

2022 Meeting of the Expert Group on Refugee, IDP and Statelessness Statistics (EGRISS):

Delivering on our mandate and looking to the future

Background

The third mandate of the Expert Group on Refugee, IDP and Statelessness Statistics (EGRISS) started in March 2020, alongside the global Covid-19 pandemic, and will see the Group through until the end of 2024. In mid-2022, the Group reached halfway through its five-year mandate. The scope of the EGRISS' work has significantly expanded during this third phase, moving beyond the analytical and normative scope of activities outlined in its first two terms of reference. Since the endorsement of the International Recommendations on Refugee and IDP Statistics (IRRS and IRIS) in 2018 and 2020, respectively, EGRISS' work has focused on their implementation at national, regional, and international levels. In 2021, its mandate was expanded further to develop a third set of recommendations on statelessness (IROSS).¹

While there are many achievements for the Group and its individual members to be celebrated, including over 100 examples of implementation of the recommendations², there remain several lessons to be learned from current challenges. During this period, EGRISS' membership has grown to over 50 countries and almost 30 international and regional organizations working within their own capacities/institutions/countries to champion the recommendations and improve statistical inclusion of refugees and IDPs in national systems more broadly.³

Taking a step back, the context of EGRISS' work has dramatically changed since this phase of work started. Not only did the Covid-19 pandemic create significant hurdles, but the policy environment and global forced displacement context have experienced some significant developments:

- Global displacement has hit record levels with 100 million people now forcibly displaced around the world, and durable solutions being increasingly an option for a smaller proportion of those populations directly impacted.⁴
- Efforts to implement the Global Compact on Refugees, including its recognition of the critical role of national data to forge and monitor progress, have continued to gain momentum.⁵

¹ See: [Terms of Reference - EGRISS \(egrisstats.org\)](https://egrisstats.org/terms-of-reference)

² See: [Implementation examples - EGRISS \(egrisstats.org\)](https://egrisstats.org/implementation-examples)

³ See: [Membership - EGRISS \(egrisstats.org\)](https://egrisstats.org/membership)

⁴ UNHCR Global Trends, 2022

⁵ Global Compact on Refugees Indicator Report, 2021: [Global Compact on Refugees Indicator Report | The Global Compact on Refugees | Digital platform \(globalcompactrefugees.org\)](https://www.globalcompactrefugees.org/global-compact-on-refugees-digital-platform)



- The UN Secretary General's High-Level Panel on Internal Displacement shaped specific recommendations to address the global challenge, including on data, calling for comprehensive national systems and encouraging countries to make use of the IRIS.⁶
- The new migration statistics framework, replacing the 1998 [Recommendations on Statistics of International Migration](#), was endorsed in 2021 at the UN Statistical Commission including important synergies with the IRRS statistical framework.⁷
- Momentum around UNHCR's #IBelong Campaign to end statelessness has continued to grow, which is reflected in the new efforts to establish a Global Alliance to End Statelessness,⁸ and with four new countries acceding to statelessness conventions and eight new countries formally reporting statelessness statistics to UNHCR since 2020. In addition, tangible progress has resulted from the 2019 High-Level Segment on Statelessness, with 12 of the 39 data-related pledges having been initiated/completed.⁹
- The World Bank and UNHCR launched a Joint Data Center on Forced Displacement to forge a sea change in the quantity, quality, and availability of data on those forcibly displaced and stateless, including by promoting the use of the IRRS and IRIS, integrating refugees and/or IDPs in regular national data collection and directly investing in and supporting EGRISS.¹⁰

For all these reasons - the EGRISS-related elements as well as the changing policy/operational context - the EGRISS Steering Committee has requested the Secretariat to organize an all-members meeting that will bring together EGRISS' members and other relevant stakeholders to collectively identify how the EGRISS can strengthen its efforts to pursue sustainable improvements in official statistics on forced displacement and statelessness toward successfully completing its current mandate by end 2024.

Objectives

The All-members meeting aims to bring together the EGRISS' membership and other relevant stakeholders to strengthen the group's ability to achieve its current mandate and discuss the possible future of the group beyond 2024. This will include the following specific objectives:

- Take stock on progress/achievements against the 2020-2024 ToR (third mandate) and identify gaps still to be filled.
- Provide a platform to discuss/share recent EGRISS products, possibly including:

⁶ Report of the United Nations Secretary-General's High-Level Panel on Internal Displacement: Shining a Light on Internal Displacement, A Vision for the Future, 2021:: [HLP-report-WEB.pdf \(internaldisplacement-panel.org\)](#)

⁷ Final Report on Conceptual frameworks and Concepts and Definitions on International Migration, 2021: <https://unstats.un.org/unsd/demographic-social/migration-expert-group/task-forces/TF2-ConceptualFramework-Final.pdf>

⁸ See: <https://www.unhcr.org/ibelong/>

⁹ See: » [High-Level Segment on Statelessness: Results and Highlights \(unhcr.org\)](#)

¹⁰ WB-UNHCR Joint Data Center Strategy 2021-2023: Supporting Evidence for Protection and Wellbeing: [JDC Strategy for 2021-2023 - Joint Data Center](#)



- EGRISS website (available)¹¹
- E-learning (expected October 2023)
- Compilers' Manual (expected December 2023)
- IROSS recommendations (expected March 2023)
- Measuring key displacement-related vulnerabilities for IDPs (ongoing)
- Country support and regional workshops (ongoing)
- Exchange experiences and lessons learned between countries and other stakeholders concerning the implementation of the IRRS and IRIS and identify gaps/recurring challenges that need to be addressed.
- Identify ways to strengthen collective efforts to achieve stated goals of the 2020-2024 ToR, and feed these into priorities for 2023-2024 and Technical Subgroups workplans.
- Discuss relevance and focus of a potential fourth EGRISS mandate, beyond 2024.

Timing/dates/location

- Format: Three-day, hybrid meeting
- 12-14 December 2022
- Location: UNECA compound, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

Participants

All current EGRISS members - 52 countries and 28 regional/international organizations - will be invited to attend the meeting. In-person attendance is encouraged, but remote participation will also be facilitated. To the extent possible, EGRISS will cover attendance-related costs (flights, DSA, terminal expenses), however due to limited budget availability priority will be given to country members (one representative per institution/organization). Alongside meeting preparations, a 'membership review' process will take place led by the EGRISS Secretariat, which is expected to result in new members being welcomed to the community and invited to join the meeting in November (see separate note on the EGRISS membership review process).

Outputs

The main meeting outputs would be a short report with conclusions and identified action points and a short video compilation of the event. In addition, content from the meeting would feed into:

- EGRISS Annual Report 2022 (expected Feb 2023)
- Technical subgroup workplans for 2023-2024 (expected Jan 2023)

¹¹ See: [EGRISS Website](#)