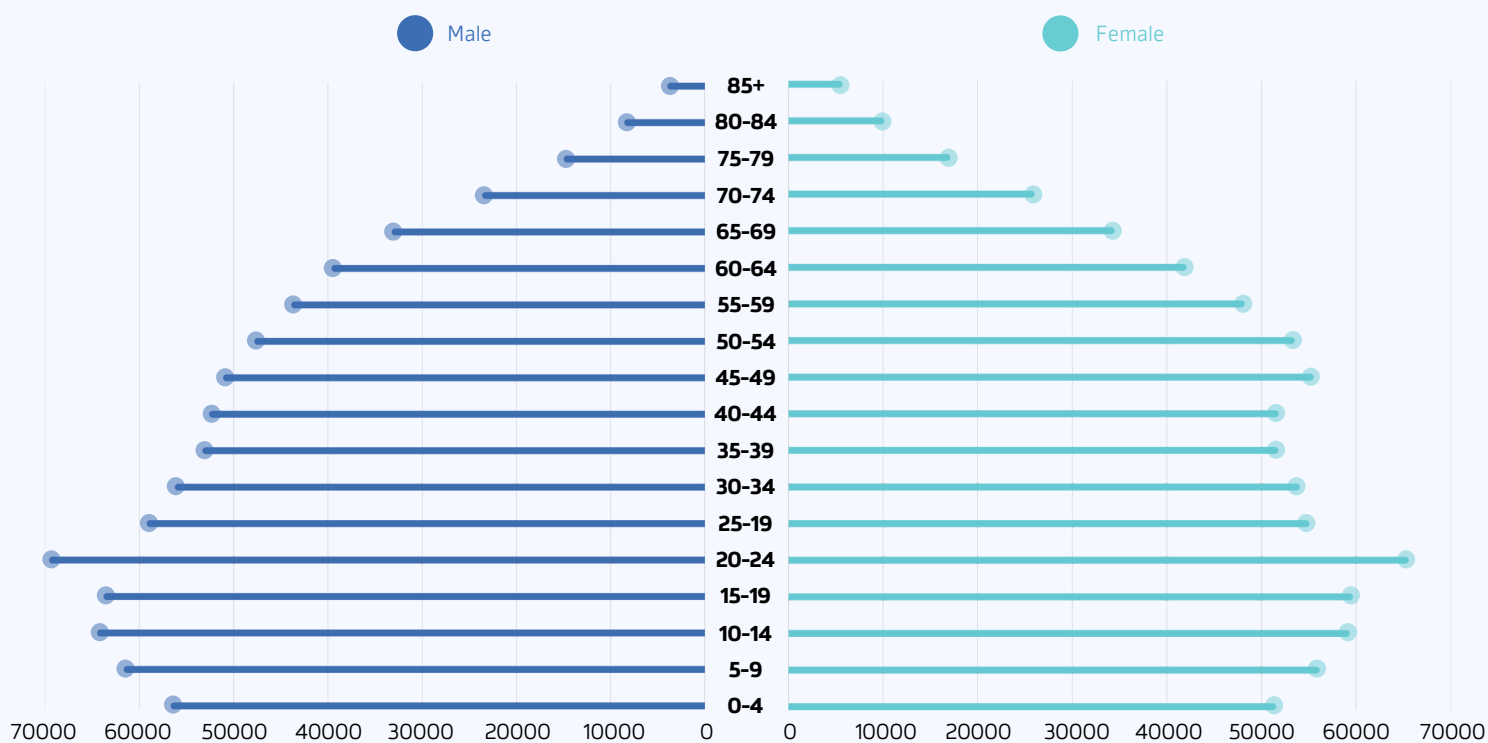
almost 900 supervisors. 120 thousand euros were allocated from the national budget, with additional financial and technical assistance provided by the UNFPA and UNECE.

To supervise the process, a Central Census Commission was established by the government and approved by the Assembly of Kosovo. It consisted of a chairman appointed from the Prime Minister's Office and 16 other representatives from the KAS, Ministries (Finance, Money and Transfers, Education, Foreign Affairs, Agriculture, Administration and Local Government, Internal Affairs, and Environment and Spatial Planning), the Academy of Sciences, International organisations in Kosovo, Chamber of Commerce of Kosovo, Agency for Gender Equality, Consultative Council for Communities, and Association of Kosovo Municipalities.

Similar to the 2011 census, northern Kosovo presented challenges due to political tensions in the Serb-majority municipalities of Leposavić, Zubin Potok, Zvečan, and North Mitrovica. KAS made efforts to ensure their participation, including the recruitment of Serbian enumerators and supervisors, providing training, equipment, and maps. Although approximately 6,500 individuals were registered in these municipalities, the enumeration process was suspended due to boycotts and documented incidents of physical and verbal assaults against field staff. Subsequent efforts to resume the process with personnel, including three separate rounds of recruitment, were unsuccessful, as persistent political interference rendered its completion impossible. To address the resulting data gap, the KAS relied on population estimates provided by UNECE, which projected approximately 24,000 residents.

Preliminary results **were published in December 2024**, and KAS plans to release 24 thematic reports through 2025, one of them regarding displaced and stateless populations.

Figure 13: Kosovo Population Age Structure



Source: KAS



## The use of the International Recommendations

Kosovo's census integrated guidelines from all three sets of International Recommendations developed by EGRISS. The questionnaire was built on the instrument from the previous census and introduced questions to enhance identification of displacement. The 2011 census identified displaced persons through time-bound questions specifically linked to two historical events, the NATO bombing of 1998 and the civil unrest of 2004. In contrast, the 2024 census asks whether the respondent ever lived in another usual residence, captures the location of previous usual residence, dates and reason for movement, allowing for temporal analysis of displacement.

Data on the usual place of residence was captured for individuals living in institutional housing, allowing for classification of displaced persons living in camps-like settings. In addition, the questionnaire structure allowed for the identification of at least one of IRIS displacement categories for total stock of IDPs — those in locations of displacement. However, this approach may fail to capture IDPs in locations of return or in other settlement locations, as this question was not answered by those who have not lived in 'in a different place (residence/municipality/state) from your current one for a period of one year or more'.



**We had discussions with different data users on why you should have such detailed questions on displacement in the census. It was quite challenging especially because we were not interviewing a sample but planning to cover the entire population of Kosovo. Still, we have added questions from the Recommendations, and I think we'll have a good road map to identify where displaced and stateless persons are."**

— Avni Kastrati, Acting Executive Director of the Kosovo Statistics Agency

The census made advancements in identifying statelessness, as it included questions about citizenship, identification documents, and was connected with personal identification numbers. For the first time, Kosovo also attempted to register its diaspora through an online registration available in Albanian, English and Serbian. It had questions on citizenship, reasons for moving, current place of residency, and place of origin in the country.

## Conclusion

The 2024 Kosovo Census represents a continuous effort to document displacement dynamics and potential statelessness situations in the country. Looking forward, KAS plans to establish, in cooperation with the Ministry for Communities and Returns, UNHCR, and all municipalities, a dedicated register for displaced and stateless persons in 2026. A key component of this initiative will be engaging specialists in statistics, international law, human rights, and migration, as well as NGOs working with vulnerable communities, international organisations, and representatives of the communities affected. This register would serve as a tool for planning and policymaking, helping both local and international institutions to perform actions aimed at social inclusion, access to rights and services, and finding durable solutions for displaced and stateless persons in Kosovo.



**EGYPT.** Mohamad, his wife Eman, and their two children Zayad and Ola arrived in Egypt in February 2024, after fleeing war in Sudan. 29 October, 2024.  
© UNHCR/Christina Rizk



## Institutional examples

Institutional examples include initiatives driven by international and regional organisations, which can be conducted at the global, regional, or national level. They also comprise statistical activities run by civil society organisations (CSOs). This data helps illustrate the role of these institutions in supporting countries to pursue statistical inclusion of refugees, IDPs and stateless persons and to internalise the sets of Recommendations into their institutional practices.

**In 2024, a total of 27 institutional examples were documented; among these, a significant portion of 19 incorporated the Recommendations: 6 used IRRS, another 6 used IRIS, while 7 integrated IRRS and IRIS at the same time.**

The 27 institutional examples reported were distributed across different geographical levels, with 8 implemented at the country level, 12 at the regional level, and 7 at the global level.



ESCWA, in cooperation with the Arab Institute for Training and Statistical Research (AITSR) and EGRISS organised a workshop on IRRS, IRIS, and IROSS in collaboration with the UNHCR, UNRWA, UNFPA, and JIPS. / © UNRWA, © Natalia Baal

Following the pattern identified in country-led implementation, institutional examples used sample surveys as the main data sources or tools either supporting direct data collection, developing technical frameworks or providing overviews of regional survey data collection. They were reported in 12 examples, with 9 incorporating the Recommendations. This compares to 6 workshops/trainings, guidance/toolkits, non-traditional data sources and strategies (grouped as “Other”), 3 data integration examples, and one administrative data example that used the Recommendations. These figures show stronger international support to survey activities.



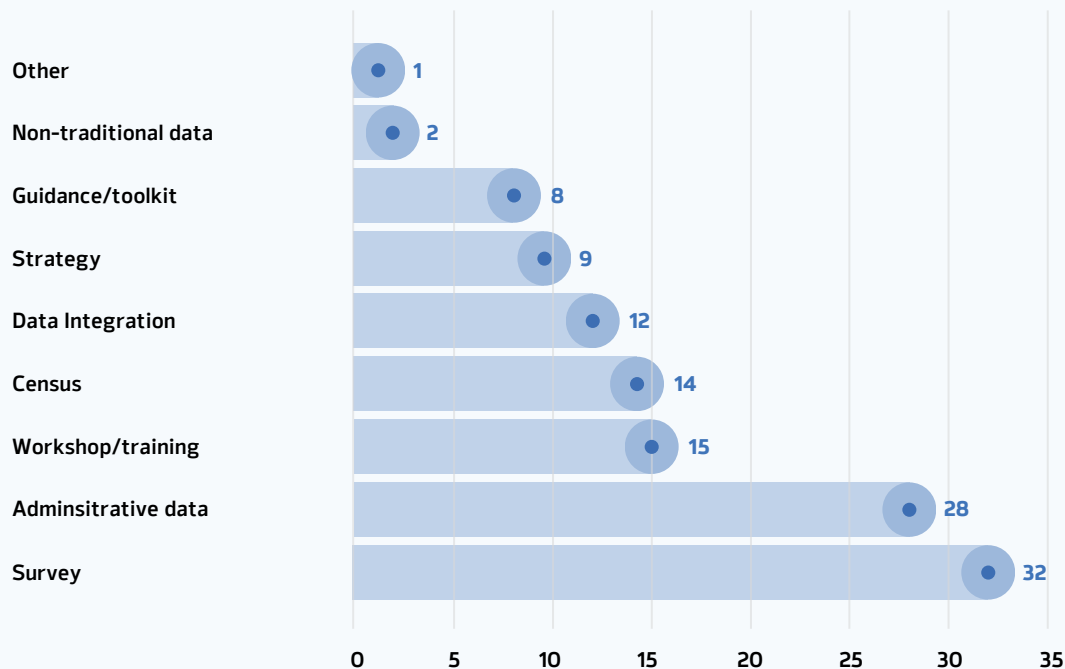
## Upcoming activities

All respondents (from country and institutional-led examples) also informed about projects aimed at statistical inclusion of the three populations that would be initiated in the near future. Analysis indicates substantial commitments to multiple methodological approaches, with 32 planned survey representing the most prevalent future mechanism. Close behind are 28 projects leveraging administrative data systems, followed by 15 capacity-building workshops scheduled to enhance technical capabilities.

The forward-looking agenda further encompasses support for 14 national census operations, 12 data integration initiatives, formulation of 9 comprehensive statistical strategies, creation of 8 specialised guidance documents or toolkits. There are also 2 future projects that will use non-traditional data sources.

This expected diverse portfolio demonstrates robust momentum for expanding implementation of the IRRS, IRIS, and IROSS frameworks, suggesting an encouraging trajectory toward more comprehensive statistical visibility for displaced and stateless populations in the years ahead.

Figure 14: **Future Examples Using Different Types of Data Source or Tool**









# Reflections *from* *the* Secretariat

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Since 2020, despite the pandemic and several significant displacement emergencies, EGRISS has steadily progressed towards its stated goals. As this Annual Report has shown, 2024 was no different. Beyond thematic focus areas and specific “reportable” achievements, however, several key debates and challenges also coloured the Group’s year of collaborative work. Benefitting from the unique vantage point of the Secretariat, some of these observations are summarised below, sharing a moment of reflection as we transition into 2025.

➤ The **value of partnership in the widening statistical ecosystem**, a central theme of the **UN World Data Forum** and part-and-parcel of how EGRISS works on a day-to-day basis, continued to bear fruit in 2024. The catalytic nature of working with the right concoction of partners to achieve advocacy outcomes, progress methodological research or garner regional momentum for the use of the IRRS, IRIS and IROSS shone through many EGRISS activities in 2024 which simply would not have been possible otherwise. Nurturing the community that EGRISS has gradually become, to make sure we are moving forward together and ensure strong ownership of collective outputs and outcomes, will continue to be a priority moving forward.

As partnership necessarily brings different perspectives to the table, debate is also a reality for EGRISS. ➤ **Tensions between the distinct roles of operational data and official statistics** was a live debate during 2024, particularly where population mobility or politically driven access limitations limit the coverage and timeliness of official statistics, or in situations where the quality of operational data is high and resource limitations hamper the capacity of national statistical systems.



Dialogue on these issues were front and centre in Cairo at the Regional Workshop with Arab States, but also globally in discussions concerning data for solutions to internal displacement under the auspices of the Office of the Special Advisor on Solutions to Internal Displacement. Taken together, they highlighted the importance of the recommendations on statistical coordination including in the final chapters of the IRRS, IRIS and IROSS.

- **Building momentum around IROSS implementation continued to be an uphill battle in 2024**, despite many GRF pledges from 2023 being associated with national statistics on statelessness and the focus on CRVS during the Bangkok workshop. With many opportunities identified and successful results concerning progress in implementing the IRRS and IRIS, even within the EGRISS community the IROSS needs dedicated and capacitated champions. Critical targeted funding received from the US State Department's Bureau of Population and Migration enabled related efforts during the year (including a revised E-learning and several regional workshops), however broader ownership and continued engagement is needed moving forward. The recently launched **Global Alliance to End Statelessness** presents an opportunity in this regard.
- Although challenges continue, the **maturity of EGRISS outputs & types of engagement** was also tangible in 2024 and is reflected in the increased external recognition of the Group's work and its unique role in the development data community. Embedding EGRISS' objectives and tailoring its outputs into existing regional mechanisms; tackling strategic and long-unaddressed methodological questions head-on; busting-myths concerning disaggregation of SDG indicators; and successfully feeding into broader policy processes and statistical recommendations (including those on international migration), are all examples of this maturity manifesting in practice.
- One area it continued to be challenging to make progress in, despite strong support from our 2024 High Level Steering Committee meeting, concerned the **development of a workable measure of exits from the IDP stock** building from the content of the IRIS and methodological research conducted by members of Technical Subgroup 2. With the finalisation of the mandate of the **Office of the Special Advisor on Solutions to Internal Displacement**, the development of an associated Solutions Guidance to be endorsed by the UNSDG and the IASC and related work undertaken in the Data for Solutions to Internal Displacement working group, there was significant flux in the inter-agency discussions related to "measuring durable solutions" and limited capacity for key partners to engage in additional efforts.
- Looking back on the year and with the vantage point of having consolidated results from the 4<sup>th</sup> iteration of the GAIN, **positive trends in terms of implementation of the Recommendations are visible**. With increased numbers of statistical projects reported, including a larger proportion of nationally led projects that have incorporated at least one set of the Recommendations, EGRISS' key indicator of success is moving in the right direction. 2024 appears to have been the year of the inclusive census, perhaps a "happy accident" enabled by delays caused by the Covid-19 pandemic which gave many countries the additional time to incorporate the recommendations into their preparations.





**SYRIA.** A group of Syrian refugees returning from Turkiye at the Bab Al-Hawa border crossing in rural Idlib. 16 December, 2024. © UNHCR/Hameed Maarouf



# Priorities *for* 2025

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2025 marks the final year of the third EGRISS mandate, so it will be an important opportunity for the group to reflect on progress made over the last five years, to inform the road ahead to further strengthen official statistics on refugees, IDPs and statelessness. However, with a strong preference for a continuation of the Group's work already expressed by its wider membership, plans are already afoot to formally request an extension of the TOR from the Commission's 57<sup>th</sup> session. Key priorities for the EGRISS in the year ahead include:

- Hold an **All-Members Meeting** to thoroughly review our collective progress and form a strong consensus around priorities for a fourth consecutive TOR. Beyond the meeting, EGRISS will work throughout the year to create opportunities for membership participation in activities, strengthening the collaborative platform the Group has gradually become in recent years.
- Build on previous **regional engagement** achievements to continue to support and consolidate region-specific activities, expand dialogue in new regions, strengthen the relevance of EGRISS resources for different regions, and integrate key objectives into existing coordination mechanisms. This will include follow up to recommendations from regional workshops held in 2024, support to the completion of the CEA Working Group's deliverables, and organisation of workshops in other regions/sub-regions (e.g. the planned collaboration to co-organise the 4<sup>th</sup> African School on Migration Statistics).



- Promote implementation of the IRRS, IRIS, and IROSS through advocacy and awareness-raising activities, with a focus on efforts to advance ‘statistical inclusion’ through the inclusion of refugees, IDPs and stateless persons in national statistical data production processes. This will include **leveraging participation in global policy processes and platforms** such as the GCR’s 2025 High Level Officials Meeting, the Global Alliance to End Statelessness, the International Forum on Migration Statistics and Inter-Agency Solutions Hub established to promote durable solutions to internal displacement.
- Ensure up-to-date and accessible technical guidance is available through conducting a **periodic review of the EGRISS Compilers’ Manual on Forced Displacement**, with a view to incorporate the IROSS into relevant Use Cases, fine-tune guidance concerning administrative data systems, introduce new Use Cases concerning priority SDG indicators, and update existing material based on lessons learnt since its 2023 edition. Ensuring the accessibility of technical guidance from the Recommendations will also continue to be achieved through **increased participation in the EGRISS E-learning course**.
- **Mature existing and develop new methodological research efforts to address key/recurring questions that arise through implementation experience** including a) standardising modules for proper identification of forcibly displaced populations in surveys and censuses, b) developing an operational measure for assessing exits from the IDP stock for more reliable IDP population estimates, c) reviewing statistical practice related to measuring progress towards durable solutions for IDPs, d) publishing a methodological paper reviewing statistical definitions of “host community”, and e) clarifying areas of alignment and possible incongruencies between IRRS, IRIS and IROSS on the one hand and new/existing standards and practice concerning broader migration statistics.
- **Continue efforts to integrate displacement and statelessness considerations into broader statistical efforts**, including those related to SDG disaggregation and ongoing revisions processes such as the UN Handbook on Household Surveys, DHS-9, and the International Conference of Labour Statisticians (ICL) Guidelines concerning Statistics of International Labour Migration.



**INDONESIA.** UNHCR staff help receive a group of 152 Rohingya refugees who were rescued in South Aceh, Indonesia, after enduring weeks at sea, while fleeing from Bangladesh in search of safety. 24 October, 2024. © ANTARA MEDIA





**COVER PHOTO:**

**SUDAN.** *New arrivals from Sudan are being relocated to areas like Aweil and Ajoung Thok to manage the growing numbers in the Renk Transit Centres.*  
18 December, 2024.  
© UNHCR/Reason Moses Runyanga

