



Forced internal displacement is an issue of growing concern for Member States of the Central American Integration System (SICA), including Belize, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, and Panama. In some countries, hundreds of thousands have been forcibly displaced because of violence, primarily linked to the activities of criminal gangs.<sup>1</sup> The phenomenon is exacerbated by the notable increase in the impact of natural disasters caused by climate change, such as floods and extreme droughts.<sup>2</sup>

Against this background, the General Secretariat of SICA together with EGRISS<sup>3</sup> through its members International Organisation for Migration (IOM), the Joint Internal Displacement Profiling Service (JIPS), and the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR), organised the **CENTROESTAD Regional Workshop on Internal Displacement Statistics in the SICA Region**, in Roatán, Honduras, on 16-17 November 2022. The two-day workshop fostered peer-to-peer learning and enhanced the much-needed conversation between the National Statistical Offices (NSOs) and the government entities responding to Internal Displacement around the production of more inclusive official statistics, that are in line with the International Recommendations on IDP Statistics (IRIS)<sup>4</sup> and can inform more sustainable development.

## Key messages and recommendations

- **Collaboration between NSOs and national institutions working on Internal Displacement is critical.** Relevant government institutions should promote and advocate for sound and nationally owned data on Internal Displacement and the assessment of durable solutions, while NSOs should provide technical assistance and integrate forced displacement into their statistical production, in line with the International Recommendations on IDP Statistics (IRIS).
- **Countries that are planning their next population census or conducting standard national surveys have a critical opportunity to include IDP identification questions.** The census is particularly key to establish a sampling frame for statistical representativity of IDPs. The surveys will allow the comparison of key indicators between IDPs and non IDPs. Furthermore, enabling the interoperability of **administrative registries** of different government institutions could improve consensus around data and also serve as a source of official statistics.

1 <https://www.internal-displacement.org/global-report/grid2022>

2 <https://www.weforum.org/reports/global-risks-report-2022/>

3 Expert Group on Refugee, Internally Displaced Persons (IDP) and Statelessness Statistics (EGRISS), <https://egrisstats.org>

4 <https://egrisstats.org/recommendations/international-recommendations-on-idp-statistics-iris/>

- **NSOs and national institutions working on Internal Displacement can jointly advocate for greater technical and political buy-in by policy and development actors.** Collaboration around the statistical production on Internal Displacement is key to plan, monitor, and evaluate the success of Durable Solutions for displacement.
- **EGRISS should promote cross-context peer-to-peer exchange between NSOs, government actors, and international partners to share experiences and good practices** on the use of surveys, censuses, and administrative records to identify IDPs and assess progress towards Durable Solutions. Technical regional workshops, such as the SICA-EGRISS event in Roatán, enable critical capacity building and leverage political will at the national level to address the issue.

## Background

Since March 2019, the Central American Statistical Commission of the Central American Integration System (CENTROESTAD) together with the UNHCR implemented joint activities to strengthen information systems on migration and displacement in Central America. This included a virtual workshop organised by CENTROESTAD in June 2021 in coordination with the General Secretariat of the SICA and UNHCR.<sup>5</sup> The webinar raised awareness among NSOs on the recommendations and their applicability in their national and regional contexts.

In 2022, in coordination between SICA and EGRISS, a country diagnosis exercise was conducted by representatives of the NSOs with technical support by EGRISS members IOM, JIPS and UNHCR. The analysis provided critical preliminary insights on the existing data ecosystem on Internal Displacement in the SICA region, including whether and how statistical information and data are currently collected in each country (such as through censuses, surveys, and administrative records). It also highlighted avenues on how the international community can best support government-owned statistics on Internal Displacement.

The results were presented and discussed at the **CENTROESTAD Regional Workshop on Internal Displacement Statistics in the SICA Region**, in November in Honduras. The technical meeting thus marked an important milestone in the implementation of the IRIS in the SICA region. Concretely, the regional workshop capacitated participants, showcased lessons learnt, and identified opportunities to strengthen statistical production on Internal Displacement in the region.

## Main discussion points

The rich discussions and exchange of experiences brought forward several key points:

**Institutional coordination:** The process of sensitization and capacity building for the generation of official statistics on forced internal displacement – as recommended by the IRIS – should include the national statistical authorities as well as the authorities responsible for the issue in the country. It is the government entities responsible for responding to internally displaced persons, who must address the issue and coordinate statistical requirements with the National Statistical System as thematic leaders.

**Normative framework:** A law (or equivalent) that recognizes forced internal displacement and determines responsibilities and goals represents a milestone that facilitates, from a data point of view, governance and

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5 Find out more at <https://www.iips.org/news/unhcr-centroestad-workshop-sica-countries-work-on-iris-implementation/>

consensus.<sup>6</sup> There may be legislative decisions that recognize the different types of displacement by their causes. Adopting the definition of forcibly displaced persons based on the elements provided in the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement requires an inter-institutional dialogue involving the statistical authority, as well as the authorities of the sectors responsible for internal displacement under all its possible causes.

**Household Surveys:** The disaggregation by forced displacement variable of the household surveys conducted by the Statistical Offices requires a discussion within the National Statistical System that involves the leading authorities of the sector, since they are the ones who should recommend the demographic and socioeconomic variables on which the statistics of this population are required. The Statistical Offices should identify whether these variables are already measured from existing surveys, in which case the disaggregation by forced displacement will allow comparison with the non-displaced population. As household surveys increasingly collect data to report on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) indicators, these data should be disaggregated by forced internal displacement to allow measuring gaps in progress towards SDGs and strive to “*leave no one behind*”.

**Administrative Records:** Although the integration of records on assistance to the displaced population is important and desirable from the point of view of information management, the production of official statistics should be based on a statistical estimate and/or total count of forcibly internally displaced persons in the country. The most flexible option for statistical estimates on internally displaced persons, in general, is the household survey (by sampling); however, there is the possibility of incorporating specific questions in population censuses to identify IDPs, as well as strengthening administrative records in order to obtain complementary information.

The **importance of statistics for the design of public policies:** Statistics are a resource that facilitates the classification and assessment (profiling) of the internally displaced population for the purpose of tailoring public policies, as well as humanitarian and development programmatic responses without neglecting the universal approach to access to rights for this population. Statistics represent a powerful tool for obtaining fundamental evidence and information for decision-making and the design of public policies that respond to the needs of the target population and the achievement of durable solutions.

## Key takeaways and way forward

The two workshops implemented in June 2021 and November 2022 brought increased visibility and attention to the need to produce official statistics on IDPs in Central America. The workshops gathered NSOs and government authorities with responsibilities to respond to Internal Displacement to strengthen synergies within countries and across the region and to build capacity on IRIS implementation. **It provided countries in the SICA region with concrete pathways, including through the diagnostics exercise and the productive exchange of experiences, lessons learnt and good practices between countries.**

The SICA – EGRISS partnership has proven to be a springboard for stepped-up action for the improved inclusion of forcibly displaced people in national official statistics. The participating NSOs also highly valued the exchange with national institutions responsible for providing protection and assistance to the internally displaced population and agreed to consolidate inter-institutional coordination.

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<sup>6</sup> For example, on 22 December 2022 the National Congress of Honduras adopted a landmark IDP legislation. See <https://www.unhcr.org/news/press/2022/12/63a487e44/unhcr-welcomes-new-legislation-address-internal-displacement-honduras.html>



Organizado conjuntamente con los miembros del EGRIS:



JIPS, IOM, and UNHCR together with EGRIS will continue to support SICA and the countries in the region to provide technical assistance for the formulation of relevant questions in censuses and national household surveys, as well as to facilitate peer-to-peer learning through training, joint workshops and more. **Ultimately, making forcibly displaced people visible in national official statistics will help ensure that ‘no one is left behind’ and will enable progress towards the inclusive and sustainable development of the region.**

## ANNEX 1. Agenda and description of the sessions

MIÉRCOLES 16 DE NOVIEMBRE 2022		
HORARIO	TEMAS	RESPONSABLE
8:30 - 9:00 (GMT-6)	Palabras de Bienvenida Presentación de los participantes y explicación de los objetivos del taller	Mario Villalobos, SG-SICA Laura Giammarinaro, Bureau de Las Américas, ACNUR.
9.00 - 9.30	La trayectoria de la CENTROESTAD y de su Grupo de Trabajo especializado en migración y desplazamiento	Miguel Corleto, SG-SICA
9:30 - 10:00	Presentación de los avances a nivel global en la implementación de las Recomendaciones Internacionales para la generación de estadísticas sobre Personas Desplazadas Internas (PDI)	Oscar Iván Rico, JIPS
10.00 - 10.15	Preguntas y aclaraciones	Participantes
10.15 - 10.30	<i>Refrigerio</i>	
10:30 - 11:15	Presentación conjunta – hallazgos del diagnóstico regional sobre el estado de situación de la información producida por los Sistemas Estadísticos Nacionales sobre el desplazamiento interno	Eugenia Loria, OIM Edouard Legoupil, ACNUR
11:15 - 12:30	Primera ronda de discusión sobre el diagnóstico regional, reflexiones desde las Oficinas Nacionales Estadísticas	Representantes de INEs Moderador: Miguel Corleto, SG-SICA
12.30 - 2.00 pm	<i>Almuerzo</i>	
2:00 - 3:00 pm	Segunda ronda de discusión sobre el diagnóstico regional, reflexiones desde la perspectiva de las agencias gubernamentales a cargo de la respuesta al desplazamiento.	Representantes de otros actores de los gobiernos nacionales Moderadora: Giovanna Rizzi, SG-SICA
3.00 - 3.15 pm	Preguntas y aclaraciones	Participantes
3:15 - 3:30 pm	<i>Refrigerio</i>	
3:30 - 4:15 pm	Presentación proyecto piloto de la INE de Honduras, financiado por el BM y el ACNUR	INE Honduras
4.15 - 5.00 pm	Presentación de experiencias innovadoras en la generación de estadísticas sobre PID en México	Representante INEGI México
5.00 - 5.30 pm	Preguntas y aclaraciones	Participantes

JUEVES 17 DE NOVIEMBRE 2022		
HORARIO	TEMAS	RESPONSABLE
8:30 - 9:45 (GMT-6)	Introducción a marco de soluciones duraderas y oportunidades para su implementación en las IRIS	Oscar Iván Rico, JIPS
09.45 - 10.30	Análisis de desafíos y oportunidades de articulación en cada país frente a la producción de estadísticas sobre PDI.	Participantes Facilitación: Laura Giammarinaro, ACNUR
10.30 - 10.45	<i>Refrigerio</i>	
10.45 - 11.30	Mesas de trabajo para establecer acuerdos y compromisos de cara a la producción de estadísticas oficiales sobre PDI y la implementación de las IRIS	Participantes Facilitación: Giovanna Rizzi, SG-SICA Eugenia Loria, OIM
11.30 - 12.00	Plenaria para definir acuerdos y compromisos	Participantes
12.00 - 12.30	Conclusiones del evento	Miguel Corleto, SICA
12.30	<i>Foto Grupal y almuerzo</i>	<i>Participantes</i>

## ANNEX 2. Participants in alphabetical order



Name	Surname	Organisation	Country
América	Aguilar	Instituto Nacional de Estadística - INE	Honduras
Angel	Pérez	Statistical Institute of Belize - SIB	Belize
Christian	Orellana	Statistical Institute of Belize - SIB	Belize
Corina	Demottaz	JIPS	Suiza
David	Cornejo	OIM	El Salvador
Dianny	Hernández	Instituto Nacional de Estadística y Censos- INEC	Costa Rica
Edouard	Legoupil	ACNUR	America
Eugenia	Loría	OIM	America
Fernando	Novoa	OIM	México
Giovanna	Rizzi	Secretaría General del SICA	El Salvador
Hisham	Galal	ACNUR	Americas
Jenny	Aguilar	Secretaría de Estado en el Despacho de Derechos Humanos SEDH	Honduras
Johanna	Miranda	ACNUR	Honduras
José	Sosa	Instituto Nacional de Estadística - INE	Honduras
Laura	Giammarinaro	ACNUR	Americas
Magda	Herrera	Instituto Nacional de Estadística - INE	Guatemala
Magda	del Valle	Instituto Guatemalteco de Migración - IGM	Guatemala
Miguel	Arévalo	Dirección de Atención a Víctimas - Ministerio de Justicia	El Salvador
Miguel	Corleto	Secretaría General del SICA	El Salvador
Oscar	Rico	JIPS	Suiza
Sandra	Mancebo	Embajada de la Republica Dominicana en Honduras	República Dominicana
Santos	Cruz	Instituto Nacional de Estadística - INE	Honduras
Tamara	Stupalova	ACNUR	El Salvador
Tania	García	Instituto Nacional de Estadística y Geografía INEGI	México

## ABOUT

### SICA

Established in 1991, the Central American Integration System (SICA) is the institutional framework for Central American Regional Integration, created by the States of Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua and Panama. Subsequently, Belize and the Dominican Republic joined. Its main objective is to achieve the integration of Central America as a region of peace, freedom, democracy and development.

CENTROESTAD is the Statistical Commission of the SICA, established in 2008 and members of the EGRISS since 2019, it actively supports NSOs in the region through its different working groups; particularly the one on migration and displacement created in 2019 addresses data management in alignment to the IRIS.

### EGRISS

The Expert Group on Refugee, Internally Displaced Persons, and Statelessness Statistics (EGRISS) is a multi-stakeholder group established in 2016 by the UN Statistical Commission. Since its establishment, the group's members -currently including 52 national statistical offices and regional and international organizations- have been working collaboratively to develop and support the implementation of international statistical standards on refugees, IDPs and stateless populations.

The EGRISS' ultimate goal is to enable informed policy and decision making on forced displacement through the use of high-quality, harmonized official statistics on these population groups and to improve the availability of official statistics on forced displacement through their inclusion into national statistical production.

### JIPS

JIPS is an interagency service set up in 2009 and dedicated to bringing governments, displaced persons, host communities and national and international actors together to collaborate towards durable solutions for internal displacement. A globally recognized neutral broker, JIPS supports collaborative and responsible approaches to data collection and use in internal displacement contexts, with a particular focus on developing national capacities, protracted displacement, durable solutions, and urban displacement.

JIPS is a long-standing EGRISS Steering Committee member and led the subgroup that developed the International Recommendations on IDP Statistics (IRIS), adopted by the UN Statistical Commission in 2020. JIPS also co-leads EGRISS' Subgroup 2 on capacity development and technical country support, and contributes its expertise to EGRISS' other areas of work, including the refinement of methodologies and approaches.

### UNHCR

UNHCR, the UN Refugee Agency, is a global organization dedicated to safeguarding the rights and well-being of people who have been forced to flee. Together with partners and communities, for over half a century, UNHCR has helped millions of refugees, returnees, stateless people, internally displaced persons and asylum-seekers to find protection and solutions.

UNHCR is an EGRISS Steering Committee member and hosts the EGRISS Secretariat. UNHCR furthermore co-leads EGRISS' subgroup 2 working on capacity development and supports the statistical inclusion of forcibly displaced and stateless persons in national official statistics as a powerful enabler for inclusion, protection and solutions.

### IOM

Established in 1951, the International Organization for Migration is the leading inter-governmental organization promoting humane and orderly migration for the benefit of all, advancing international cooperation and assisting practical solutions to related issues, as well as providing humanitarian assistance. IOM is present in over 100 countries and supports 174 member states to improve migration management. In 2021, IOM's work on the mobility dimensions of crises reached 31.7 million persons (including internally displaced persons, refugees and migrants) and host community members.

IOM works closely with governmental, intergovernmental, and non-governmental partners. IOM is a member of EGRISS, collaborated in the development of the IRIS, and co-leads its Subgroup 2 on capacity development.