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Workshop on International Recommendations on Statistics of Refugees, Internally Displaced Persons and Stateless Persons

Egypt-Cairo, 26-28 November 2024

Conclusion and recommendations



ازدهارُ البلدان كرامةُ الإنسان

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EGRIS
EXPERT GROUP ON REFUGEE, IDP
AND STATELESSNESS STATISTICS



Within the framework of efforts to collect, analyse and disseminate data on statistics of refugees, internally displaced persons and stateless persons, the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA), in cooperation with the Arab Institute for Training and Research in Statistics (AITRS) and the Expert Group on Statistics of Refugees, Displaced Persons and Statelessness (EGRISS), organized a workshop on the international statistical recommendations for refugees, internally displaced persons and stateless persons. The workshop was co-organized with the UN Agency for Refugees (UNHCR), the Joint Internal Displacement Profiling Service (JIPS), the UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA). It took place during the period from 26 – 28 November 2024, generously hosted by the League of Arab States in Cairo, Arab Republic of Egypt.

The workshop aimed to familiarize participants with the International Recommendations related to statistics of refugees, internally displaced persons and stateless persons, and to strengthen the capacity of Member States to collect data on these populations in accordance with the international statistical standards developed by the Expert Group on Refugees, Internally Displaced Persons and Statelessness Statistics (EGRISS).

In its sessions, the workshop discussed issues related to the challenges faced by countries in collecting, analyzing and disseminating refugee data, national and regional coordination issues, and the most important features of the International Recommendations related to statistics of refugees and internally displaced persons. The workshop provided an introduction to the EGRISS, offering an overview of the group's mandate, membership, and key resources. Central to discussions were the International Recommendations (IRRS, IRIS and IROSS). During presentations, the frameworks were presented as well as the populations they focused on, helping participants gain a deeper understanding of the three statistical frameworks and their foundations in legal and policy definitions. The sessions also encouraged reflection on how countries in the region can advance this work, emphasizing the importance of integrating these efforts into existing mechanisms and ensuring continued progress. (See agenda of the meeting)



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The workshop was attended by representatives from national statistical agencies and relevant ministries from fourteen countries: Djibouti, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Mauritania, Morocco, Palestine, Somalia, Sudan, Syria, Tunisia and Yemen, as well as regional and international experts from the above organizers.

The workshop concluded with a set of recommendations and ways forward:

Recommendations to Arab countries

1. Strengthen national statistical offices and enhance capacity where needed to enable better coordination between relevant stakeholders, including for example refugee and IDP committees, national statistical offices, migration authorities, ministry of planning, ministry of interior and other relevant institutions to determine data needs and streamline the collection and use of data on refugees, IDPs and stateless persons.
2. Assess the availability and quality of existing data on refugees, IDPs and stateless persons to identify opportunities for improvement, based on the statistical frameworks included in the recommendations emanating from the EGRISS.
3. Identify upcoming opportunities to include/identify refugees, IDPs and stateless persons in national census, administrative registries and relevant household surveys. Develop concrete steps to include these populations in data collection and analysis, for example through the use of booster samples for displaced persons, appropriate identification questions and analysis plans.
4. Integrate innovative and big data sources with traditional data from census, household survey and administrative data for a comprehensive view of the situation of refugees, IDPs and stateless persons.
5. Ensure that refugee, IDP and statelessness statistics are incorporated into national statistical development strategies.
6. Promote the adoption of the International Recommendations on Refugee, IDP and Statelessness Statistics (IRRS, IRIS and IROSS) in national statistical plans and activities through advocacy, training and other capacity strengthening efforts.



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7. Document and share experiences and best practices in the application of the IRRS, IRIS and IROSS, and urge member states and other organizations to consider joining the membership of the Expert Group on Refugee, IDP and Statelessness Statistics (EGRISS).¹

Recommendations to international and regional partners

1. Present the work of the regional sub-group and outcomes of the current workshop to the regional Technical Advisory Group in Demography and Social Statistics in 2025.
2. Integrate topics related to displacement and statelessness statistics into the workplans of existing regional coordination mechanism on CRVS and censuses.
3. Translate EGRISS resources like the IROSS, E-learning, 'Recommendations At-a-Glance' documents and Compiler's Manuals on Forced Displacement Statistics into Arabic for wider accessibility.
4. Mobilize resources for coordination and capacity strengthening and resource mobilization.
5. Given the specificities of displacement and statelessness dynamics in the region such as multiple displacements across different statistical population categories and Palestine refugees in the region, develop regional guidance for countries to apply the EGRISS framework and other statistical recommendations like the Principles and Recommendation for Population and Housing Censuses, and to learn from similar processes in other regions.
6. Strengthen collaboration in the design and implementation of surveys and special studies on refugees, IDPs and stateless persons to ensure full coverage of pertinent topics, including reproductive health and age disaggregation.

¹ The following is a list of current EGRISS members in the region: Morocco (HCP), Somalia (SNBS), Egypt (Central Agency for Public Mobilization and Statistics (CAPMAS), Jordan (Department of Statistics), Djibouti (INSTAD), Iraq (Kurdistan Region), ESCWA (Statistics Division)



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7. Organizing and coordinating statistical capacity development programs in the refugees, IDPs and stateless persons areas, including training programs, workshops, exchange of visits and technical support at the regional and national levels.

A. Documents

Relevant training materials were provided by the trainers prior to the meeting. The main resources of ²the Expert Group on Statistics of Refugees, IDPs/Internally Displaced Persons and Stateless Persons consulted prior to the training include:

- [International Recommendations on Refugee Statistics \(IRRS\)](#) – (English)
- [International Recommendations on Refugee Statistics \(IRRS\)](#) – (Arabic)
- [International Recommendations on IDP/IDP Statistics \(IRIS\)](#) – (English)
- [International Recommendations on IDP/IDP Statistics \(IRIS\)](#) – (Arabic)
- [International Recommendations on Statelessness Statistics \(IROSS\)](#) – (English)
- Recommendations Series at a glance: [IRS](#) , [IRIS](#) , [IROSS](#) (English)
- [E-Learning Course and the Expert Group on Statistics of Refugees, Internally Displaced Persons and Stateless Persons Self-Speed](#) - Specifically, Modules 1, 2, 3 and 4 (English)
- [Handbook for Translators and Expert Group on Refugees, Internally Displaced Persons and Stateless Statistics](#) (English)
- [Annual Report and Group of Experts on Statistics of Refugees, Internally Displaced Persons and Stateless Persons 2023](#)

Other resources include:

- [JIPS - Initiating the Implementation of International Recommendations on Internally Displaced Persons \(IRIS\) Statistics at Country Level: Pocket Handbook for National Statistical Systems](#) (English)
- [UNHCR master glossary of terms | UNHCR](#)
- [UNRWA Consolidated Eligibility and Registration Instructions](#)

Additional documents will be posted on the meeting website:

<https://www.unescwa.org/events>

² See EGRIS website: [EGRIS Home](#)



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B. Agenda

DAY 1 – Participants gain an understanding of the respective population groups, their situation in the region, and the EGRISS Recommendations.

Time	Session	Format	Present/Facilitate/Organize
8:30 – 9:00	Registration		
9:00 – 10:00	Session 1.1: Opening remarks <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Panellists emphasise the importance of the workshop and the relevance of this effort in the region. 	Plenary discussion	Panelists: LAS CAPMAS AITRS EGRISS Secretariat UNHCR UN ESCWA
10:00 – 10:30	Session 1.2: Introduction of participants and workshop objectives <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participants are introduced to each other and are briefed on workshop objectives. 	Plenary discussion	Organise : UNESCWA Present : UN ESCWA/UNHCR Organise : UN ESCWA
10:30- 11:00	Session 1.3: Background presentation on EGRISS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide an overview of EGRISS' mandate, membership and key resources. 	Plenary presentation	Present: EGRISS Secretariat Organise: EGRISS Secretariat
11:00 - 11:30	Coffee break		
11:30 - 12:30	Session 1.4: Setting the Scene: Stock take of the refugee, IDP and statelessness situation and statistics in the Region <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Present findings from questionnaire completed by workshop participants, as well as presentations on policy landscape and activities in the region concerning forced displacement and statelessness statistics. 	Plenary presentation and Q&A (15mins)	Present: UNESCWA UNHCR Regional Office UNRWA UNFPA Regional Office Organise: UNESCWA
12:30 - 13:30	Lunch		
13:30 - 14:30	Session 1.5: Presentation on the International Recommendations (IRRS, IRIS and IROSS) with a focus on statistical frameworks and key population groups <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Present the different population groups within the Recommendations, ensuring participants have an improved understanding of the three statistical frameworks and their grounding in legal/policy definitions. 	Plenary presentation with interactive elements and Q&A (25mins)	Present: EGRISS Secretariat UNHCR JIPS UNRWA Organise: EGRISS Secretariat



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14:30 - 15:30	Session 1.6: Country presentations (x3) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Countries will present the current situation of forced displacement and statelessness in their respective contexts, highlighting ongoing efforts to include these populations in their national statistical systems. Presenters are encouraged to share reflections on the implementation of the Recommendations, the coordination mechanisms in place, the partners involved in supporting this work, and key lessons learned from these processes. 	Plenary presentation	Present: CAMPAS (Egypt), Morocco, Jordan Moderator: UNESCWA Organise: UNESCWA
15:30-16:00	Coffee Break		
16:00-17:00	Session 1.7: Group work reflecting on the stock take and IRRS/IRIS/IROSS presentation & report back <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Smaller group discussion and exercise around the statistical frameworks: definitions of population groups and the relevance of country context. 	Breakout groups	Facilitate: JIPS & UNRWA Organise: JIPS & UNRWA
17:00-	Group Photo and Social Event (optional)		

DAY 2 – Participants will gain a deeper understanding of the EGRISS Recommendations, learn from other countries' implementation experiences, and enhance their knowledge of the support provided by development partners in this area of work.

Time	Session	Format	Present/Facilitate/Organize
9:00 – 9:10	Session 2.1: Recap of Day 1	Plenary discussion	Present: UNRWA
9:10 – 10:00	Session 2.2: Presentation of the International Recommendations (IRRS, IRIS and IROSS) and other EGRISS resources with a focus on data sources <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Present the main data sources and how they can be adjusted to better include forcibly displaced and stateless populations. Additionally, an overview of EGRISS recommended indicators and alignment with global reporting frameworks. 	Plenary presentation and Q&A (10mins)	Present: UNHCR UNFPA Organise: UNHCR and UNFPA
10:00 - 11:00	Session 2.3: Group work reflecting on the data source presentation & report back <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Smaller group discussion and exercise around the statistical recommendations, focusing on the key data sources and indicators. 	Breakout groups and report back	Facilitate: UNHCR UNFPA Organise: UNHCR and UNFPA
11:00 - 11:30	Coffee Break		
11:30 - 12:30	Session 2.4: Country presentations (x3) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Countries will present the current situation of forced displacement and statelessness in their respective contexts, highlighting ongoing efforts to include these populations in their national statistical systems. Presenters are encouraged to 	Plenary presentation	Presenters: Lebanon, Palestine, Yemen and Tunisia Moderator: EGRISS Secretariat



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share reflections on the implementation of the Recommendations, the coordination mechanisms in place, the partners involved in supporting this work, and key lessons learned from these processes.

Organise: UNESCWA

12:30 -	Lunch		
13:30 -	Session 2.5: Country presentations continued (x4)	Plenary presentation	Present: Mauretaniien, Iraq, Libya and Djibouti Organiser: UNESCWA
14:30 -	Coffee Break		
15:00 -	Session 2.6: Presentation from partners working on forced displacement and statelessness statistics	Plenary presentation and Q&A (30mins)	Present: UNHCR, IDAC, JIPS, UNFPA, IOM & UNRWA Organise: UNHCR
16:30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Partners addressing how they can support countries in addressing challenges mentioned during the country presentations, including the technical support available, funding opportunities, methods to integrate statistical inclusion in the National Strategy for the Development of Statistics, and available resources to support capacity development in this area of work. 		

DAY 3 – Participants will gain a deeper understanding of the importance of coordination in advancing the work on statistical inclusion and will have agreed on a clear way forward both for the region and within their national contexts.

Time	Session	Format	Present/Facilitate
9:00 – 9:10	Session 3.1: Recap of Day 2	Plenary discussion	Present: UNHCR Regional Office
9:10 – 10:00	Session 3.2: Presentation of the International Recommendations (IRRS, IRIS and IROSS) with a focus on coordination at national and regional levels	Plenary presentation and Q&A (10min)	Present: UNHCR Regional Office UNESCWA JIPS Organise: UNHCR Regional office, UNESCWA and JIPS
10:00 – 10:30	Coffee Break		
10:30 – 11:30	Session 3.3: Discussion on next steps and way forward	Plenary discussion	Facilitate: UN ESCWA Organise: UNESCWA
11:30 – 12:00	Session 3.4: Closing Remarks	Plenary discussion	Present: LAS UNESCWA UNFPA Regional Office EGRISS Secretariat



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C. List of Participants

EGRIS-UNESCWA Workshop on the International Recommendations on Refugee, Internally Displaced Persons, and Statelessness Statistics

Egypt-Cairo, 26 - 28 November 2024

1. Countries

Djibouti

Abdoulkader Dahir Ainan
Chargé CRRF (Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework)
Office National d'Assistance aux Réfugiés et Sinistrés

Moktar Awaleh
Institute of Statistics of Djibouti (INSTAD)

Egypt

Sohair Metwaly Ahmed
Director General of the General Administration of Family Research
CAPMAS

Haidy Mahmoud
Senior Statistician
CAPMAS

Mohammad Nassar
First statistician
CAPMAS

Ahmed Saada
Associate Minister, CEO of Civil Society Support Fund
Ministry of Social Solidarity

Iraq

Muwafaq Tuama Jebur
Director of the Registration Division
Ministry of Interior

Jordan

Haydar Mahmoud Soliman Harahsheh
Senior Researcher
Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation

Feddah ANNANBEH
Head of the Population and Social Statistics Department
Department of Statistics

Lebanon

Oula Boutros
General Supervisor for Lebanon crisis response plan and advisor to the Minister of Social Affairs
Ministry of Social Affairs

Ibtissam El Jouni
Social Scientist - National Coordinator of Migration Statistics
Central Administration of Statistics

Libya

Morad ALMAQTOUF
Statistical researcher
Libyan Statistics and Census Authority

Mauritania

HabibouAllah Al Cheikh
National Agency for Statistics, Demographic and Economic Analysis



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Morocco

Mohamed Mghari
Regional Director of Planning
High Commissioner of Planning

Palestine

Hatem Qrareya
Head of Division Demography of
Palestinians Abroad
Central Bureau of Statistics

Somalia

Zakariye Harbi Ahmed
Monitoring and Evaluation Specialist
Ministry of Planning, Investment and
Economic Development

Abdirahman Said Abdikarim
National Commission for Refugees and
IDPs (NCRI)

Sudan

Ali Mohammad Abbas Ahmed
General Director
Central Bureau of Statistics

Syria

Maher Saiid
Director of Planning and International
Cooperation
Central Bureau of Statistics

Tunisia

Sabrine Aloui
Deputy Director In charge of Social Studies
and Statistics
National Institute of Statistics

Yemen

Nazih Abdullah
Acting Director General of Regional
International Organizations
Ministry of Planning and International
Cooperation



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2. UN Agencies

UNHCR

Aina Saerte
Statistics & Data Analysis Officer

Rifat Zahir
Data Scientist

Theresa Beltramo
Senior Economist

Awat Salih
Information Management Officer

Nermeen Abdelaziz
Senior Livelihood and Economic Inclusion
Associate

Eraj Imomberdiev
Assistant Representative

UNRWA

Sebastian Steinmueller
RSS Statistician

UNFPA

Willis Odek (PhD)
Population and Development Advisor
UNFPA Arab States Regional Office
(ASRO)

IOM

Alaeddine Dridi
Regional Research Officer

3. Non- UN agencies

Expert Group on Refugee, IDP and Statelessness Statistics (EGRISS)

Natalia Baal
Head of EGRISS Secretariat

Charis Oluwamayowa Sijuwade
Assistant Statistics and Data Analysis
Officer

JIPS

Oscar Ivan Rico Valencia
Head of Information Management

AITRS

Hedi Saidi

League of Arab States

Abeer Nasser
Director of statistics and databases

Kareem Mohamed Abd Elhi
Statistical consultant

Niveen Aneis

4. Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA)

Ismail Lubbad
Team Leader, Demographic and Social
Statistics team

Dina Karanouh
Statistics Assistant



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