

EGRISS 2025 Annual Report



**Sustaining progress amid global volatility:
Advancing statistical inclusion at the close
of our third mandate**

JORDAN. Syrian refugees return to Syria from Zaatari camp.
12 January, 2025.
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Acknowledgments

The 2025 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.

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Foreword

Ensuring that forcibly displaced and stateless populations are integrated into national data systems is both a technical imperative and a matter of fundamental dignity and rights. In 2025, a period marked by acute pressures on the humanitarian and development sectors, deepening political polarisation around migration and displacement, and rapid institutional restructuring across the multilateral system, this imperative has only become more urgent. It is in this context that the work of the Expert Group on Refugee, IDP and Statelessness Statistics (EGRISS) has proven its continued relevance. The availability of the International Recommendations on Refugee Statistics (IRRS), the International Recommendations on IDP Statistics (IRIS), and the International Recommendations on Statelessness Statistics (IROSS), each unanimously endorsed by the UN Statistical Commission, followed by their growing uptake and mainstreaming at national, regional and international levels, stands as testament to the power of sustained collective action, working to advance the Sustainable Development Goals and more inclusive national response.

As representatives of the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) and the United Nations Refugee Agency (UNHCR), we are honoured to present this fifth Annual Report on behalf of the wider EGRISS Steering Committee and membership. The convergence of our vantage points — national and global, statistical and operational — reflects the collaborative nature that defines EGRISS and underpins the achievements documented herein. We commend the collective achievements of the Group’s members, now numbering 102, including 62 national statistical authorities, whose sustained commitment and technical expertise have driven progress in an increasingly challenging environment. This Report offers both a record of that progress and a basis for the strategic priorities of the year ahead, as EGRISS starts its fourth mandate.

For PSA, serving on the EGRISS Steering Committee reflects a longstanding national commitment to addressing statelessness and displacement through inclusive civil registration and national statistics. The Philippines is the 78th State to accede to the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness and remains the first and only country in the Asia-Pacific region to have acceded to both UN Statelessness Conventions. Translating these commitments into practice and guided by the IROSS framework, PSA has worked alongside partners to strengthen birth registration among populations at heightened risk of statelessness. In addition, the 2024 Census of Population (POPCEN) and Community-Based Monitoring System represent significant innovations — integrating population enumeration with community-level socio-economic

profiling to update social registries, support multidimensional poverty assessments, and strengthen evidence-based planning at national and local levels. The Philippines' experience pursuing statistical inclusion of displaced and stateless populations is featured as a case study in this Report: a pioneering example for countries in the Asia-Pacific region and beyond seeking to advance a similar agenda.

This national experience illustrates a broader truth that has become increasingly clear as EGRISS approached the end of its third mandate: statistical inclusion delivers tangible results when underpinned by normative frameworks, sustained institutional commitment, and the collaborative infrastructure to connect national action with global standards. In 2025, the 75th anniversary of the adoption of the Statute establishing the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, this conviction carries resonance. Throughout those decades, data and statistics have been central to UNHCR's mission of enabling protection, supporting host communities, and advocating with credibility for durable solutions. Building on pre-existing work, the Global Compact on Refugees has been instrumental in advancing further the inclusion of refugees, displaced and stateless persons within national data and statistical systems — an objective to which EGRISS and its partners continue to make a strong contribution. UNHCR is proud to be a founding member and key supporter of EGRISS. Looking ahead, with renewed momentum under UNHCR's new leadership, the push for inclusion to foster solutions for displaced and stateless populations will move forward.

Over 335 documented examples of implementation of the EGRISS Recommendations have now been recorded, the majority led by countries, each taking the initiative to improve nationally owned statistics to inform displacement-sensitive policymaking. Other achievements summarised in this report are also notable, including in the areas of improved technical guidance, advancing global standards and impactful peer-to-peer learning. Yet in the context of constrained resources and an increasingly complex politicised environment, it is important not to turn a blind eye to the challenges. Robust data has become ever more critical, not only to advocate for the rights and protection of displaced and stateless populations, but also to equip governments with the evidence they need for responsible decision-making. The December 2025 Global Refugee Forum Progress Review confirmed this trajectory: statistical inclusion was recognised as a cross-cutting enabler across thematic areas, from ending statelessness and pursuing inclusive education and social protection policies, to enhancing sustainable responses and monitoring progress at national, regional and global levels.

We commend the sustained commitment of all EGRISS members and partners whose contributions have made this work possible. As the Group enters its fourth mandate and the international community navigates the final years of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the growing availability of inclusive national statistics on displacement and statelessness constitutes an indispensable resource. Behind every data point is a person, with a name, a story, and hope for a better future. Our collective responsibility is to build systems that make those stories visible, that inform durable solutions, and that uphold the dignity and rights of all displaced and stateless people.



Claire Dennis S. Mapa, PhD
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Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA)



Ruven Menikdiwela
Assistant High Commissioner for Protection
United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)



BANGLADESH. Communal Iftar in Cox's Bazar.
14 March, 2025. © UNHCR/Shari Nijman

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Introduction

The year 2025 represented a turning point for the Expert Group on Refugee, IDP and Statelessness Statistics (EGRISS). With the conclusion of its third mandate (2020–2025) came an opportunity to reflect honestly on the journey so far: the progress made, the lessons learned, and the remaining gaps. At the same time, the preparations for a fourth consecutive Terms of Reference (ToR) from the United Nations Statistical Commission focused minds on what comes next, turning collective energy towards planning and strategising for the road ahead.

More widely, this was also a tumultuous period for many EGRISS members, which significantly shaped and constrained the scope of collaborative work that could be undertaken. Globally, forced displacement remained high, although with a notable reduction to 117.3 million people by mid-year, from the 123.2 million reported at the end of 2024, **according to UNHCR**. Public and political debate around migration and displacement grew increasingly polarised with policy environments shifting rapidly. Well-established structures of international cooperation fell under pressure as rapid and acute funding cuts impacted a wide range of humanitarian and development organisations, triggering significant institutional restructuring processes.

Despite this volatility, the drive to push towards sustainable responses for refugees, internally displaced, and stateless groups, through inclusive national policies and government-led solutions, remained a central priority. Achieving this ambition, necessitates a continued and deepening commitment to the statistical inclusion of these populations within national data systems, alongside sustained efforts to bolster the quality and coverage of national statistics on them. In such a climate of uncertainty, the case for robust, reliable data has never been more compelling, making the objectives of EGRISS and the collective efforts of its members ever more relevant.

In this context, 2025 remained a notably productive year for EGRISS, demonstrating the Group's resilience and relevance amid a challenging global reality. Membership continued to expand, reaching 102 members, including 62 national statistical authorities. The International Recommendations on Refugee Statistics (IRRS, 2018), IDP Statistics (IRIS, 2020), and Statelessness Statistics (IROSS, 2023) gained further recognition as authoritative normative frameworks, now referenced across an expanding range of global and regional statistical standard-setting publications, including those governing Population and Housing Censuses, International Migration, and Household Surveys.

The visibility of EGRISS' collaborative work and the statistical inclusion agenda were reinforced through several prominent international platforms during the year. Substantive engagement at the fourth International Forum on Migration Statistics and the Global Refugee Forum Progress Review underscored the increasing centrality of these efforts within broader policy and statistical discourse. Capacity development and regional engagement objectives were advanced through the fourth edition of the African School on Migration Statistics, which, for the first time, focused specifically on forced displacement and statelessness.

A key highlight of the year was the October All Members Meeting, in Warsaw, which convened over 100 participants to assess progress and establish priorities for a fourth mandate. The meeting served as a powerful demonstration of EGRISS' institutional maturity and forward momentum, confirming that a critical mass of countries is now actively committed to transforming their national statistical systems to better capture the realities of forced displacement and statelessness. These achievements were made possible through the continued financial support of the World Bank–UNHCR Joint Data Center on Forced Displacement (JDC) and the United States Bureau of Population, Refugees and Migration (PRM), and new investments from the United Kingdom's Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO). Together, these resources enabled the EGRISS Secretariat to sustain an active membership and to deliver meaningful results.

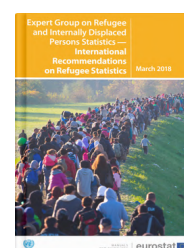
This fifth Annual Report celebrates these accomplishments, sharing insights from initiatives undertaken throughout 2025. It presents findings from the 2025 Global Annual Inclusion (GAIN) Survey which provide a comprehensive picture of progress of implementation of the International Recommendations. This quantitative data is complemented by a series of case studies documenting practical experiences of use of either IRRS, IRIS, or IROSS. Reflections from the Secretariat provide candid assessment of lessons learned during the year and at the tail-end of the Group's third mandate. Finally, the Report looks ahead, identifying priorities for the coming year that build deliberately on the solid foundations now in place while adapting to the realities of a new operating environment and a new mandate.

EGRISS Overview

The Expert Group on Refugee, IDP and Statelessness Statistics (EGRISS) is a multi-stakeholder group mandated by the United Nations Statistical Commission, established in 2016 to develop international recommendations and guidance for improved statistics on refugees and asylum-seekers. The scope of work later expanded to include IDPs and statelessness. Since its establishment, EGRISS has built something unprecedented: a global architecture of standards to make these groups visible in national data systems and made significant progress supporting countries and regional and international organisations to enhance their collection, production, and dissemination of official statistics on them.

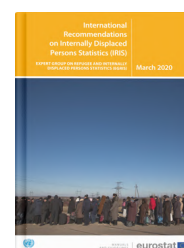
01 2016–2018 · BUILDING FOUNDATIONS

Following a report by Eurostat, Statistics Norway (SSB), Turkish Statistical (Turkstat), and UNHCR, the Group was mandated. It established a solid membership base and developed the **International Recommendations on Refugee Statistics (IRRS)** and the **Technical Report on Statistics of Internally Displaced Persons**. Both were adopted at the 49th session of the UNSC (2018).



02 2018–2020 · EXPANDING TO INTERNAL DISPLACEMENT

The new ToR introduced work with internal displacement, and the Group produced the **International Recommendations on IDP Statistics (IRIS)** alongside a **Compilers' Manual on Forced Displacement Statistics** as a hands-on guide for implementing the Recommendations. Both were formally adopted at the 51st session of the UNSC (2020).



03 2020–2025 · IMPLEMENTATION & STATELESSNESS

More ambitious ToR included statelessness. As a result, EGRISS developed the **International Recommendations on Statelessness Statistics (IROSS)**, adopted at the 54th session of the UNSC (2023). It also enabled the Group to support implementation of the IRRS, IRIS, and IROSS by strengthening national statistical capacity, engaging in regional platforms, investing in methodological research, enhancing visibility of resources, and monitoring progress.



MEMBERSHIP

62 National
Statistics
Authorities

40 Regional &
International
Organisations

Openness and inclusivity are critical aspects of the EGRISS methodology, welcoming collaboration with new, relevant partners from the statistical community. Members join with different capacities, areas of expertise and interest. Some focus on refugee statistics, others on IDPs and others on statelessness, whilst many have multiple areas of interest. Through its broad membership, EGRISS activities and products benefit from varied input and perspectives and remain relevant to reality.

Figure 1: EGRISS country membership in 2025 (62 countries)



HOW EGRISS WORKS

A **Steering Committee (SC)** with 15 members, including national statistical offices, regional and international organisations, guides EGRISS' activities. A High-Level SC convenes annually for strategic advice.

The **EGRISS Secretariat**, hosted by the UNHCR, provides support to both SC and subgroups and coordinates the Group's work overall.

TSG 1 • Regional Engagement & Capacity Development
Co-led by International Organization for Migration (IOM), the Joint IDP Profiling Service (JIPS), and UNHCR.

TSG 2 • Methodological Research & Guidance Development
Co-led by the Joint Data Center (JDC) and the Somalia National Bureau of Statistics (SNBS).



UGANDA. Primary school children in class in Nakivale. 14 February, 2025. © UNHCR/Hugh Rutherford

Achievements *from* 2025

Building on collective accomplishments of previous years, EGRISS deepened its work throughout 2025 across several interconnected workstreams to enable improved national statistics on refugees, IDPs, and stateless populations. Progress is narrated across five key areas:

- The **2025 EGRISS All Members Meeting** validating successes and outlining priorities for the next mandate
- **Strengthening guidance and resources** including regional frameworks for Africa and Latin America alongside refined methodological work addressing critical measurement challenges
- **Investing in peer-exchange** and learning through the African School on Migration Statistics and country-tailored activities
- **Enhancing visibility in policy dialogue** in platforms such as the International Forum on Migration Statistics and the Global Refugee Forum Progress Review
- **Advancement of global standards** through successful integration of EGRISS frameworks into revised UN guidelines

These achievements were only possible through the commitment and collaborative spirit of EGRISS members, its Steering Committee, and Secretariat, who sustained momentum even amid significant political and financial constraints affecting the wider development and humanitarian sectors. National statistical offices, international organisations, regional bodies, civil society organisations, and academic institutions brought technical expertise, practical experience, and dedication to advancing statistical inclusion and championing the cause of quality displacement statistics in their respective spheres. These efforts, often undertaken with limited resources, exemplify the Group's strength.



2025 EGRISS All Members Meeting

 **October 28-30**  **Warsaw, Poland**

The **All Members Meeting** brought together 105 participants from national statistical offices, international organisations, and regional bodies at the conclusion of our third mandate and a time when forced displacement had reached 123.2 million people globally. Although a moment of systemic strain, with significant progress and momentum built through the Group's work in recent years, the event was prioritised to ensure the continuity and enhance visibility of the statistical inclusion agenda. Statistics Poland's hosting carried special significance given the country's recent experience with Ukrainian refugees.

Two powerful keynote addresses framed the meeting's context. Ruven Menikdiwela, UNHCR's Assistant High Commissioner for Protection, emphasised that "our key motivation should remain the improvement of the lives of millions of people through this data work," highlighting how national statistics on displacement will prove vital as we approach the 2030 Agenda's final years. Paweł Kowal, Chairman of Poland's Foreign Relations Committee, grounded his remarks in Poland's direct experience, asserting that "the best response to cognitive attacks is data and the ability to spread it; not ideology, not interpretation, but statistics, data, real information."

The meeting revealed **remarkable progress despite global upheaval**. Leaders from national statistics offices (NSOs) shared transformative experiences: Iraq integrating displacement questions into its 2024 census, Somalia implementing a comprehensive IDP Statistical Sector Plan, Poland using innovative big data approaches, and Nigeria conducting its inaugural IDP survey. A dynamic exhibition featuring posters from 25 members, from Mexico to Kenya, and Moldova to Sri Lanka, created space for frank peer exchange about challenges and good practices.



The global context was brought to bear on the AMM's deliberations through two complementary keynote addresses. © Statistics Poland,



Participants frequently described the meeting as a family reunion that strengthened both professional ties and personal connections.
© Eric Raupp

Discussions also centred on the **Multi-Stakeholder Pledge on Inclusion of Forcibly Displaced and Stateless Persons in National Statistical Systems and Surveys**, launched in the context of the 2023 **Global Refugee Forum (GRF)**, with presentations from Djibouti, Peru, Moldova, the JDC, and the FCDO. A deliberate spotlight on statelessness statistics and the IROSS was given through a session featuring speakers from Kenya, the Kyrgyz Republic, the Philippines, and United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP). In addition, six working groups tackled specialised challenges with sophisticated technical depth: IDP exits and progress towards durable solutions, regional engagement, administrative data, identification questions, capacity development tools, and migration statistics alignment.

Looking ahead for a fourth mandate, members articulated clear priorities: deepening capacity development, strengthening regional mechanisms, improving available guidance particularly for statelessness and administrative data, addressing methodological gaps and demonstrating how better statistics translate into better outcomes for displaced populations. The collaborative methodology that built EGRISS' success must continue as the foundation. With evaluation scores of 4.7 out of 5, EGRISS has evolved into a true community of practice, positioned to ensure that every person affected by displacement or statelessness is counted and included.

We are proud to contribute to international initiatives, such as the IRRS, IRIS, and IROSS. These frameworks are much more than technical documents. They are instruments of accountability and solidarity, helping us speak the same statistical language in every region of the world.

— Marek Cierpiel-Wolan,
President of Statistics Poland



Investing in learning and peer-exchange

Capacity development, through peer-exchange and online learning remained a priority for EGRISS, in response to continued demand from national partners. Investments in national and regional capacity is an immediate investment for long-term change and sustainable impact. Furthermore, it helps to build professional networks and a community of practice which brings additional benefits to the wider objectives of the Group.

4th African School on Migration Statistics

 26-28 May  Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire



For the first time, the School focused on forced displacement and statelessness statistics. The fourth iteration was organised jointly by the African Union Institute for Statistics (STATAFRIC), Statistics Sweden (SBC), and EGRISS. The three-day workshop was hosted by the Agence Nationale de la Statistique (ANSTAT) and connected 35 participants from 24 countries* alongside representatives from regional bodies including the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD), the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), the East African Community (EAC), and the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA).

The programme combined technical sessions on the IRRS, IRIS, and IROSS with country presentations showcasing the use of the Recommendations across contexts. Ethiopia shared progress integrating refugees through its Digital ID programme; Nigeria presented results from a nationally-led IDP survey; Djibouti demonstrated successful inclusion of refugees, IDPs, and stateless persons in its recent census; Côte d'Ivoire revealed findings estimating over six percent of its population at risk of statelessness. Morocco showcased progress in integrating displacement-relevant questions into national surveys; South Sudan emphasised its reliance on DTM for data on IDPs and returnees due to limited capacity; and Cameroon presented its recent pilot survey on internal displacement and the Forced Displacement Survey in 2024–2025.

Interactive group work allowed participants to identify regional challenges, such as limited coordination, underutilisation of administrative data, and resource constraints, and to develop forward-looking roadmaps for their sub-regions. The workshop concluded with collectively refined recommendations for Member States and international partners, emphasising the need for strengthened NSO capacity, standardised tools, sustainable funding, and continued peer learning. Participant evaluations confirmed the School's impact, with 100 per cent agreement that objectives were met and knowledge gained would prove useful in their daily work.

* Botswana,
Burkina Faso,
Cameroon,
Central African
Republic,
Côte d'Ivoire,
Democratic
Republic of the
Congo,
Djibouti,
Egypt,
Equatorial Guinea,
Ethiopia,
Gabon,
Liberia,
Libya,
Mali,
Morocco,
Mozambique,
Niger,
Nigeria,
Sierra Leone,
Somalia,
South Sudan,
Tchad,
Uganda, and
Zimbabwe

Additional workshops and trainings

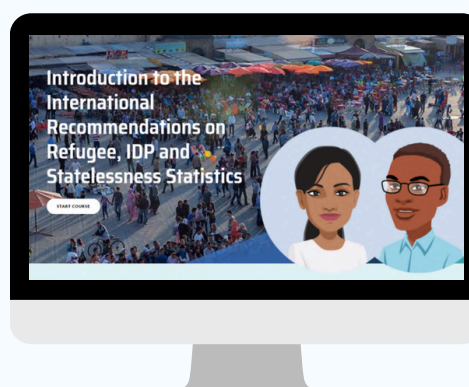
A clear demand emerged for ad hoc, targeted workshops and training in 2025, with activities delivered by various EGRISS members, often at country level during critical junctures in their statistical inclusion journeys. These included:

- From 19-21 May, the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (UNESCWA), together with the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and the Arab Institute for Training and Research in Statistics (AITRS), organised a **regional workshop on census thematic analysis to enhance accessibility and utilisation of data**. With a number of countries in the region having recently conducted displacement and/or statelessness-inclusive national censuses (e.g. **Iraq, Djibouti**, Morocco, and Jordan) the topic of forced displacement and statelessness were incorporated in the discussions.
- From 8 to 10 July 2025, with JDC support, the UNHCR country office in the Central African Republic organised a workshop in Bangui for the Central African Institute of Statistics and Economic and Social Studies (ICASEES) and its partners. The initiative strengthened capacity in data collection on forcibly displaced persons and populations at risk of statelessness, with a particular focus on their inclusion in the Fourth General Population and Housing Census (RGPH-4) and the Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS7). A peer-to-peer dimension enriched the training, with a statistician from the Cameroon National Statistical Office leading technical sessions on applying the International Recommendations, drawing on direct expertise in the frameworks and survey sampling.
- On 10-12 December, UNHCR organised a technical workshop in Dakar, for technical staff from the statistical offices of Burkina Faso, Burundi, Chad, Mali, Niger, and Senegal. Grounded in the EGRISS Recommendations, the workshop covered methodological aspects for identifying forcibly displaced persons, analytical approaches and best practices for the inclusion of refugees and IDPs into national data systems.

Continuous online learning

The self-paced e-learning course “Introduction to the International Recommendations on Refugee, IDP and Statelessness” remained open for enrolments. Developed by EGRISS’ TSG-1 in collaboration with the United Nations Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific (UN-SIAP), the course is available free of charge on the SIAP Learning Management System and comprises six interactive modules. They introduce key concepts, definitions, classifications, and methodologies for collecting, compiling, analysing, and disseminating data and indicators on our populations of interest, including relevant SDG indicators.

It also covers data sources, institutional mechanisms, and coordination arrangements. Participants who complete all modules and pass the final assessment receive a certificate. In 2025, the EGRISS Secretariat initiated translations into French and Spanish, with both versions expected in the first quarter of 2026.



Enhancing visibility in policy dialogue

Throughout 2025, EGRISS members participated in key international forums where migration, displacement, humanitarian and development agendas intersect to position statistical inclusion as essential infrastructure for evidence-based policy, connecting measurement questions directly to protection outcomes, resource allocation, and development planning.

4th International Forum on Migration Statistics (IFMS)

 **16-18 June**  **Malmö, Sweden**

The Forum brought together experts from diverse disciplines to reinforce the critical role of robust data in supporting evidence-based policymaking on migration. Organised by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), IOM, and the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA), with support from SBC, it provided a platform to discuss recent advances transforming migration and displacement statistics. Through the efforts of several members, **EGRISS significantly raised the visibility of national statistics on forced displacement** by organising and contributing to diverse sessions compared to previous Forums.



Migration and displacement: distinct but aligned statistical frameworks implemented through regional cooperation



How to identify forcibly displaced people in household surveys: theory, applications and findings from case studies



Don't forget migration within borders: strengthening data on internally displaced persons through the IRIS



Measuring progress towards solutions to internally displaced persons in Colombia and Somalia, a peer-exchange conversation

Other key themes were well aligned with EGRISS' priorities such as the added value of partnerships and cooperation to improve migration and displacement statistics, and the unique policy-advantages of pursuing statistical inclusion of refugees in national data systems. For the latter, presentations from Ruven Menikdiwela, UNHCR's Assistant High Commissioner for Protection, Gunilla Fincke, Director-General of the German Federal Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs, and Peter Abad Altamirano, Deputy Head of Statistics of Peru's National Institute of Statistics and Informatics brought this matter home showcasing the powerful policy impact of statistical inclusion in diverse political and geographical contexts.

Global Refugee Forum (GRF) Progress Review meeting

 15-17 December  Geneva, Switzerland

The second GRF Progress Review confirmed that **statistical inclusion has evolved from an emerging priority to an established feature of Global Compact on Refugees (GCR) implementation**. Convened midway between the 2023 and 2027 GRFs, the meeting assessed implementation progress while considering how shifting humanitarian and development landscapes will shape refugee protection frameworks going forward. Across thematic discussions, from ending statelessness to strengthening the humanitarian-development-peace nexus, high-quality national statistics emerged as a cross-cutting enabler for evidence-based, inclusive policymaking. The High Commissioner issued a direct call for statistical inclusion.



Including refugees, displaced people, or returnees in statistics and development plans: that's very important because if they're included, it's much easier to make the response sustainable. Automatically they will be part of a broader approach. And that will create conditions for more self-reliance.

— Filippo Grandi, UN High Commissioner for Refugees

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Pierre Albouy

Several donors highlighted existing or announced new commitments to foster statistical inclusion including the EU's Directorate-General for International Partnerships (DG INTPA), the FCDO, and the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA). In a context of increasingly limited funding mechanisms, these commitments are noteworthy.

The strategic dialogue on the GCR indicator framework featured multiple examples of NSO leadership in pursuing statistical inclusion with support from international and regional partners and making use of the EGRISS Recommendations. This included direct experience from national, regional, and international perspectives, such as IGAD, the International Labour Organisation (ILO), Mauritania, and Honduras. During the same session, the JDC provided an overview of implementation progress concerning the multi-stakeholder pledge on statistical inclusion.

Other visibility efforts

In addition, EGRISS members invested on several other strategic visibility efforts, including:

- ▶ A UNSC side event on “**Shaping the future of international migration and temporary mobility statistics: revised recommendations in focus**”, highlighted improved alignment with with EGRISS Recommendations.
- ▶ A webinar on “**Statistical Inclusion of Forcibly Displaced and Stateless Persons in Support of Inclusive Socio-Economic Policies**” in the context of GRF pledges in May.
- ▶ Engagement at the Third Ministerial Conference on Civil Registration and Vital Statistics (CRVS) in Asia and the Pacific and associated **Ministerial Declaration** in June.
- ▶ A presentation to the **Seventh Meeting of the Technical Advisory Group for Demographic and Social Statistics of Arab Countries** (October), following outcomes from the **2024 EGRISS-UNESCWA workshop**.

Advancing global standards

To enhance dissemination and improve coherence of international statistical standards, EGRISS and its members actively engage with other Expert Groups and platforms. This approach supports the appropriate inclusion of the IRRS, IRIS, and IROSS in planned revisions or development processes. Significant milestones were achieved through the endorsement of new recommendations on migration statistics and those developed to guide the 2030 census round.

Revised Principles and Recommendations (P&R) for Population Housing Censuses

The fourth **revision of the P&R for Population and Housing Censuses**, endorsed through **Decision 56/102**, references the IRRS, IRIS, and IROSS as authoritative guidance for national statistical offices. The trilogy is cited in sections covering population concepts and definitions, with direct links to egrisstats.org enabling census practitioners to access detailed methodological guidance. The **Compilers' Manual Use Case A** is particularly highlighted and described as essential reading for technical personnel seeking to include forcibly displaced populations in official statistics.

The revision introduces "forced displacement" as an explicit category under reason for international migration, aligned with EGRISS recommendations. Stateless persons receive dedicated treatment, with the IROSS framework recommended for capturing both those with recognised stateless status and those without recognised nationality status. The classification of living quarters now includes specific categories for refugee and IDP camps, acknowledging that many function more like communities than institutions. Additional recommendations are included to ensure enumeration methodologies, analytical work, reporting, and post-enumeration surveys provide the required attention to displaced and stateless populations.

Key considerations on refugees, IDPs, and stateless persons in the P&R also include:

- **"Refugees, asylum seekers, and IDPs (in and outside camps) should be enumerated in both the population present count, and in the usual resident count if they meet the established duration criteria. To facilitate analysis, these groups should be reported separately, to allow the calculation of a country's population excluding these categories when required for non-demographic purposes". (p.305)**
- **"Every effort should be made to include stateless persons in the census – both those with recognised stateless status and those without a recognised nationality status. The NSO should work with responsible government agencies, non-governmental organizations familiar with this population group and the UNHCR to establish the best method for including stateless persons in the population count". (p. 306)**
- **"Special attention should be given to households that may have experienced displacement between the census and Post-enumeration surveys (PSE)". (p. 282)**

Recommendations on Statistics of International Migration and Temporary Mobility

The revised **Recommendations on Statistics of International Migration and Temporary Mobility** were endorsed at the 56th UN Statistical Commission and are the culmination of several years of collaborative work to update the Recommendations on Statistics of International Migration from 1998 and reflect changes in migration patterns, border control, as well as methods in data collection. The updated document explicitly incorporates EGRISS standards to strengthen coherence between migration and forced displacement statistics.

Stateless persons are included alongside foreign citizens throughout the framework, with further disaggregation recommended where stateless populations are prevalent. The Recommendations recognise that forced displacement cannot be regarded merely as a subset of migration, as many refugees (including children born in exile) never cross international borders. Refugees meeting residence duration criteria should be counted as international migrants and added to resident populations as "foreign-born foreign citizens."

Asylum seekers are identified as a priority temporary population group requiring measurement, particularly those in transit. The framework emphasises that asylum seekers and refugees must be included in resident populations regardless of living quarters, provided they meet duration criteria. Importantly, specific safeguards prevent sharing refugee and asylum-seeker data with countries of origin where there is risk of information transfer — a critical protection for forcibly displaced populations.

Ongoing Alignments Efforts

- ▶ The **UN Handbooks on Household Surveys**, published between the 1980s and 2000s, were also under revision in 2025. Overseen by the inter-Secretariat Working Group on Household Surveys (ISWGHS), the revision addresses new data sources including administrative, geospatial, and mobile phone data. A dedicated annex on forced displacement is now included building on IRRS and IRIS. EGRISS engaged in this process to ensure appropriate coverage of refugees and IDPs, including facilitating a membership consultation on behalf of ISWGHS in 2025. The updated Handbook is being considered by the UN Statistical Commission in 2026.
- ▶ The **ILO Guidelines on Statistics of International Labour Migration**, endorsed at the 20th ICLS (2018), ensure consistency in labour migration data. Following testing and validation, ILO proposed updates at the 21st ICLS (2023), aligned with the revised Migration Recommendations and EGRISS standards. IRRS and IROSS clarify coverage of refugees, asylum seekers, and stateless persons in labour migration statistics, specifying priority data items for monitoring their labour market integration and ensuring data confidentiality.



Strengthening guidance and resources

Translating international standards into national practice requires accessible, actionable guidance that is responsive to diverse operational contexts, as well as meaningful ownership across a broad range of stakeholder groups. In 2025, significant progress was made on both fronts, most notably through the development of new regional and thematic guidance directly anchored in the International Recommendations.

A 'Practical Guide' for Forced Displacement and Migration Statistics in Latin America and the Caribbean

In November, the **13th Statistical Conference of the Americas (SCA-ECLAC)**, held in Santiago, Chile, endorsed the **Practical Guide for the Production of Harmonised Statistics on Forced Displacement and Migration in Latin America and the Caribbean**. The product was developed by a **SCA-ECLAC Working Group**, led by the National Institute for Statistics of Honduras and bringing together 12 NSOs from the region alongside ECLAC, the Central American Statistical Commission (CENTROESTAD), JIPS, UNHCR, and IOM as a Secretariat. The Working Group is closely associated with EGRISS' TSG1 Regional Task Team for Latin America and the Caribbean.

EGRISS Recommendations serve as the cornerstone of this document: IRIS provides definitions for measuring internal displacement and tracking progress towards durable solutions; IRRS sets standards for refugees and asylum-seekers, including legal status and integration indicators; and IROSS addresses statelessness measurement in a region where nationality documentation gaps affect many people. The Guide establishes a regional standard generating disaggregated, comparable data that gives visibility to displaced and migrant populations while strengthening human rights-grounded responses. Whilst the Working Group has successfully ended its mandate, it has now become a SCA-ECLAC Community of Practice to focus on dissemination and capacity development.

The meeting recognised the importance of strengthening data governance and administration in national statistical systems by fostering regulatory and institutional frameworks that ensure technical autonomy, transparency, interoperability and sustainability / © ECLAC



© Statistics
Sweden

African Union Guidelines on Migration and Displacement Statistics

During the **19th session of the Committee of Director Generals of National Statistical Offices (CoDGs)** in December, STATAFRIC officially launched the **African Union Guidelines on Migration and Displacement Statistics**, a continental guide to harmonise data collection across AU Member States and Regional Economic Communities (RECs).

The Guidelines address essential components of quality statistics, from population definitions and national data frameworks to administrative data integration and cross-country harmonisation. They adopt the IRRS, IRIS, and IROSS directly, recommending that African countries produce statistics aligned with these standards, including stock and flow statistics, durable solutions measures, and displacement-related vulnerability assessments. The **Compilers' Manual** is referenced extensively for practical implementation, with a dedicated section on "*Sample Surveys of Refugees and IDPs – Specific Methodological Problems*" guiding national statistical offices on survey design, questionnaire development, and identifying forcibly displaced populations in censuses and surveys.

Revised Data for Solutions to Internal Displacement (DSID) Initiative and related UNSDG-IASC Guidance on Solutions to Internal Displacement

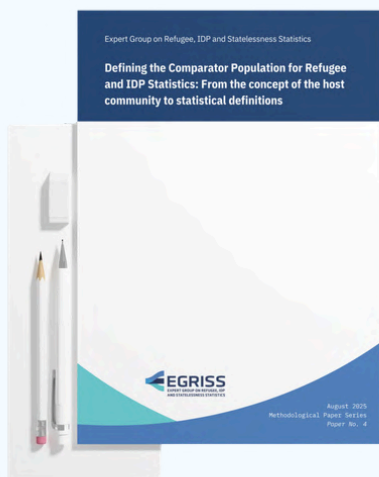
In 2025, two complementary frameworks were published strengthening data-driven approaches to resolving internal displacement, following work initiated by the UN Special Advisor on Solutions to Internal Displacement. The **revised Data for Solutions to Internal Displacement (DSID) Initiative** now aligns more fully with IRIS and efforts to strengthen government-led data systems informing solutions mechanisms. The revision process, supervised by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and IOM as DSID Working Group co-chairs, drew on contributions from the EGRISS Secretariat, UNHCR, JIPS, JDC, Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre (IDMC), and IMPACT Initiatives.

Complementing this, the **UNSDG-IASC Guidance on Solutions to Internal Displacement** provides UN Country Teams with a practical toolkit for development-focused, government-led solutions, advancing the **Secretary-General's 2022 Action Agenda on Internal Displacement**. For statistical practice, the Guidance recommends applying relevant tags in the **UN INFO platform** for displaced populations and disaggregating displacement status across indicators to track IDP progress compared to the general population, identifying where further investment is needed.

Methodological Paper 4: Defining the comparator population for refugee and IDP statistics

Expanding the **Methodological Paper Series**, EGRISS released its fourth issue, led by UNHCR and **IE University**. The publication seeks to establish a standardised definition of “comparator populations” i.e. the non-displaced groups against which refugee and IDP outcomes are measured. The paper reviews existing practice with examples from Jordan, Colombia, South Sudan, and the Democratic Republic of Congo and evaluates five main approaches identified: the general/national population, populations in affected administrative areas, distance-based definitions, criteria-based definitions, and other specialised approaches. For official statistics, it advises using national populations or affected administrative areas given their feasibility and standardisation potential.

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.



TSG2 advanced several research initiatives, with results to be published in 2026.

- Work on **standardising identification questions for surveys** was revitalised, led by UNHCR and EGRISS Secretariat. Building on the 2023 paper, the workstream is undertaking systematic review of case studies, and embarking on cognitive testing and technological solutions development to produce a widely applicable set of questions to improve harmonisation of displacement statistics and accelerate inclusion in the SDGs.
- Two interconnected workstreams address critical gaps in IDP statistics. The first, led by JIPS, considers **measuring progress towards durable solutions** and the second, led by the World Bank and JDC, concerns the **IRIS exit measure**, with the aim of establishing a workable method to assess when IDPs should no longer be included in IDP statistics (building on an initial paper from 2023).

COLOMBIA. Venezuelan refugees and migrants affected by the mid-2025 floods in Puerto Careño, Colombia. 29 July, 2025. © UNHCR/Jaime Castañeda



Implementation *of the* IRRS, IRIS, and IROSS

EGRISS monitors the implementation of the IRRS, IRIS, and IROSS through the Global Annual Inclusion (GAIN) Survey, which has systematically collected data since 2021. This monitoring mechanism has become an increasingly recognised tool for tracking how well refugees, IDPs, and stateless populations are included in national statistics through compiling relevant statistical “examples” reported by respondents and analysing the extent to which they are adopting the International Recommendations.

In 2023, the Survey underwent technical enhancements to strengthen data quality, expand thematic coverage, and foster engagement with key stakeholders; it also became available in French and Spanish. In 2025, it was further enhanced with the addition of Russian and Arabic versions, and introduced questions aimed at measuring policy impact to capture how implementation results are used in practice.

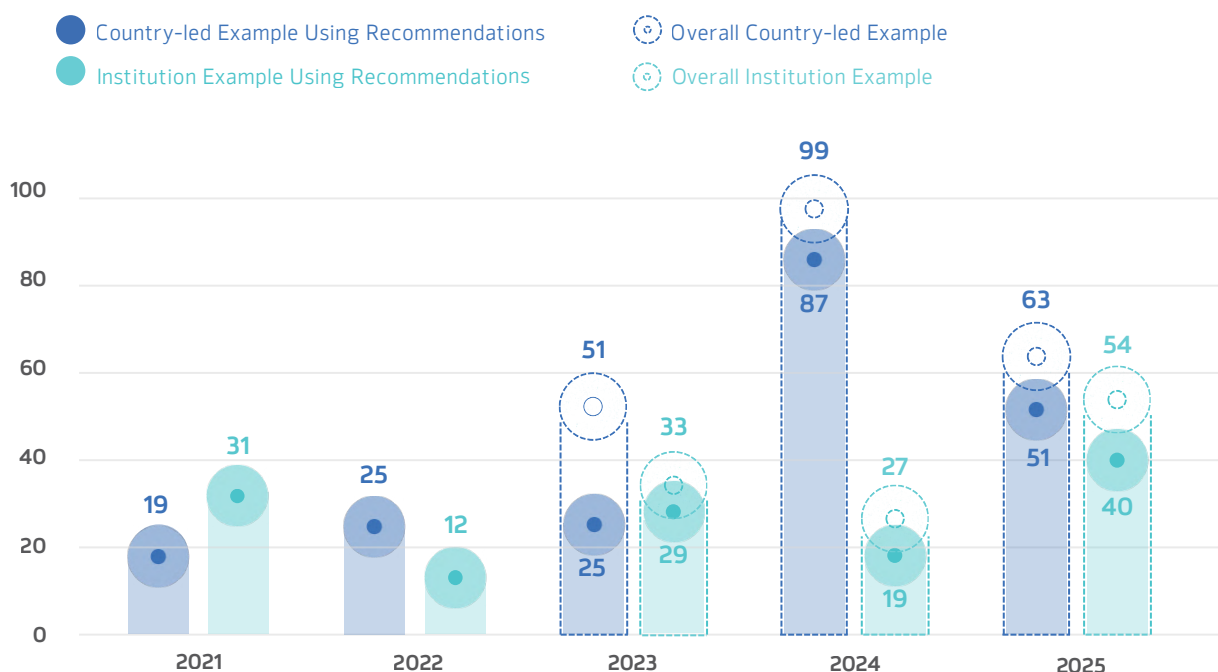
This section presents key results from the 2025 GAIN Survey, followed by case studies illustrating specific country and institution-led examples. More information about the Survey and an **interactive dashboard** for exploring results dynamically are available online. In addition, GAIN Tables, published annually, provide detailed breakdowns and analysis of implementation trends and patterns. The full GAIN datasets are available upon request.

Overview

Despite the challenging landscape that rapidly emerged in 2025, implementation of the International Recommendations remained substantial last year, with 117 examples reported (63 country-led and 54 institution-led). However, the composition of implementation efforts has shifted when compared to 2024. Country-led examples declined (from 99 to 63), while institution-led examples grew (from 27 to 54), with a greater share of reported examples centred on less resource-intensive activities such as capacity-building, strategy development, guidance, and workshops. Still, the majority of reported examples make use of at least one set of the International Recommendations.

Viewed over the full period since 2021, the year-over-year trend shows fluctuations, but an overall positive trajectory remains clear. The graph below illustrates the changing balance between country and institution-led examples, and the overall trend in reported examples.

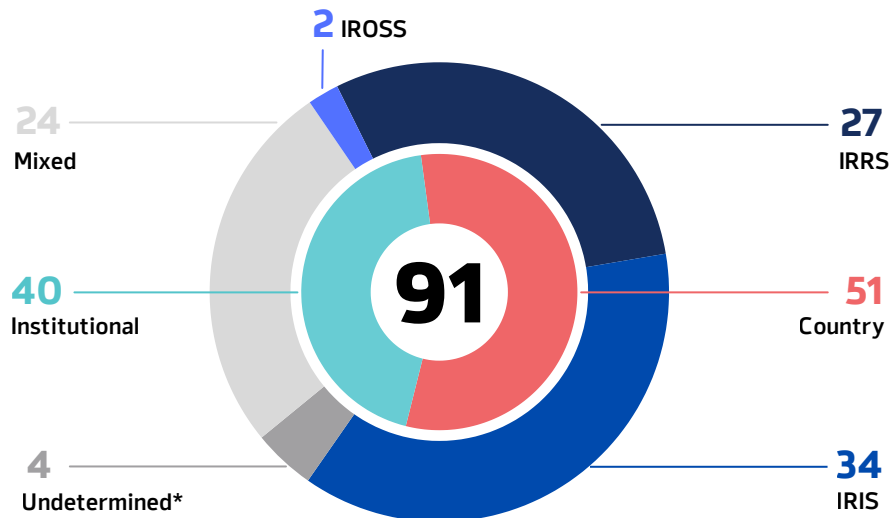
Figure 2: **Trend of country and institutional-led implementation examples from 2021 to 2025**



Among all the examples reported in 2025, the majority (91) used at least one set of the International Recommendations. Of these, 51 were led by countries and 40 by institutions.

The chart below shows that of the examples where a single set of Recommendations was applied, the IRIS were the most widely used (34 examples), followed by IRRS (27) and IROSS (2). Notably, 24 examples demonstrated an integrated approach, incorporating multiple sets of Recommendations simultaneously. The most common combination was all three sets used concurrently (11 examples), followed by joint use of IRRS and IRIS (10 examples). As in previous years, use of the IROSS trails behind the others.

Figure 3: Overview of the Implementation of the IRRS, IRIS, and IROSS in 2025



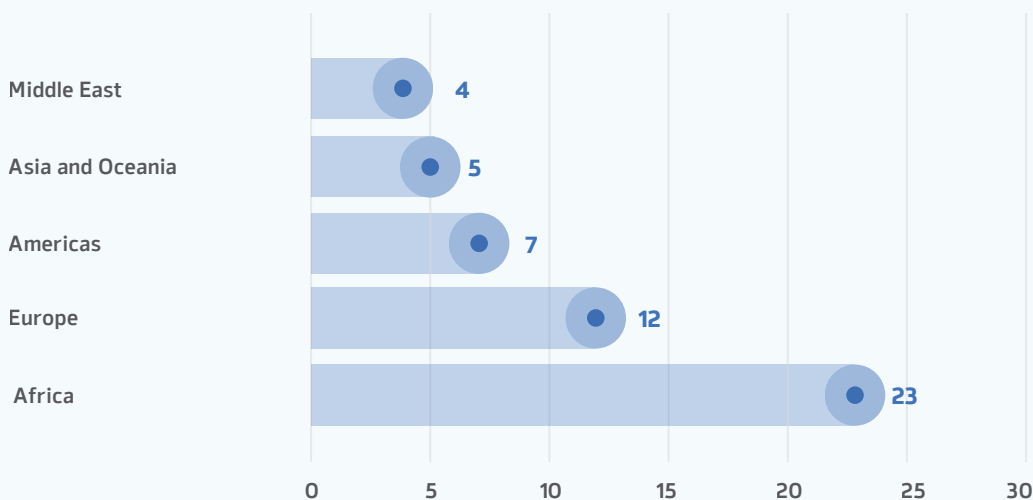
* Respondents to the GAIN 2025 did not respond to the question on what Recommendations were used or answered they did not know.

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 63 country-led examples reported in 2025, a majority (51) used the EGRISS Recommendations across 35 distinct countries.

A breakdown of implementation by region is presented in the graph below and shows most of the reported examples come from Africa (23), followed by Europe (12), North and South America (7), Asia and Oceania (5), and lastly the Middle East (4). This regional distribution remains consistent with 2024's breakdown.

Figure 4: Country-led implementation of the Recommendations by region





DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO. Sustainable solutions for displaced persons facilitate their local inclusion and empowerment, IDPs and host communities thrive benefiting from livelihood opportunities.
18 October, 2025.
© UNHCR/Blaise Sanyila

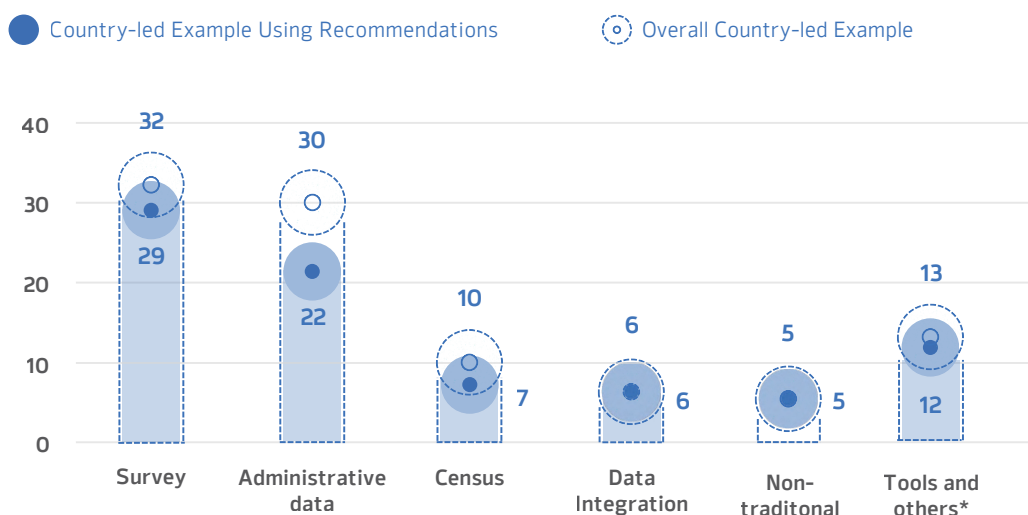
Data sources

Respondents were asked about the data sources and tools applied in each example, with the possibility of featuring multiple responses. Sample surveys remained the most utilised method, mentioned in around half (32) of the examples; out of these, the majority (29) made use of the International Recommendations.

Administrative data followed with 30 examples, of which 22 used either IRRS, IRIS, or IROSS. Censuses accounted for 10 examples, of which 7 implemented the Recommendations. The comparatively lower number of census examples, compared to 2024, is consistent with expectations given the frequency of national census cycles and the reality that several countries postponed censuses planned for 2020-2022 due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Beyond these sources, 13 country-led workshops/trainings, guidance/toolkits, strategies, and other data sources (grouped as "Tools and Other") were reported, with 12 of them using the International Recommendations. Data integration (combination of multiple sources) and Non-Traditional data sources made up the remaining 6 and 5 examples, respectively.

Figure 5: **Overview of Data Sources and Tools for Country-led Examples 2025**



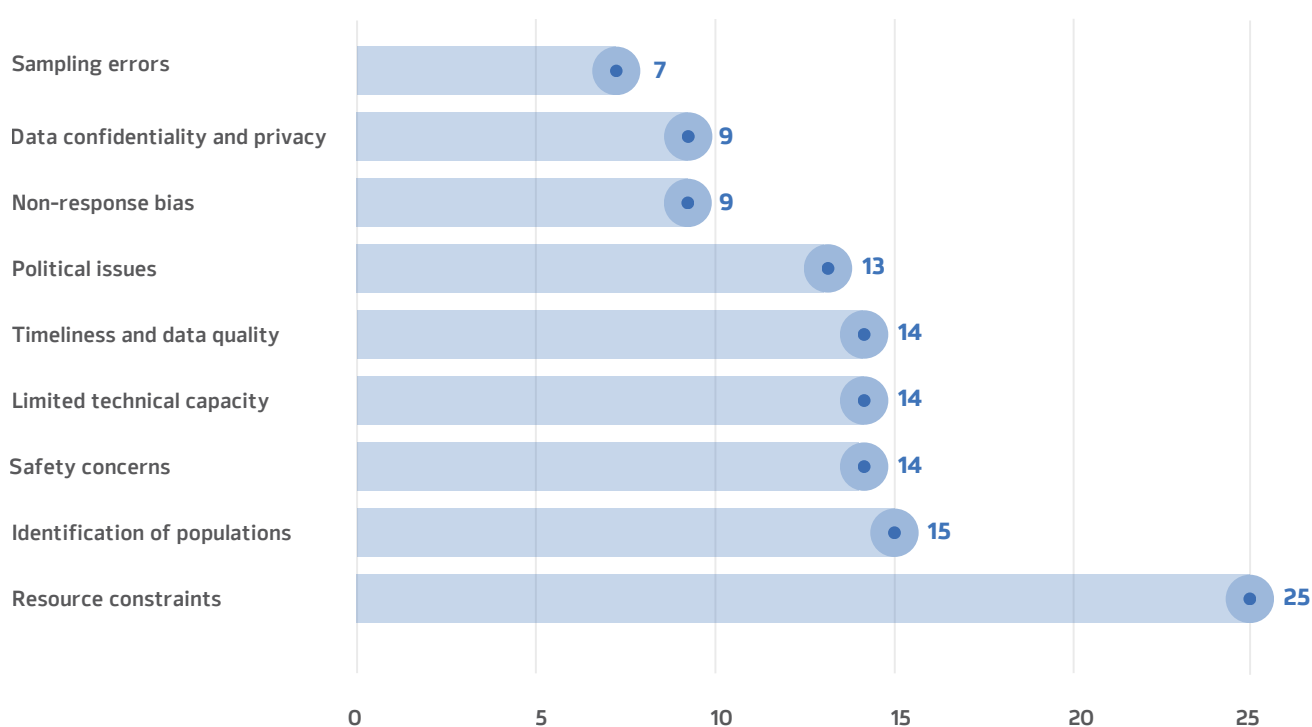
* Workshops/trainings, guidance/toolkits, strategies, and other data sources

Consistent with patterns observed in previous years, **statistical frameworks/population** group definitions remained the most frequently applied component of Recommendations in 2025 (reported in 53 country-led examples, with 29 for IRRS, 16 for IRIS and 8 for IROSS), followed by guidance on the use of data sources (36 total). This pattern confirms that statistical frameworks and population categories remain the core component of Recommendations used for comparable displacement statistics.

Challenges

The GAIN Survey also assesses which challenges are encountered during the implementation of these examples, allowing respondents to select multiple issues. Challenges were explicitly reported in 49 of 117 examples (42%), representing a notable increase from 33% in 2024. As illustrated in the graph below, resource constraints emerged as the primary challenge in 2025 (25 examples), followed by difficulties in population identification (15). Notably, and unsurprisingly given wider developments in 2025, resource constraints was the challenge that jumped the most between 2024 and 2025.

Figure 6: **Challenges Reported in Country-led Examples in 2025**



Partnerships

Partnership and collaboration became even more integral to country-led implementation in 2025, with 47 of 63 examples (75%) involving collaboration compared to 47% in 2024. A majority (32 examples) included at least one international organisation, while 23 had at least one national partner, and 3 partnered with academia. Among international partners, UNHCR remained the most engaged with participation in 26 examples, while the World Bank, IOM, JDC, and UNFPA supported 14, 13, 8, and 4 examples respectively.

Policy impact

The 2025 GAIN Survey introduced new questions to capture whether respondents are aware of the results of reported examples being used in a strategy, policy document, or any other official purpose. Of the 51 country-led examples using the Recommendations, for 27% of them respondents confirmed their use in policy and other areas (14 examples). For the remaining examples, respondents were not yet aware or did not know of their results being used in policy or decision-making. Examples applying the IRRS showed the highest use in policy (6), followed by those applying the IRIS (5) and examples applying multiple sets of Recommendations (3). Notably, this question was asked regardless of an example's implementation phase so includes those being planned, ongoing or completed.

Institutional Implementation

Institutional examples include activities led 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. This data helps illustrate the role of these institutions in supporting countries to pursue statistical inclusion of refugees, IDPs and stateless persons and to mainstream the International Recommendations into their own institutional practices.

In 2025, a total of 54 institutional examples were documented; among these, a significant portion (40) incorporated the Recommendations: 19 used only IRIS, 5 used only IRRS, while 13 integrated multiple sets at the same time (the remaining 3 examples utilised the Recommendations without specifying which ones). These 54 examples reported were distributed across different geographical levels, with 25 implemented at the country level, 20 at the regional level, and 9 at the global level.

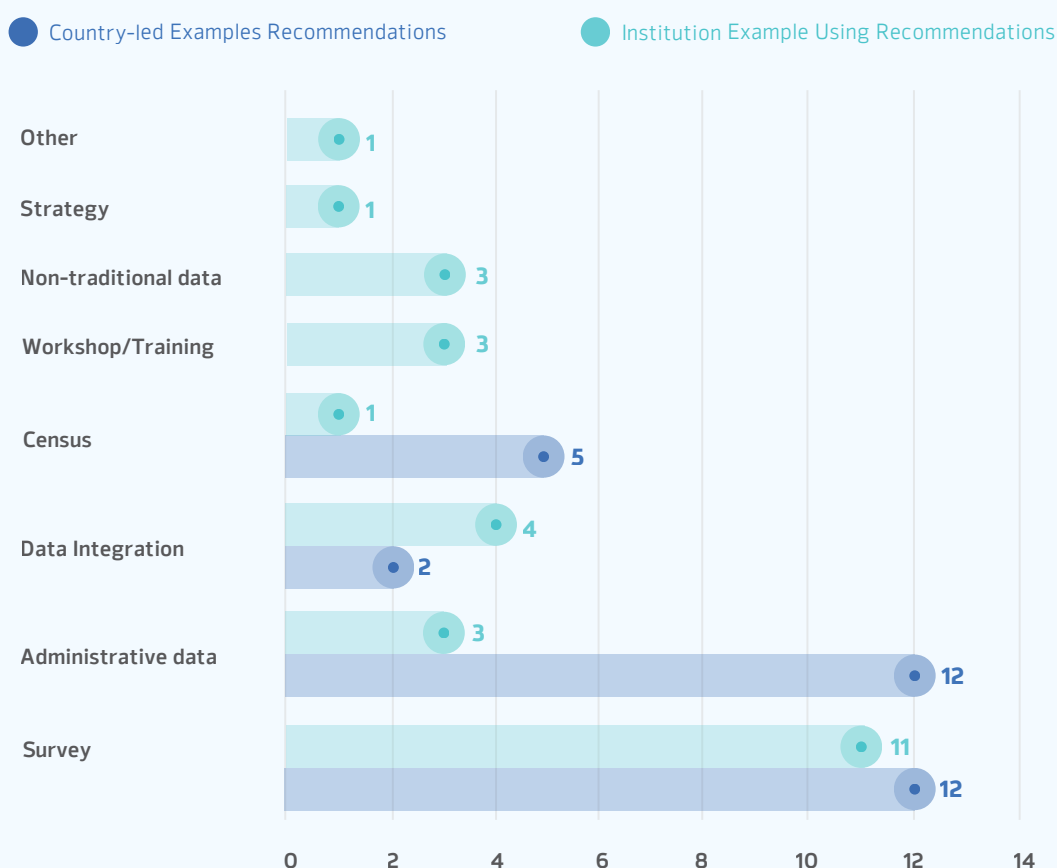
Consistent with the pattern identified in country-led implementation, institutional examples utilised diverse data sources and tools, with respondents able to report multiple sources per example. Workshops/trainings, guidance/toolkits, strategies, and other sources (grouped as "Tools and Other") were the most common with 21 examples, all using Recommendations. Sample surveys showed notable growth, increasing from 9 examples in 2024 to 21 in 2025. Administrative data was used in 14 examples, data integration in 5, census data in 4, and non-traditional data sources in only 2.

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Upcoming activities

All respondents (national, regional and international partners) were also invited to report on future examples aimed at statistical inclusion of refugees, IDPs and stateless persons to be initiated in 2026. Analysis indicates substantial commitments across multiple methodological approaches, with surveys being the most common source (23 planned), followed by administrative data systems (15) and census (6). In addition, a further 6 examples leveraging data integration initiatives, 3 non-traditional data sources, 3 capacity-building workshops, 2 specialised guidance documents or toolkits, and 1 comprehensive statistical strategy are all planned.

Figure 7: **Future Examples Using Main Type of Data Source or Tool, 2026/2027**



Taking a closer look at reported upcoming activities, surveys are split evenly between country (11) and institution-led (12) examples, however other sources and tools reveal the different roles, and capacities, of these stakeholder groups.

National stakeholders are primarily driving the improvement of core national systems, accounting for 12 of the 15 planned administrative data examples and 5 of the 6 planned censuses. In contrast, international and regional organisations are leading most of the data integration initiatives and all planned non-traditional data sources, workshops, and guidance/toolkits.

The diverse portfolio of planned activities demonstrates continued momentum towards the practical application of the IRRS, IRIS, and IROSS frameworks despite challenges faced in 2025.

Conclusion

The patterns documented through GAIN 2025 reveal a notable shift, although positive trends remain clear. They reflect an implementation landscape under pressure but not in retreat. The decline in country-led examples, the rise of resource constraints as a key challenge, and the marked increase in partnerships all point to a tightening funding environment reshaping how implementation is carried out. At the same time, the growth of institution-led examples, particularly in capacity-building activities, suggests a resilient support ecosystem that complements country efforts and is focused on fostering more sustainable change.

The emergence of IRIS as the most implemented set of Recommendations indicates widening attention and increased political support to strengthening IDP statistics. Although slow progress on IROSS implementation remains a challenge that deserves attention. Aware that a continuation of the political, institutional and financial challenges that rapidly emerged in 2025 are likely to continue in the upcoming period, sustaining a positive trajectory will require targeted support from EGRISS and its partners in the years ahead.



Click the image to access the GAIN dashboard

SOUTH SUDAN. Solar-powered water points provide safe, reliable water for refugees and host community in Maban, South Sudan
23 May, 2025.
©UNHCR/Philip James Lukudu



Case studies

EGRISS' case studies provide deeper insights into projects that incorporate the International Recommendations. Developed in partnership with the responsible organisations, they highlight practical applications, methodological innovations, and lessons learned across diverse contexts. This year's Annual Report features six case studies in total — a first from an institutional member, alongside five from individual countries. Together, they serve as a resource for stakeholders seeking to strengthen their statistical capacity.

COUNTRIES

- **The Philippines**
Expanding civil registration and administrative records to include people at risk of statelessness
- **Mexico**
The 2025 Intercensal Survey as a foundation for strengthened IDP statistics
- **Kenya**
Including refugees in national demographic and household budget surveys
- **Mali**
Integrating IDPs into the Modular and Permanent Household Survey to inform socioeconomic integration strategies

- **Democratic Republic of the Congo**
Incorporating the IRIS and IRRS into the 2025 Survey on Household Living Conditions

INSTITUTIONAL

- **UNHCR**
Aligning UNHCR's statistics with the IRRS, IRIS, and IROSS

The Philippines

Expanding civil registration and administrative records to include people at risk of statelessness



Background

The absence of civil registration documentation heightens the risk of statelessness and undermines human rights protections and legal identity recognition. In the Philippines, challenges regarding civil registration coverage stem from its history of occupation and conflict. In addition, the country's archipelagic geography, with over 7,100 islands, creates substantial barriers to administrative access. These constraints are acute in Mindanao's conflict-affected regions, among indigenous communities, maritime populations, and children of undocumented parents.

To address these challenges in the region, the **Civil Registration and Vital Statistics (CRVS) Decade for Asia and the Pacific (2015-2024)** established robust frameworks and goals. Aligning with this initiative, the Philippines committed to 99.5% birth registration coverage and launched the National Action Plan (NAP) to End Statelessness in November 2017. In the country, **Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA)** coordinates CRVS activities within a robust legal and statistical framework: Section 6 of Republic Act No. 10625, the "Philippine Statistical Act of 2013," mandates the institution to "carry out, enforce, and administer civil registration functions" as per Act No. 3753.

Practically, registrations are performed at over 1,634 Local Government Units (LGUs) by Local Civil Registry Offices (LCROs), which verify forms for accuracy, record them in a Registry Book, and assign a Registry Number. Data is then uploaded to the **Philippine Civil Registry Information System (PhilCRIS)**, developed by PSA, or to LGU information systems for local records management. All vital events are digitised and uploaded to the national PSA Civil Registry System.

Advancing the national goals of the CRVS Decade

Recognising that statistics on Persons at Risk of Statelessness (PAROS) are essential for prevention and timely intervention, the Philippines, through PSA, has implemented initiatives and cross-sector partnerships to achieve birth registration goals. An Inter-Agency Committee on CRVS (IAC-CRVS) was created in 2015, comprising representatives from PSA, relevant departments (Health, Foreign Affairs, Justice, Education, Social Welfare, Interior and Local Government), the Cabinet Secretary's Office, and the Commission on Population. This was replicated regionally to oversee CRVS programme implementation and policy review. The PSA has implemented diverse initiatives and strategic partnerships across governmental and non-governmental sectors to achieve birth registration goals.

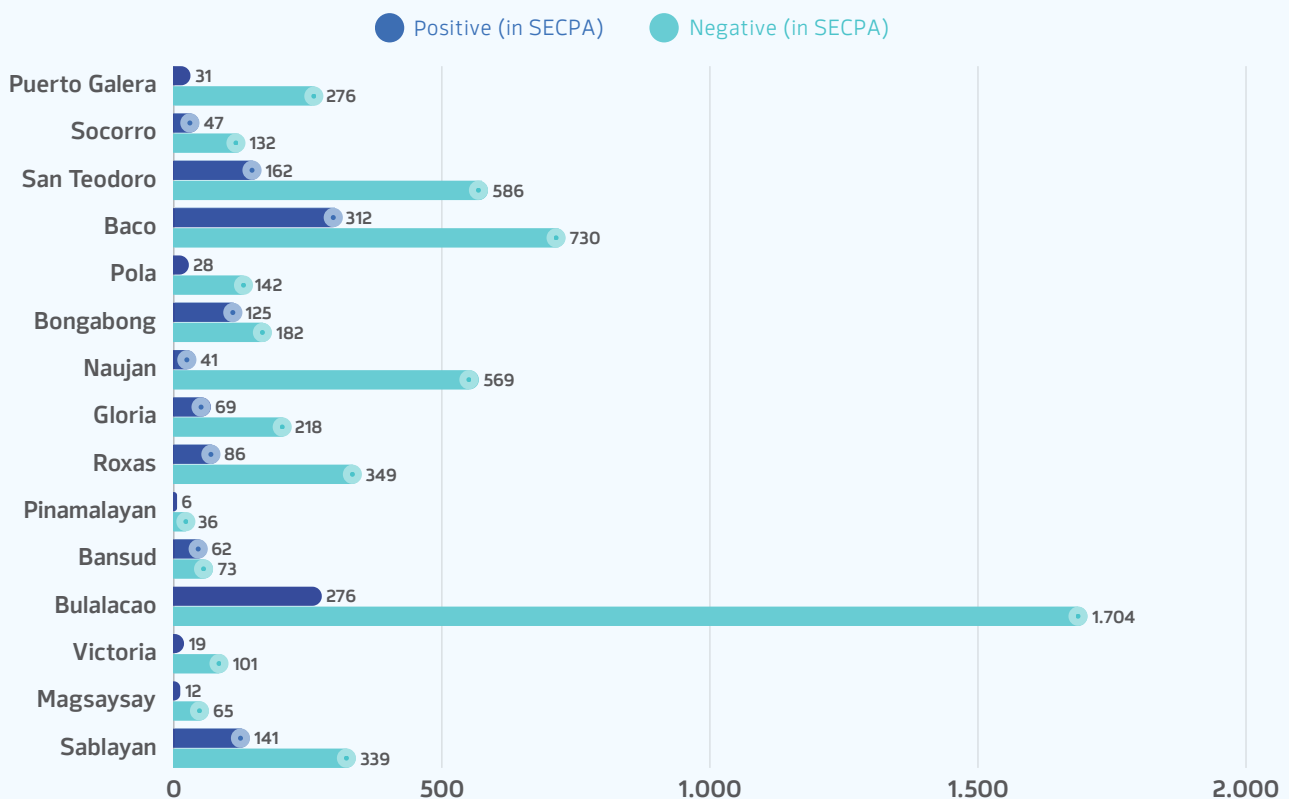
► Birth Registration Assistance Project (BRAP)

Launched in February 2022 in partnership with Local Civil Registry Offices, targets two million unregistered individuals among Indigenous Peoples, Muslim Filipinos, the poorest sector, and those in remote areas. Beyond registration, the initiative links individuals to the Philippine Identification System, granting them a National ID and associated services. As of December 2025, 473,281 births had been registered out of the 1,397,357 records verified as negative or those for which no birth certificates were registered with the LCRO. PSA has issued 283,601 free Certificates of Live Birth on Security Paper to beneficiaries.

► Improving Access to Birth Registration for Indigenous Groups in Eastern Mindoro (I-BRIDGE, 2021)

In partnership with the Initiatives for Dialogue and Empowerment through Alternative Legal Services (IDEALS) and the Committee of German Doctors for Developing Countries (CGDDC), mobile civil registration units reached Mangyan communities across 15 LGUs across Oriental Mindoro (Puerto Galera, San Teodoro, Baco, Calapan, Naujan, Victoria, Socorro, Polo, Pinamalayan, Gloria, Bansud, Bongabong, Roxas, Mansalay, and Bulalacao) and three municipalities in Occidental Mindoro (Magsaysay, Calintaan, and Sablayan). Negative Certifications were issued where no record existed, and Memorandum Circular No. 2025-02 (January 2025) relaxed late registration requirements to reduce barriers. In total, 6,919 birth records were issued (positive and negative), providing Mangyan community members with legal recognition and improved access to government services.

Figure 9: Birth records issued by the I-BRIDGE project in different localities



➤ **Philippine Nikkei Jin Kai (2024)**

Formalised through a Memorandum of Agreement in 2024, this partnership addresses documentation challenges faced by Japanese-descended Filipino families — a legacy of the Japanese occupation (1942–1945) and post-war stigma that led many to forgo registration. Through targeted verification and registration of vital records, PSA has, as of December 2025, completed 20 positive verifications and issued 47 negative certifications.

➤ **MNLF Transformation Program (2023)**

Under a Memorandum of Agreement signed in June 2023 with the Office of the Presidential Adviser on the Peace, Reconciliation, and Unity (OPAPRU), PSA helps 2,000 former Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) combatants and their families establish legal identities by validating members against civil registry records and assisting with vital event registration. Focused on the Basilan, Maguindanao Del Norte, Maguindanao Del Sur, Lanao Del Sur, and North Cotabato, as of 26 December 2025, PSA has verified 2,930 records, of which 350 (12%) were found negative or non-existent in the Civil Registry System. PSA has issued 1,246 Certificates of Live Birth on security paper under this initiative.

➤ **Inclusion of Refugees and Stateless Persons in National ID Registration**

PSA has registered 101 refugees to the National Identification System during its continuous pilot registration for refugees and stateless individuals in 2025. Those registered in the National ID system were issued an ePhilID with status as resident aliens in the Philippines.

Use of the International Recommendations

The IRRS, IRIS, and IROSS emphasise that civil registers should include all individuals regardless of nationality or ethnicity, since vital events — births, deaths, marriages, divorces — affect nationals, foreigners, and refugees alike. Civil registration data offers a valuable resource for statistics on stateless populations, as lack of registration heightens statelessness risk. IROSS specifically recommends birth registration as a key variable for analysing characteristics of stateless persons, noting that universal registration helps estimate affected population size. It further suggests integrating regional efforts with broader initiatives, citing the CRVS Decade as a good example. PSA's initiatives align with these IROSS considerations, working to remove social and administrative barriers to registration.

Integrating PAROS-related indicators into national data systems marks a significant step towards safeguarding the right to identity and nationality. In 2024, PSA conducted its Census of Population (POPCEN) simultaneously with the Community-Based Monitoring System (CBMS), incorporating indicators on refugees, IDPs, and stateless persons. Initial results are being validated against administrative records from the Department of Justice, particularly the registry of recognised refugees and asylum seekers, before official release. Birth registration data from the census is likewise being cross validated with the PSA Civil Registry System to ensure accuracy and consistency.

Conclusion

As one of 19 government offices in the NAP to End Statelessness, PSA's civil registration work supports implementation through two mechanisms: birth registration programmes that prevent statelessness, and data collection enabling evidence-based policy and monitoring. Through targeted programmes, PSA operationalises multiple NAP Action Points: Action Point 5 (Ensure Birth Registration) by reaching excluded populations; Action Points 1 (Resolve Existing Cases) and 2 (Ensure No Child is Born Stateless) by issuing negative certifications for late registration and breaking intergenerational documentation gaps; and Action Point 4 (Grant Protection Status) through pilot registration of refugees in the National ID System, creating documentary foundations for naturalisation. PSA's most critical NAP contribution lies in Action Point 7 (Improve Data on Stateless Populations).

The Philippines' experience demonstrates how strategic partnerships and targeted interventions can transform administrative systems into powerful tools for inclusion and recognition, offering valuable lessons for other nations facing similar challenges. Particularly noteworthy is PSA's willingness to adapt regulatory frameworks to meet the needs of marginalised groups — whether through mobile registration units that overcome geographic barriers or policy adjustments that accommodate the complex realities of conflict-affected populations. Ultimately, this work makes civil registration become more than an administrative function and is about people: behind every registration number is a person gaining the ability to enrol in school, access healthcare, vote, or simply prove they exist.

The PSA– Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (PSA–BARMM) plays a central role in a multi-stakeholder initiative aimed at improving birth registration rates across BARMM and Sulu province. Working alongside UNHCR Philippines and partners Community and Family Services International, Relief International (RI), and UNICEF Philippines, PSA–BARMM brings its civil registration mandate to bear in strengthening the protection space for Sama Bajaus, unregistered children, and displaced populations affected by armed conflict. © UNHCR/Gio Luga



Mexico

The 2025 Intercensal Survey as a foundation for strengthened IDP statistics



Background

Internal displacement has been documented in Mexico since the 1970s. Violence related to organised crime saw significant increases in the 2010s and an even larger wave beginning in 2016–2017 that has not fully subsided. Yet formal recognition of the phenomenon by the federal government did not come until 2019 when the Ministry of Interior, empowered by the new administration's commitment to human rights, issued a report acknowledging internal displacement in the country. This recognition created both political space and institutional demand for improved statistics on IDPs.

Since then, legislative activity has accelerated. In September 2020, the Chamber of Deputies unanimously approved the **General Law to Prevent, Address and Comprehensively Repair Internal Forced Displacement**, which would create a National Registry of Displaced Persons and implement a National Mechanism for prevention and durable solutions. However, the bill has remained stalled in the Senate. At the state level, several legislatures have approved their own laws aimed at preventing internal displacement and criminalising its commission.

This evolving policy landscape has enabled the National Institute of Statistics and Geography (INEGI) to **advance methodological work on identifying IDPs and including them in national statistical instruments**. These efforts started with the 2021 **Survey to Characterize the Population in Internal Forced Displacement Situations** (ECADEFI) in Chihuahua, one of the states most affected by violence, which presented an opportunity for INEGI to become accustomed with the International Recommendations on IDP Statistics (IRIS). Since then, important steps have been taken to enable more nationally representative data on IDPs, with the inclusion of an identification question in the 2025 Intercensal Survey as key milestone.

The 2025 Intercensal Survey

Since 1995, INEGI has conducted the Intercensal Survey (EIC), a mid-decade update of the National Population and Housing Census (CNPV). In 2025, after some uncertainty around scope and budget allocation, more than 44,000 interviewers conducted the EIC through face-to-face interviews with over seven millions households over an eight week period in the second half of the year (between October 6 and November 14) using tablet-assisted data collection.

Given the overall sample size, questions to identify IDPs were incorporated as the survey presented a critical opportunity to produce representative data on displaced populations across the country's diverse geography. Data are currently being processed and results will be available in late 2026. One methodological limitation, however, is already acknowledged - the survey instrument captures movements across administrative boundaries, between municipalities or states, but cannot identify displacement within the same municipality. This matters particularly in northern Mexico, where municipalities can be geographically very large.

Use of the International Recommendations

The IRIS have shaped INEGI's approach across multiple dimensions. Primarily, they have empowered INEGI to pursue statistical inclusion of IDPs in regular national surveys and provided guidance to this overall strategy, instead of embarking on dedicated ad hoc surveys to uncover the issue. Beyond the technical dimensions, engagement with IRIS has helped INEGI conceptualize displacement as a multidimensional phenomenon requiring measurement across different surveys and time periods.

For questionnaire design, the IRIS guidance informed the two-cause structure adopted in the EIC 2025, clearly distinguishing displacement due to violence and insecurity from displacement caused by natural or human-caused catastrophes. The question text asks whether, in the last five years from October 2020 to the present, the respondent or another household member was forced to change residence within the country because of these causes.

In the last five years, from October 2020 to the present, were you or some other person who lives in this dwelling forced* to change residence within the country because of:

1. Insecurity related to crime or violence?
2. natural or human-caused catastrophes?

* "Obligado o forzado" translatable as "compelled or forced"



Policy impact and future plans

The Intercensal Survey results are anticipated to influence policy at multiple levels, including the bill currently working through Congress to create a national IDP registry. The results are a key input for federal government planning of social programmes and for budget allocation to states and municipalities. At the state level, these results are likely to encourage more legislatures to approve IDP bills and agencies to develop programs and policies targeting communities that shelter IDPs. Municipal-level IDP estimates represent a particularly valuable

advance: previous data sources could only characterize displacement at the national or state level, but the EIC 2025 will enable estimates for individual municipalities. This geographic precision could support more targeted interventions and better coordination across jurisdictions.

Once results are available, INEGI plans to use them to refine displacement-related questions and sampling strategies for other surveys, including the **National Victimization and Public Security Perception Survey** (ENVIPE). However, as ENVIPE is designated as a programme of 'National Interest Information', any changes will require extensive public consultations, designed to protect data quality and comparability over time, which may present a hurdle to the adaptation required.

Other surveys under consideration include the monthly employment survey that would enable measurement of labour market integration of IDPs over time (a key dimension of long-term solutions for displaced populations) and the biennial household income and expenditure survey that would provide comparative analysis of poverty between displaced and non-displaced populations. In addition, the National Survey on the Dynamics of Household Relationships (ENDIREH), one of the world's most comprehensive surveys on violence against women, presents a third opportunity to enhance policy-relevant knowledge on internal displacement and how it intersects with violence against women for the 2031 edition. Lastly, planning has begun for expanded IDP-related questions in the 2030 Census.

Conclusion

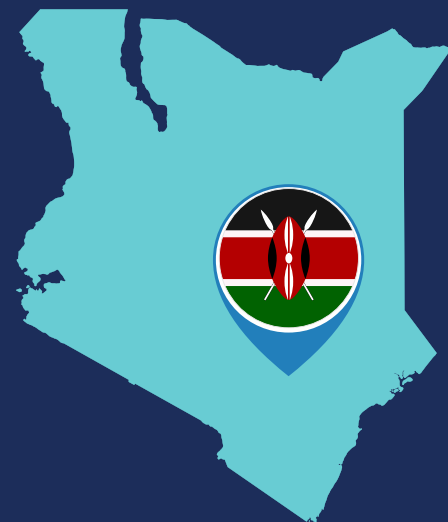
Mexico's experience illustrates both the challenges and opportunities that national statistical offices face when measuring politically sensitive phenomena. Budget constraints have required strategic prioritization, sometimes forcing difficult choices about which questions can be included in which surveys. Political will, an enabling policy environment and proactive technical leadership need to be carefully balanced. In Mexico, the official recognition of displacement in 2019 alongside wider policy dialogue around migration, created a clear demand for robust official statistics on migration and displacement. Combined with sympathetic and strategic leadership within INEGI, an institution already familiar with the existing international statistical recommendations, resulted in key opportunities being undertaken to improve IDP measurement.



More than 44,000 interviewers visited around 7 million homes across the country / ©INEGI

Kenya

Including refugees in national demographic and household budget surveys



Background

Kenya has hosted refugees and asylum seekers since the early 1990s, when civil conflicts across the Horn of Africa sent hundreds of thousands of people fleeing across borders. For over three decades, the government has provided protection and basic services to these communities in collaboration with multiple national and international partners, primarily in camps located in Turkana and Garissa counties.

The Kenya National Bureau of Statistics (KNBS) recognised that national statistical operations rarely captured the refugee population in any systematic way and this left significant gaps in national statistics. As Kenya moved towards more inclusive refugee policies, including through the proposed **Shirika Plan for socioeconomic integration**, the demand for quality data on refugee living conditions grew. In 2025, KNBS undertook two major survey operations that included refugees: the Kenya Mini Demographic and Health Survey (Mini DHS) and the launch of the 2026 Kenya Integrated Household Budget Survey (KIHBS). The two surveys, using different approaches, together demonstrate significant progress in terms of statistical inclusion building on earlier achievements and lessons learnt from the **2019 census and 2021 Kenya Economic Survey**.

The Kenya Mini Demographic and Health Survey

The Demographic and Health Survey is a globally standardised instrument, with core questions designed to ensure comparability across countries and over time. This standardisation limits the flexibility available to individual countries. For the Mini DHS in Kenya, refugee identification relied on existing migration questions about nationality and reasons for leaving one's country of origin. Respondents who reported seeking asylum could be identified, but there was no dedicated sampling frame targeting refugee populations.

The Mini DHS also faced funding constraints. The global DHS programme had long been supported by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), but recent funding cuts affected many countries, including Kenya. The survey proceeded through a combination of support from the Aga Khan University and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA). A Technical Committee including the Ministry of Health, the World Health Organization (WHO), academia, and the National Population Council oversaw the process.

Data collection happened across 30,000 households in 1,000 communities nationwide and is complete, with the survey currently in the secondary editing phase. For the first time, Kenya used WHO’s **Global Scales for Early Development (GSED)**, a tool specifically designed to assess the development of children from birth to three years old, which was adapted to the local context, to capture how children are thinking, communicating, and interacting. Analysis took place in March 2026, with reports expected by April. While the Mini DHS provides valuable health and demographic data for any refugees captured in the general population sample, it does not offer representative coverage of the refugee populations.

The Kenya Integrated Household Budget Survey

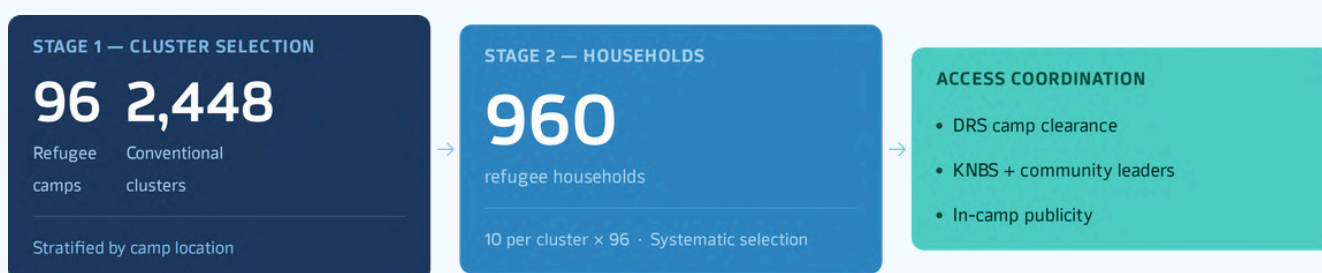
The Kenya Integrated Household Budget Survey presented a different opportunity as it offered more flexibility for methodological refinement. When the World Bank (funding the survey through Program-for-Results Financing), UNHCR, and the Department of Refugee Services (DRS) approached the statistical office about including refugees, the opportunity aligned with work that technical staff had already been advocating for internally. Strong support from KNBS senior management, particularly the Director General, helped move the initiative forward.

Since refugee camps are not included in Kenya’s Household Master Sample Frame, KNBS developed a separate sampling frame specifically for this population. The team started with enumeration areas from the 2019 Population and Housing Census cartographic mapping, updating the information before data collection. Working with DRS and UNHCR, they first delineated the camps — Kakuma and Kalobeyei in Turkana County, Dadaab in Garissa County — and separated them from surrounding host communities.

Household identification relied on UNHCR registration systems, and registration numbers served as unique identifiers, generating listings for each cluster. From these identifiers, KNBS created its own household numbering system for sampling purposes. Camp residents were assumed to be refugees or asylum seekers based on DRS/UNHCR registration lists, with the distinction between the two captured through specific survey questions.

A two-stage stratified cluster sampling was adopted. In the first stage, 96 clusters were selected from refugee camps alongside 2,448 clusters from the conventional population. Stratification by camp location ensured that each major settlement was represented. In the second stage, 10 households were systematically selected from each cluster, producing a refugee sample of 960 households. Accessing the camps required coordination with DRS, and KNBS worked with community leaders and conducted publicity within the camps to explain the survey's purpose.

Figure 10: **Two-stage stratified cluster sampling design used in the 2025 KIHS**



The KIHBS refugee sampling frame covers camp-based refugees only. Urban refugees are not specifically targeted. Some may be captured in the general population sample through questions on nationality and reasons for migration. KNBS views this as a first step, with potential expansion to urban refugees in future rounds. Data collection began in July 2025 and will continue through June 2026, with final reports expected in early 2027.

Use of the International Recommendations

The KIHBS questionnaire includes modules on migration aligned with the International Recommendations on Refugee Statistics (IRRS). Key concepts for refugees and asylum seekers were defined in advance, with the distinction between the two populations captured through specific survey questions. The survey covers demographics, education, health, household consumption and expenditure, income sources, and social protection. Additional modules address migration, emigration, mental health, and natural resource management. For refugees, these modules generate data on living standards, service access, and poverty status that can be compared directly with the national population—addressing questions that policymakers and humanitarian actors have long asked but lacked evidence to answer.

The Mini DHS, while more constrained, also captures some IRRS-relevant information through its standard migration questions on nationality and reasons for movement. Refugees identified in the general population sample will have health and demographic information recorded alongside the national population, enabling at least partial comparison on indicators such as fertility, family planning, maternal health, and child nutrition.

Conclusion

Kenya's inclusion of refugees in the 2025-26 survey cycle demonstrates how inclusive national statistics can make displaced populations visible through multi-stakeholder coordination, providing a foundation for sustained inclusion of displacement in national policies and response. Senior leadership commitment within KNBS was critical to move the initiative from concept to implementation. These surveys will generate data to support multiple policy objectives. Kenya's proposed Shirika Plan represents a shift towards socioeconomic inclusion for refugees. Evidence from the KIHBS will inform its implementation, providing the baseline data needed to design and evaluate integration programmes.

The data will also enable SDG monitoring with disaggregation by displacement status, allowing Kenya to report on refugee outcomes alongside the national population for indicators related to poverty, education, health, and employment, fulfilling commitments under the Global Compact on Refugees and contributing to global evidence on refugee inclusion. Looking ahead, these surveys are also milestones towards the full coverage of refugees in the 2029 population and housing census. The sampling frame developed for the KIHBS, the partnerships established with DRS and UNHCR, and the experience gained in accessing and enumerating refugee populations all create precedent and capacity that can be drawn on for future operations.

Mali

Integrating IDPs into the Modular and Permanent Household Survey to inform socioeconomic integration strategies



Background

Mali has faced prolonged political, security, and humanitarian crises driven by armed violence, inter-community tensions, and natural disasters, including flooding. During 2024, the security situation was marked by clashes between the Malian Armed Forces (FAMA) and non-State armed groups, compounding an already fragile humanitarian context. This situation has resulted in a steady increase in the number of refugees and IDPs.

The transfer of the Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) programme to the Government by the IOM in November 2014, and the signing of two partnership agreements between the Government and UNHCR for the management of IDP sites and the registration of returnees, have enabled national authorities to gain a better understanding of the characteristics of displaced and returnee populations, as well as to identify their needs and access to basic service. By September 2025, **414,524 IDPs were estimated in the country**, with the regions of Gao, Ménaka, Mopti, Bandiagara, Ségou, and Tombouctou disproportionately affected. Approximately 60 per cent were living outside organised or spontaneous sites, dispersed within host communities.

However, while these mechanisms provided valuable operational insights, displacement remained largely absent from Mali's official national statistics. In 2024, the Government identified this as a data gap and turned to the Permanent Modular Household Survey (French acronym, EMOP) as a key opportunity to address it, prompting the decision to integrate an IDP sample into the 2025 edition of the survey.

The Modular and Permanent Household Survey

EMOP is a nationally representative household survey conducted annually by the National Institute of Statistics (INSTAT) since 2011, financed by the national budget with support from the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA) and Statistics Sweden (SBC). It covers a broad range of socioeconomic indicators and is structured around four data collection rounds per year. In collaboration with UNHCR, INSTAT developed a sampling strategy which aimed to generate representative, comparable data on the living conditions of IDPs and host communities to inform socioeconomic integration policies. UNHCR, with support from the JDC, financed the IDP-specific component of the 2025 edition.

The sampling plan targeted 2,700 IDP households distributed evenly across three regions: Centre (Mopti, Bandiagara, Douentza, Segou, and San), South (Kayes, Kita, Koulikoro, Dioila, Bamako, Bougouni, Koutiala, and Sikasso), and North (Menaka, Timbuktu, Taoudeni, Gao, and Kidal). Reflecting the distribution of IDPs, 38 per cent of the sample (1,144 households) was drawn from organised sites and 60 per cent (1,863 households) from those residing amongst the host communities. The overall sample was raised to 3,007 households to account for potential non-response due to mobility and insecurity. The sampling frame drew on the 2022 census, DNDS biometric records, and UNHCR site coordinates.

In April 2025, a field team of 30 enumerators was trained and equipped with tablets and motorcycles. The teams operated under the supervision of EMOP controllers and regional statistical directors, with overall national oversight provided by the General Directorate of INSTAT. Data collection took place from April to December 2025 across three rounds (rounds two, three, and four), as the first round was not conducted. Identification questions for IDPs were first introduced during the second round (April–June) and were subsequently refined for the third and fourth rounds, including through a methodology workshop held on 26–27 August in Bamako. The workshop focused on identifying IDPs within the EMOP dataset developed for this target population and also provided an opportunity for on-the-job capacity strengthening of national technical staff in data identification and classification methodologies.

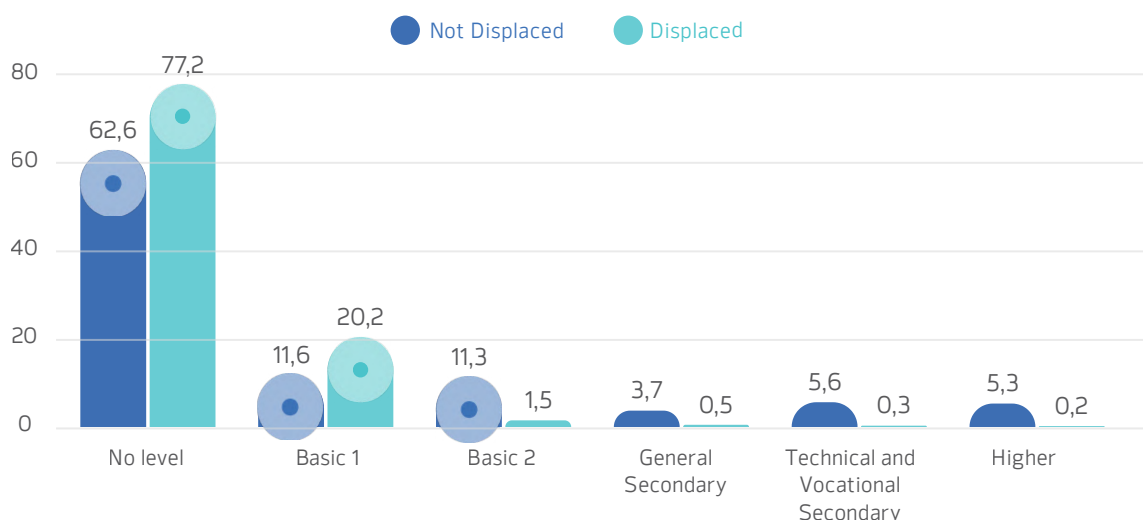


Integrating a representative sample of IDPs makes it possible to have official, reliable, and comparable data on IDPs, strengthening their credibility with national and international institutions.

— Dr. Issa Bouaré, Deputy Director General, INSTAT

Preliminary findings from the second round yielded a response rate of 92 per cent and pointed to stark disparities: 77.2 per cent of IDPs aged 3 and above have no level of education, compared with 62.6 per cent in the general population, and 76.1 per cent of IDPs aged 10 and above have never attended school, with on-site IDPs more affected (81.5 per cent) than those living in host communities (73.8 per cent). Full results will be disseminated through restitution workshops and published online. They are expected to inform resource allocation and national displacement policy.

Figure 11: **Distribution (in %) of the displaced population and the general population aged 3 and over by level of education**





©INSTAT

Use of the International Recommendations

The EMOP questionnaire included a dedicated IDP identification module based on the IRIS. The module captures variables aligned with IRIS criteria, including reason for displacement (armed conflict, inter-community violence, human rights violations, expulsion, and natural disasters), number of displacement episodes, continuity of residence etc. To capture data on returning refugees, using the IRRS, the module also covered legal documentation status, country of nationality and history of international border crossings, including registration with UNHCR or host-country authorities. Questions were designed to distinguish between refugees, IDPs, and returnees and to cover both on-site and off-site populations.

Following the second data collection round, INSTAT and DNDS identified a gap in the identification logic: persons who had been displaced without crossing district boundaries were not adequately captured. With support from UNHCR, the identification logic was refined and included in the fourth round of data collection to ensure full coverage. This mid-process correction illustrates the value of iterative methodological review in surveys conducted in complex displacement contexts.

Conclusion

The EMOP was designed to update the indicators required for monitoring and evaluating the **National Strategy for Emergence and Sustainable Development (SNEDD) 2024–2033**, the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), as well as those of the **African Union's Agenda 2063: "The Africa We Want"**, and sectoral programmes implemented by the Government. The data generated through the EMOP provide an evidence base for the Government and partners to design and implement socioeconomic integration strategies for IDPs and returnees.

Despite challenges faced – including insecurity, high population mobility, logistical and language barriers, and a series of methodological hurdles – the approach taken established a replicable model for embedding IDP data collection within Mali's routine national statistical system, contributing to the sustainability of displacement statistics beyond a single survey cycle. Enabling factors included the sustained institutional partnership between INSTAT, DNDS, and UNHCR, bringing together the technical expertise, financial resources, and access to sampling frames needed – highlighting the critical role of partnerships to pursue statistical inclusion of displaced and stateless populations.

Democratic Republic of the Congo Incorporating the IRIS and IRRS into the 2025 Survey on Household Living Conditions



Background

The Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) is facing a deep humanitarian crisis, rooted in decades of armed conflict, political instability, and structural fragility. Persistent insecurity has severely deteriorated health and socio-economic conditions, causing massive population displacement as people face hunger, disease, lack of housing, and extremely limited access to basic social services. Displacement has become a structural feature of the national context, with millions of IDPs, particularly in the eastern provinces, and a substantial refugee population primarily originating from neighbouring Central African Republic (CAR), Rwanda, South Sudan, and Burundi. Significant data gaps on the living conditions of forcibly displaced populations have been identified, with partners highlighting the importance of their integration into national development planning and official statistics.

In early 2025, the offensive from the group March 23 Movement (M23) in the cities of Goma and Bukavu displaced an additional three million people. This situation brought the total number of IDPs to 5.1 million by December last year, according to figures reported by the UN. The growing scale of displacement has only heightened the urgency in filling the data gaps.

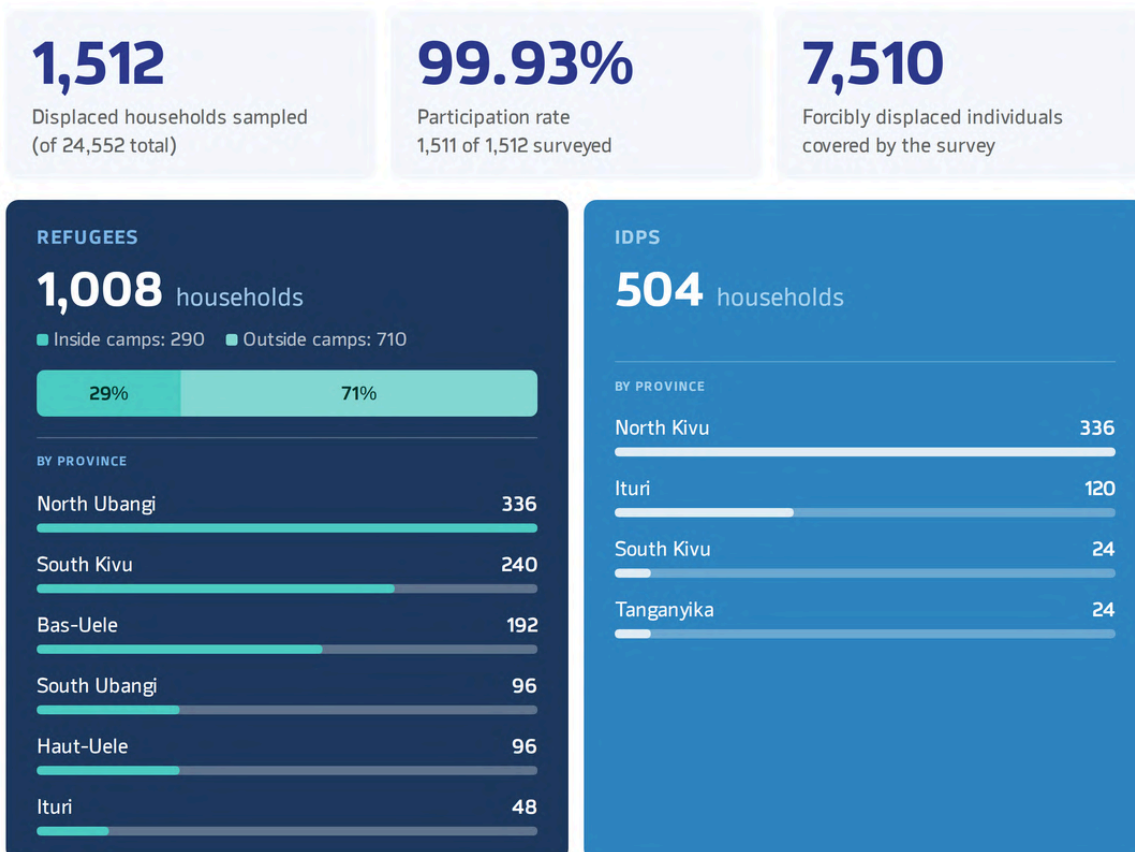
Including displacement in the HLCS/ECVM

The Household Living Conditions Survey (French acronym, ECVM), launched in 2024, aims to fill critical data gaps in the DRC by updating national indicators on poverty, living conditions, labour markets, access to services, and consumption patterns. As the first survey of this scale since 2012, it provides essential information for evaluating development programmes and macroeconomic policies and for understanding the wellbeing of households across the country.

The ECVM was funded by the World Bank in partnership with UNDP, and the additional module on IDPs and refugees was added following discussions with UNHCR to seize the opportunity to integrate these categories. Although only a small sample of refugee households was originally planned, ultimately the sample of displaced households was expanded to 1,512 households (out of the 24,552 total). This enlargement was financed by the JDC, with a booster sample directly, complementing the financial support for the wider survey.

The additional sample included just over 1,000 refugee households, distributed proportionally between those living inside camps (290) and outside camps (710), and just over 500 IDP households living in camps or sites. The sampling design followed a random, stratified, two-stage approach, with Enumeration Areas serving as primary sampling units and households as secondary units, ensuring representativeness of displaced populations in selected provinces.

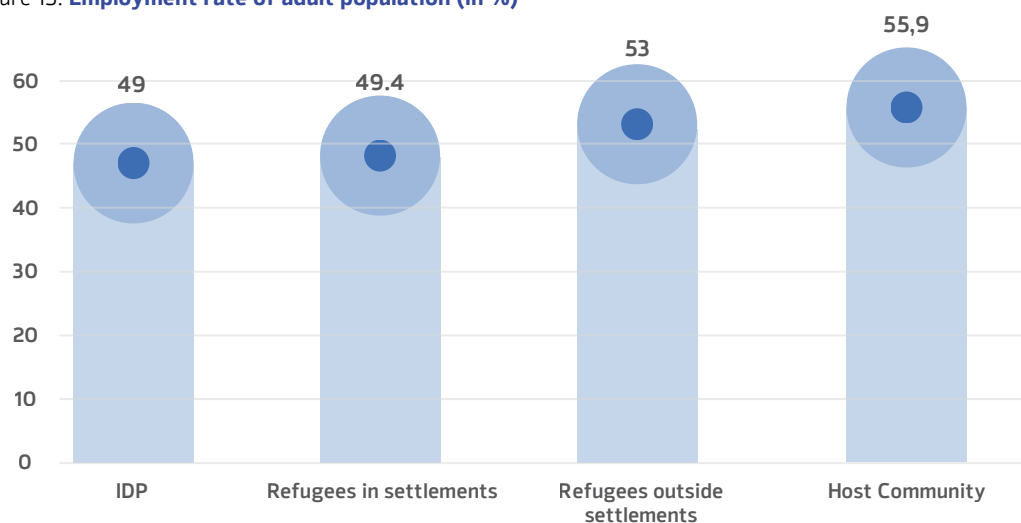
Figure 12: Overview of the sampling design for the displacement-inclusive module of the 2025 ECVM



The ECVM has become a central reference tool for monitoring poverty and living conditions in the DRC. Its methodology incorporates recent advances recommended by the World Bank, placing emphasis on consumption rather than expenditure, using detailed information on quantities consumed over a seven-day period. To support this approach, the survey included a market component to establish conversion factors for non-standard units, as well as household and community questionnaires.

The results, representative for IDPs in sites and refugees in sites separately, highlight several key vulnerabilities among displaced populations. IDPs show particularly high levels of vulnerability, with 92.5% reporting having experienced at least one shock in the recent period. Significant disparities also emerge in education outcomes, as IDPs display net school enrolment rates well below those of refugees. Economic integration remains insecure for both refugees and IDPs, who are heavily concentrated in the informal private sector. Their exposure to health, economic, and security shocks is also heightened, especially in the eastern provinces of the country, where instability persists.

Figure 13: **Employment rate of adult population (in %)**



Use of the International Recommendations

Overall, inclusion of displacement in this key national survey presents a concrete example of implementation of the International Recommendations through statistical inclusion in a heavily displacement-affected country. More specifically, the survey instruments included dedicated variables aligned with IRRS and IRIS concepts to capture displacement status, reasons for displacement, mobility history, and places of previous residence. Examples of questions included: **“What was the main reason for leaving?”**; **“Which province did [NAME] move to first?”**; **“Where was [NAME] living before fleeing?”**. Beyond questionnaire content, the Recommendations served as a reference framework for inter-institutional coordination and advocacy, notably between INS and UNHCR. While full alignment remains a gradual process, the ECVM marked an initial step towards harmonising national practices with international standards, strengthening institutional awareness of IRRS and IRIS among national authorities.

Conclusion

The integration of forced displacement into the ECVM marks a significant achievement for the DRC’s national statistical system. Despite operational and coordination challenges, particularly during the early stages of partner mobilisation and in areas affected by conflict, the survey succeeded in gathering high-quality information on more than 7,500 displaced individuals. The findings reveal serious vulnerabilities among IDPs and refugees, including heightened exposure to shocks, limited access to basic services, and insecure economic conditions.

The experience has demonstrated the importance of early engagement with technical partners and the benefits of aligning national surveys with international recommendations. It also highlighted the necessity of raising awareness of IRIS and IRRS frameworks among national authorities, many of whom are still unfamiliar with these standards. With the dissemination of the ECVM now underway — expected to inform UNHCR’s ongoing programming with socio-economic data — and the next national census approaching, the DRC has an opportunity to consolidate progress, institutionalise displacement statistics within its national system and strengthen the evidence base for more inclusive and effective policies.



SYRIA. The family of Mohamed and Waleeda Sayadi, returning from Turkey to Syria, at Sarmada Bus Station/ Reception Point, Bab Al Hawa Border Crossing Point in Idleb. 23 June, 2025.

© UNHCR/Andrew McConnell



Aligning UNHCR's statistics with the IRRS, IRIS, and IROSS

Background

In line with its global mandate, UNHCR publishes official population statistics on forcibly displaced and stateless people biannually on the **Refugee Data Finder** website as well as analytical summaries of these statistics in the **Global Trends** and **Mid-Year Trends** reports. These statistics are collected and published by UNHCR from a wide range of data sources and stakeholders that use different definitions and statistical frameworks, with efforts made to align reporting for a coherent global picture.

First published in 1951, UNHCR's official population statistics have expanded as data has become more widely available and increasingly disaggregated. With the publication of the IROSS in 2023, the International Recommendations approved by the UN Statistical Commission covered all population groups included in UNHCR's statistics. Therefore, it was timely and relevant to assess how UNHCR's statistical framework could be refined to better reflect the International Recommendations and guide improvements in UNHCR's source data, much of which is provided by governments.

Since the endorsement of the IRRS, IRIS, and IROSS, UNHCR has been actively involved in promoting and supporting their implementation with stakeholders in various national and regional contexts. Given progress made in the past few years, UNHCR's statistics team took the initiative to review its statistical frameworks in 2023 against those approved by the UN Statistical Commission as guidance for official statistical production. This case study describes the process followed and emerging results.

A comprehensive review of statistical frameworks

Initiated in 2023, the project evaluated how UNHCR's framework for population statistics on forcibly displaced and stateless people compare to the three International Recommendations (IRRS, IRIS, IROSS). Under the leadership of UNHCR's Chief Statistician and in collaboration with the EGRISS Secretariat, the project also assessed the feasibility of enhancing this alignment over time. The first step was to compare the frameworks overall and by population category. For example, does the definition of asylum-seekers according to IRRS differ from the one UNHCR applies for its statistics? How well do the population categories included in the IROSS

statistical framework match the definitions of statelessness in UNHCR’s global estimates? The analysis of the alignment between frameworks included, where possible, a quantitative comparison and recommended actions (short-term, medium-term, and longer-term) that could be taken to improve the alignment.

The results were summarised in a comprehensive internal report and, in 2024, were incorporated into an interactive dashboard to facilitate comparison, internal consultations and decision-making on the actions proposed. Overall, the results indicated a high alignment with IRRS and IROSS. Some opportunities to improve alignment have since been implemented during 2024-2025 (e.g. *Disaggregation of refugee stock by protection status*), with additional implementation steps to follow for 2026 (*Implementation of IROSS framework for disaggregating statelessness statistics with emphasis on statelessness recognition*). For IDP statistics, UNHCR’s statistical framework and IRIS differed, with additional complexity in adapting the frameworks due to the shared custodianship of IDP data.

Figure 14: **Snapshot from alignment dashboard**

| Stock figures by IRRS categories (mid-25) | | Stock figures by UNHCR categories (mid-25) |
|--|--|--|
| a. Persons in need of international protection | 1. Prospective asylum-seekers (not estimated) | (not estimated) |
| | 2. Asylum-seekers (8.4m) | Asylum-seekers (8.4m) |
| | 3. Persons with determined protection status: (33.1m) | Palestine refugees under UNRWA’s mandate (5.9m) |
| | <div style="border: 1px solid green; padding: 5px; margin-bottom: 5px;"> Improved alignment opportunity implemented end-24 </div> i. Refugees (25.6m) | Refugees under UNHCR’s mandate (27.2m) |
| | ii. Complementary protection (347k) | |
| | iii. Temporary protection (7.1m) | |
| | 4. Others in refugee-like situations (under current reporting 9.3m) | Refugee-like (3.2m) |
| | Other people in need of international protection (6.1m) | |

The use of the International Recommendations

As described, the International Recommendations provided the foundational reference for this initiative. In particular, it utilised the statistical frameworks, population definitions, and descriptions set out in the IRRS, IRIS, and IROSS. The International Recommendations represent critical guidance about improving the quality of statistical production processes. As a trusted leader on data and information related to forcibly displaced and stateless people, UNHCR fully supports the EGRISS standards and, where possible, aims to closely align its forced displacement statistics with the guidance set out in the International Recommendations. The steps taken so far are therefore understood as initial steps to more fully align with these international standards, which themselves are expected to be updated and improved over time in line with **EGRISS' 2026-2030 TOR**.



Users of our statistics are increasingly discerning about gaps in data availability and quality issues, especially inconsistencies. This alignment exercise has helped immensely to guide where UNHCR will focus on improving its statistics in collaboration with host countries and other stakeholders.

— Edgar Scrase, Senior Statistics and Data Analysis Officer,
Statistics and Information Management Section, Global Data Service

Conclusion

Although implementation of the project is still underway, results are already demonstrating the positive impacts of better harmonised global statistics. These are tangible from the internal consultations that have provided concrete opportunities for mainstreaming and socialising the IRRS and IROSS frameworks.

As several of the identified longer-term alignment opportunities rely on further improvements to the quality and availability of nationally produced data on forcibly displaced and stateless populations - i.e. through the incorporation of the IRRS, IRIS, and IROSS in national data production processes – UNHCR is hopeful that further steps can be taken in the coming years as the “statistical inclusion” agenda gains momentum. For other data-producing entities, UNHCR’s efforts to strengthen alignment with the International Recommendations may serve as a reference for exploring similar alignment initiatives.



UKRAINE. Multi-storey building
damaged by aerial bombs.
17 December, 2025.
© NGO Proliska/Andrii Kidalov

Reflections *from* *the* Secretariat

As 2025 drew to a close, the EGRISS Secretariat was able to reflect on a year that marked the end of a productive six-year mandate and one that witnessed significant disruption. The completion of our third mandate brought with it a sense of accomplishment and pride, with a tangible momentum and demand to continue the work into a fourth period. Whilst the challenges witnessed in 2025 raised significant questions, the opportunities presented through a lighter international footprint could open doors to further enhance and scale progress to improve national statistics on forced displacement and statelessness.

- The most powerful catalyst for sustained progress remains **countries learning from countries, and the impact of peer-exchange**. Throughout the third mandate, we witnessed repeatedly how peer exchange accelerates adoption of the International Recommendations, empowers national statistical offices, builds confidence of EGRISS members navigating similar challenges in different contexts, and generates practical solutions grounded in real-world implementation experience. The African School on Migration Statistics and the All Members Meeting provided perhaps the clearest window into this valuable facet of the EGRISS community during 2025, where it was explicitly recognised by members and later embedded into our new TOR.
- The **maturity of substantive discussions and priorities amongst EGRISS members** was also tangible in 2025. Technically the methodological workstreams of TSG2 have become more advanced with topics addressed in earlier years revisited with new learning from recent practical experience. The group's collective maturity is also evident from wider discussions on how to foster sustainable change at country level as opposed to investing in one-off data series and linking results to policy processes and decision-making through enhanced statistical coordination practices.

- Another remarkable feature of 2025 progress concerns the **emergence of new dynamics at regional level, where enhanced ownership and strengthened leadership** also embody the maturity of the Group. Regional bodies in Latin America and Africa have collaboratively developed tailored guidance for migration and displacement statistics building on the IRRS, IRIS, and IROSS. Dedicated working groups and communities of practice are well established to continue to push for capacity development and implementation. In Europe and the Middle East, dialogue has started to shape similar processes based on recommendations from EGRISS regional workshops and conversations amongst task team members.
- Globally, the **recognition of EGRISS-developed standards has also reached significant milestones** through their incorporation into other authoritative revised and updated statistical frameworks and guidance including those concerning population and housing census, international migration, household surveys, and labour migration. These achievements not only demonstrate the recognition of IRRS, IRIS, and IROSS internationally, but also provide evidence of a proactive and integrated network of members breaking down silos and forging collaborative networks across distinct groups and processes.
- We also witnessed **statistical inclusion becoming integral to key policy agendas concerning the inclusive national policies to address forced displacement and foster durable solutions**. Statistical inclusion, or the inclusion of data on refugees, IDPs, and stateless populations as a responsibility of national statistical systems, was clearly featured in the Global Refugee Forum Progress Review meeting and became a central part of data efforts under the UN Action Agenda on Internal Displacement evidenced by the revised Data for Solutions to Internal Displacement (DSID) Initiative and associated workstreams.
- From the particular vantage point of the Secretariat's coordination function, we highlight the strength, leadership, and empowerment of country members compared to earlier years. **A critical mass of countries and their national statistical offices now play a leading role in the statistical landscape on forced displacement and, although there are notable gaps, persistent challenges and a need to scale these results, the tide has definitively changed**. Attention is needed to ensure the international agencies and other stakeholders work in support of this transformation in a well-coordinated fashion with a long-term goal of sustainable statistical inclusion to bolster nationally led solutions in sight.
- Reflecting on 2025 would be incomplete without mentioning the acute political and financial crisis that hit the humanitarian and development sector (and international cooperation more widely). Many EGRISS members were significantly impacted which in turn impacted progress and engagement in workstreams under our TSG structures. However, **despite the considerable challenges, the resilience, adaptability, and dedication of the EGRISS community shone through** with several examples of cost-sharing priority activities and no real evidence of members "dropping out" of the platform due to reduced capacity. This commitment reflects a common understanding that improved statistics on displacement and statelessness requires joint action and coordinated efforts that have a stronger impact than disjointed, siloed contributions. Moreover, it demonstrates a commitment to the EGRISS platform itself further evidenced by new funding from the UK's FCDO to support the Group's activities alongside long-standing contributions from the JDC.



TÜRKİYE. Syrian refugees in Türkiye wait at the Cilvegözü – Bab Al-Hawa border crossing point between Türkiye and Syria, to complete a voluntary repatriation process, before crossing into Syria to return home.
27 January, 2025.

© UNHCR/Emrah Gürel

Priorities *for* 2026

Looking ahead to 2026 — a year that will both launch the Expert Group's fourth mandate and mark a decade since its establishment — the following priorities have been shaped. Each one builds on previous developments and lessons learned, responds to persistent or newly recognised gaps, and capitalises on emerging opportunities identified by EGRISS members.

- **Celebrate 10 years of collaborative progress towards statistical inclusion of refugees, IDPs, and stateless populations** through implementation of the IRRS, IRIS, and IROSS. Remaining aware of the need to adjust to new realities (a constrained resource environment for many humanitarian and development partners, and heightened political sensitivity around migration and displacement in many regions), it will be important for the EGRISS platform to promote and help maintain achievements made building on the critical mass of countries now engaged in this agenda. New ways of working will be required; stronger partnerships and strategic cooperation will be necessary to ensure complementarity and collective impact.
- **Advocacy and awareness-raising activities** will continue to be prioritised, including through key platforms such as the UN Statistical Commission and World Data Forum. Communication outputs will strive to focus on the impact of improved national statistics on policy-making and response to reach beyond EGRISS' existing stakeholder community and support national champions who advocate for statistical inclusion within their own governments and regions.

- Responding to demand from countries, EGRISS' TSG1-led **Capacity Development offer will be further enhanced** including through **French and Spanish translations of the flagship E-learning course** and the delivery of a multi-lingual facilitated training programme. In addition, a complementary, open-source **Capacity Development Package** will be developed for adaptation and delivery by different stakeholders in different contexts. Should resources be secured, a Training of Trainers framework will also materialise to build a pool of qualified trainers and champions capable of cascading knowledge and skills across institutions and regions.
- Recognising that implementation of the IROSS lags behind that of IRRS and IRIS (see GAIN results), the **Compilers' Manual will be updated to incorporate guidance on producing statelessness statistics**, including through the development of new use cases and revisions to existing ones. The planned periodic review will also refine guidance based on lessons learned from implementation experiences since it was published in 2023. In addition, the release of the official IROSS publication will serve to enhance visibility and dissemination of the Recommendations.
- Methodological work, grounded in TSG2, will continue in 2026 to **focus on solutions to internal displacement**. On the one hand, methodological papers on measuring progress towards durable solutions for IDPs and developing an operational statistical measure for assessing exits from the IDP stock will be published. Subsequently, working closely with displacement-affected countries, consensus will be built to develop an agreed-upon methodology for incorporation into future revisions of the IRIS.
- **Enhancing synergies with broader migration statistics will become increasingly relevant** in 2026 given both political shifts and technical need. EGRISS will contribute through methodological work assessing areas of alignment and possible incongruencies between IRRS, IRIS, and IROSS on the one hand and new frameworks and practice migration statistics. In addition, the production of standardised modules for the identification of forcibly displaced populations in surveys and censuses, will further contribute to this agenda and simultaneously accelerate disaggregation by migratory status (including forcibly displaced populations) in the SDGs.
- Building on successes of previous years, **regional engagement will continue to be an explicit strategy for EGRISS members to mobilise further implementation of the Recommendations**. Continued efforts under SCA-ECLAC in Latin America and the Caribbean, as well as through the African Union and Regional Economic Communities in Africa, will be supported. These will be complemented with a soon-to-be-established Task Team under UNECE's Conference of European Statisticians and enhanced engagement in Western Asia and Asia and the Pacific through rejuvenation of the existing TSG1 Task Teams and forging new partnerships.
- Lastly, the popular **GAIN Survey will again be rolled out towards the end of 2026 with further enhancements planned** based on demand and identified gaps. This includes strategies to broaden coverage in collaboration with officially established regional Working Groups, Communities of Practice, and Task Teams, in addition to efforts to map statistical capacity of national systems.



CHAD. Rapid Influx of Sudanese refugees leaves thousands in desperate need. 03 May, 2025. © UNHCR/Caitlin Kelly

COVER PHOTO:

THE PHILIPPINES. At Al Barka Municipal Hall, Municipal Civil Registrar Milda Salih led her team in conducting on-site birth registration, ensuring that no one is left unseen or unrecognised.

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