

Expert Group on Refugee, IDP and Statelessness Statistics

# Capturing Priority SDG Indicators in Refugee, Internal Displacement and Statelessness Contexts



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The Expert Group on Refugee, Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) and Statelessness Statistics (EGRISS) is a UN Statistical Commission (UNSC) mandated, multi-stakeholder group. Since its establishment in 2016, it works with national statistical offices, international organizations, and civil society to develop and support the implementation of international standards and guidance to improve official statistics on refugee, internally displaced and stateless persons.

With 60 national statistics authorities from regions and countries affected by forced displacement and statelessness and 37 institutional members, EGRISS welcomes collaboration with all relevant partners from the statistical community. EGRISS implements activities with and through its members, organized in Technical Subgroups (TSG). This paper was developed by TSG 2 on 'Methodological Research and Guidance Development'.

This publication is the third in a series of Methodological Papers that are intended to document the Expert Group's contribution to ongoing methodological debates. These documents do not constitute consensus or represent the official views of EGRISS, its members, TSG 2, or the institutions with which the authors are affiliated.

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## List of Acronyms

CAT	Content Alignment Tool
CM	Compilers' Manual
CWIQ	Core Welfare Indicator Questionnaire
DHS	Demographic and Health Surveys
EGMA	Early Grade Mathematics Assessment
EGRA	Early Grade Reading Assessment
EGRISS	Expert Group on Refugee, IDP and Statelessness Statistics
EMIS	Educational Management Information System
ERCE	Regional Comparative and Explanatory Study
ESMAP	Energy Sector Management Assistance Program
FANTA	Food and Nutrition Technical Assistance
FDS	Forced Displacement Survey
GCF	Global Content Framework
GT	Global Trends Report
IASC	Inter-Agency Standing Committee
IAEG-SDGs	Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators
ICLS	International Conference of Labour Statisticians
IDPs	Internally Displaced Persons
ILO	International Labour Organization
IOM	International Organization for Migration
IRIS	International Recommendations on Internally Displaced Persons Statistics
IRRS	International Recommendations on Refugee Statistics
IROSS	International Recommendation on Statelessness Statistics
JIPS	Joint IDP Profiling Service
JME	Joint Malnutrition Estimates
JMP	Joint Monitoring Programme for Water Supply, Sanitation and Hygiene
LFS	Labour Force Survey
LSMS	Living Standards Measurement Surveys
MICS	Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey
NSOs	National Statistical Office
PAL	People's Action for Learning
PASEC	Programme for the Analysis of Education Systems
PIRLS	Progress in International Reading Literacy Study
PISA	Programme for International Student Assessment
OECD	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
OHCHR	Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights
SDG	Sustainable Development Goals
EA-PLM	Southeast Asia Primary Learning Metrics
TIMSS	Trends in International Mathematics and Science
UN	United Nations
UNCIEF	United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund
UN-CTS	United Nations Crime Trends Survey
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UIS	Urban Inequalities Survey
UNODC	United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
UNSD	United Nations Statistical Division
WHO	World Health Organization
WHS	World Health Survey

## Introduction

1. Worldwide, the estimated number of forcibly displaced people, including refugees, asylum seekers and those who have been internally displaced, has risen to a total of 117.3 million at the end of 2023 – almost double the number from 12 years ago. Global estimates of the magnitude of statelessness are also significant with 4.4 million people reported in the same year.<sup>1</sup> Although these figures include a substantial share of people displaced during the last year, the vast majority has been displaced for longer periods of time, many over multiple decades. The protracted nature of the world’s displacement and statelessness crises highlight the need for more comprehensive government-led response including both humanitarian and development aspects.
2. To appropriately address the needs of these populations and ensure decision-makers are equipped with the necessary information to include them in development plans and programs, data on their socio-economic conditions is required. These data should ideally be comparable to other groups (or the general population<sup>2</sup> in the same country) to enable the identification and development of context specific policies, better targeted program interventions and other goals. Additionally, aligning the data to development frameworks, such as the one agreed upon by Member States in the context of Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development ensures consistency and relevance in global and national policy efforts.

### *Text Box 1. Legal and Policy Definitions of Population Groups of Interest*

- **Refugee:** ‘a refugee is someone who, owing to a well-founded fear of being persecuted for reasons of race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group, or political opinion, is outside the country of his nationality, and is unable or, owing to such fear, is unwilling to avail himself of the protection of that country’.<sup>3</sup>
- **Asylum Seeker:** Persons who have filed an application for asylum in a country other than their own and whose claims have not yet been determined.
- **Internally Displaced Person:** ‘persons or groups of persons who have been forced or obliged to flee or to leave their homes or places of habitual residence, in particular as a result of or in order to avoid the effects of armed conflict, situations of generalised violence, violations of human rights, or natural or human made disasters, and who have not crossed an internationally recognised state border’.<sup>4</sup>
- **Stateless Person:** ‘a person who is not considered a national by any state under the operation of its law.’<sup>5</sup>

3. The central ethos of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) is to ensure that no-one is left behind with a focus on the world’s most vulnerable population groups, including refugees and

<sup>1</sup> See: [UNHCR’s 2023 Global Trends Report](#)

<sup>2</sup> ‘General population’ is defined in paragraphs 215 and 502 of UNDESA’s [Handbook on Measuring International Migration through Population Censuses](#)

<sup>3</sup> See: [1951 Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees](#)

<sup>4</sup> See: [UN Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement](#)

<sup>5</sup> See: [1954 Convention Relating to the Status of Stateless Persons](#)

internally displaced persons (IDPs).<sup>6</sup> The accompanying SDG indicator framework<sup>7</sup>, includes an overarching principle of disaggregation, recognizing the importance of ensuring all nations, people and segments of society are visible within the Goals. To measure progress towards these goals for refugees, internally displaced, and stateless persons, their meaningful inclusion in the data production processes that provide the data required to appropriately disaggregate SDG indicator data is critical.

4. Despite the importance of disaggregating key SDG indicator data by “migratory status”<sup>8</sup> (including those who are forcibly displaced) and statelessness status, it is rare to find national SDG indicator data disaggregated by these population groups as demonstrated in a 2020 study conducted by UNHCR and JIPS.<sup>9</sup> While this study and subsequent examples demonstrate that it is possible to calculate SDG indicator data for refugees and IDPs, several factors have been identified to explain its limited availability. These include limited financial and/or technical resources to conduct required data collection activities (e.g. additional/booster samples); limited access to affected areas that can hamper implementation; lack of political will to collect and/or publish the appropriate data (e.g. in contexts with small/negligible refugee/IDP/stateless populations). One cross-cutting explanation is that national surveys which are the primary source for SDG indicator data do not systematically identify these groups (even when they do include broader questions on migration) and are not regularly designed to produce representative data on them.<sup>10</sup> From the vantage point of EGRISS, this may also be due to a perception that the needed disaggregation would require additional efforts or require specific information and expertise compared to techniques used for the general population.
5. Recognizing the need to address this, **the current paper provides an analysis of data collection practice and computation methods for 14 prioritized SDG indicators and identifies specific considerations that may be required to produce better data on refugee, IDP and stateless populations for these SDG indicators. This includes primarily an assessment of existing metadata<sup>11</sup> and a review of the planning, design, and data collection phases for household surveys** to identify technical and operational considerations.
6. The paper’s findings are targeted at supporting countries in their efforts to collect granular socio-economic data on refugees, internally displaced and stateless persons, which can enrich national SDG indicator data and ensure the visibility of these vulnerable groups using globally comparable methods.

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<sup>6</sup> See: paragraph 23 of the UN’s [Transforming our World: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development](#).

<sup>7</sup> See: [UN Statistics Division: Sustainable Development Goals Global Indicator Framework](#)

<sup>8</sup> See: [IOM, Leave No Migrant Behind: The 2030 Agenda and Data Disaggregation](#)

<sup>9</sup> See: [UNHCR, Data disaggregation of SDG indicators by forced displacement](#)

<sup>10</sup> See: pages 61-68 of the World Bank’s [2023 World Development Report: Migrants, Refugees and Societies](#)

<sup>11</sup> See: [SDG Indicators Metadata Repository](#)

# Background

## Identification of priority SDG indicators

7. Given the centrality of the commitment to “Leave no one behind” in efforts to achieve the SDGs<sup>12</sup>, the UN Statistical Commission (UNSC) requested that the Inter-Agency Expert Group on SDG Indicators (IAEG-SDGs)<sup>13</sup> take steps to facilitate better disaggregation of data to increase the visibility of vulnerable groups within the framework. The UNSC stressed this repeatedly and “requested the IAEG-SDGs to make efforts to develop the necessary statistical standards and tools and build capacity on disaggregated data to measure progress for those who are vulnerable or in vulnerable situations (decisions 47/101, 48/101, 49/101, 50/101, 51/101).” The IAEG-SDGs formed a dedicated work stream to respond to this request which resulted in a series of concrete outputs, including a compilation of tools and resources that includes products developed by EGRISS.<sup>14</sup>
8. In 2018, the IAEG-SDGs initiated a process to map existing and planned data disaggregation dimensions and to identify priority areas for future disaggregation as part of this work stream. Through this consultative process, EGRISS members were able to identify and advocate for a list of 12 SDG indicators that should be prioritized for disaggregation by forced displacement status (see Visual 1 below).<sup>15</sup> This proposal was taken on board, submitted, and welcomed by the UNSC in 2019.<sup>16</sup> It was built upon content from the existing International Recommendations on Refugee Statistics (IRRS)<sup>17</sup> and the draft International Recommendations on IDP Statistics (IRIS)<sup>18</sup>, as well as a consultative process amongst EGRISS members. It includes three key policy areas, alongside the related targets and indicators:
  - 1) Basic needs and living conditions
  - 2) Livelihoods and economic self-reliance; and
  - 3) Civil, political, and legal rights.
9. The set of 12 priority SDG indicators were subsequently incorporated into the IRIS (2020) and the International Recommendations on Statelessness Statistics (IROSS, 2023)<sup>19</sup>.
10. Viewed alongside the 2019 “Summary of Disaggregation Dimensions and Categories Available and Planned in Global SDG Indicator Database”<sup>20</sup>, developed based on input provided by custodian agencies for all relevant SDG indicators (where forced displacement is not mentioned), the gap concerning data on forcibly displaced persons became evident. Increased availability of SDG-

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<sup>12</sup> See: [Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development 2030](#)

<sup>13</sup> IAEG-SDGs, tasked with harmonizing SDG indicators, focuses on data disaggregation to reflect societal progress accurately. More available at: [IAEG-SDGs – SDG Indicators](#)

<sup>14</sup> See: [IAEG-SDGs – SDG Indicators](#)

<sup>15</sup> See: [EGRISS, Sustainable Development Goals](#)

<sup>16</sup> See Background document: [IAEG-SDG Background Document on Data Disaggregation](#), specifically section F “Forcibly displaced persons”. See UNSC Decision 50/101.

<sup>17</sup> See: [EGRISS, International Recommendations on Refugee Statistics \(IRRS\)](#)

<sup>18</sup> See: [EGRISS, International Recommendations on IDP Statistics \(IRIS\)](#)

<sup>19</sup> See: [EGRISS, International Recommendations on Statelessness Statistics \(IROSS\)](#)

<sup>20</sup> See: [Annex 2 - Disaggregation Availability](#)

aligned data on refugees, IDPs and related population groups produced through national data systems was required to enhance the visibility of these groups in the global SDG monitoring efforts. Thus, EGRISS focused on supporting the roll out of the Recommendations (see section below).

*Visual 1. Priority SDG indicators for forced displacement by policy priority area*

POLICY AREA I: Basic needs and living conditions		
	<b>Goal 2.</b> End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture	<b>2.2.1.</b> Prevalence of stunting among children under 5 years of age
	<b>Goal 3.</b> Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages	<b>3.1.2.</b> Proportion of births attended by skilled health personnel
	<b>Goal 6.</b> Ensure availability and sustainable management of water sanitation for all	<b>6.1.1.</b> Proportion of population using safely managed drinking water services
	<b>Goal 11.</b> Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient, and sustainable	<b>11.1.1.</b> Proportion of urban population living in slums, informal settlements or inadequate housing
POLICY AREA II: Livelihoods and economic self-reliance		
	<b>Goal 1.</b> End poverty in all its forms everywhere	<b>1.2.1.</b> Proportion of population living below the national poverty line, by sex and age
	<b>Goal 4.</b> Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all	<b>4.1.1.</b> Proportion of children and young people (a) in grades 2/3; (b) at the end of primary; and (c) at the end of lower secondary achieving at least a minimum proficiency level in (i) reading and (ii) mathematics, by sex
	<b>Goal 7.</b> Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable, and modern energy for all	<b>7.1.1.</b> Proportion of population with access to electricity
	<b>Goal 8.</b> Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all	<b>8.3.1.</b> Proportion of informal employment in total employment, by sex <b>8.5.2.</b> Unemployment rate, by sex, age, and persons with disabilities
POLICY AREA III: Civil, political and legal rights		
	<b>Goal 1.</b> End poverty in all its forms everywhere	<b>1.4.2.</b> Proportion of total adult population with secure tenure rights to land, (a) with legally recognized documentation, and (b) who perceive their rights to land as secure, by sex and type of tenure
	<b>Goal 16.</b> Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels	<b>16.1.4.</b> Proportion of population that feel safe walking alone around the area they live <b>16.9.1.</b> Proportion of children under 5 years of age whose births have been registered with a civil authority, by age

11. Concerning statelessness, in addition to the 12 indicators summarised above, the IROSS identified a further 4 priority SDG indicators relevant to addressing statelessness based on analysis conducted by UNHCR<sup>21</sup>, including:

<sup>21</sup> See: [The Sustainable Development Goals and Addressing Statelessness](#)



- **5.1.1** - Whether or not legal frameworks are in place to promote, enforce and monitor equality and non-discrimination on the basis of sex,
- **17.18.1** - Proportion of sustainable development indicators produced at the national level with full disaggregation when relevant to the target, in accordance with the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics (the Statistical capacity indicator),
- **16.b.1** - Proportion of population reporting having personally felt discriminated against or harassed in the previous 12 months on the basis of a ground of discrimination prohibited under international human rights law, and
- **10.3.1** - Proportion of population reporting having personally felt discriminated against or harassed in the previous 12 months on the basis of a ground of discrimination prohibited under international human rights law.

## Other relevant lists of indicators and important disaggregation

12. Based on guidance from IAEG-SDGs, the list of priority SDG indicators for forced displacement was kept to a minimum (a list of 18 were initially proposed). This underlines the reality that other SDG indicators are also relevant and should be considered by governments and their partners when investing in disaggregating SDG indicator data by forced displacement and/or statelessness status – they were never intended to be an exclusive list.

13. The below table demonstrates the interlinkages between the 14 SDG indicators covered in this paper and similar indicators frameworks/lists developed or identified for similar purposes. From the indicators frameworks selected only those produced at the household level have been included. National level indicators produced through, for example, legal framework or governance system analysis, e.g. several of those included in the Global Compact for Refugees (GCR) framework, have not been included in the table below. The frameworks covered include:

- The indicators included in the report ‘Indicators for international migration and temporary mobility’ developed by the Expert Group on Migration Statistics (EGMS) and endorsed by the UNSC in 2023.<sup>22</sup>
- The indicators identified by the International Data Alliance for Children on the Move (IDAC)<sup>23</sup> recommended to be used for groups of migrant/displaced children (*forthcoming report*).
- The indicators from the framework used to measure progress against the objectives of the GCR developed by UNHCR.<sup>24</sup>
- The indicators from the (draft) framework used to measure progress against the objectives of the Global Compact for safe and Orderly Migration (GCM) developed by the UN Migration Network (UNMN).<sup>25</sup>
- IAEG-SDG approved priority SDG targets for disaggregation by migration status.<sup>26</sup> Although these recommendations remained at target-level and did not specify individual SDG indicators, they have been included in the table given four of the 13 targets identified correlate closely.

<sup>22</sup> See: [Indicators for International Migration and Temporary Mobility](#)

<sup>23</sup> See: [UNICEF, International Data Alliance for Children on the Move \(IDAC\)](#)

<sup>24</sup> See: [UNHCR, Global Compact on Refugees - Indicator Framework 2022](#)

<sup>25</sup> See: [UNMN, Development of a proposed limited set of indicators to review progress related to GCM implementation](#)

<sup>26</sup> See: [IAEG-SDG Background Document on Data Disaggregation](#)

*Table 1. Synergies between relevant indicators frameworks/lists for forced displacement and migration*

#	INDICATOR TITLE	EGMS	IDAC	GCR/ UNHCR	GMC/ UNMN	IAEG-SDGs on migration
<b>Basic needs and living conditions indicators</b>						
2.2.1	Prevalence of stunting among children under 5 years of age		*			
3.1.2	Proportion of births attended by skilled health personnel					
6.1.1	Proportion of the population using safely managed drinking water services					
11.1.1	Proportion of the urban population living in slums, informal settlements, or inadequate housing					
<b>Livelihoods and economic self-reliance indicators</b>						
1.2.1	Proportion of the population living below the national poverty line					
4.1.1	Proportion of children and young people achieving minimum proficiency in reading and mathematics.	**				
7.1.1	Proportion of the population with access to electricity					
8.3.1	Proportion of informal employment in total employment					
8.5.2	Unemployment rate					
<b>Civil, political, and legal rights indicators</b>						
1.4.2	Proportion of the total adult population with secure tenure rights to land, with legally recognized documentation and who perceive their rights to land as secure					
16.1.4	Proportion of the population that feels safe walking alone around the area they live					
16.9.1	Proportion of children under 5 years of age whose births have been registered with a civil authority			***		
16.b.1	Proportion of the population reporting discrimination or harassment based on prohibited grounds under international law in the last year					****
10.3.1	Proportion of the population reporting personal experiences of discrimination or harassment within the past year based on grounds prohibited under international human rights law	*****				
<p>LEGEND: <b>Same indicator</b> <b>Comparable Indicator</b> <b>Indicator Aligned with SDG Target</b></p> <p>* SDG Indicator 2.2.2: Prevalence of malnutrition among children under 5 years of age, by type (wasting and overweight)</p> <p>** SDG Indicator 4.6.1: Proportion of youth (aged 15-24 years) and adults (aged 15 years and above) who have achieved or exceeded a given level of proficiency in (a) literacy and (b) numeracy.</p> <p>*** GCR indicator 4.2.2: Proportion of returnees with legally recognized identity documents or credentials to support return</p> <p>**** SDG Indicator 10.3.1: Proportion of population reporting having personally felt discriminated against or harassed in the previous 12 months on the basis of a ground of discrimination prohibited under international human rights law</p> <p>***** SDG Indicator 16.b.1: Proportion of population reporting having personally felt discriminated against or harassed in the previous 12 months on the basis of a ground of discrimination prohibited under international human rights law.</p>						

14. Beyond disaggregation by forced displacement or statelessness status, the primary focus of this paper, it is also important to highlight the added value of other key data disaggregation dimensions such as sex, age, education attainment, area, or wealth that would significantly enhance the opportunity to provide a more comprehensive understanding of these vulnerable populations and inform the most effective policies and response.

## Progress in implementing the Recommendations

15. Following the endorsement of the IRIS in 2020, EGRISS' Terms of Reference were expanded to focus on promoting and supporting the implementation of the refugee and IDP statistical recommendations, and later to develop recommendations on statelessness statistics. This expansion included the following objective: to “Facilitate and strengthen reporting on the Global Compact on Refugees and SDG progress related to forcibly displaced and stateless persons, including disaggregated data collection by forced displacement”.<sup>27</sup>
16. In this context, the priority for EGRISS over the last few years has been to raise awareness and support the implementation of the Recommendations by national statistical systems and their international partners. As demonstrated by data from the Global Annual Inclusion (GAIN) Survey, close to 100 examples of country-led implementation of the IRRS, IRIS and IROSS have been identified during 2020-2023,<sup>28</sup> including efforts undertaken in 38 different countries. Of particular relevance to the scope of this current paper are several examples of national censuses and household surveys including refugees or IDPs, including examples of Multi-cluster Indicator Survey MICS, the Demographic and Health Survey (DHS), and living conditions/poverty surveys), signifying much potential for the disaggregation of SDG indicator data that this paper calls for.<sup>29</sup> A selection of examples that have produced SDG indicator data for refugees and/or IDPs is included in country case studies on pages **16**, **26**, and **37**.
17. Despite this progress, the number of examples remains limited and there is more work to do. Refocusing EGRISS' attention to the priority SDG indicators through this methodological paper is therefore timely. It aims to inspire and support more countries that host refugees, IDPs or stateless populations to produce high quality, comparable data that will allow for the disaggregation of key SDG indicators to enhance the visibility of these vulnerable groups in development frameworks and planning processes.

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<sup>27</sup> See: [EGRISS, Terms of Reference](#)

<sup>28</sup> See: [implementation overview based on EGRISS' Global Annual Inclusion \(GAIN\) Survey data from 2020-2023](#).

<sup>29</sup> For example: Uganda Demographic and Health Survey 2022, Central African Republic's Household Living Conditions Survey 2021, and ongoing work to incorporate these population groups into MICS surveys in Somalia, Cameroon, Lebanon, and Bangladesh.

# Scope and Methodology

## Scope of Paper

18. This paper rests on several assumptions which have subsequently determined the paper's scope in terms of a) its target audience, b) indicator coverage, c) data source coverage, and d) methodological considerations.
19. The primary **target audience** of this paper are national statistical offices (NSOs), which, in most contexts, are responsible for reporting on SDG progress, as well as the members the IAEG-SDG<sup>30</sup> and focal points within national statistical systems from other countries who facilitate the production of SDG indicator data. However, other institutions that are involved in collecting data on these priority SDG indicators, including UN Agencies, multilateral development banks, regional organizations, civil society, and private sector partners, may also find the content of this methodological paper beneficial. It is essential to foster partnerships among all these stakeholders to ensure that data collection efforts are well coordinated and effective.
20. The custodian agencies for the 14 SDG indicators covered, have reviewed this paper, and emphasized the importance of the findings and the work undertaken by the task team to support future disaggregation plans. The **SDG indicators** covered in this paper include the 12 prioritised by the IAEG-SDGs in addition to two other SDG indicators relevant to statelessness. Of the four additional SDG indicators identified to be relevant for stateless populations (5.1.1; 17.18.1; and 16.b.1 & 10.3.1), two of them (5.1.1 and 17.18.1) are national level indicators that cannot be sourced from household surveys but instead require an assessment of legal/governance frameworks.<sup>31</sup> However, the other two (16.b.1 and 10.3.1) can be sourced from household surveys, therefore are within the scope of this paper.
21. The full list of SDG indicators is outlined in the **Table 2** on page 14.
22. The paper is primarily concerned with **household surveys as a data source** for the priority SDG indicators. This scope is determined predominantly by the existing SDG indicator metadata in which household surveys are identified as the primary data source, allowing for comparable analysis of SDG indicator data and dissemination of results. As outlined below, metadata for the relevant SDG indicators specify MICS, DHS, the Labour Force Survey (LFS), and other household surveys used to estimate poverty. Other data sources e.g., administrative registries, national censuses, regional<sup>32</sup> and other surveys/survey programs are also mentioned when relevant for the specific SDG indicator in question. Alternative data sources, such as big data and citizen-generated data, may also be relevant however have not been a specific concern in this paper given current country practice to collect SDG indicator data.
23. Lastly, a key **methodological consideration** that explains the paper's scope concerns its relationship to other EGRISS resources and workstreams. Namely, the paper acknowledges that the combination of 'identification questions' and effective sampling strategies that enable the proper inclusion of refugees, IDPs, and/or stateless persons in household surveys (including those residing

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<sup>30</sup> See: [IAEG-SDGs – SDG Indicators](#)

<sup>31</sup> See for example: [UN Women, Good Practices: Based on the Data Under SDG Indicator 5.1.1](#)

<sup>32</sup> Some regional program survey examples include: Pan-Arab Multipurpose Survey ([PAPFAM](#)), US American Community Survey ([ACS](#)), and others

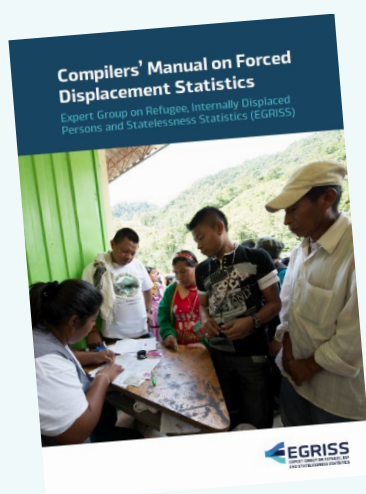
in camps or camp-like settings<sup>33</sup>) remains a primary challenge and a key requirement to enable disaggregation of resulting SDG indicator data. However, because these topics are addressed elsewhere (see Text Box 2),<sup>34</sup> they are not considered here and instead the paper focuses on other elements relevant for disaggregation once these populations are effectively captured.

24. Of course, there is an inter-dependence between these methodological elements as the effective sampling and identification practices are a prerequisite for producing the desired data, however the topics considered within the methodological scope of the current paper – i.e. specific consideration for the data collection or computation of each SDG indicator – will serve to further enhance the quality of data produced. Addressing these topics cohesively is essential to developing a more comprehensive approach to data disaggregation for forcibly displaced and stateless populations.

*Text Box 2. Methodological elements covered in complementary EGRISS resources*

### 1. Sampling

One of the primary challenges in the collection of survey-based SDG indicator data relates to the sampling of refugee, internally displaced and stateless populations. Survey designs that yield a nationally representative sample may not be representative of refugee, IDP and stateless populations. An example of this could be refugees concentrated in areas different from the general population i.e., refugees in camp settings, making it challenging to include them in the sampling frame.



**The EGRISS Compilers' Manual on Forced Displacement Statistics** provides comprehensive guidance on sampling considerations when surveying refugees and IDPs, including developing a sample frame, drawing a sample, alternative sampling approaches and the potential limitations of using a registration system as a sample frame in Use Case B (para. 70-82) for refugees and Use Case C (para. 120-131) for IDPs.

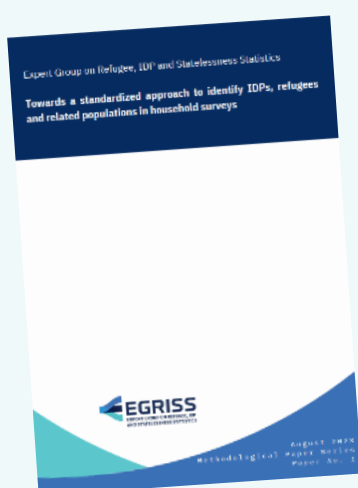
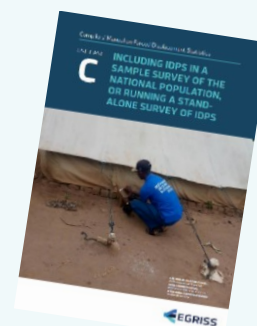
<sup>33</sup> Forcibly displaced populations reside in a range of different types of locations including, in some contexts, in camps or camp-like settings. These take many forms and are described using a range of different terms such as camps, camp-like settings, informal settlements, settlements, displaced villages, collective centres, transit centres etc. UNHCR's Emergency Handbook provides a useful overview of the different settlement typologies: [UNHCR, Settlement Typologies in Emergencies](#). For ease, this paper has adopted the language of the Camp Coordination and Camp Management Cluster that uses 'camp and camp-like settings' as a way to describe all types of these settlements with simple language: [IOM, Camp Coordination and Camp Management Manual](#). The paper intentionally does not use the definition of 'collective living quarters' from the [Principles and Recommendations for Population and Housing Censuses](#), even though refugee camps are explicitly mentioned here, because camps and camp-like settings generally do not meet the criteria of collective living quarters as determined therein and are, unfortunately, not temporary structures.

<sup>34</sup> Sampling techniques are discussed in EGRISS' [Compilers Manual](#) in Uses B (refugees) and C (IDPs), and EGRISS' methodological paper entitled "[Towards a standardized approach to identify IDPs and refugees](#)" explores identification questions in more detail. For stateless populations who are also displaced, guidance from existing EGRISS resources also apply. For non-displaced stateless persons, IROSS provides some guidance on issues of sampling, questionnaire design, and training, however future iterations of the Compilers' Manual will also address statelessness.

**Use Case B (Refugees):** Discusses the specific challenges in developing a sampling frame for refugee populations, the use of administrative records from agencies like UNHCR, and the application of area-based sampling methods. It also provides insights on using adaptive cluster sampling and integrating registration lists to sample refugee populations effectively.



**Use Case C (IDPs):** Focuses on similar sampling challenges for internally displaced persons, offering guidance on constructing sampling frames, addressing issues related to access and mobility, and adapting sampling methods based on the IDP population's geographic concentration.



## 2. Identification questions

Another challenge is the identification of these specific groups through the survey instrument. To address this, specific questions that capture the respondents forced displacement and statelessness status are important. EGRISS' methodological paper on identification questions on refugees and IDPs for households' surveys aims to engage with this topic by proposing identification questions that are in alignment with the IRRS and IRIS statistical frameworks for use in surveys.

## 3. Other Cross-Cutting Issues

The Compilers' Manual also discusses several other important factors critical to effective data collection. These include the need for interviewer training, the translation of questionnaires into appropriate languages, and adjustments in fieldwork processes to ensure that data collection is as inclusive and representative as possible. These cross-cutting issues are essential to complement the sampling and identification efforts, ensuring the overall quality and reliability of data collection on forcibly displaced and stateless populations.

## Methodology

25. The paper was developed as part of the workplan of the EGRISS' Technical Subgroup 2. A dedicated Task Team was established, co-led by the EGRISS Secretariat and the International Organization for Migration (IOM) who worked alongside partners from six other organisations, including JIPS, OECD, UNESCO, UNHCR, UNDP and the JDC. Task Team members together agreed upon the scope of the paper and shared responsibilities for its development.
26. Task team members used a standard approach to assess the necessary modifications and considerations required for national household surveys and other data sources to better include refugee, internally displaced, and stateless populations in the 14 priority SDG indicators.<sup>35</sup> This process went beyond the assessment of metadata, encompassing key measurement considerations such as definitions, sources, frequency, and limitations. Through this process, members documented the required adjustments to ensure that these populations were effectively considered when designing methods, analysis plans and questionnaires, enumerator training, and information sharing to households.
27. The co-leads worked to consolidate the draft and facilitated three reviews of the complete draft: 1) with the Task Team; 2) with the whole of Technical Subgroup 2; and 3) with the custodian agencies of the priority SDG indicators.
28. Each review cycle yielded new insights which were addressed and incorporated into the methodological paper. A tracking matrix was developed to respond to each comment and confirm how provided reflections were addressed.

## Key Observations and Findings

29. Based on the analysis of various aspects of data collection for each priority SDG indicator (e.g., metadata, fieldwork training, and questionnaire design), the key finding is that **no fundamental modifications to the defined SDG indicator methodology used for the general population are required to generate data that can be disaggregated by forced displacement and statelessness status**. This means it is feasible to apply the same methodology used for the general population for refugee, IDP, and stateless populations to enable disaggregated priority SDG indicator data. However, **certain targeted improvements have been identified to ensure the quality and comparability of data on forcibly displaced and stateless populations**; these special considerations relate to planning, design, and data collection.
30. In addition to these cross-cutting methodological observations, the analysis of the metadata for the 14 SDG indicators identified several specific considerations that need to be taken into account to be better able to produce reliable data on refugee, IDP and stateless populations (see table 2 below). Whilst most of these considerations are related to specific household characteristics concerning each individual indicator as the table below demonstrates, one issue is common to several SDG indicators (namely 6.1.1., 11.1.1., 1.2.1., 7.1.1., and 16.1.4.) which require special considerations for those displaced/stateless persons residing in camps or camp-like settings.

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<sup>35</sup> Populations within the scope of the IRRS, IRIS, and IROSS are included in this methodological paper. Thus, the findings from this paper are applicable to refugees, IDPs, and stateless populations, as well as the additional population categories presented in the respective set of recommendations.



**Table 2:** Summary of special considerations for collecting priority SDG indicator data on refugees, IDPs and stateless persons

<b>SDG INDICATOR #</b>	<b>SDG INDICATOR TITLE</b>	<b>OVERVIEW OF SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS</b>
<b>2.2.1</b>	Prevalence of stunting among children under 5 years of age.	Special consideration: additional training of interviewers for vulnerable groups, as well as time needed to perform measurements in camp and camp-like conditions.
<b>3.1.2</b>	Proportion of births attended by skilled health personnel.	Contextualization or customization of the questionnaire may be needed to include skilled obstetrical staff in the response categories, if pathways for health services for refugees, internally displaced, and stateless populations differ from that of the general population.
<b>6.1.1</b>	Proportion of the population using safely managed drinking water services.	Train interviewers to identify main water source in camp or camp-like setting to be able to test the quality of drinking water.
<b>11.1.1</b>	Proportion of the urban population living in slums, informal settlements, or inadequate housing.	Provide guidance on how to capture housing affordability in camp or camp-like settings.
<b>1.2.1</b>	Proportion of the population living below the national poverty line.	Assess value of food and non-food consumption when goods are received for free or without associated price information and take steps to ensure comprehensive price information availability.
<b>4.1.1</b>	Proportion of children and young people achieving minimum proficiency in reading and mathematics.	Provide guidance on used curriculum and languages for forcibly displaced or stateless populations.
<b>7.1.1</b>	Proportion of the population with access to electricity.	Provide guidance during training on how to identify access to electricity for forcibly displaced or stateless households living in camps or camp-like settings.
<b>8.3.1</b>	Proportion of informal employment in total employment.	Estimate need to include ‘paid incentive worker’ as one of the response categories to identify informal jobs among forcibly displaced or stateless populations.
<b>8.5.2</b>	Unemployment rate.	Inclusion of questions to identify persons in time-related underemployment would allow additional measurement of labour underutilization, to complement the unemployment rate of forcibly displaced or stateless populations.
<b>1.4.2</b>	Proportion of the total adult population with secure tenure rights to land, with legally recognized documentation and who perceive their rights to land as secure.	Include additional questions about land ownership in the respondents' original places of habitual residence.
<b>16.1.4</b>	Proportion of the population that feels safe walking alone around the area they live.	Conduct training on definition of ‘neighbourhood’ for respondents living in camps and camp-like settings.
<b>16.9.1</b>	Proportion of children under 5 years of age whose births have been registered with a civil authority.	Provide additional training for interviewers on relevant national registration authorities in the survey context, involved in processing birth registrations for refugee, IDP and stateless populations.
<b>16.b.1</b>	Proportion of the population reporting discrimination or harassment based on prohibited grounds under international law in the last year.	Add relevant reasons for discrimination in the response categories for specific survey context that can impact forcibly displaced and stateless, as well as ‘other’ response category.
<b>10.3.1</b>	Proportion of the population reporting personal experiences of discrimination or harassment within the past year based on grounds prohibited under international human rights law.	



# Mapping and Evaluation of the Priority SDG Indicators

31. The remainder of the paper will explore how the 14 priority SDG indicators can be adjusted to better capture refugees, IDPs and stateless persons. The SDG indicators have been grouped according to the key policy areas EGRISS recommended to the IAEG-SDGs to align with existing literature on the topic. The statelessness specific SDG indicators (10.3.1 and 16.b.1) are also associated with the third policy area and for the purposes of this paper are therefore also included here.

## Basic needs and living conditions

### Indicator 2.2.1. Prevalence of stunting among children under 5 years of age

#### Definition of the indicator

32. Data for SDG indicator 2.2.1 is collected by measuring the height and age of children under the age of five based on a representative sample. Standardized measurement boards are used, and implementers are trained based on anthropometry training guidelines.<sup>36</sup> Anthropometry, the measurement of the human body, can be used to identify the types of malnutrition(s) present in an individual or population and measure progress toward improvement. The measurements for this SDG indicator are used to calculate height-to-age z-scores to determine the prevalence of stunting among children under five years of age.

#### Identification of relevant data sources

33. The below table presents more information on the relevant guidance and tools for SDG indicator 2.2.1:

Guidance	Metadata	Questionnaire (s)	Custodian (s)
<a href="#">Recommendations for data collection, analysis and reporting on anthropometric indicators in children under 5 years of age. WHO/UNICEF 2019</a>	<a href="#">SDG Indicator 2.2.1</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">MICS7</a> (assessed Nov 2023)</li> <li>• <a href="#">DHS</a> (assessed Nov 2023)</li> <li>• National Nutrition Surveys</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)</li> <li>• World Health Organization (WHO)</li> <li>• World Bank (WB)</li> </ul>

#### Special considerations for refugee, IDP, and stateless populations

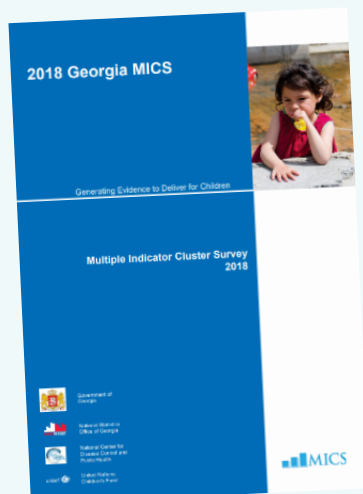
34. Data collection on SDG indicator 2.2.1 relies on well-established household survey programs and representative samples. The integration of this SDG indicator into such surveys ensures good data availability. Additionally, there are well-developed inter-agency data quality control tools capable of assessing the quality of data collected (for example, analysis of heaping or digit preference in records of heights or age).<sup>37</sup> These tools also provide global, regional, and subregional joint child malnutrition modelling estimates based on representative household surveys and administrative data.

<sup>36</sup> See: [UNICEF, Recommendations for data collection, analysis and reporting on anthropometric indicators in children under 5 years of age](#)

<sup>37</sup> Ibid.

## Country Case Study 1: Georgia

### Availability of Data for IDPs in Georgia's 2018 Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS)<sup>38</sup>



The 2018 Georgia MICS collected nationally representative data on the situation of children, women, and vulnerable populations, including IDPs. Conducted by the National Statistics Office of Georgia (GEOSTAT) in collaboration with UNICEF, the survey provided critical insights into achieving SDGs in the country. The 2018 Georgia MICS is particularly valuable for its ability to provide disaggregated data that highlights the conditions and needs of IDPs compared to the general population.

The survey's design specifically incorporated IDP populations through separate strata for IDP and non-IDP households within each urban and rural region, ensuring representative data for both groups. A total of 706 sample clusters were selected, with 14,120 households, with 4.6% households headed by an IDP. The survey tracks six SDG indicators prioritised for forcibly displaced and stateless populations, almost half of the overall group.

#### Key findings:

##### **SDG Indicator 2.2.1: Prevalence of stunting among children under 5 years of age.**

Stunting, a key indicator of child nutrition and long-term health, was found to be slightly lower among IDP children than among non-IDP children. The prevalence of stunting was 4.4% for IDPs, compared to 5.8% for non-IDPs, suggesting that IDP children may be receiving adequate nutrition.

##### **SDG Indicator 6.1.1: Proportion of the population using safely managed drinking water services.**

Access between IDPs and non-IDPs is comparable, with 60.4% of IDP households having access to safely managed drinking water, compared to 56.0% for non-IDPs.

##### **SDG Indicator 7.1.1: Proportion of the population with access to electricity.**

Access to electricity is nearly universal in Georgia, with 99.7% of both IDP and non-IDP households having access.

##### **SDG Indicator 16.1.4: Proportion of the population that feels safe walking alone around the area they live.**

Among IDPs, 81.1% of respondents reported feeling safe walking alone in their neighbourhood after dark, compared to 82.1% of non-IDPs, demonstrating similar levels of perceived safety.

##### **SDG Indicators 10.3.1 & 16.b.1: Proportion of the population reporting discrimination or harassment based on prohibited grounds under international law in the last year.**

Among IDPs, 7.3% reported experiencing discrimination, compared to 6.3% of non-IDPs. Although the difference is not large, it indicates that IDPs face slightly higher levels of discrimination.

<sup>38</sup> See: [GEOSTAT, Georgia - Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey - 2018](#)

35. In the context of forced displacement and statelessness, there are no changes required to the tools, questionnaires and data collection methods employed to collect data on SDG indicator 2.2.1. However, consideration should be made on the equipment, training and time required to perform proper anthropometric measurements, including the use of height-to-age z-scores. These approaches are globally accepted and remain applicable regardless of the population’s displacement status. These methods are well-established in household survey programs such as MICS and DHS, and have been successfully used in diverse contexts, including with displaced populations. However, special consideration should be given to the practical challenges in these settings, such as the availability of proper equipment, the need for additional training of enumerators, and the time required to ensure accurate anthropometric measurements in challenging field conditions.

36. Since anthropometric measures are typically recorded for children under five, and a significant number of refugee children are born in countries of displacement, this reinforces the fact that there would be no difference in how data is measured or analysed. UNHCR’s 2023 Global Trends Report states that, “69 percent of refugees and others in need of international protection lived in countries neighbouring their country of origin.”<sup>39</sup> SDG indicator 2.2.1 is collected on children under five, a significant portion of this group are likely to be born as refugees (66 percent of refugees were in “protracted situations” with populations over 25,000 living in a host country for 5 years or more<sup>40</sup>). Between 2018 and 2023, UNHCR estimates that more than 2 million children were born into refugee life, equivalent to approximately 339,000 children per year.<sup>41</sup>

### Indicator 3.1.2. Proportion of births attended by skilled health personnel

#### Definition of the indicator

37. This SDG indicator relates to the proportion of births attended by skilled health personnel. The numerator of SDG indicator 3.1.2 is the number of births attended by skilled health personnel (doctors, nurses, or midwives) trained in providing lifesaving obstetric care, including providing the necessary supervision, care, and advice to women during pregnancy, childbirth, and the post-partum period; to conduct childbirth on their own; and to care for newborns. The denominator of this SDG indicator is the total number of live births in the same period.

#### Identification of relevant data sources

38. The below table presents more information on the relevant guidance and tools for SDG indicator 3.1.2:

Guidance	Metadata	Questionnaire (s)	Custodian (s)
<a href="#">Delivery care, UNICEF</a>	<a href="#">SDG Indicator 3.1.2</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">MICS7</a> (assessed Nov 2023, Question MN19)</li> <li>• <a href="#">DHS</a> (assessed Nov 2023, Question 434)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF)</li> <li>• World Health Organization (WHO)</li> </ul>

<sup>39</sup> See: [UNHCR, Global Trends Report 2023](#)

<sup>40</sup> Ibid.

<sup>41</sup> See: [UNHCR, Refugee Data Finder – Data insights: Born into a refugee life](#)



## Special considerations for refugee, IDP, and stateless populations

39. In addition to standard survey strata, data should be available for refugee, internally displaced and stateless populations. No major adjustments to data collection approaches are required to collect SDG indicator 3.1.2 data on the population of interest in comparison to the general population. No additional consideration would be needed for individuals and households living in camps or camp-like settings. The denominator of this SDG indicator would require the number of live births in a given period for each of these population groups.
40. However, additional contextualization or customization of the questionnaire may be needed, to include skilled obstetrical staff in the response categories, if pathways for health services for refugees, internally displaced and stateless populations differ from that of the general population (e.g. medical staff in camp settings).

### Indicator 6.1.1. Proportion of population using safely managed drinking water services

#### Definition of the indicator

41. Safely managed drinking water services are defined as improved drinking water sources that are accessible on premises, available when needed, and free from fecal contamination. Improved sources include piped supplies, boreholes, protected dug wells, protected springs, rainwater, water kiosks, and packaged/delivered water. "Availability" refers to the household having access to sufficient water in the month before the survey. "Water available on premises" usually means that the water source is piped directly into the dwelling where the household resides. For camps and camp-like settings, this would include water piped into the settlement or a water source piped into the yard that belongs to the dwelling.
42. The term "drinking water source" refers to where people collect water for drinking, not the water's origin. Testing for *E. coli* in drinking water validates that it is free from fecal contamination and involves collecting samples from various sources and analysing them in a laboratory. Specialized data collection teams use precise techniques and tests to determine the presence and concentration of *E. coli*. The results are compared to international standards to assess water safety. If *E. coli* counts exceed acceptable limits, the water source is considered contaminated. This testing is crucial to ensure safe drinking water, as outlined in SDG indicator 6.1.1.

#### Identification of relevant data sources

43. Data sources for this SDG indicator include censuses, household surveys, administrative data, and other datasets compiled by international or regional initiatives or research institutes. Through collaboration with MICS, the WHO/UNICEF Joint Monitoring Programme (JMP) has designed standardized questions related to drinking water quality, contributing to improved data quality and comparability for monitoring drinking water services.
44. MICS, a globally recognized program supported by UNICEF that conducts household surveys in numerous countries, plays a significant role in providing data for SDG indicator 6.1.1. In addition, MICS collects comprehensive data on various aspects of well-being of household members, including drinking water sources and quality.
45. The below table presents more information on the relevant guidance and tools for SDG indicator 6.1.1:



Guidance	Metadata	Questionnaire (s)	Custodian (s)
<a href="#">WHO/UNICEF JMP</a>	<a href="#">SDG Indicator 6.1.1</a>	<a href="#">MICS7</a> (accessed Jan 2024)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>World Health Organization (WHO)</li> <li>United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)</li> </ul>

### Special considerations for refugee, IDP, and stateless populations

46. Compared to the general population, the identification of the drinking water source should be identical for populations living in camps or camp-like settings as the ones living in residential dwellings. Similarly, *E. coli* testing procedures are consistent across settings, and the equipment designated for the water quality testing is robust enough to be employed in camp settlements.
47. The data collection steps for SDG indicator 6.1.1 such as identifying the main water source, taking a sample, testing the sample, are likely to be the same for refugee, internally displaced and stateless populations. Therefore, no special considerations are expected to be relevant for data collection concerning SDG indicator 6.1.1. The same principles of access to water for dwellings that are residential (including informal if feasible) and collective living quarters should be applied to included sample of populations of interest.

### Indicator 11.1.1. Proportion of urban population living in slums, informal settlements or inadequate housing

#### Definition of the indicator

48. SDG indicator 11.1.1 contains three partly overlapping elements: slums, informal settlements, and inadequate housing. Put together, the three elements are covered by 8 criteria as shown in the table below:

**Table 3:** Criteria defining slums, informal settlements, and inadequate housing

	Slums	Informal settlements	Inadequate housing
Access to water	X	X	X
Access to sanitation	X	X	X
Sufficient living area, overcrowding	X		X
Structural quality, durability, location	X	X	X
Security of tenure	X	X	X
Affordability			X
Accessibility			X
Cultural adequacy			X

49. As seen from the table above, all criteria of informal settlements are covered by criteria for slums. The first five criteria thus make up the first component of the SDG indicator 11.1.1, which is closely associated with Millennium Development Goal 7.<sup>42</sup> However, as reported by UN-HABITAT, the

<sup>42</sup> Millennium Development Goals (MDG) 7 included a target to “To achieve substantial improvement in the lives of a minimum of 100 million slum dwellers by 2020”.

custodian of this indicator, only the first four criteria have been used in international statistics on SDG indicator 11.1.1 due to limited availability of data on “security of tenure.”<sup>43</sup>

50. The second component of the SDG indicator 11.1.1, includes criteria for “inadequate housing” that is not covered by the definition of “slums”, such as affordability, accessibility, and cultural adequacy. However, as affordability is the most relevant and easiest to calculate, “inadequate housing” is measured through affordability, specifically as less than 30 per cent of the monthly income of the household.
51. There is currently no methodological standard to combine the two components of the SDG indicator into one aggregate SDG indicator. This is partly because the two components are often measured using different data sources. Therefore, the two components (inadequate housing and security of tenure) are currently reported as two separate SDG indicators.

### Identification of relevant data sources

52. Data for the slum/informal settlements criteria of SDG indicator 11.1.1 can be computed from census and national household surveys, including, inter alia, Urban Inequities Surveys (UIS), MICS, DHS, World Health Surveys (WHS), LSMS, and Core Welfare Indicator Questionnaires (CWIQ).
53. Data for the inadequate housing component can be computed through income and household surveys that capture housing expenditures, for instance Integrated Household Budget Surveys. The below table presents more information on the relevant guidance and tools for SDG Indicator 11.1.1:

Guidance	Metadata	Questionnaire(s)	Custodian(s)
<a href="#">Guidance UN Habitat</a>	<a href="#">SDG Indicator 11.1.1</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Census</li> <li>• <a href="#">MICS7</a> (accessed July 2024, Household Questionnaire)</li> <li>• <a href="#">DHS</a> (accessed July 2024, Household Questionnaire)</li> <li>• LSMS</li> <li>• UIS</li> </ul>	United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat)

### Special considerations for refugee, IDP, and stateless populations

54. This SDG indicator's main strength is using standard elements/questions from major household survey programs. This standardization affords comparability and enhances data availability as these programs, or at least comparable data collection exercises, are conducted in most countries. However, the temporary nature of housing for many refugees or IDPs, makes it unclear how well this SDG indicator will capture the true housing situation for these population groups.
55. For the slum component, a major weakness is the lack of available data on security of tenure. This is an important element for refugee, IDP and stateless individuals and households and would thus be important to measure, but due to lack of data, this element is currently not included in computations of this SDG indicator.

<sup>43</sup> See: [UN Habitat, SDG Indicator 11.1.1: Adequate Housing and Slum Upgrading](#)

56. Similarly, for the inadequate housing component, the main issue is lack of available data. However, with regular Integrated Household Budget Surveys conducted in many countries, this may be more due to lack of analysis than lack of data. For people in most refugee and IDP settings, housing may be temporary but also provided for free by humanitarian agencies or governments. There is thus a need for methodological guidance on how to capture housing affordability in camp and camp-like settings.
57. Data collected for this slum/informal settlement component is through standard household surveys, including census and national household surveys conducted by NSOs. The computation of this SDG indicator is mainly based on data sources that contain information about all five components of slums: improved water, improved sanitation, durable housing, sufficient living area and secure tenure. The inadequate housing component of this SDG indicator is based on housing expenditures collected through income and household surveys. At the global level, data are assembled and compiled for international use and comparison by UN-Habitat and other partners.
58. The five elements that make up the composite measure are often part of refugee and internal displacement surveys with no observed adaptations. The main challenges associated with this SDG indicator are due to its urban focus. For example, refugees or IDPs living in rural areas may be inaccurately included in the SDG indicator if the label for camps and camp-like settings, is misclassified as urban. When preparing this SDG indicator for refugee and IDP populations this has implications both for the numerator and the denominator. How camps and camp-like settings are labelled, urban or rural, is thus of importance. Refugees/IDPs living in rural areas should not be covered by this SDG indicator.
59. Given the specific circumstances relating to housing in camps or camp-like settings, considerations are needed when collecting data on SDG indicator 11.1.1. Although a camp or camp-like setting may technically meet all or some of the criteria in this SDG indicator, it is likely that some (e.g. affordability or security of tenure) of them are not met. In any case, it will be important to ensure that equal assessment of housing conditions in camp and camp-like settings are included in enumerator training. It may be that certain elements (e.g., access to water/sanitation) may apply to all inhabitants. Therefore, some information may need to be collected at camp level and procedures put in place to ensure standard reporting at household/individual levels.
60. As mentioned earlier, the measurement of affordability may not be accurate in a camp and camp-like settings where housing can be temporary and provided for free. Another limitation of this SDG indicator is its limited applicability to rural populations. The Compilers' Manual recommends that camps and camp-like settings not be considered institutional populations precisely to ensure the full inclusion of households therein (para. 40 in Use Case A). However, methodological guidance may be needed on how to assign such populations as urban or rural (e.g., should this be based on proximity to other rural areas, to the size of the camp, or are all camps considered as urban).
61. No changes are recommended for the collection of SDG indicator 11.1.1 for refugee and IDP populations. However, approaches to camps and camp-like settings, both in sampling considerations and in assessment of housing conditions, will likely need additional training and context-specificity.

## Livelihood and economic self-reliance

### Indicator 1.2.1. Proportion of population living below the national poverty line, by sex and age

#### Definition of the indicator

62. The SDG indicator 1.2.1 measures the proportion of the population living below the national poverty line, by sex and age. The data for this SDG indicator is collected from nationally representative household surveys, which gather information on spending habits and/or sources of income. Consumption or income data is calculated for the entire household, and adjustments are made to reflect the size of the household. The consumption or income aggregate of a given household is then compared against a national poverty line (or a set of poverty lines) to determine whether the household as a whole is above or below that line. The number of people in households below the line is then aggregated to estimate the number of poor individuals in a country.
63. The national poverty rate uses country-specific poverty lines that reflect the economic and social circumstances of each country. In some cases, the poverty lines may be adjusted for different areas within the country, such as urban and rural areas, to account for differences in prices or the availability of goods and services. The collection and analysis of data on consumption and prices to compute consumption aggregates for monetary poverty estimation is a complex and challenging area of survey work.
64. The guidelines for constructing a consumption aggregate for SDG indicator 1.2.1 recommend including food consumption (both at home and away), non-food items, and the use value of durable goods and housing, while excluding large, rare expenditures, donations, gifts, investment expenditures, and savings. The decision on whether to include health and education expenditures should be based on their income elasticity, while the value of leisure time and public goods is often excluded due to challenges in valuation.

#### Identification of relevant data sources

65. The below table presents more information on the relevant guidance and tools for SDG indicator 1.2.1:

Guidance	Metadata	Questionnaire (s)	Custodian (s)
<a href="#">WB Poverty and Inequality Platform</a>	<a href="#">SDG Indicator 1.2.1</a>	National poverty surveys (e.g. HIES, HBS, LSMS, EICV, etc.)	World Bank

#### Special considerations for refugee, IDP, and stateless populations

66. A poverty line as a socially determined normative minimum consumption expenditure or income value may not always align with household utility, particularly in refugee and IDP populations where limited choices in consumption may occur.
67. Moreover, challenges could potentially arise in valuing food and non-food consumption, especially in refugee and internally displaced populations living in camps or sites, where goods may be received for free without associated price information, and where goods may be consumed and





traded that are not readily found in other parts of the country. Any decision to impute prices from nearby households or other data sources such as price indices needs to be assessed as an additional challenging step, considering if populations living in camps/sites operate as separate markets with different price structures<sup>44</sup>. Obtaining local prices and conducting complementary price surveys may be necessary to ensure accurate measurement of monetary poverty among both refugee and internally displaced populations living in camps.

68. Several other factors may impact the assessment of poverty among refugee, and IDP populations compared to general populations, especially where they live in camps or sites:

- Incorporating the use value of housing into consumption expenditure aggregates is recommended but presents challenges in camps/sites, where rent for housing is often not paid, and the nature of dwellings may be very different from dwellings found elsewhere in the country. Accurately assessing the value of housing within camps/sites requires special survey efforts to determine its worth outside their living context, particularly important for comparison with national poverty estimates where the latter are based on consumption aggregates that include the use value of housing.
- Assessing monetary poverty at the household level, rather than the individual level, introduces complexities in defining household size consistently across populations (especially where survey samples are derived from registration databases)<sup>45</sup>. It is important to align household definitions across displaced and non-displaced populations to ensure accurate poverty analysis.
- While various other factors, such as incentives to misreport welfare-related characteristics,<sup>46</sup> may also influence reported consumption or income, there is a lack of comprehensive evidence on this issue.

69. To estimate SDG indicator 1.2.1 on monetary poverty for refugee and internally displaced populations, especially those residing in camps or sites, some challenges and nuances come to light.

70. Although there are some complexities in evaluating both food and non-food consumption among displaced populations, particularly in estimating the value of goods distributed freely to refugee and internally displaced persons in camp settings that may have different market and price structures compared to the rest of a country, such exercises are generally feasible.

71. Addressing these challenges requires meticulous planning, including conducting qualitative assessments to ascertain the availability of price data, understanding trade dynamics both within and outside camps/sites, and implementing sound strategies to impute missing prices where necessary. Beyond such special attention, no systematic changes are required to the “standard” methodology of SDG Indicator 1.2.1 when applied on a sample of refugee and internally displaced populations.

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<sup>44</sup> Sohnesen et al. (forthcoming): Challenges in measuring monetary poverty among forcibly displaced populations in camps and their hosts.

<sup>45</sup> See: [UNHCR proGres Database: Handling differences between cases and households](#)

<sup>46</sup> See: [World Bank, Eliciting Accurate Responses to Consumption Questions among IDPs in South Sudan Using “Honesty Primes”](#)



## Indicator 4.1.1. Proportion of children and young people achieving at least a minimum proficiency level in mathematics

### Definition of the indicator

72. SDG 4.1.1 is seen as the milestone indicator for SDG 4. As such, in recent years a substantial amount of guidance on reporting SDG indicator 4.1.1 (see for example, UIS, 2023<sup>47</sup>) has been put together, which would allow countries that have not yet applied SDG indicator 4.1.1 at the national level to do so. This comprises a Global Content Framework (GCF), delineating the content framework to ensure comparability across tests.
73. The Content Alignment Tool (CAT) is a questionnaire developed to evaluate the alignment of national assessment programs with the GCF. Additionally, the CAT includes minimum proficiency levels and reporting protocols. Available metadata provides definitions of the competencies required for minimum proficiency for both reading and math, and suggests potential data sources for each (UIS, 2023).

### Identification of relevant data sources

74. The main data sources for SDG 4.1.1 can be divided into 4 broad categories:
- International Learning Assessments (e.g., Progress in International Reading Literacy Study (PIRLS), Trends in International Mathematics and Science Study (TIMSS -4th Grade), and Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA),
  - Regional Learning Assessments (e.g., Regional Comparative and Explanatory Study (ERCE), Programme for the Analysis of Education Systems (PASEC), Southeast Asia Primary Learning Metrics (SEA-PLM), and others),
  - National Learning Assessments, which are conducted at set points in the academic cycle (e.g., end of primary, lower secondary and upper secondary) within education systems, and
  - Household surveys (e.g., UNICEF’s Foundational Learning Module in MICS6, citizen-led assessments such as those run by the PAL network, and Early Grade Reading Assessment (EGRA)/ Early Grade Mathematics Assessment (EGMA)) (UIS, 2023).
75. The extent to which each of these can be used depends on the sub-indicators for SDG 4.1.1, with fewer options for SDG 4.1.1.c which measures learning at the end of secondary level as compared with SDG 4.1.1.a which does so at the end of grade 2/3. This is due to the complexity of skills that need to be tested. The below table presents more information on the relevant guidance and tools for SDG Indicator 4.1.1:

Guidance	Metadata	Questionnaire(s)	Custodian(s)
<a href="#">UNESCO Reporting Protocol</a>	<a href="#">SDG Indicator 4.1.1</a>	<a href="#">MICS7</a> (accessed Dec 2023, Module FL)	UNESCO

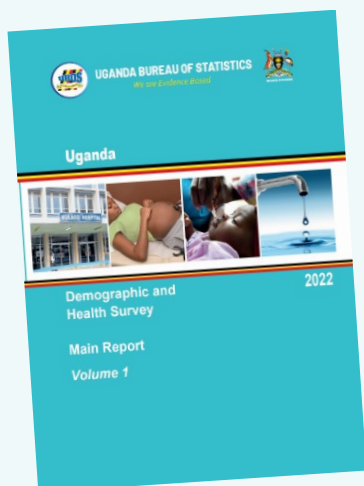
<sup>47</sup> See: [UNESCO, Protocol for Reporting SDG Indicator 4.1.1](#)

## **Special considerations for refugee, IDP, and stateless populations**

76. Reporting on this SDG indicator poses challenges due to the diverse approaches utilized in monitoring learning outcomes and the necessity of establishing a common framework for comparability. This weakness lies in the essential methodological decisions required, such as determining test formats and sampling approaches, to implement and account for refugee and IDP populations. Additionally, incorporating out-of-school children is challenging and may often require more expensive assessments, potentially disproportionately impacting target populations.
77. On the positive side, the strength of this SDG indicator is evident in the substantial guidance provided, which proves equally valuable in addressing any special considerations for target populations.
78. Regional and international large-scale school-based learning assessments serve as valuable data sources for this SDG indicator. National learning assessments also represent potential sources. However, countries may employ methods that are not comparable and are often exclusively administered in schools, overlooking out-of-school populations. UIS offers guidance on aligning these varied approaches.
79. Special considerations apply to any form of learning assessment due to the following factors:
- Potential language differences between refugee/IDP/stateless population and the general population. Translation of text for estimating literacy may be necessary, as well as hiring enumerators who are versed in enumerating in needed languages.
  - Curriculum disparities in camps and camp-like settings, may exist and determine the need for adjustments in the assessment of key milestones like 'end of primary' due to the use of host or home/place of usual residence curriculum.
  - Logistical challenges, including ensuring access to examination centres, need to be addressed.
  - The identification of forcibly displaced or stateless populations when applying learning assessments outside of household surveys will require attention. While identification can be done through a set of identification questions (as suggested in IRIS and IRRS) for household surveys, the same approach may not be applicable to learning assessments. In learning assessments, students are often asked key questions for identification, and especially with younger students (e.g., for SDG indicators 4.1.1.a and 4.1.1.b), questioning children about their refugee or displacement status may not be appropriate or yield accurate answers. Alternative procedures may need to be put into place, such as consulting teachers or cross-referencing with EMIS (where individual-level EMIS exists).
80. Based on this analysis, collecting data on the target populations for SDG indicator 4.1.1 is feasible, particularly for populations that speak or attend school in existing national languages. Although challenges can exist in aligning data for individuals displaced across borders due to language and curriculum differences, as well as difficulties in identifying displaced populations (especially in cases without individual-level Education Management Information Systems), the SDG indicator remains relevant. Careful planning will be necessary to ensure the inclusion of such populations in the data collection process.

## Country Case Study 2: Uganda

### Availability of Data for Refugee Populations in Uganda's 2022 Demographic and Health Survey<sup>48</sup>



The inclusion of refugee populations in the 2022 Uganda Demographic and Health Survey (UDHS-7)<sup>49</sup> provides valuable insights into the status of SDG indicators for some of the most vulnerable groups in Uganda. The 2022 UDHS provides a comprehensive data collection effort aimed at monitoring population health, well-being, and living conditions across the country, including a refugee population subsample in the data collection process. The survey was implemented by the Uganda Bureau of Statistics (UBOS), in collaboration with development partners (UNFPA, UNICEF, UNHCR, and the World Bank). The sampling frame for refugee settlements, was provided by UNHCR and included 77 clusters selected from refugee areas using probability proportional to size. This approach allowed for a more robust and accurate assessment of key SDG indicators relevant to refugee populations.

The 2022 UDHS tracks five priority SDG indicators in relation to refugee populations, however data is currently available for only two of these indicators.

#### Key findings:

##### **SDG Indicator 3.1.2: Proportion of Births Attended by Skilled Health Personnel.**

Among the general population, the proportion of births attended by a skilled health provider was recorded at 99.9%, indicating universal access to maternal healthcare services. For refugee populations, this proportion was similarly high, with 97.8% of deliveries attended by skilled health personnel, demonstrating that refugees in Uganda have good access to essential maternal healthcare services.

##### **SDG Indicator 7.1.1: Proportion of the Population with Access to Electricity.**

The UDHS-7 data shows that, while 26.3% of the general population in Uganda has access to electricity, only 4.3% of the refugee population enjoys this basic service. This stark disparity underscores the challenges that refugee populations face in accessing essential infrastructure and services in Uganda.

With the publication of additional data, UDHS-7 could also present findings on SDG indicator 2.2.1 (Prevalence of stunting among children under 5 years of age), SDG 6.1.1 indicator (Proportion of the population using safely managed drinking water services), and SDG 16.9.1 indicator (Proportion of children under 5 years of age whose births have been registered with a civil authority).

<sup>48</sup> See: EGRISS' Country Case Study for Uganda: [Including refugees in the Demographic and Health Survey](#).

<sup>49</sup> See: [UBOS, Uganda - Demographic and Health Survey Main Report - 2022](#)



## Indicator 7.1.1. Proportion of population with access to electricity

### Definition of the indicator

81. SDG indicator 7.1.1 can be treated as a binary measure describing access/no access to an electrical grid, but within this simple yes/no answer is a series of complexities. One is defining access to electricity as access to an official electrical grid; use of a generator, for example, is not sufficient to qualify for achievement against Goal 7. This approach disregards many aspects of electricity use implicated in inequalities among households – like availability (duration of the access during the day), reliability (unscheduled outages), quality (voltage), affordability of use, legality of connection to the grid as well as health and safety access of accessing electricity. Electrical grids will vary in their dependability and access to them fluctuates widely across urban to rural divides in many countries.

### Identification of relevant data sources

82. Electricity information is typically gathered in Multi-tier Framework (MTF), DHS, LSMS, MICS, WHS, as well as other nationally developed and implemented surveys, including those by various government agencies (for example, ministries of energy and utilities). The below table presents more information on the relevant guidance and tools for SDG Indicator 7.1.1:

Guidance	Metadata	Questionnaire (s)	Custodian (s)
<a href="#">Global Tracking Framework Report</a>	<a href="#">SDG Indicator 7.1.1</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><a href="#">MICS7</a> (accessed Jan 2024, Question HC08/HC08A)</li> <li><a href="#">DHS</a> (accessed Jan 2024, Question 132)</li> </ul>	World Bank

### Special considerations for refugee, IDP, and stateless populations indicator

83. The metadata notes that “In many parts of the world, the presence of an electricity connection does not guarantee that the energy supplied is reliable, affordable or of adequate quality.”<sup>50</sup> Rolling blackouts, high cost of access to an electrical grid, or other challenges are certain complications to genuine electrical access. Measuring these adds significant complexity and more disaggregates than are often feasible in most contexts where IDPs, refugees, and stateless people live. To maintain simplicity of analysis and reduce data burden, the SDG indicator can be kept as a binary access/no access question but doing so will limit the descriptive capability of the data collected.

84. The ESMAP Multi-tier Framework for Energy Access measures SDG indicator 7.1.1 with a five-tier framework of access and reasons for lack of access. The ESMAP framework would be more illuminating for IDP, refugee, and stateless households, but also requires significant investment of staff and beneficiary time as well as funding. Although longer than a single question with “yes” and “no” response categories, it does not add great length to the questionnaire, nor does it present burden for respondents to provide clear answers.

<sup>50</sup> See: [SDG 7.1.1 Indicator Metadata](#)

85. Some typical methods risk rendering priority populations invisible. For example, surveys that rely on official records of home or land ownership could exclude stateless people who do not have documentation or who live a nomadic lifestyle with or without access to electrical power.
86. Currently, SDG indicator 7.1.1 is a binary measure, only indicating whether there is access or a lack thereof to electricity via a grid (national or standalone), and primarily focusing on households. However, this approach doesn't encompass everyone, as nationally representative household surveys often exclude those residing in collective living quarters, sometimes referred to as institutional households.
87. For refugee, IDP and stateless populations living in households within the general population, there are no specific considerations needed to collect data on access to electricity. However, for those living in camps or camp-like settings, access to electricity should be assessed within their designated dwelling units. This assessment ranges from basic lighting powered by the grid and the ability to charge a phone (Tier 1, as per ESMAP Technical Report 008/15) to the capacity to use high-power appliances.
88. If refugee, IDP and/or stateless households reside in locations that have access only to communal power, such as shared facilities, communal kitchens, or shared residential areas, but not in their primary residence, this access cannot be considered as access to power. This situation is reminiscent of enumerating access to electricity in remote and resource-constrained rural areas, where access may exist in some communal buildings (e.g., health facilities or administrative buildings) but rural households themselves lack access to electricity.



### Indicator 8.3.1. Proportion of informal employment in total employment, by sex

#### Definition of the indicator

89. SDG indicator 8.3.1 presents the share of employment which is classified as informal employment in the total economy, and separately in agriculture and in non-agriculture. The current international standards for measuring informal employment are contained in Resolution I concerning statistics on the informal economy, adopted by the 21<sup>st</sup> International Conference of Labour Statisticians (ICLS) in 2023.<sup>51</sup>
90. According to the Resolution, “informal employment is defined as any activity of persons to produce goods or provide services for pay or profit that is -in law or in practice- not covered by formal arrangements such as commercial laws, procedures to report economic activities, income taxation, labour legislation and social security laws and regulations providing protection against economic and personal risks associated with carrying out the activities.
91. Informal employment comprises activities carried out in relation to informal jobs held by:
  - a. independent workers who operate and own or co-own an informal household unincorporated market enterprise;
  - b. dependent contractors who do not have a formal status in relation to the legal administrative framework or whose activities are not effectively covered by formal arrangements;

<sup>51</sup> See: [ILO, Resolution Concerning Statistics on the Informal Economy](#)

- c. employees, if their employment relationship is not, in practice, formally recognized by the employer in relation to the legal administrative framework of the country or not associated with effective access to formal arrangements; and
  - d. contributing family workers whose work relationships are not formally recognized in relation to the legal administrative framework of the country or not associated with effective access to formal arrangements.” (para. 56)
92. Recent standards, integrated in the Resolution, specify the following criteria in defining and measuring informal jobs among:
- a. Independent workers (employers and independent workers without employees): who own and operate an unregistered enterprise are deemed to hold informal jobs.
  - b. Dependent contractors: who are either not registered for tax purposes or are registered but lack effective access to formal arrangements, such as job-related social insurance, are considered to have informal jobs.
  - c. Employees: whose employer does not contribute to one or more nationally relevant statutory social insurance schemes which are job-specific (i.e., dependent on holding the particular job and not universal). Furthermore, a lack of access to paid annual leave or lack of access to paid sick leave are two relevant criteria to further support the operational definition. Additional national criteria such as a lack of a written employment contract or in the situation of refugee and IDP populations, absence of a work permit could be relevant to enhance the efficiency of the operational definition of informal jobs for employees.
  - d. Contributing family workers: where formal arrangements do not cover contributing family workers, by default they are considered to have an informal job. In countries with formal arrangements for contributing family workers, those whose jobs are unregistered, for whom contributions are not made to job-related statutory social insurance, or whose jobs are within an informal enterprise, are considered to hold informal jobs.

### Identification of relevant data sources

93. National labour force surveys are the main data source for SDG indicator 8.3.1. Where labour force surveys are not in place, other surveys that capture the employment characteristics of the population, such as living conditions surveys may also be considered. The below table presents more information on the relevant guidance and tools for SDG Indicator 8.3.1:

Guidance	Metadata	Questionnaire (s)	Custodian (s)
<a href="#">Guidebook on SDG Labour Market Indicators</a>	<a href="#">SDG Indicator 8.3.1</a>	<a href="#">ILO model LFS</a>	ILO

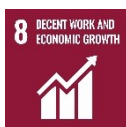
### Special considerations for refugee, IDP, and stateless populations

94. As elaborated in UNHCR’s whitepaper entitled “Developing a Standardized Employment Module”<sup>52</sup>, the concept of formality (as per ICLS Resolution) which emphasizes the de facto application of legal regulations regarding enterprise regulation and worker protection, is particularly relevant to

<sup>52</sup> See: [UNHCR, Enhancing UNHCR Socioeconomic Assessment: Developing a Standardized Employment Module](#)

middle- and lower-income countries where informal employment is most prevalent. As a result, more than 60% of the world’s workers are categorized as being in informal employment and in Africa, 86% of employment is informal. While both the Global Compact on Refugees stresses the importance of formalizing refugees’ employment situations, the challenge in many displacement contexts lies in specifying operational criteria that account for both the lack of legal coverage and, in practice, a lack of compliance with employment protections extended to refugee populations.

- 95. To include refugee, IDP and statelessness populations more comprehensively in data on informal employment, one potential proposal would be the addition of a “paid incentive worker” response category to questions on status in employment. This status should be treated as “employee” for purposes of measuring informal employment, as the operational measurement of informal employment differs by status in employment.



### Indicator 8.5.2. Unemployment rate, by sex, age, and persons with disabilities

#### Definition of the indicator

- 96. SDG indicator 8.5.2 concerns the unemployment rate and conveys the percentage of persons in the labour force who are unemployed. Unemployed persons, aged 15 and above, are those not in employment, actively seeking a job in the last four weeks or one month, and currently available for employment. "Seek employment" includes activities aimed at finding a job, starting a business, or a market-oriented agricultural undertaking. For persons seeking to start a self-employment activity, the distinction between seeking and employment depends on the enterprise's registration or when resources and infrastructure are in place to operate. Currently available version of “seeking employment” assesses readiness within a short reference period. The labour force is the sum of persons employed and unemployed. The definition follows Resolution I concerning statistics of work, employment, and labour underutilization, adopted by the 19<sup>th</sup> International Conference of Labour Statisticians in 2013.<sup>53</sup>

#### Identification of relevant data sources

- 97. National labour force surveys are the main data source for SDG indicator 8.5.2. Where labour force surveys are not in place, the population census or other surveys that capture the labour force characteristics of the population, such as living conditions surveys, household income and expenditure surveys and similar, may be considered. The below table presents more information on the relevant guidance and tools for SDG indicator 8.5.2:

Guidance	Metadata	Questionnaire (s)	Custodian (s)
<a href="#">Guidebook on SDG Labour Market Indicators</a>	<a href="#">SDG Indicator 8.5.2</a>	<a href="#">ILO model LFS</a>	ILO

#### Special considerations for refugee, IDP, and stateless populations

- 98. Unemployment rate is a widely used and widely understood statistical indicator. Statistically speaking, unemployment refers to persons not in employment and seeking a job (within the four

<sup>53</sup> See: [ILO, Work Statistics - 19th ICLS \(WORK Database\)](#)



weeks prior to the reference date) and who are available to start work within a specified reference period. However, unemployment rate does not include the potential labour force (those that want to work, were available to work, but did not seek work for different reasons including discouragement, and vice versa) nor other forms of labour underutilization that signify an unmet need for employment. The concept and measure of labour underutilization (which includes three groups of persons: the unemployed, those in time-related underemployment, that is persons employed working less than full time, wanting and available to work more hours, and the potential labour force) may be a more insightful priority SDG indicator in refugee and IDP contexts.

99. To collect data on the unemployment rate for refugee and IDP populations, it is recommended to use the standard question sequence, therefore, no modifications are deemed necessary for accurate measurement, as confirmed by UNHCR’s “Developing a Standardized Employment Module”<sup>54</sup>. The standard sequence which allows classification of persons by their labour force status, as employed, unemployed and outside the labour force, also supports identification of the potential labour force. Inclusion of the basic questions to identify persons in time-related underemployment (hours worked, desire and availability to work more hours) would further enable to complement the unemployment rate with other measures of labour underutilization, as recommended by the 19<sup>th</sup> ICLS Resolution I concerning statistics of work, employment, and labour underutilization (para. 73c), to better reflect inadequate access to employment opportunities among refugees and IDP populations.

## Civil, political, and legal rights

### Indicator 1.4.2. Proportion of total adult population with secure tenure rights to land, (a) with legally recognized documentation, and (b) who perceive their rights to land as secure, by sex and type of tenure

#### Definition of the indicator

100. SDG indicator 1.4.2 is composed of two complementary sub-indicators that proxy secure tenure rights by looking at “legally recognized documentation” of tenure rights to land and “perceptions of tenure security”, given the need to complement formal measures of tenure security with perception-based measures. Thus, the two sub-components will be reported separately.
101. The custodians of this SDG indicator (UN-Habitat and the World Bank), together with the custodian agency for SDG indicator 5.a.1, have developed a guidance note<sup>55</sup> on how to collect data for these two SDG indicators, as the data collection requirements overlap in large part. Depending on the structure of the survey (depending on whether self-reported data collection is feasible, whether parcel-level data is feasible and whether full parcel roster exists in the questionnaire), the guidance note offers 5 different variations of the questionnaire module. The modules will produce both SDG sub-indicators, and they are ready for inclusion in any multi-topic household survey.
102. To construct SDG sub-indicator (a), all relevant tenure arrangements in the country will need to be identified and all tenure-related documents identified as those that constitute legally recognised documentation and those that do not. Examples include titles, leaseholds, use rights certificates,

<sup>54</sup> See: [UNHCR, Enhancing UNHCR Socioeconomic Assessment: Developing a Standardized Employment Module](#)

<sup>55</sup> See: [FAO; The World Bank; UN-Habitat. 2019. Measuring Individuals’ Rights to Land: An Integrated Approach to Data](#)



rental agreements, etc. Adults will be classified as having legally recognized documentation if, for at least one parcel of land, a) they have access to the land under a tenure arrangement identified and legally recognised by the government, and b) the document lists their name as a rights holder.

103. To construct SDG sub-indicator (b), perceptions of tenure security are based on a fear of involuntary loss of the land within the next five years and the landholder’s right to bequeath the land.

### Identification of relevant data source

104. The data sources used are census, multi-topic household surveys conducted by National Statistical Organizations and, depending on availability, administrative data on land tenure reported by national land institutions (in most cases land registries and cadastres). The below table presents more information on the relevant guidance and tools for SDG indicator 1.4.2:

Guidance	Metadata	Questionnaire (s)	Custodian (s)
<a href="#">Measuring Individuals’ Rights to Land</a>	<a href="#">SDG Indicator 1.4.2</a>	<a href="#">The Questionnaire Module</a> (Annex to Metadata)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• UN Habitat</li> <li>• World Bank</li> </ul>

### Special considerations for refugee, IDP, and stateless populations

105. This topic is relevant for refugee and IDP populations as insecurity regarding land vacated by displacement is a key feature of the displacement itself. A key challenge when collecting this SDG indicator in a displacement setting is that most refugees and IDPs will be currently living away from their habitual place of residence where they may own most of their land. It is therefore important to include a prompt in the questionnaire to include parcels owned elsewhere. Supplemental data collected on land tenure from habitual residence can be published to highlight the gaps with data from locations of displacement. It should also be noted that some IDPs have land they are unable to access (especially in context of conflict). Nevertheless, it is important that these land parcels are included in the survey and reported on.

106. The guidance note has 2 versions of the questionnaires that are more suited to refugee and IDP settings, versions 3 and 5. This is because these versions are not conducted at parcel levels. Rather, it asks about a specific individual’s land holdings in aggregate. The only issue to note is that respondents need to be prompted to consider land owned or accessed in their habitual place of residence.

107. The fact that refugee and IDPs may have had to leave in a hurry without being able to safely bring all documentation of land ownership may mean that they will struggle to respond to question 3 and 4 of version 3 (and similar questions in version 5) on types of documentation of ownership of land.

108. In preparation for the module on land tenure, the NSO is expected to prepare metadata on the following:

1. A comprehensive list of all tenure types applicable to the country;
2. A comprehensive list of land tenure-related documents, specifying which ones the government considers as legally recognised;
3. Images of the documents considered legally recognised;

4. A context-specific definition of alienation rights; and,
5. Linkages between survey and administrative data, if applicable.

109. Additionally, customization for the context will be needed in terms of the response codes for some questions, such as traditional land area units. For refugees who own land in their country of origin, the country-specific list may not capture their type of ownership, or the documentation may look different from the country of the survey. Special care should be taken by the survey team to allow for documentation of ownership of land from other countries when conducting the survey in a camps or camp-like settings.

110. In summary, SDG indicator 1.4.2 is an indicator that is of special relevance to people in refugee and IDP settings. However, care should be taken when collecting the required data as it is crucial to incorporate information about land ownership in the respondents' original habitually inhabited places, as survey questions often concentrate on land in the present location. Additionally, refugee and IDP populations might encounter challenges recalling or providing documentation related to secure tenure, which could have been lost during displacement. Furthermore, refugees may possess different forms of land tenure documentation compared to the standard practices in the survey country, necessitating a nuanced approach to accurately capture their land ownership status.

111. Given that the points above are addressed in the survey implementation, no major changes to the survey tool are recommended.

### Indicator 16.1.4. Proportion of population that feel safe walking alone around the area they live

#### Definition of the indicator

112. SDG indicator 16.1.4 is based on a single survey question that can be included into ongoing general population surveys or be part of dedicated surveys on crime victimization. Data should be collected as part of a nationally representative probability sample of the adult population (this typically refers to the population aged 18 years and above) residing in the country, irrespective of legal residence status.

113. The question is intended to capture the respondents' perception of safety when thinking about crime, although it does not explicitly mention crime. However, there may be other reasons unrelated to crime such as wild animals or high traffic that result in respondents not feeling safe enough to walk around their neighbourhood after dark.

114. The strengths of this data collection method lie in its single question ready for inclusion in well-established household survey programs, providing representative samples. The question used is: How safe do you feel walking alone in your area/neighbourhood after dark? Answer options are typically: 1) very safe, 2) safe, 3) unsafe, 4), very unsafe, 5) I never go out alone at night/does not apply, 6) don't know. For respondent answering with 5, it is recommended to probe with the following question: "How safe *would* you feel if you went outside after dark?". The proportion of the population that feel safe is calculated by adding the number of respondents who feel "very safe" and "safe," divided by the total number of respondents and multiplied by 100.



115. Where the respondent’s answer is “unsafe” or “very unsafe”, the following probing question may be asked to further understand why respondents feel unsafe: “Why do you feel unsafe walking alone in your area/neighbourhood at night after dark?”.
116. This SDG indicator is specifically designed to identify vulnerable groups with its metadata emphasizing that this information can be collected “irrespective of the legal residence status” of respondents and describes the concept of “neighbourhood” as also meaning an “area in which a respondent lives”.
117. The difference between computing figures for the general population and specific groups like refugees, IDPs or stateless populations are minimal given that only one data point is used for compilation. Applying it to refugee, IDP and stateless populations, can contribute to a deeper understanding of their specific vulnerabilities. In fact, the metadata recommends breaking down the SDG indicator to include categories compatible with refugee, IDP and other classificatory variables (such as migration background and citizenship), adding a displacement background variable would align well for these population groups.

### Identification of relevant data sources

118. UNODC through the annual UN Survey of Crime Trends and Operations of Criminal Justice Systems (UN-CTS) is the custodian of this SDG indicator and is responsible for compiling regional and global figures. Besides including a question in victimization surveys<sup>56</sup>, many other household surveys can also easily contain a question on the feeling of safety. For example, the MICS program has a question on SDG indicator 16.1.4 in its victimization module<sup>57</sup>, while a question on SDG indicator 16.1.4 is also included in the Questionnaire of the SDG 16 Survey Initiative.<sup>58</sup>
119. The below table presents more information on the relevant guidance and tools for SDG indicator 16.1.4:

Guidance	Metadata	Questionnaire (s)	Custodian (s)
<a href="#">SDG 16 Initiative</a> <a href="#">Other</a>	<a href="#">SDG Indicator 16.1.4</a>	Single survey question (“How safe do you feel walking alone in your area/neighbourhood after dark?”)	UNODC

### Special Considerations for Refugee, IDP, and Stateless Populations

120. No changes to question wording, probing text or answer options are recommended to collect data on refugee, IDP and stateless populations for SDG indicator 16.1.4. Adherence to the default wording and delivery mode is recommended in line with the SDG16 Survey Initiative questionnaire as it is important for standardization of the SDG indicator and comparability of estimates.
121. Sensitivity to cultural norms and customs as well as the prevalence of discrimination should be considered and incorporated into the training, and this remains true for refugee and IDP populations i.e. it may be culturally inappropriate for certain population groups including women to go out alone.

<sup>56</sup> See: [UNODC, 2009 - Manual on Victimization Surveys](#) as well as regional examples such as the [Latin America and the Caribbean Crime Victimization Survey Initiative \(LACSI\)](#): [UNODC, Centro de Excelencia](#)

<sup>57</sup> See: [UNICEF, MICS - Victimization Module](#)

<sup>58</sup> See: [UNODC, UNODC & OHCHR 2022. SDG 16 Survey Initiative](#)

Furthermore, specific restrictions may increase the difficulty for some groups to leave their homes at night, including persons with disabilities.

122. “Area you live in” or “neighbourhood” might need a dedicated definition or explanation depending on the area and circumstances the study population live in, especially for populations living in camps or camp-like settings. This could be included in the training process and instruction manual for interviewers.
123. Adjustment of the definition of “neighbourhood” to the local context is mentioned in the Implementation Manual for the SDG16 Survey Initiative<sup>59</sup>. Enumerator training regarding how to operationalize the meaning of neighbourhood, particularly in camp and camp-like settings, requires careful consideration and planning but no modifications to the questionnaire.
124. Restrictions on the free movement of refugees, for example in the form of a night-time curfew in camps and camp-like settings, can mean that they have little opportunity to be outside or move within a larger neighbourhood after dark, but fear of crime can arise due to factors related to the circumstances in the camp as well.
125. While the probing question recommended in the SDG16 survey is designed to capture the hypothetical feeling of safety, for those who never walk alone after dark, it can be argued that SDG indicator 16.1.4 has limited usefulness. While there is no obvious adjustment available for such situations that would keep the SDG indicator values comparable, it is recommended to contextualize communicated SDG indicator estimates and describe the movement restrictions the study population lives under. The GCR indicator 2.1.2, the proportion of refugees who can move freely within the host country, provides a framework to measure the legal aspects of such restrictions.

### Indicator 16.9.1. Proportion of children under 5 years of age whose births have been registered with a civil authority, by age

#### Definition of the indicator

126. SDG indicator 16.9.1 pertains to the proportion of children under 5 years of age whose births have been registered with a civil authority. This SDG indicator aligns with Goal 16, which aims to promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, ensure access to justice for all, and build effective, accountable, and inclusive institutions at all levels.

#### Identification of relevant data sources

127. Regarding the data source for this SDG indicator 16.9.1, the metadata refers to the type of data source and the method of data collection under the section titled "Data source type and data collection method." Information needed for this SDG indicator can be collected either through administrative sources, like civil registration systems, household surveys asking if a child has a birth certificate (MICS survey has only 3 questions). For a comprehensive understanding, the complete metadata would be required, especially to ascertain any additional data sources and specific considerations for various contexts. The below table presents more information on the relevant guidance and tools for SDG indicator 16.9.1:

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<sup>59</sup> See: [UNODC, UNODC & OHCHR 2022. SDG 16 Survey Initiative](#)



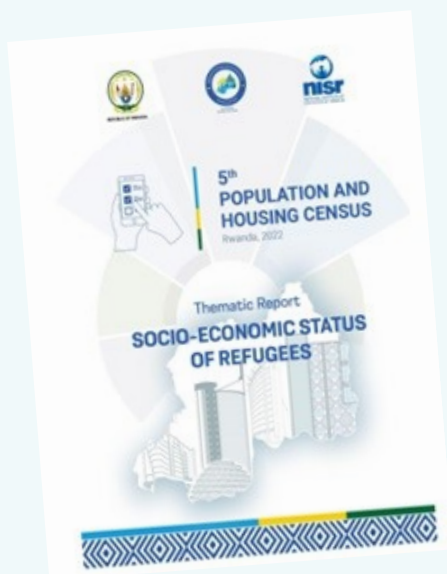
Guidance	Metadata	Questionnaire (s)	Custodian (s)
<a href="#">Birth Registration - UNICEF</a>	<a href="#">SDG Indicator 16.9.1</a>	<a href="#">MICS7</a> (accessed Jan 2024)	UNICEF

### Special considerations for refugee, IDP, and stateless populations

128. It's important to acknowledge that while the provided metadata offers a foundation, a detailed examination is necessary to ascertain specific considerations for data collection in refugee, internal displacement, and statelessness contexts. This includes understanding potential weaknesses in application, special requirements for questionnaire design, data collection methodologies, training, and reporting formats. Addressing these aspects ensures that the data collected is both relevant and reliable for these vulnerable populations.
129. Several essential considerations must be taken into account when collecting data on SDG indicator 16.9.1 for refugee and IDP populations. Firstly, the SDG indicator relies on the denominator "total number of children under the age of five in the population". If administrative records are used to produce data, in a displacement setting this would for example refer to the total number of refugee children in a country of asylum. According to UNHCR's Global Trends Report 2023, age disaggregated data on refugees was only available for 77% of the population. While demographic modelling can be used to fill some gaps, calculating the denominator for the SDG indicator across all refugee, internally displaced and statelessness population may be challenging.
130. Secondly, in displacement settings, especially across borders, the definition of responsible civil authority may not be always clear. For refugee and IDPs, there may be boundaries to being able to register their child's birth with the authorities in the country of asylum or areas of residence, while it is similarly not possible to register the birth with authorities in the country/place of origin. Situations should also be considered where registration only takes place through humanitarian agencies. Registration by humanitarian agencies, while in many cases is important for documentation and eligibility for services, does not meet the definition of SDG indicator 16.9.1, which should always refer to the national civil authority responsible for birth registration in the country of birth. Furthermore, it is essential to consider children born into refugee status, as they may face unique barriers to birth registration that differ from those of the general population, requiring additional training on birth registration documentation issued when assessing the completeness of birth registration in these contexts.
131. The standard data collections for the SDG indicator are civil registration systems, censuses, and household surveys, which have become the key source of data, especially in low and middle-income countries.
132. Especially household surveys may be suitable in displacement settings. Consideration should be taken on the definition of responsible civil authority. Birth registration by national authorities in the host country is crucial as a first step to legal identity of children born to refugees and to prevent them becoming at risk of statelessness. Survey questions and enumerator training should therefore aim to unambiguously identify responsible civil authorities during interviews. Special attention should be given to the difference between birth notification and birth registration to avoid those two processes being conflated by enumerators or respondents.

## Country Case Study 3: Rwanda

### Availability of Data for Refugee Populations in Rwanda's 2022 Population and Housing Census<sup>60</sup>



The 2022 Rwanda Population and Housing Census (RPHC<sup>61</sup>) included refugee populations in its data collection efforts, a step toward ensuring that refugee populations are not left behind in national frameworks. The census, implemented by the National Institute of Statistics of Rwanda (NISR), provides detailed data on various socio-demographic indicators, including housing, birth registration, and access to basic services. The census was conducted using the “De jure” method, which ensures that all residents, including those in refugee camps and settlements, were enumerated at their usual place of residence. Identification questions for refugees were asked, enabling the disaggregation of data to compare the refugee population with the general population in Rwanda.

The census tracks key SDG indicators, some of which provide important insights into the status of refugee populations in Rwanda.

#### Key findings:

**SDG Indicator 16.9.1: Proportion of children under 17 years of age whose births have been registered with a civil authority.**

The census data shows high levels of birth registration (94.3%) overall, with a slightly lower rate for refugee populations (86.1%).

**SDG Indicator 7.1.1: Proportion of the population with access to electricity.**

Access to electricity remains a significant challenge for refugee populations, with only 41.6% of refugees having access to electricity compared to 61% of the national population. The disparity is particularly evident in rural areas, where just 27.9% of refugees have access to electricity compared to 51.3% of the rural Rwandan population.

<sup>60</sup> See: EGRISS' Country Case Study for Rwanda: [Including refugees and statelessness in the population census](#)

<sup>61</sup> See: [NISR, Socio-Economic Status of Refugees in Rwanda - 2023](#)



## Indicator 16.b.1. Proportion of the population reporting discrimination or harassment based on prohibited grounds under international law in the last year



## Indicator 10.3.1. Proportion of the population reporting personal experiences of discrimination or harassment within the past year based on grounds prohibited under international human rights law

### Definition of the indicators

133. SDG indicators 10.3.1 and 16.b.1 aim to assess the proportion of the adult population who self-report having a personal experience of discrimination or harassment in the last 12 months on the grounds prohibited by international human rights law. They are intended to measure the impact of laws, policies and programs seeking to eliminate discrimination directly at the level of the concerned population.

134. These are important SDG indicators in the context of statelessness as discrimination based on ethnicity, race, religion, gender, or language remain major causes of statelessness in many contexts. Additionally, discrimination is not only a cause of statelessness, but is also experienced by many stateless people in their daily lives. The SDG16 Survey Initiative provides a tested tool for data collectors to measure progress on many of the survey-based SDG indicators under SDG target 16, including two SDG indicators described here.<sup>62</sup>

135. Despite the significance of SDG indicators for statelessness, capturing data on stateless persons through surveys can be challenging due to their low numbers in comparison to the general population amongst other things. Data sources like censuses, administrative records, or alternative data sources such as citizen-generated data may be more relevant. However, the advantages and limitations of each approach must be thoroughly assessed before their utilization for data collection on stateless populations. Despite these challenges, it remains crucial to consider how SDG indicators 10.3.1 and 16.b.1 can be adapted to address statelessness, exploring adjustments in survey methodologies to include stateless individuals. Given that these SDG indicators are identical, their examination is consolidated in this paper.

136. To avoid a pattern of reporting events as having occurred more recently than they actually did, two standardized questions concerning the respondent's experience of discrimination in the last 5 years (for 16.b.1), and the second question about the last 12 months are asked. The time-bound aspect of the question is an extra advantage as it encourages respondents to reflect on current situations that are more likely connected to their statelessness status.

137. These SDG indicators measure a general population prevalence of discrimination and harassment at the national level. These SDG indicators will not necessarily provide information on the prevalence of discrimination within specific population groups. This will depend on sample frames.

138. These SDG indicators are not measuring a general perception of overall prevalence of discrimination in a country. It is based on personal experience self-reported by individual respondents. These SDG indicators do not provide a legal determination of any alleged or proven cases of discrimination. Additionally, they will not capture the cases of discrimination or harassment

<sup>62</sup> See: [UNODC, UNODC & OHCHR 2022. SDG 16 Survey Initiative.](#)



the respondents are not personally aware of or willing to disclose to data collectors. Therefore, these SDG indicators should be a starting point for further efforts to understand patterns of discrimination and harassment.

### Identification of relevant data sources

139. The office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) is the custodian agency of these SDG indicators. The OHCHR has designed a module for these SDG indicators that can be incorporated into existing household survey instruments with relevant content. Household surveys, e.g., MICS, victimization, and other social surveys, are the main data source for this SDG indicator. The MICS includes a question on these SDG indicators in its victimization module. The below table presents more information on the relevant guidance and tools for SDG indicator 10.3.1 and 16.b.1:

Guidance	Metadata	Questionnaire (s)	Custodian (s)
OHCHR’s <a href="#">Human Rights-Based Approaches to Data</a> (HRBAD)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">SDG Indicator 10.3.1</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">SDG Indicator 16.b.1</a></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">MICS7</a> (accessed Jan 2024)</li> <li>• Victimization Surveys</li> </ul>	OHCHR

### Special considerations for refugee, IDP, and stateless populations

140. In practice, it will be difficult to include all potentially relevant grounds of discrimination in household survey questions. For this reason, it is recommended that data collectors identify contextually relevant causes of discrimination and add an “other” category to reflect other grounds that may not have been listed explicitly in the survey. NSOs are encouraged to contextualize this module informed by the principles outlined in the OHCHR’s Human Rights-Based Approaches to Data (HRBAD), OHCHR, and in consultation with civil society and/or government agencies with relevant expertise. Noting this feature, it is thus recommended for practitioners to modify the responses to ensure that discrimination based on statelessness status is captured.

141. International human rights law provides lists of the prohibited grounds of discrimination. According to the metadata, OHCHR recommends the use of responses on the grounds prohibited by international human rights law and adding an “any other ground” category to capture grounds that are not explicitly listed. The module recommends that an illustrative list is reviewed and contextualized at national level through a participatory process to reflect specific population groups and data collection/disaggregation needs. In relation to statelessness, the migration status, such as nationality or national origin, country of birth, refugees, asylum seekers, undocumented migrants, or stateless persons, would be a relevant response. Therefore, no additional changes beyond contextualization are required to collect data for SDG indicators 16.b.1 and 10.3.1 for stateless populations.

## Conclusion

### Paper summary

142. Central to the SDG agenda is the commitment to leave no one behind, including refugees, IDPs and stateless persons. Improved visibility of these groups within the SDG framework facilitated by their inclusion in national statistics and relevant data production processes is key to help realize this ambition. This paper set out to contribute to this debate by presenting an analysis of a set of 14 prioritized SDG indicators.
143. Based on the analysis of various aspects of data collection for each priority SDG indicator, the paper's key finding is that **no fundamental modifications to the defined SDG indicator methodology are required to generate data that can be disaggregated by forced displacement and statelessness status**, beyond the key requirements of ensuring their adequate inclusion (namely sampling and identification). This means it is feasible to apply the same methodology used for the general population also for refugee, IDP, and stateless populations to enable disaggregated priority SDG indicator data so that the required data collection can be integrated into existing NSS efforts.
144. However, careful review of each SDG indicator has identified a **series of key considerations for planning, design, and data collection efforts, to improve the quality and comparability of data produced on these groups**. Taken together, these special considerations highlight the importance of national adaptation and sensitization of questionnaires to ensure their suitability for refugees, IDPs and stateless populations, including those living in camps and camp-like settings.

### Next steps

145. These findings have implications for SDG indicator data collection in forced displacement and statelessness contexts. The envisioned next steps would be for NSOs conducting national household surveys, or other relevant data collection exercises, to implement the recommended adjustments informed by the guidance presented in this paper and other relevant EGRISS resources (e.g. the Compilers' Manual). In doing so, NSOs will begin to generate high-quality SDG indicator data disaggregated by forced displacement and statelessness status, which will be comparable to the general population. This will support the development of policies that aim to address the needs of these populations and help maintain/enhance their visibility in key frameworks at national, regional, and global levels.
146. In addition, it will be important to work with survey programmes to ensure standard tools are customized according to the paper's findings, which will improve the quality of resulting disaggregated data. These approaches, informed by the IRRS, IRIS and IROSS as appropriate, will enable the inclusion of forcibly displaced and stateless populations in the NSS and subsequently the sustainable development agenda, ensuring that no one is left behind in practice. Renewed efforts to map results and help keep track of the hopefully increasing availability of SDG indicator data for refugee, IDP and stateless populations collected and reported on through national statistical systems, would also be a worthwhile investment.