



4th African School on Migration Statistics: Forced Displacement and Statelessness Statistics

26-28 May 2025

Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire

Background & Rationale:

Forced displacement and statelessness remain critical challenges across the African continent, with the region hosting an estimated 42.9 million forcibly displaced or stateless persons at the end of 2023 (35.6 per cent of the global total as calculated by UNHCR)¹. The rising numbers are driven by a range of factors, including persistent conflict and violence, human rights violations, and climate-related pressures. Alongside its magnitude, the protracted nature of displacement in Africa is notable, which points to the growing need for better quality, timely and comparable data that Governments can rely on to inform both policy and response. On the policy front, African Governments have clearly recognized the importance of addressing statelessness, exemplified by the recent adoption of the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Specific Aspects of the Right to a Nationality and the Eradication of Statelessness in Africa. In terms of statistics and data, the African Union's [Strategy for the Harmonization of Statistics in Africa 2017-2026](#) (SHaSA 2), adopted to support the effective implementation and evaluation of the impact of the continental (e.g. Agenda 2063), regional and national development agendas, underscores the critical need to strengthen national data systems. This is essential for informing policies that address forced displacement and statelessness.

Since the endorsement of the [International Recommendations on Refugee Statistics](#) (IRRS, 2018), the [International Recommendations on Internally Displaced Persons Statistics](#) (IRIS, 2020) and the [International Recommendations on Statelessness Statistics](#) (IROSS, 2023), Governments are making significant efforts to implement these new standards through the adaptation of their national censuses, household surveys and improved development and use of administrative data systems. This includes Governments of 18 African countries, according to [results from the Global Annual Inclusion Survey \(GAIN\)](#) during 2020-2023. Looking forward, momentum continues to build with [28 pledges on statistical inclusion](#) of forcibly displaced and stateless persons in national data production systems made by African Governments or regional entities in the context of the 2023 Global Refugee Forum.

Regional cooperation between countries supported by the establishment of Migration & Displacement Working Groups by several Regional Economic Commissions' departments of statistics,² have also created a platform for peer-to-peer exchange and to share progress. Participants in these working groups, African members of EGRISS and experts engaged in supporting the improvement of statistics on refugees, IDPs

¹ See Global Trends

² Including the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) and the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS).

and stateless persons in the continent regularly identify the need for continued regional cooperation, capacity development for statistical systems, better standardized methodologies and stronger knowledge of international standards as key to improving forced displacement and statelessness statistics in the region.

It is against this background that the African Union's Institute for Statistics (STATAFRIC) and Statistics Sweden (SCB), have decided to partner with the [Expert Group on Refugee, IDP, and Statelessness Statistics](#) (EGRISS) to organize the 2025 African School on Migration Statistics with a focus on forced displacement and statelessness data and statistics. This is the fourth iteration of the Africa School on Migration Statistics which is part of the [second phase of their Migration Statistics in African project \(2023-2026\)](#).

About EGRISS

The [Expert Group on Refugee, IDP, and Statelessness Statistics](#) was established by the United Nations Statistical Commission in 2016 and aims to improve statistics on forced displacement and statelessness. The Expert Group, which currently includes 61 countries and 37 international and regional organizations, including 20 countries in the region, and has successfully developed three sets of international statistical recommendations (see above) and now focuses on promoting their implementation and supporting countries to put these normative frameworks into practice. The EGRISS has thus invested in the development of complementary resources, such as the [Compilers' Manual on Forced Displacement Statistics](#) and an introductory [E-learning Course](#), facilitated the [translation of the Recommendations into French, Spanish, Arabic and Russian](#), and monitors efforts by countries and other stakeholders to pursue the statistical inclusion of forcibly displaced and stateless persons globally. Increasingly, the EGRISS engages at regional level to facilitate peer-to-peer exchange and build capacity of national statistical offices and other relevant entities.

About the Migration Statistics Project in Africa

The African Union Institute of Statistics (STATAFRIC) and Statistics Sweden are implementing a project on migration statistics funded by the Swedish International Development Agency (Sida). This initiative is carried out in partnership with the African Union Commission (AUC), six Regional Economic Communities (IGAD, EAC, COMESA, AMU, ECOWAS, and ECCAS), and Statistics Norway. Spanning four years from 2023 to 2026, this project's second phase aims to build upon the accomplishments of its first phase (2019 to 2022), while supporting the implementation of continental and regional statistical plans led by STATAFRIC and selected RECs.

The project comprises five core components, with a particular emphasis on statistics related to forced displacement. This component seeks to harmonize data concerning refugees, internally displaced persons (IDPs), and stateless individuals across Africa. By standardizing data collection and reporting practices, the project aims to enhance the quality and comparability of migration statistics, which are crucial for informed policymaking and effective responses to the migration challenges facing the continent. Moreover, the Migration Statistics Project is designed to strengthen the capacity of African countries to monitor, analyze, and respond to migration dynamics. Ultimately, this initiative will contribute to promoting sustainable development and regional stability across Africa.

About the African School on Migration Statistics

The African School on Migration Statistics, organized by STATAFRIC and SCB addresses the pressing need for timely, accurate, and comprehensive migration data, which are critical for developing evidence-based policies and integrating migration considerations into national, regional, and global development strategies. The School aims to bolster national capacities in collecting, producing, and disseminating migration statistics, empowering countries to better understand and respond to migration trends. Since its inception, the initiative has held [two online editions and one hybrid event](#), focusing on exchanging knowledge and learning from country experiences.

Building on the successes of previous iterations and recognizing the growing need for improved data on forced displacement and statelessness, the fourth edition of the African School on Migration Statistics will tackle this topic. STATAFRIC and Statistics Sweden in partnership with EGRISS, will organize the School in Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire, from 26-28 May 2025, with appreciation to Cote D'Ivoire's National Institute of Statistics (INS).

Objectives & Outputs:

This iteration of the School will emphasise the progress made by both Member States and RECs to improve national statistics on forcibly displaced and stateless persons. Participants will have the opportunity to delve deeper into the topic, with country examples showcasing efforts to improve the inclusion of these populations. A key feature of this School will be the focus on practical applications, highlighting examples where the Recommendations have been used to enhance official statistics on refugees, IDPs, and stateless populations. The program aims to offer a platform for knowledge exchange, capacity building, and fostering cooperation among Member States to address the challenges in data collection and reporting on these groups, paving the way for stronger national statistical systems across Africa.

The aim of the 4th African School on Migration Statistics is to leverage existing momentum to improve the production and use of data and statistics on forced displacement and statelessness in Africa. It seeks to assist Member States and RECs in the development and maintenance of inclusive national data systems, thereby improving the quality of statistics on refugees, IDPs, and stateless populations.

Specific objectives include:

1. Strengthen understanding of the International Recommendations on Refugee, IDP and Statelessness Statistics.
2. Learn from experiences of implementing the Recommendations in different national contexts.
3. Identify opportunities for enhanced regional cooperation and engagement on the production and use of forced displacement and statelessness data.
4. Identify methods to adapt the Recommendations to the realities and specificities of Africa countries, including through the alignment of regional guidelines on migration statistics.

Expected outputs include:

- Member States awareness, understanding and support of the International Recommendations are strengthened.
- Learning from peer-to-peer exchange regarding the implementation of the International Recommendations.
- Opportunities are identified to enhance regional cooperation to further improve statistics, on forcibly displaced and stateless persons, building on existing platforms.
- Approach agreed to increase the alignment of the International Recommendations with regional guidance on migration statistics.
- Workshop report summarizing the key meeting outputs, including clear recommendations for workplans/roadmaps detailing both medium and longer-term priorities regionally and nationally.

Participation:

The 4th African School on Migration Statistics will be geared towards experienced statisticians and other data specialists working within national statistical offices on data related to migration, refugees, IDPs and/or statelessness. Ideally participants will be familiar with the International Recommendations on Refugee, IDP and Statelessness Statistics, and be able to discuss/present on planned/ongoing/recent efforts in their context to include these populations in their national statistical system. Participants from responsible government line ministries (e.g., Ministries of Interior, Planning, Migration, Refugees, Disasters etc.) are also invited to participate in this School.

Virtual participation will be available; however, depending on available facilities, some sessions will not be broadcasted.

Venue & Dates:

The 4th African School on Migration Statistics will take place in Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire, between 26-28 May 2025. It will be hosted at the Ivtel Hôtel & Spa.

Meeting Organizers:

The 4th African School on Migration Statistics is organized by STATAFRIC, SCB and EGRISS, through the Africa Regional Task Team of its [Technical Subgroup One on Regional Engagement & Capacity Development](#), which is led by Institut National de la Statistique de Djibouti (INSTAD), with global support from the International Organization for Migration (IOM). This School will be graciously opened by Cote D'Ivoire's National Institute of Statistics (INS). Funding is provided by Sweden (through its project implemented by SCB and STATAFRIC), IOM, the Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre (IDMC), Statistics Norway, UNHCR and EGRISS Secretariat.

Language:

The language of the workshop will be in English and French. Simultaneous interpretation will be made available.

Documents:

Participants are encouraged to review the below EGRISS resources ahead of the School. In particular, participants should aim to sit modules 1,2,3 & 4 of the self-paced e-learning course. These modules will provide a good background to the substantive topics that will be discussed during the School:

- [International Recommendations on Refugee Statistics \(IRRS\)](#) (English, French, Russian, Spanish & Arabic)
- [International Recommendations on Internally Displaced Persons Statistics \(IRIS\)](#) (English, French, Russian, Spanish & Arabic)
- [International Recommendations on Statelessness Statistics \(IROSS\)](#) (English)
- Recommendations at a Glance series: [IRRS](#), [IRIS](#) and [IROSS](#) (English)
- [Self-paced EGRISS e-learning course](#) – specifically, modules 1, 2, 3 and 4 (English)
- [EGRISS Compilers' Manual](#) (English)
- [EGRISS 2023 Annual Report](#) (English)

Additional relevant training materials will be provided by the trainers ahead of the meeting.

Meeting Agenda:

Detailed agenda shared separately.

The workshop will begin at 9:00 AM and end at 5:00 PM on the 26th and 27th of May. On the first day, registration will start at 8:30 AM to ensure a smooth beginning. The workshop will conclude at 1:00 PM on the 28th of May.

Contact Information for Logistical & Substantive Matters:**Mr. Jean-Pierre Ntezimana**

Chief Advisor

Statistics Sweden

Email: jean-pierre.ntezimana@scb.se

Mr. Tarek Achouch

Administrative Assistant

STATAFRIC

Email: achoucharak@gmail.com