

Expert Group on Refugee, IDP and Statelessness Statistics

# Towards a standardized approach to identify IDPs, refugees and related populations in household surveys



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The Expert Group on Refugee, IDP 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 implementation of international standards and guidance to improve official statistics on forcibly displaced and stateless persons.

With 56 country members and 36 institutional members, EGRISS welcomes collaboration with all relevant partners from the statistical community.

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It is the first publication of the Methodological Paper Series. The documents set is intended as the Expert Group's input to ongoing methodological debates. They 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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## Introduction

1. The international recommendations on refugee and IDP statistics (IRRS and IRIS), produced by the *Expert Group on Refugee and IDP Statistics (EGRISS)* and endorsed by the UN Statistical Commission in 2018 and 2020, respectively, provide the statistical framework for identifying refugees and IDPs in official data production. While the overarching frameworks and their respective population categories are clearly elaborated, the degree to which the recommendations translate this into directly applicable and standardized/recommended question specifications differs by type of data source. For censuses, both the IRRS and the IRIS provide a concrete question set specification. For household surveys, this is not the case.
2. This paper aims to fill that gap. It briefly recaps the statistical frameworks for both IDPs and refugees, lays out the data elements required for framework-compliant identification, recommends data elements and question sets that are feasible in household survey work, and clearly spells out limitations that may remain with the recommended question sets. The paper then proceeds to discuss placement options for the recommended questions in the wider questionnaire setup.
3. Two essential points are important to note at the very outset of this discussion:
  - Firstly, proper identification via the survey questionnaire should always be attempted when surveying forcibly displaced persons, even in cases where identification could be pre-assumed from the sampling frame, i.e. where a survey's sampling frame (or frame for a dedicated stratum of the survey) is assumed to consist purely of refugees and/or IDPs. This may be the case where a given sampling frame covers a refugee/IDP camp or site, or where the frame is derived from a refugee/IDP registration database. Such a setup might lead survey practitioners to believe that (additional) identification of refugees and IDPs via the questionnaire is not required. However, practical experience shows that realities on the ground are often heterogenous, hence identification via the questionnaire is always recommended, at the very least for validating any frame-based identification.
  - Secondly, identification should always take place at the individual level. Being forcibly displaced is an individual-level, not a household-level characteristic, and heterogeneity within households exists.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup>By logical extension, in statistical work the terms "refugee household" or "IDP household" should be avoided. It is more appropriate to use the terms "refugee/IDP-headed households" or "households with at least one refugee/IDP" when producing household-level statistics on forcibly displaced persons.

## Identifying IDPs in household surveys

4. Currently, no standard set of identification questions for IDPs in household surveys exists. However, this paper references some relevant sources in the development of the suggested set of questions. The International Recommendations for IDP Statistics<sup>2</sup> (IRIS) discusses identification of IDPs in censuses and recommends the addition of a limited set of questions. Further, JIPS has reviewed IDP surveys and recommended a set of IDP identification questions in such surveys<sup>3</sup>. And lastly, when it comes to the element of ‘ever resided abroad’, the UN Expert Group of Migration Statistics<sup>4</sup> has provided guidance. This paper builds on these recommendations.

### Brief recap of IRIS statistical framework

5. Based on the *Guiding Principles* and their annotations, there are four conditions that are necessary for a person to become an IDP.<sup>5</sup>
  1. Have been forced or obliged to move from their place of habitual residence by a causing event,<sup>6,7</sup>
  2. Have been usually resident at the place where, and at the time when, a causing event occurred,<sup>8,9</sup>
  3. Have been physically living away from the dwelling in which they were living at the time of the causing event,<sup>10</sup> and
  4. Be currently within the internationally recognized borders of the country.
6. Once classified as an IDP, a person remains an IDP until they have overcome key displacement-related vulnerabilities, establish residence in a new country, or die. It is important to note that “return to one’s place of habitual residence” does not feature in this list<sup>11</sup>. In other words, once displaced, the location where a person lives is not of primary relevance to their continued classification as an IDP. Merely returning to one’s home does not imply the end of internal displacement – according to IRIS a person can continue to statistically count as an IDP after

<sup>2</sup> <https://egrisstats.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/12/The-International-Recommendations-on-IDP-Statistics.pdf>

<sup>3</sup> [https://www.jips.org/uploads/2021/12/JIPS-IDP\\_identification\\_in\\_surveys-2021-vf.pdf](https://www.jips.org/uploads/2021/12/JIPS-IDP_identification_in_surveys-2021-vf.pdf)

<sup>4</sup> <https://unstats.un.org/unsd/demographic-social/migration-expert-group/methodology/Standard%20set%20of%20migration%20questions.pdf>

<sup>5</sup> It may be noted that nationality does not feature in the below criteria. Nationality is irrelevant for identifying IDPs. A person included in IDP statistics can be a national, stateless person, or foreigner as long as the place they fled from at the time of the displacement was their place of usual residence, and that they continue to reside within the internationally recognised boundaries of the country. Their legal citizenship status in the country is irrelevant to their identification as an IDP for the purpose of statistical measurement.

<sup>6</sup> Main causing events include (this is not an exhaustive list): armed conflict, generalised violence, violations of human rights, natural or human-made disasters, or other forced evictions or displacements

<sup>7</sup> A person can be considered an IDP as long as he or she was at direct risk of experiencing the causing event, regardless of whether or not he or she experienced the event itself. Preventive displacements, such as evacuations, also constitute internal displacement

<sup>8</sup> Displaced persons must have been usually resident in the location within the country where the causing event or the threat of the causing event took place, at the time that the causing event occurred. This means that a person can become an IDP as a result of a causing event if he or she tries to return to his or her habitual place of residence but was unable to do so, even if he or she was not physically present at the time when the event occurred.

<sup>9</sup> For statistical purposes, the usual place of residence is defined as the place where the person is living at the time of data collection corresponding to the place where the person has lived or intends to live for at least a 12-month period. If a person had been absent from his or her habitual place of residence for more than one year prior to the causing event, for statistical purposes he or she will not have been identified as usually resident at that place at the time of the causing event. The person would, therefore, not be considered to be an IDP.

<sup>10</sup> As a consequence of, or in order to avoid the impact of the causing event, persons will have been forced or obliged to physically flee or not be able to return to their home or place of habitual residence. Thus, simply experiencing harm or loss of property alone does not constitute the grounds for a person to be counted as an IDP, they also need to flee from the location. How far a person has to move however, in order to become an IDP and be included in the IDP inflow, is not specified; it is sufficient to simply be forced or obliged to leave one’s home. Internal migration statistics usually pertain to people who have moved from one administrative area to another, but people can be forcibly displaced from their homes and property, and subsequently find shelter in the same local area (paragraph 62 or IRIS).

<sup>11</sup> This methodological paper, titled “Towards a ‘solution measure’ for IDPs: Harmonizing a statistical measure for exiting the national stock of internally displaced persons,” is currently unpublished and in progress. It critically examines the conceptual framework for the ‘IRIS solutions measure’ as proposed in the International Recommendations on IDP Statistics (IRIS) and provides recommendations on addressing the remaining methodological challenges. The paper emphasizes the need to develop a computation method for comparing household or group level performance against the comparator benchmark, which has significant implications for the statistical outcome of the solutions measure. The recommendations presented in this paper are based on empirical analysis using data from Somalia, Nigeria, Colombia, and Sudan. It should be noted that this paper represents an ongoing contribution to the methodological debate within the EGRISS and does not establish consensus or reflect the official views of EGRISS or its members, nor does it constitute a revision to the standards outlined in IRIS.

returning to their home. Conversely, a person can cease to count as an IDP in their location of displacement, provided key vulnerabilities have been overcome.

- The statistical framework presented in IRIS is built on these definitions and subdivides the IDP population into three sub-populations: IDPs in location of displacement, IDPs in location of return, and IDPs in other settlement location. Beyond IDPs themselves, the statistical framework also acknowledges IDP-related populations, i.e. the children of at least one IDP parent (born after displacement occurred). Two additional population categories, namely other non-displaced family members of IDPs and those who have overcome key displacement-related vulnerabilities, are also referred to in IRIS but considered outside the core statistical framework.

Total Stock of IDPs (GROUP 1)	<b>IDPs in locations of displacement, who remain in locations of displacement</b>
	<b>IDPs in locations of return, who have returned to their place of habitual residence</b>
	<b>IDPs in other settlement locations, who have settled elsewhere in the country</b>
<b>IDP-related populations: children of at least one IDP parent;</b> children born after their parent's displacement are excluded from the overall count of internally displaced persons but it is recommended to observe and count them separately as IDP-related populations due to their vulnerability and potential protection needs originating from their family's displacement.	
<b>Other non-displaced family members of IDPs,</b> family members of IDPs not directly affected by the causing event are not considered as IDPs, but their count is relevant and should be reported separately from IDP-related populations.	
Overcome key displacement related vulnerabilities (GROUP 2)	<b>Locally integrated</b>
	<b>Returned and reintegrated</b>
	<b>Settled elsewhere and integrated</b>

## Data elements required for identification, and suggested survey question specifications

- IRIS lists some key elements of the IDP definition that needs to be met in order to determine if a person is an IDP. However, IRIS does not provide guidance on the questions that could be included in a survey in order to establish if these criteria are met.
- In the following section, we present a review of data elements that need to be qualified to allow the attribution of interviewed respondents and members of their households to the IRIS categories, and we suggest guiding questions to capture them in household surveys, based on following data elements:
  - Forced to flee
  - Migration History

### Data element 1: Forced to flee

#### Forced or obliged to flee - (Q1)

- A key element in the definition of displacement is that people are either forced or obliged to flee, or they cannot return home for reasons independent of their will/control. This is important to distinguish forced from voluntary movements. IRIS states that for someone to qualify as an IDP: "He or she was forced or obliged to leave his or her place of habitual residence as a result of, or in order to avoid the effects of, one or more causing events."<sup>12</sup> There are thus two issues that need to be established in this element. Firstly, that a move away from a place of habitual residence has occurred, and, secondly, that this move was involuntary and caused by a causing event.

<sup>12</sup><https://egrisstats.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/12/The-International-Recommendations-on-IDP-Statistics.pdf>

11. These elements could be established by tracing all moves of a person and establish if any of these moves were caused by an event stipulated by IRIS to be considered displacement. However, this may take up too much time for most survey operations that are not specifically focussed on migration. It is therefore suggested here to first establish if a person has ever been forced to or obliged to flee their home and then follow up on the causes of such moves only for those who report to have experienced it. In some contexts, the time frame to assess forced displacement could be established by for example the onset of an armed conflict or a natural disaster.

### **Causing event - (Q2)**

12. As mentioned above, the reason for the forced move should be established. The persons who have responded “yes” to the question of having been forced or obliged to flee should be posed a follow up question on the reasons. IRIS lists 5 main reasons for displacement:
  - a) Armed conflict
  - b) Generalized violence
  - c) Violations of human rights
  - d) Natural or human-made disasters
  - e) Other forced evictions or displacements
13. IRIS provide more detailed description of these causing events and what kind of situations that should be categorised as which causing event. Other reasons for moving should not be recorded as they are not considered as forced. Enumerator training will be important to maintain a coherent approach in coding responses to this question. Each country will have specific displacement history and a common understanding of this history and how specific causing events should be labelled will be important.

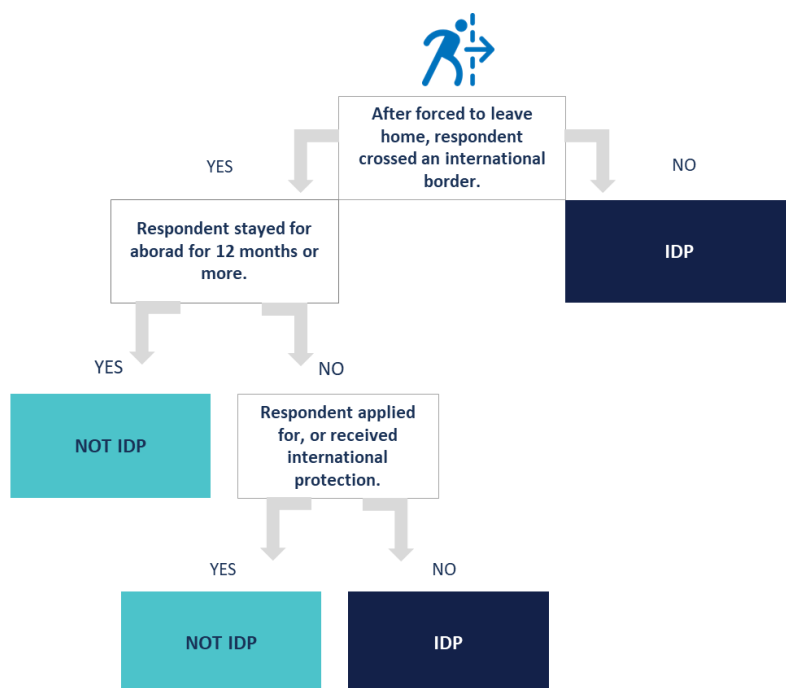
## **Data element 2: Migration history**

### **Habitual place of residence - (Q3)**

14. This element refers to a person’s place of living at the time of the displacement-causing event. Generally, this refers to the initial displacement of a person. This element is important to establish which IDP sub-category a person belongs to (IDPs in locations of return, IDPs in locations of displacement, IDPs in other settlement locations); however, when there have been multiple forced displacements this may be challenging to capture.

### **Crossing international border - (Q4)**

15. Technically, the above questions should suffice to capture if a person is displaced or not. However, movements across international borders have an impact on whether a person is considered a refugee, refugee-returnee or an IDP. If a displaced person moves across a border and seeks protection in a new country, they become a refugee and should not be counted as an IDP. Persons who stay in a new country for 12 months and more are considered to have established themselves with a new country of residence and thus also a new usual place of residence.
16. A chart showing four potential scenarios:
  1. Persons who did not go abroad, who would be counted as IDP
  2. Persons returned from abroad after 12 months and more, who would not be counted as IDP
  3. Persons returned from abroad after less than 12 months and have applied or received international protection, who would not be counted as IDP
  4. Persons returned from abroad after less than 12 months and did not apply or have not received international protection, who would be counted as IDP
 and how they affect IDP status under IRIS is presented below:



### Length of stay abroad - (Q5a)

17. However, persons who flee their home (habitual place of residence), leave for another country but return within 12 months of leaving – and did not apply for international protection, should still be counted as an IDP. It is therefore important to establish whether the displaced person has ever been abroad after the time of their displacement, and whether this stay was more or less than 12 months and if an application for refugee status was filed.
18. We therefore need to add questions that capture such stays abroad. The suggested questions below are in line with the recommended questions on ‘ever resided abroad’ from the UN Expert Group on Migration Statistics<sup>13</sup>.

### Legal document - (Q5b)

19. In order to determine whether respondents have received or applied for international protection during their short-term stay abroad, it is necessary to gather information about their legal documentation or legal status. To ensure the accuracy of the data, the response categories should be customized to each survey context by removing irrelevant options and including other relevant responses.

### Initial usual place of residence - (Q6)

20. For statistical purposes, the usual place of residence in the country is where the person is living at the time of data collection. This is normally captured in surveys and is therefore not suggested here as an additional question. However, there is a need to establish where a person being forced to or obliged to flee<sup>14</sup> moved to<sup>15</sup>. It is thus important to note that the first / initial place a person moved to after being displaced is not necessarily the place where they are living now. As mentioned before, where there have been multiple movements it may be difficult to capture the sub-category of IDPs (IDPs in locations of return, IDPs in locations of displacement, IDPs in other settlement locations) a person belongs to.

<sup>13</sup> <https://unstats.un.org/unsd/demographic-social/migration-expert-group/methodology/Standard%20set%20of%20migration%20questions.pdf>

<sup>14</sup> See paragraph 75 of IRRS, where scope of persons excluded from recommendations is listed including move due to economic deprivation or climate change, page 27.

<sup>15</sup> See IRIS box 3.3, page 38 for a more in-depth explanation of the two terms: habitual and usual place of residence.



## Summary of standard IDP identification questions recommended for household surveys

NUMBER	QUESTION	RESPONSE CATEGORIES	DATA ELEMENT
Q1.	While living in [survey country], [have you/has NAME] ever had to flee home?	01. Yes 02. No 98. Don't know 99. Refused to answer	FORCED TO FLEE
Q2.	What is the main reason why [you/NAME] had to flee home?	01. Security reasons, armed conflicts and generalized violence 02. Fear of persecution 03. Human right violation 04. Natural or man-made disaster 05. Eviction 06. Personal reasons 98. Don't know 99. Refused to answer	FORCED TO FLEE
Q3.	Tell me where you were living right before you were forced to flee home for the first time? Tell me the name of the province, the county, the district and the locality, i.e. village or town?	NUTS 1 (provincial level): NUTS 2 (county level): NUTS 3 (district level): NUTS 4 (village or town name):	MIGRATION HISTORY
Q4.	After [you were/NAME was] forced to leave home, did [you/NAME] cross an international border?	01. Yes 02. No 98. Don't know 99. Refused to answer	MIGRATION HISTORY
Q5a.	How long did [you/NAME] stay abroad? Less than 12 months or more than 12 months?	01. Less than 12 months 02. 12 months and more 98. Don't know 99. Refused to answer	MIGRATION HISTORY
Q5b.	What was the primary document that allowed [you/NAME] to stay abroad?	NO DOCUMENTS: 01. No documents VISAS: 02. Tourist visa 03. Student visa 04. Work visa 05. Humanitarian visa INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENTS: 06. Regional free movement agreement (e.g. Mercosur, EU, SADC, EAC, ECOWAS) RESIDENCY: 07. Permanent resident document PROTECTED STATUS: 08. Asylum applicant document 09. Refugee 10. Recognized stateless person document 11. Complementary and subsidiary protection 12. Temporary protection ENROLLEMENT DOCUMENT 13. Enrolment document  96. Other: <i>specify</i> 98. Don't know 99. Refused to answer	MIGRATION HISTORY/LEGAL STATUS

NUMBER	QUESTION	RESPONSE CATEGORIES	DATA ELEMENT
Q6.	When [you/NAME] were forced to flee, where did you move first? Tell me the name of the province, the county, the district and the locality, i.e. village or town? Please do not think about short stopovers.	NUTS 1 (provincial level): NUTS 2 (county level): NUTS 3 (district level): NUTS 4 (village or town name):	MIGRATION HISTORY

## Limitations of the suggested set of core IDP identification questions for surveys

21. Although most persons will be correctly identified as either an IDP or a non-IDP by the suggested set of identification questions, and be correctly placed in one of the three sub-stock categories, there are some situations where a person may be wrongly labelled as IDP (inclusion error) or wrongly labelled as a non-IDP (exclusion error), or mis-categorized between the different sub-populations of the statistical framework. Below is a list of issues or situations where additional enquiries may be necessary. How important these caveats are will vary from country to country and it will be up to each survey team to determine if additional questions to address these issues are necessary in their context. The specific questions to address these issues have not yet been developed but should be formulated as a potential extended list of IDP identification questions that a country may choose to include.

### Timing of return from abroad

22. When we ask about time of last return from abroad, this is to establish if a person who has been abroad for 12 months or more did so before or after their displacement. If so, they are considered to have established a new country of residence and thus a new usual place of residence and should no longer be considered as IDPs. However, since we ask only about first displacement, it is possible for a person to be displaced, move abroad for 12 months or more and then return, then be forcibly displaced again. In this scenario, the suggested questions will label a person incorrectly as non-IDP, whereas they should be labelled an IDP.

### Displacement within the same administrative area

23. If the administrative area that an IDP has moved to (Q6) is the same as the one they were displaced from (Q3), it is impossible to know if this person should be classified as an ‘IDP in location of return’ or ‘IDP in location of displacement’. They will still be correctly labelled an IDP through the recommended question set, but which sub-category is correct will be difficult to ascertain. Some displaced people may not have to move very far away from their habitual place of residence, depending on the nature of the causing event; and the crossing of administrative boundaries is not a definitional prerequisite for counting as an IDP. Understanding the sub-category of IDP regarding location may be relevant for statistical and administrative purposes but it should not affect the overall categorization of IDPs versus non-IDPs.

### Forced displacement history and misattribution of the three subcategories indicating location of displacement

24. Proposed identification questions do not provide the full displacement history, so for some respondents with multiple displacements, it may be difficult to determine in which location to categorize them. For instance, a displaced person who is being displaced a second time may be labelled an ‘IDP in other settlement locations’ whereas they should have been an ‘IDP in locations of displacement’. Countries where displacement is protracted may opt for a specific forced displacement module to capture all displacement history, but this should not affect the total stock of IDPs.

## People away from habitual place of residence when causing event occurred

25. The IDP identification questions asks if people have been forced or obliged to flee their home, as this is a key condition for being an IDP. However, you can also be an IDP if you were away from home when a causing event occurred, and you are unable to return to your home (habitual place of residence). These situations are not captured by the current set of questions. This issue may be corrected by explaining this potential case when asking the question of the “forced or obliged to flee” element.

## Capturing the end of the IDP status

26. With the suggested set of questions, we will only be able to capture the ‘ever displaced’, not those who have resolved their displacement related vulnerabilities hence should be removed from the IDP caseload. If people have met conditions that ends their IDP status from their first displacement they may incorrectly be included in the IDPs statistical stock instead of being removed from the count. This may be an issue in statistical systems because the number of IDPs can only increase, never decrease.
27. IRIS states that when an IDP no longer has key displacement-related vulnerabilities, that person shall no longer be considered an IDP in statistical terms – even if they remain in location of displacement. IRIS, citing the IASC framework, lists a number of criteria that must be met so that a person can be taken out of the IDP stock. The suggested set of questions above will not be able to measure these criteria. The question set above thereby only serves to identify entries to the IDP stock, not exits, except for persons who sought international protection abroad and international migration. In consequence, we may incorrectly classify a respondent as an IDP whereas in fact they should count as “person who has overcome key displacement-related vulnerabilities” (i.e. non-IDP) in the IRIS framework.
28. EGRISS is currently working on further developing a composite measure to capture the “end of the IDP status” and subsequently the outflow of the IDP stock, but this work is not finalized yet. In any case, this measure will be based on assessing displacement-related vulnerabilities that will likely require a set of selected indicators based on the IASC Durable Solutions framework and aligned to SDG indicators where possible to be measured, and this will not form part of the IDP identification questions. Rather, for those surveys where the selected indicators are already included, IDPs who meet the criteria may be re-classified as non-IDPs.

## Mapping of recommended standard questions back to IRIS statistical framework

IRIS Statistical Framework		Recommended mapping of identification questions
IDPs	IDPs in location of displacement	<p>Respondent has had to flee while living in country of enumeration (Q1=1) <b>AND</b></p> <p>Main reason why respondent had to flee was either: security reason, armed conflict and generalized violence, fear of persecution, human right violation or natural or man-made disaster (Q2 = 1/2/3/4) <b>AND</b></p> <p>Respondent currently, at the time of the interview, living in a <u>different</u> location than before displacement (Q3 != PLACE OF INTERVIEW) <b>AND</b></p> <p>Respondent has initially moved to the <u>same</u> location as current place of the interview (Q6 = PLACE OF INTERVIEW) <b>AND</b></p> <p>Respondent has not crossed international border or has not resided outside of the country of enumeration for 12 months or more after the displacement event and for those who have not fled due to natural disaster have also not applied protection status (and the outcome) ((Q4=2) <b>OR</b> (Q4=1 <b>AND</b> Q5a = 1 <b>AND</b> Q5b !=8/9/10/11/12/13))</p>
	IDPs in location of return	<p>Respondent has had to flee while living in country of enumeration (Q1=1) <b>AND</b></p> <p>Main reason why respondent had to flee was either: security reason, armed conflict and generalized violence, fear of persecution, human right violation or natural or man-made disaster (Q2 = 1/2/3/4) <b>AND</b></p> <p>Respondent currently, at the time of the interview, living in a <u>same</u> location as before displacement (Q3 = PLACE OF INTERVIEW) <b>AND</b></p> <p>Respondent has not crossed international border or has not resided outside of the country of enumeration for 12 months or more after the displacement event and for those who have not fled due to natural disaster have also not applied protection status (and the outcome) ((Q4=2) <b>OR</b> (Q4=1 <b>AND</b> Q5a = 1 <b>AND</b> Q5b !=8/9/10/11/12/13))</p>
	IDPs in other settlement locations	<p>Respondent has had to flee while living in country of enumeration (Q1=1) <b>AND</b></p> <p>Main reason why respondent had to flee was either: security reason, armed conflict and generalized violence, fear of persecution, human right violation or natural or man-made disaster (Q2 = 1/2/3/4) <b>AND</b></p> <p>Respondent currently, at the time of the interview, living in a <u>different</u> location than before displacement (Q3 != PLACE OF INTERVIEW) <b>AND</b></p> <p>Respondent has initially moved to the <u>different</u> location compared to current place of the interview (Q6 != PLACE OF INTERVIEW) <b>AND</b></p> <p>Respondent has not crossed international border or has not resided outside of the country of enumeration for 12 months or more after the displacement event and for those who have not fled due to natural disaster have also not applied protection status (and the outcome) ((Q4=2) <b>OR</b> (Q4=1 <b>AND</b> Q5a = 1 <b>AND</b> Q5b !=8/9/10/11/12/13))</p>
IDP related populations: children of at least one IDP parent		Category is calculated based on questions for identification of biological parents, and only linked to their children based on already existing questions in household roster. Additional limitation is that only parents alive and living in the same household will be identified as IDPs, based on the proposed identification data element and questions.
Other non-displaced family members of IDPs		Category is calculated based on questions for identification of household members parents, and only linked to their IDP household members based on already existing questions in household roster.

IRIS Statistical Framework		Recommended mapping of identification questions
<b>Overcome key displacement-related vulnerabilities</b>	Locally integrated	Persons who would previously has been categorized as ‘IDPs in location of displacement’ (see mapping above) but have overcome key displacement-related vulnerabilities as established through the “composite measure”.
	Returned and reintegrated	Persons who would previously has been categorized as ‘IDPs in location of return’ (see mapping above) but have overcome key displacement-related vulnerabilities as established through the “composite measure”.
	Settled elsewhere and integrated	Persons who would previously has been categorized as ‘IDPs in other settlement locations’ (see mapping above) but have overcome key displacement-related vulnerabilities as established through the “composite measure”.

**(NB: Once EGRISS finalizes the composite measure to capture the outflow of the IDP stock, this should be added as an additional element of identification. Persons who have overcome their key displacement-related vulnerabilities -whether in locations of displacement or return or other- should not be categorized as IDPs).**

29. The above mapping table allows categorizing survey respondents into the various sub-categories of the IRIS framework. If the interest of survey producers is merely to categorize respondents into IDPs and non-IDPs, the above mapping can also be followed, grouping ‘IDPs in locations of displacement’, ‘IDPs in locations of return’ and ‘IDPs in other settlement locations’ into a combined ‘IDP’ category.

# Identifying refugees in household surveys

## Brief recap of IRRS statistical framework

30. The IRRS distinguishes between three types of population: a) *Persons in need of international protection* include individuals in a country other than their own who have the intention of or are seeking or have received international protection; b) *Persons with refugee background* include persons who are not currently in need of international protection but who have a refugee background; c) *Persons returned from abroad after seeking international protection* include persons who have returned to their home country after seeking (and / or having received ) international assistance abroad.<sup>16</sup> The status of these population groups is primarily classified in legal terms by their claim to refugee status, or by their descent from someone seeking international protection. The three population groups can be further subdivided as listed below:

Persons in need of international protection (GROUP 1)	<b>Prospective asylum seekers: Persons with the intention of filing an application for asylum, but who have not yet done.</b> <sup>17</sup>
	<b>Asylum seekers:</b> Persons who have filed an application for asylum in a country other than their own and whose claims have not yet been determined. <sup>18</sup>
	<b>Persons with determined protection status:</b> Persons who have had their protection status determined by their host country. This includes: <p><i>Refugees:</i> Persons who have current refugee status granted either before arrival or upon arrival in the receiving country.<sup>19</sup></p> <p><i>Admitted for complementary and subsidiary forms of protection:</i> Persons with one of a number of designations granted by host countries, including Subsidiary Protection in the EU.</p> <p><i>Admitted for temporary protection:</i> Persons who are granted temporary legal status in the host country for as long as a threat persists that would put them in danger if they were to return to their home countries.</p>
	<b>Others in refugee-like situations:</b> Persons who are not admitted to the host country as asylum seekers but have nonetheless fled persecution, disturbed public order, war, violence, etc. in their habitual residence. <sup>20</sup>
Persons with refugee background (GROUP 2)	<b>Naturalized former refugees:</b> Persons that were once refugees in the host country but who no longer have refugee status because they are now naturalized citizens of the host country.
	<b>Children born of refugee parents:</b> Persons that are born of one or more refugee parents, and who are not themselves in need of international protection, usually because they have citizenship of the host country <sup>21</sup>
	<b>Reunified refugee family members from abroad:</b> People who have joined refugee families or former refugee families from abroad through a process of family reunification.
	<b>Others with a refugee background:</b> Others who have a refugee background who are not currently refugees, including those whose protection may have ceased but who remain in the country of concern.

<sup>16</sup> The home country is usually the county of former habitual residence.

<sup>17</sup> Reasons for being unable to file an application may include practical or administrative obstacles including capacity constraints in receiving countries. Asylum seekers in transit to another country are excluded.

<sup>18</sup> This includes those filing primary applications or subsequent applications following an appeal.

<sup>19</sup> Refugee status can be granted under the 1951 Convention, the 1967 Protocol, regional instruments, national legal systems, or the UNHCR mandate. Palestine Refugees registered with UNRWA and other persons eligible to receive UNRWA services are also covered.

<sup>20</sup> This may include people entering a host country on tourist, student, or work visa, through humanitarian stay programs, or under treaties guaranteeing free movements within a defined area. This includes any international protection admission that is not accommodated in previous categories.

<sup>21</sup> If children born of refugee parents have not acquired citizenship in the host country, they should be included in persons in need of international protection, depending on their current legal status.

Persons returned from abroad after seeking international protection (GROUP 3)	<b>Repatriating refugees:</b> Persons who have returned under assisted programs or spontaneously to their home country after having enjoyed asylum abroad.
	<b>Repatriating asylum seekers:</b> Persons returning after having attempted to seek asylum abroad.
	<b>Returning from international protection abroad:</b> Persons who received temporary protection or were granted stay abroad and who have since returned to their home country.
	<b>Others returning from seeking international protection abroad:</b> Persons who left the country to seek international protection abroad but were not covered by the other three categories above.

## Data elements required for identification

31. IRRS lists the key elements or conditions that are needed to categorize refugees and refugee related populations. However, IRRS leaves space to develop guidance and translate these concepts or classification elements into survey questions and offer a set of survey questions that would allow classification of the above listed population groups.
32. In the following section, we present a review of data elements that need to be qualified to allow the attribution of interviewed respondents and members of their households to the IRRS categories. Based on defined data elements:
- Citizenship
  - Migration History
  - Forced to Flee
  - Legal Status

a set of questions is proposed along with related response identify and categorise respondents into (most) IRRS categories.

### Data element 1: Citizenship

33. The first data element needed to identify persons belonging to all three IRRS groups, is the respondent's citizenship, or his/her the presence in a country different/equal from one's citizenship, together with the forced reason for movement. The following question establishes the citizenship(s) of a person.

#### Country of citizenship - (Q2)

34. A substitute for this question can be country of birth, discussed after.

### Data element 2: Migration history

35. The second data element needed to determine if a respondent can be identified as a category in IRRS first data element to be established is respondents' migration history. To do so, questions on living abroad, crossing international borders and length of stay abroad are proposed.

#### Ever lived abroad/usual place of residence - (Q1)

36. A person who is or was in need of international protection by default has either lived or currently lives in a country different from their country of citizenship. Major survey programs already include a series of standard questions that cover the aspect of migration history addressed in Q1. It is feasible to adapt and substitute this question with the existing standard survey questions, thereby collecting consistent data elements and inquiries from both the proposed IDP and refugee groups. Additional supporting materials will be created to facilitate this process. Further information is provided in the section below on administration of the recommended questions in surveys on integration of identification questions on IDPs and refugees with existing migration questions.

### **Crossing international border - (Q5)**

37. This data element, together with the information on citizenship, allows for the identification of (1) a foreign national interviewed in the country where the survey is fielded, and (2) a national interviewed in his/her country of citizenship, who has crossed an international border in the past, and he/she is now back to his/her country. There are some exceptions to this, e.g. the case of naturalized persons who lose the citizenship acquired at birth in favour of the new citizenship, children of persons with a determined protection status who have acquired a new citizenship at birth – however they have not been abroad because they were born in the country of the survey.

### **Length of stay abroad - (Q6)**

38. Information on length of stay abroad is important to discriminate between IDP and those returning from (seeking) international protection abroad (or group 3 of IRRS) status upon return or when interviewed in the country of birth /citizenship (paragraph 83 of IRIS)

### **Data element 3: Forced to flee**

39. The third element, or the main condition for determining one's status and protection needs is having been forced to leave one's place of usual residence, or not being able to return due to causes independent of one's will. The specific reasons are collected with the variable below. A few caveats in the phrasing "forced move" should be highlighted: cases where the person is away from his/her usual residence when something happens in their place of usual residence that does not allow them to return/prevent them from returning. One way to refer to this case is refugees "in situ" or "sur place". In this case, the question "where you ever forced to flee" may not trigger the correct answer as the person may not associate his/her move with a forced action, however this case should also be classified as a forced move due to the impossibility to return home. At the same time, the act of leaving one's country does not necessarily have to be sudden or unplanned, it may be prepared and organized, because the forced nature of the move is determined by the reasons that led to the decision to leave one's home, or by the impossibility to return. However, also in this case, the reference to "forced to flee" may not elicit the correct response. The decision here is whether to add one question to specify that the forced condition influences the ability to return, not just the decision of leaving. In this case also another option is to probe for the correct answer.

### **Forced or obliged to flee - (Q3a/Q3b)**

#### **Causing event - (Q4)**

40. IRRS Para 133 defines "Reason for migration" as "the main reason that drove the respondent to undertake the most recent migratory move". It also recommends that "only one main reason for migration be recorded".
41. After the question on being forced to flee, a confirmation question is recommended to ascertain the reason for migration. Among the different reasons, violence and conflict, fear of persecution and human rights violations correspond to the response category "Forced displacement", that indicates a forced move or a forced stay away from home/inability to return home due to such reasons.
42. Other "personal reasons" like marriage or family reunification, work, education, healthcare, do not constitute a valid reason for forced migration. Further difficulties arise when the person has been subject to several moves, forced and non-forced. In this case, a time stamp (first, last) should be added to the question.

### **Data element 4: Legal status**

43. The fourth data element is the legal status of the respondent. Three questions in legal status element look at application, intention to apply and outcome of the application for international protection, while fourth one confirms the legal status by identifying document that is basis of respondents stay in the host country.



### **Application for international protection - (Q7)**

44. Identifies if individuals have sought asylum. Responses to this question establishes a part of IRRS category of respondents in need of or repatriating from expressing need for international protection.

### **Intent to apply for international protection - (Q8a)**

45. Identifies if individuals have intended to seek asylum. Responses to this question establishes a part of IRRS categories of respondents in need of international protection. Probe questions can be customized for the survey context.

### **Outcome of application for international protection - (Q8b)**

46. Identifies individual's outcome of their request for asylum. Responses to this question establishes a part of IRRS categories of respondents in need of or repatriating from expressing need for international protection. Probe questions can be customized for the survey context.

### **Legal document - (Q9)**

47. The following question(s) establishes what legal status the person has in the country. To place respondents in need of international protection in the correct subgroup, the information on the legal documentation or legal status needs to be ascertained. Cognitive interviews done in preparation for Forced Displacement Survey pilot in refugee camps revealed that the term "legal" used in the question "what is your legal status / what is your legal basis of stay in the country" may not be understood by the respondent. In addition, legal status may not be known in case the respondent did not actively apply for asylum but was part of a group attribution of status. Therefore, it is suggested not to ask about one's legal status in the country, but to ask the question as specified below, followed by a request to show said documents. Data collection teams can take a picture of the documentation produced. To ensure the accuracy of the data, the response categories should be customized to each survey context by removing irrelevant options and including other relevant responses.

## Summary of standard refugee identification questions recommended for household surveys

NUMBER	QUESTION	RESPONSE CATEGORIES		DATA ELEMENT
Q1.	[Have you/Has NAME] always lived in [survey country]? Please do not think about short or temporary absence or travels	01. Yes 02. No 98. Don't know 99. Refused to answer	→End →End	MIGRATION HISTORY
Q2.	Of which country [are you/is NAME] a citizen?	01. [Survey country] 02. Other country: <i>specify</i> 03. Stateless 98. Don't know 99. Refused to answer	→Q3b →End →End →End	CITIZENSHIP
Q3a.	While living in [survey country], [have you/has NAME] ever had to flee home?	01. Yes 02. No 98. Don't know 99. Refused to answer	→Q4 →End →End →End	FORCED TO FLEE
Q3b.	While living in [Other country], [have you/has NAME] ever had to flee home?	01. Yes 02. No 98. Don't know 99. Refused to answer	→End →End →End	FORCED TO FLEE
Q4.	What is the main reason why [you/NAME] had to flee home?	01. Security reasons, armed conflicts and generalized violence 02. Fear of persecution 03. Human right violation 04. Natural or man-made disaster 05. Eviction 06. Personal reasons 98. Don't know 99. Refused to answer	→End →End →End →End	FORCED TO FLEE
Q5.	After [you were/NAME was] forced to leave home, did [you/NAME] cross an international border?	01. Yes 02. No 98. Don't know 99. Refused to answer	→End →End →End	MIGRATION HISTORY
<b>SKIP CHECK</b>	<i>If respondent has not always lived in survey country (Q1=2), skip to question on application for international protection (Q7), otherwise continue</i>			
Q6.	How long did [you/NAME] stay abroad? Less than 12 months or more than 12 months?	01. Less than 12 months 02. 12 months or more 98. Don't know 99. Refuse to answer	→Q9 →End →End	MIGRATION HISTORY
Q7.	While in [[Other country] / [survey country]], did [you/NAME] apply for international protection?	01. Yes 02. No 98. Don't know 99. Refused to answer	→Q8b →End →End →End	LEGAL STATUS
Q8a.	While in [[Other country] / [survey country]], did [you/NAME] have the intention to apply for international protection?	01. Yes 02. No 98. Don't know 99. Refused to answer	→Q9 →Q9 →End →End	LEGAL STATUS
Q8b.	What is the outcome of [your/NAME's] application for international protection?	01. Refugee status granted 02. Refugee status denied 03. Still waiting for response 96. Other: <i>specify</i> 98. Don't know 99. Refused to answer	→End	LEGAL STATUS

NUMBER	QUESTION	RESPONSE CATEGORIES	DATA ELEMENT
Q9.	What is the primary document that allows [you/NAME] to stay in [survey country]?	NO DOCUMENTS: 01. No documents VISAS: 02. Tourist visa 03. Student visa 04. Work visa 05. Humanitarian visa INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENTS: 06. Regional free movement agreement (e.g. Mercosur, EU, SADC, EAC, ECOWAS) RESIDENCY: 07. Permanent resident document PROTECTED STATUS: 08. Asylum applicant document 09. Refugee 10. Recognized stateless person document 11. Complementary and subsidiary protection 12. Temporary protection ENROLLEMENT DOCUMENT 13. Enrolment document  96. Other: <i>specify</i> 98. Don't know 99. Refused to answer	LEGAL STATUS

## Limitations of the suggested set of recommended refugee identification questions for surveys

48. From the scope of population of refugee and refugee related populations, limitations are identified for some of the categories in the statistical framework with the proposed set of data elements and questions:
- Identification of children born of refugee parents. Within a IRRS category ‘persons with refugee background’ one of the defined sub-categories is ‘children born of refugee parents’. Data elements and suggested questions would not allow for direct identification of this category. Additional questions, usually placed in a household roster that identify biological parents of children who are a) household members and b) aged 0 to 17 years would be needed to compete identification of a child is born of refugee parents. These questions would only help identify a biological parent who is alive and living in the same household as well. For this group of parents, who were asked proposed data elements and questions, and they were identified as belonging to one of refugee categories, only for this group of children living with their parents and supplemental information in household roster, children would be categorized in this group.
  - In third category identified under IRRS ‘persons returned from abroad after international protection’ there are four categories, including ‘returning from international protection abroad’ and ‘others returning from seeking international seeking international protection’. Based on proposed data elements and suggested questions in the paper, it would not be possible to make distinction between these two groups of returnees. Additional methodological work is needed to develop data elements and questions distinguishing between these two categories in sampled populations with sufficient representative number of respondents that would fall within these two groups.

## Mapping of recommended standard questions back to IRRS statistical framework

IRRS Framework	Recommended mapping of identification questions	
a. Persons in need of international protection	1. Prospective asylum-seekers	<p>Respondent has not lived always in the host country/country of enumeration (Q1) =2 <b>AND</b></p> <p>Respondent is a citizen of country other than host country (Q2) =2 <b>AND</b></p> <p>Respondent has had to flee while living in <i>other country</i> (Q3b=1) <b>AND</b></p> <p>Main reason why respondent had to flee while living abroad was either: security reason, armed conflict and generalized violence, fear of persecution, human right violation or natural or man-made disaster (Q4 = 1/2/3/4) <b>AND</b></p> <p>Respondent confirms they have crossed an international border after they were forced to flee (Q5 =1) <b>AND</b></p> <p>Respondent confirms that while in host country they have not applied for the international protection (Q7=2) <b>AND</b></p> <p>Respondent confirms that while in host country they did plan to apply for the international protection (Q8a =1)</p>
	2. Asylum-seekers	<p>Respondent has not lived always in the host country/country of enumeration (Q1) =2 <b>AND</b></p> <p>Respondent is a citizen of country other than host country (Q2) =2 <b>AND</b></p> <p>Respondent has had to flee in <i>other country</i> (Q3b=1) <b>AND</b></p> <p>Main reason why respondent had to flee while living abroad was either: security reason, armed conflict and generalized violence, fear of persecution, human right violation or natural or man-made disaster (Q4 = 1/2/3/4) <b>AND</b></p> <p>Respondent confirms they have crossed an international border after they were forced to flee (Q5 =1) <b>AND</b></p> <p>Respondent confirms that while in host country they have applied for the international protection (Q7=1) <b>AND</b></p> <p>Respondent confirms that the outcome of their application is still pending, or they are not still aware of their status (Q8b =3/4) <b>AND</b></p> <p>Respondent has indicated that their primary document for stay in host country is asylum application (Q9=8)</p>
	3. Persons with determined protection status	<p>i. Refugees</p> <p>Respondent has not lived always in the host country/country of enumeration (Q1) =2 <b>AND</b></p> <p>Respondent is a citizen of country other than host country (Q2) =2 <b>AND</b></p> <p>Respondent has had to flee while living in <i>other country</i> (Q3b=1) <b>AND</b></p> <p>Main reason why respondent had to flee while living abroad was either: security reason, armed conflict and generalized violence, fear of persecution, human right violation or natural or man-made disaster (Q4 = 1/2/3/4) <b>AND</b></p> <p>Respondent confirms they have crossed an international border after they were forced to flee (Q5 =1) <b>AND</b></p> <p>Respondent confirms that while in host country they have applied for the international protection (Q7=1) <b>AND</b></p> <p>Respondent confirms that the outcome of their application is they were granted refugee status (Q8b =1)</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>OR</b></p> <p>Respondent has not lived always in the host country/country of enumeration (Q1) =2 <b>AND</b></p> <p>Respondent is a citizen of country other than host country (Q2) =2 <b>AND</b></p> <p>Respondent has had to flee while living in <i>other country</i> (Q3b=1) <b>AND</b></p> <p>Main reason why respondent had to flee while living abroad was either: security reason, armed conflict and generalized violence, fear of persecution, human right violation or natural or man-made disaster (Q4 = 1/2/3/4) <b>AND</b></p> <p>Respondent confirms they have crossed an international border after they were forced to flee (Q5 =1) <b>AND</b></p> <p>Respondent confirms that while in host country they have not applied for the international protection (Q7=2) <b>AND</b></p> <p>Respondent confirms that while in host country they did not plan to apply for the international protection (Q8a =1) <b>AND</b></p> <p>Respondent has indicated that their primary document for stay in host country is recognized refugee status (Q9=9)</p>

IRRS Framework	Recommended mapping of identification questions
ii. Admitted for compleme ntary and subsidiary forms of protection	<p>Respondent has not lived always in the host country/country of enumeration (Q1) =2 <b>AND</b></p> <p>Respondent is a citizen of country other than host country (Q2) =2 <b>AND</b></p> <p>Respondent has had to flee while living in <i>other country</i> (Q3b=1) <b>AND</b></p> <p>Main reason why respondent had to flee while living abroad was either: security reason, armed conflict and generalized violence, fear of persecution, human right violation or natural or man-made disaster (Q4 = 1/2/3/4) <b>AND</b></p> <p>Respondent confirms they have crossed an international border after they were forced to flee (Q5 =1) <b>AND</b></p> <p>Respondent confirms that while in host country they have not applied for the international protection (Q7=2) <b>AND</b></p> <p>Respondent confirms that while in host country they did not plan to apply for the international protection (Q8a =1) <b>AND</b></p> <p>Respondent has indicated that their primary document for stay in host country is admitted to complimentary and subsidiary protection (Q9=11)</p>
iii. Admitted for temporary protection	<p>Respondent has not lived always in the host country/ country of enumeration (Q1) =2 <b>AND</b></p> <p>Respondent is a citizen of country other than host country (Q2) =2 <b>AND</b></p> <p>Respondent has had to flee while living in <i>other country</i> (Q3b=1) <b>AND</b></p> <p>Main reason why respondent had to flee while living abroad was either: security reason, armed conflict and generalized violence, fear of persecution, human right violation or natural or man-made disaster (Q4 = 1/2/3/4) <b>AND</b></p> <p>Respondent confirms they have crossed an international border after they were forced to flee (Q5 =1) <b>AND</b></p> <p>Respondent confirms that while in host country they did not plan to apply for the international protection (Q7 =2) <b>AND</b></p> <p>Respondent confirms that while in host country they have not applied for the international protection (Q8a=2) <b>AND</b></p> <p>Respondent has indicated that their primary document for stay in host country is admitted to temporary protection (Q9=12)</p>
4. Others in refugee-like situations	<p>Respondent has not lived always in the host country/country of enumeration (Q1) =2 <b>AND</b></p> <p>Respondent is a citizen of country other than host country (Q2) =2 <b>AND</b></p> <p>Respondent has had to flee while living in <i>other country</i> (Q3a=1) <b>AND</b></p> <p>Main reason why respondent had to flee while living abroad was either: security reason, armed conflict and generalized violence, fear of persecution, human right violation or natural or man-made disaster (Q4 = 1/2/3/4) <b>AND</b></p> <p>Respondent confirms they have crossed an international border after they were forced to flee (Q5 =1) <b>AND</b></p> <p>Respondent confirms that while in host country they have not applied for the international protection (Q7=2) <b>AND</b></p> <p>Respondent confirms that while in host country they did not plan to apply for the international protection (Q8a =2) <b>AND</b></p> <p>Respondent has indicated that their primary document for stay in host country is admitted based on tourist, student, work or humanitarian visa, or international (regional) free movement agreement (Q9= 2/3/4/5/6)</p>

IRRS Framework	Recommended mapping of identification questions	
b. Persons with a refugee background	1. Naturalized former refugees	Respondent has not lived always in the host country/country of enumeration (Q1) =2 <b>AND</b> Respondent is a citizen of host country (Q2 =1) <b>AND</b> Respondent has had to flee while living in <i>other country</i> (Q3b=1) <b>AND</b> Main reason why respondent had to flee while living abroad was either: security reason, armed conflict and generalized violence, fear of persecution, human right violation or natural or man-made disaster (Q4 = 1/2/3/4) <b>AND</b> Respondent confirms they have crossed an international border after they were forced to flee (Q5 =1) <b>AND</b> Respondent confirms that while in host country they have applied for the international protection (Q8a=1) <b>AND</b> Respondent confirms that the outcome of their application is they were granted refugee status (Q8b =1)
	2. Children born of refugee parents	As mentioned in limitations below, category is calculated based on questions for identification of biological parents, and only linked to their children based on already existing questions in household roster. Additional limitation is that only parents alive and living in the same household will be identified as refugees, based on the proposed identification data element and questions.
	3. Reunified refugee family members from abroad	Additional battery of questions to be developed for representative sample for the category
	4. Others with refugee background	Additional battery of questions to be developed for representative sample for the category

IRRS Framework	Recommended mapping of identification questions
c. Persons returned from abroad after seeking international protection	<p>1. Repatriating refugees</p> <p>Respondent has always lived in the host country/country of enumeration (Q1) =1 <b>AND</b>  Respondent is a citizen of host country (Q2) =1 <b>AND</b>  Respondent has had to flee while living in host country (Q3a=1) <b>AND</b>  Main reason why respondent had to flee while living in host country was either: security reason, armed conflict and generalized violence, fear of persecution, human right violation or natural or man-made disaster (Q4 = 1/2/3/4) <b>AND</b>  Respondent confirms they have crossed an international border after they were forced to flee (Q5 =1) <b>AND</b>  Respondent confirms that while abroad they have applied for the international protection (Q7=1) <b>AND</b>  Respondent confirms that the outcome of their application is they were granted refugee status (Q8b =1)</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>OR</b></p> <p>Respondent has always lived in the host country/country of enumeration (Q1) =1 <b>AND</b>  Respondent is a citizen of host country (Q2) =1 <b>AND</b>  Respondent has had to flee while living in host country (Q3a=1) <b>AND</b>  Main reason why respondent had to flee while living in host country was either: security reason, armed conflict and generalized violence, fear of persecution, human right violation or natural or man-made disaster (Q4 = 1/2/3/4) <b>AND</b>  Respondent confirms they have crossed an international border after they were forced to flee (Q5 =1) <b>AND</b>  Respondent confirms that while abroad they did not plan to apply for the international protection (Q8a =1) <b>AND</b>  Respondent has indicated that their primary document for stay in abroad is recognized refugee status (Q9=9)</p>
	<p>2. Repatriating asylum-seekers</p> <p>Respondent has always lived in the host country/country of enumeration (Q1) =1 <b>AND</b>  Respondent is a citizen of host country (Q2) =1 <b>AND</b>  Respondent has had to flee while living in host country (Q3a=1) <b>AND</b>  Main reason why respondent had to flee while living in host country was either: security reason, armed conflict and generalized violence, fear of persecution, human right violation or natural or man-made disaster (Q4 = 1/2/3/4) <b>AND</b>  Respondent confirms they have crossed an international border after they were forced to flee (Q5 =1) <b>AND</b>  Respondent confirms that while abroad they have applied for the international protection (Q7=1) <b>AND</b>  Respondent confirms that the outcome of their application is they were not granted refugee status (Q8b =2)</p>
	<p>3. Returning from international protection abroad/  4. Others returning from seeking international protection abroad</p> <p>Respondent has always lived in the host country/ country of enumeration (Q1) =1 <b>AND</b>  Respondent is a citizen of host country (Q2) =1 <b>AND</b>  Respondent has had to flee while living in host country (Q3a=1) <b>AND</b>  Main reason why respondent had to flee while living in host country was either: security reason, armed conflict and generalized violence, fear of persecution, human right violation or natural or man-made disaster (Q4 = 1/2/3/4) <b>AND</b>  Respondent confirms they have crossed an international border after they were forced to flee (Q5 =1) <b>AND</b>  Respondent confirms that they have had to stay abroad 12 months or more (Q6 =1) <b>AND</b>  Respondent confirms that while abroad they have not applied for the international protection (Q7=2) <b>AND</b>  Respondent confirms that while abroad they have not intended to apply for the international protection (Q8a=2)</p>

## Administration of the recommended questions in surveys

49. This paper has developed standard data elements and proposed questions sets recommended for household survey work, both for IDPs and refugees, and the respective related populations. In putting these question sets to practical use in survey work, four further methodological questions abound: Firstly, in which part of a wider survey questionnaire should they be placed? Secondly, how should these questions be administered to respondents? Thirdly, can they be integrated with broader migration question sets where migration is already covered in a survey questionnaire? And fourthly, does refugee and IDP identification happen separately, or can/should it be integrated in countries where both populations exist?

### In which part of a questionnaire should the identification questions be placed?

50. As laid out in the introduction of this paper and reiterated throughout the discussion, it is clear that the identification questions should be administered at the individual level. Hence, placement in household member rosters or individual-level questionnaires is recommended. At this point however, no concrete guidance can be given on where precisely within such rosters or individual questionnaires the identification questions should be best placed. Further empirical research and testing are required to assess whether placement earlier or later on in the interview, and in proximity to other themes, may affect identification accuracy.
51. Several questions considered core towards the identification of IDPs and refugees are asked routinely in household surveys' rosters demographics and filiation sections, therefore each survey will have to verify which questions are already asked and build an appropriate flow that will fit the specific survey and module sequence.

### How should these questions be administered to respondents?

52. Another important consideration when planning surveys that include forcibly displaced populations is the mode of administration. As discussed above, identification should happen at the individual level, not the household level. Collecting such data on individuals can happen through approaches:
1. Member-by-member, via proxy respondent: the questions are asked to the head of household or another knowledgeable respondent who answers on behalf of each individual member of the household.
  2. Member-by-member, asked directly: The questions are asked to each individual household member.
  3. Group-then-exceptions: the head of household or an adult respondent who answers on behalf of the household is asked first about the situation of the household as a group, and subsequently is asked whether there are any household members that are in a different situation. If so, additional follow-up questions are asked to identify the exceptions.
53. While option 2 might deliver the highest degree of accuracy, the implications for survey fieldwork are heavy. Rarely are all members of a household present at the time of interview. Thus, this paper does not propose option 2 unless the wider survey takes a direct interviewing approach already.
54. In deciding between options 1 and 3, currently no empirical evidence exists to determine whether any option is more robust to the other in terms of measurement accuracy. Decision on an option should be made on the basis of optimal questionnaire flow. Option 1 may be the better choice where the wider survey questionnaire already has an extensive roster section, so adding the identification questions would come natural to the interview flow. Option 3 may be better suited for surveys that are mostly designed around household-level questions.



## Can identification of IDPs and refugees be integrated with existing migration questions?

55. As laid out in the discussion above, identification of migratory status is closely related to but not synonymous with identification of forcibly displaced status. While many refugees and IDPs will also be migrants in a statistical sense, some may not.
56. For the purpose of this paper, “integration” is understood as administering the IDP/refugee identification questions to a sub-set of the survey sample that has already been pre-filtered through existing migration questions, thereby making use of data elements already available elsewhere in a survey questionnaire and reducing the cost of administering the FDP identification questions.
57. Standard migration questions<sup>22</sup> in major household survey programmes, usually revolve around country of birth and citizenship, having ever migrated since birth, and the most recent migration movement. In some survey series, they only cover international migration whereas in others they also capture movements within the country, provided an administrative boundary was crossed.
58. When it comes to IDPs, the standard migration questions around last/recent migration are insufficient to determine IDP status, as this move may not relate to the forced displacement event. Moreover, it is in principle not advisable to administer the IDP identification questions only to a filtered sub-set of the survey respondents which indicate they have ever moved since birth, since this usually doesn’t count persons who moved within the same administrative area (whereas someone may be an IDP despite having moved forcibly within the same administrative area).
59. Similarly, for refugees, administering the questions recommended above only to a pre-filtered sub-set of survey respondents that have foreign citizenship or which have migrated internationally may cover a large part of the refugee population in a country, but miss some of the sub-population categories of the IRRS framework. For example, filtering on the basis of citizenship would miss naturalized former refugees; and filtering on the basis of an individual’s move across international boundaries would miss children with refugee status that were born in country of asylum.
60. In the end, when it comes to integration of forced displacement and migration questions, survey practitioners will be faced with a trade-off that can only be decided at the country level. Administering displacement questions to a sub-set of survey respondents that have been pre-identified as internal or international migrants will often capture many but not all persons under the IRRS/IRIS statistical frameworks. Whether such exclusion errors are acceptable in light of survey cost savings will depend on the relative size and policy relevance of that sub-population.
61. Future versions of this paper will provide a detailed mapping of the exclusion errors by IRRS/IRIS sub-population resulting from limiting FDP identification questions to the sub-set of the survey sample that have been previously identified as migrants.
62. Nevertheless, given the strong connectedness of migration status and forced displacement status, it does appear sensible to place these topics together in a survey questionnaire.

## Can IDP and refugee identification be integrated?

63. Some countries interested in identifying forcibly displaced populations in their national surveys may have both sizeable refugee and sizeable IDP populations. According to mid-2022 estimates from UNHCR,<sup>23</sup> nine countries had an IDP population as well as a combined population of refugees, asylum seekers and “others in need of international protection” which both exceeded 100,000 persons. These are DRC, Colombia, Ethiopia, Sudan, South Sudan, Iraq, Cameroon, Chad, Niger. When lowering the cut-off to 50,000 individuals, that number rises to fifteen countries.

<sup>22</sup> As elaborated in [this guidance note](#) and also found in the standard questionnaire templates of LFS (questions in [LFS PAPI Roster and essential background characteristics](#)), MICS (questions M/WB15-17 in [MICS6](#)), etc.

<sup>23</sup> <https://www.unhcr.org/refugee-statistics/download/?url=HRY2dL>

64. The objective of the below module is to have an integrated set of data elements and questions with response categories that will allow the identification of most population subgroups in the IRIS and IRRS statistical frameworks. The module is designed to be integrated in nationally representative surveys and it will allow findings / indicators to be disaggregated by forced displacement status.

NUMBER	QUESTION	RESPONSE CATEGORIES		STATISTICAL FRAMEWORK	DATA ELEMENT
Q1.	[Have you/Has NAME] always lived in [survey country]? Please do not think about short or temporary absence or travels	01. Yes 02. No 98. Don't know 99. Refused to answer	→End →End	IRRS (Q1) IRIS (-)	MIGRATION HISTORY
Q2.	Of which country [are you/is NAME] a citizen?	01. [Host country] 02. Other country: <i>specify</i> 03. Stateless 98. Don't know 99. Refused to answer	→Q4 →End →End →End	IRRS (Q2) IRIS (-)	CITIZENSHIP
Q3.	While living in [survey country], [have you/has NAME] ever had to flee home?	01. Yes 02. No 98. Don't know 99. Refused to answer	→Q5 →End →End →End	IRRS (Q3a) IRIS (Q1)	FORCED TO FLEE
Q4.	While living in [Other country], [have you/has NAME] ever had to flee home?	01. Yes 02. No 98. Don't know 99. Refused to answer	→End →End →End	IRRS (Q3b) IRIS (-)	FORCED TO FLEE
Q5.	What is the main reason why [you/NAME] had to flee home?	01. Security reasons, armed conflicts and generalized violence 02. Fear of persecution 03. Human right violation 04. Natural or man-made disaster 05. Eviction 06. Personal reasons 98. Don't know 99. Refused to answer	→End →End →End →End	IRRS (Q4) IRIS (Q2)	FORCED TO FLEE
SKIP CHECK	<i>If respondent has <b>not</b> always lived in survey country (Q1=2), skip to question on crossing the international border (Q7), otherwise continue</i>				
Q6.	Tell me where you were living right before you were forced to flee home for the first time? Tell me the name of the province, the county, the district and the locality, i.e. village or town?	NUTS 1 (provincial level): NUTS 2 (county level): NUTS 3 (district level): NUTS 4 (village or town name):		IRRS (-) IRIS (Q3)	MIGRATION HISTORY
Q7.	After [you were/NAME was] forced to leave home, did [you/NAME] cross an international border?	01. Yes 02. No 98. Don't know 99. Refused to answer	→End →End	IRRS (Q5) IRIS (Q4)	MIGRATION HISTORY
SKIP CHECK	<i>If respondent has always lived in survey country (Q1=1) and has not crossed an international border (Q7=2) skip to question on initial location of displacement location (Q9), If respondent has not always lived in survey country (Q1=2) and has not crossed an international border (Q7=2) end questionnaire, otherwise continue</i>				

NUMBER	QUESTION	RESPONSE CATEGORIES		STATISTICAL FRAMEWORK	DATA ELEMENT
Q8a.	How long did [you/NAME] stay abroad? Less than 12 months or more than 12 months?	01. Less than 12 months 02. 12 months or more 98. Don't know 99. Refuse to answer	→End →End	IRRS (Q6) IRIS (Q5a)	MIGRATION HISTORY
SKIP CHECK	<p><i>If respondent has not always lived in survey country (Q1=2) and has crossed an international border (Q7=1) skip to question on applying for international protection (Q10)</i></p> <p><i>If respondent has always lived in survey country (Q1=1) and has crossed an international border continue (Q7=1) continue</i></p>				
Q8b	What was the primary document that allowed [you/NAME] to stay abroad?	NO DOCUMENTS: 01. No documents VISAS: 02. Tourist visa 03. Student visa 04. Work visa 05. Humanitarian visa INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENTS: 06. Regional free movement agreement (e.g. Mercosur, EU, SADC, EAC, ECOWAS) RESIDENCY: 07. Permanent resident document PROTECTED STATUS: 08. Asylum applicant document 09. Refugee 10. Recognized stateless person document 11. Complementary and subsidiary protection 12. Temporary protection ENROLLEMENT DOCUMENT 13. Enrolment document  96. Other: specify 98. Don't know 99. Refused to answer		IRIS (Q5b)	
Q9	When [you/NAME] were forced to flee, where did you move first? Tell me the name of the province, the county, the district and the locality, i.e. village or town? Please do not think about short stopovers.	NUTS 1 (provincial level): NUTS 2 (county level): NUTS 3 (district level): NUTS 4 (village or town name):	→End →End →End →End	IRRS (-) IRIS (Q6)	MIGRATION HISTORY
Q10.	While in [[Other country]/[survey country]], did [you/NAME] apply for international protection?	01. Yes 02. No 98. Don't know 99. Refused to answer	→Q12 →End →End	IRRS (Q7) IRIS (-)	LEGAL STATUS
Q11.	While in [[Other country]/[survey country]], did [you/NAME] have the intention to apply for international protection?	01. Yes 02. No 98. Don't know 99. Refused to answer	→Q13 →Q13 →End →End	IRRS (Q8a) IRIS (-)	LEGAL STATUS

NUMBER	QUESTION	RESPONSE CATEGORIES		STATISTICAL FRAMEWORK	DATA ELEMENT
Q12.	What is the outcome of [your/NAME's] application for international protection?	01. Refugee status granted 02. Refugee status denied 03. Still waiting for response 96. Other: <i>specify</i> 98. Don't know 99. Refused to answer	→End	IRRS (Q8b) IRIS (-)	LEGAL STATUS
Q13.	What is the primary document that allows [you/NAME] to stay in [survey country]?	NO DOCUMENTS: 01. No documents VISAS: 02. Tourist visa 03. Student visa 04. Work visa 05. Humanitarian visa INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENTS: 06. Regional free movement agreement (e.g. Mercosur, EU, SADC, EAC, ECOWAS) RESIDENCY: 07. Permanent resident document PROTECTED STATUS: 08. Asylum applicant document 09. Refugee 10. Recognized stateless person document 11. Complementary and subsidiary protection 12. Temporary protection ENROLLEMENT DOCUMENT 13. Enrolment document  96. Other: <i>specify</i> 98. Don't know 99. Refused to answer		IRRS (Q9) IRIS (-)	LEGAL STATUS