

# Coordination to Support the Implementation of International Recommendations on IDP Statistics

MON 1 – TUE 2 AUGUST 2022  
 NAIROBI, KENYA



## SUMMARY REPORT

Date and time	Location	Participants
August 1 - 2, 2022	Nairobi, Kenya	Global: JIPS, EGRISS Secretariat Regional: UNHCR regional bureau, IOM regional bureau Somalia: SNBS (Government), OCHA, IOM, UNHCR, ReDSS, UNDP, REACH-INITIATIVE, UNFPA, UNICEF

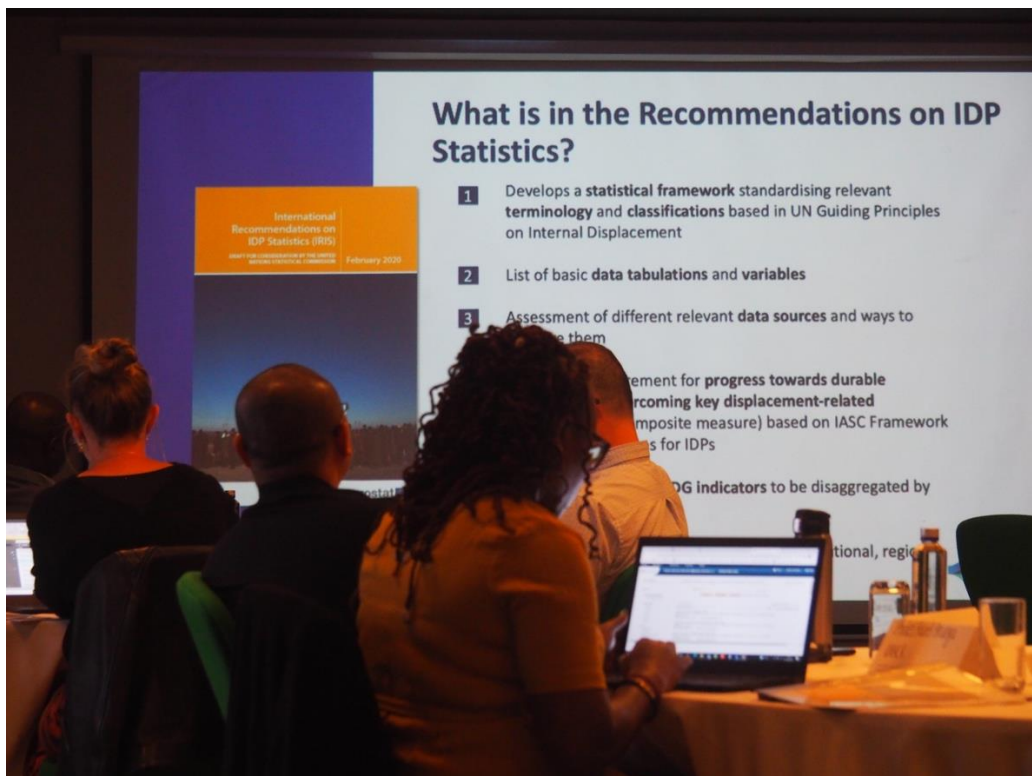
### The meeting

On Monday 1st and Tuesday 2nd of August, EGRISS and JIPS convened a technical meeting in Nairobi. The aim of the meeting was to promote a hands-on and technical discussion around the production of national statistics on internal displacement in Somalia. The meeting is part of EGRISS’ technical support to Somalia for the implementation of the International Recommendations on IDP Statistics (IRIS). Requested by the Somalia National Bureau of Statistics (SNBS) in May 2021, the support also involves the development of a standalone Statistics Sector Strategic Plan on IDPs, as part of the National Strategy for the Development of Statistics (NSDS) currently being elaborated. JIPS is leading the technical support provision on behalf of EGRISS, as per agreement by the EGRISS Steering Committee in December 2021.

The technical meeting builds on several earlier exchanges and consultations that took place between the EGRISS Subgroup 2 on capacity development, the SNBS, and other government entities as well as in-country teams from the international community. For the first time, however, the different actors came together in-person for a 2-day working session to develop a shared understanding of the IRIS, the existing data ecosystem on internal displacement in Somalia, and on how the international community can best support government-owned statistics on internal displacement. The technical meeting thus marks an important step in the ongoing process of EGRISS’ support to the Government of Somalia.

## Key takeaways

1. A **coordination platform** led by the Government to discuss IDP official statistics should be aligned within the National Statistical System in Somalia.
2. Aligning the IRIS to existing and upcoming displacement and development frameworks, such as the National Durable Solutions Strategy will help **mainstream IDPs into national statistics**.
3. Existing coordination platforms on internal displacement should promote **information exchange on data collection with the Government** and consensus around standards and definitions.
4. **Identification of internally displaced persons** in national surveys and administrative data run by government agencies will allow IDP identification and comparability with the national population.
5. Data collection exercises for operational purposes could benefit from the IRIS by adapting the principles of **representation, comparability, and consistency over time**.
6. Statistically sound data will allow **consensus around IDP figures** in Somalia which can inform humanitarian response and measure progress towards durable solutions.



## Context of the meeting

The Government of Somalia is progressing towards increasing its capacities on national statistics and analysis on displacement to strengthen government leadership on durable solutions for those affected by forced displacement. The international community plays a key role supporting the statistical production around

forced displacement which can further serve to inform humanitarian response. As addressed in the National Development Plan 9 (NDP-9), 2020-2024, the lack of physical safety, both from conflict and natural disaster, have impacted more than 2.4 million Somalis, exacerbating the impacts of poverty. Furthermore, prioritising durable solutions for long term displacement is a cross cutting imperative of the strategy framework of the NDP-9.

In 2020, the Government of Somalia signed the National Durable Solutions Strategy (NDSS) with the vision to achieve durable solutions for displacement affected communities through evidence-based analyses, bottom-up and inclusive consensus building, and integrated and systematic programming, through a whole of government approach. One of its strategic objectives is to increase the resilience of displacement affected communities by ensuring equitable access to public services, housing with security of tenure, and social safety nets. Currently efforts by the Ministry of Planning, Investment and Economic Development (MoPIED) and the National Commission for Refugee and IDPs (NCRI) are operationalizing the Strategy. Furthermore, the latter is currently working on an IDP profiling system reaching thousands of internally displaced persons in the Mogadishu area.

The current internal displacement data ecosystem in Somalia relies mainly on UN, international and national non-governmental actors and it focuses on estimating stocks, tracking flows, measuring progress towards durable solutions and assessing needs. These data efforts inform humanitarian response and programming and have been endorsed by some government actors for operational purposes. Humanitarian actors have been working to strengthen the data systems on internal displacement, achieving an agreed upon estimate on IDP stock. For example, the UN led IDP Working Group (IDPWG) coordinates with humanitarian actors to provide data-driven evidence to inform programming and humanitarian response. Members of the IDPWG include EGRISS members, such as UNHCR, IOM, OCHA and IDMC. The IOM-led Danwadaag Consortium collects data to follow up progress on Durable Solutions in certain regions of the country.

The Somalia National Bureau of Statistics (SNBS), established in 2020 by the Somali Statistics Law No. 24, is leading on the development of a National Strategy for the Development of Statistics NSDS, 2018-2023. In this quest, in May 2021 the SNBS requested support to the Expert Group on Refugee, IDP and Statelessness Statistics (EGRISS) to implement the International Recommendations on IDP Statistics (IRIS) and develop a stand alone IDP statistics sector strategic plan that helps to build a National IDP Statistics System and contributes to strengthening evidence-based public policy and national responses to displacement in the long term, by increasing the visibility of internal displacement.

As highlighted in the report of the High-Level Panel on Internal Displacement, the work underway through the EGRISS can offer an important platform for coordinating capacity development efforts for national statistical systems on forced displacement statistics. A prerequisite for the inclusion of IDP statistical production in the scope of the NSDS in Somalia, is the establishment of a thorough understanding of the requirements IRIS poses on the production of official IDP statistics as well a thorough information landscape mapping related to existing data sources for IRIS implementation.

## Main points of discussion

### Coordination

#### Improve coordination structures

*As multiple data sources/systems/sets are produced in Somalia on internal displacement, roles and responsibilities between humanitarian actors, development actors and the Government of Somalia should be harmonised.* Implementing and strengthening Government led data processes forms part of Somalia's transition towards a Federal State structure with stronger state actors. This is especially relevant for internal

displacement where there have been few data collection efforts through government statistical agencies that include IDP identification.

The technical meeting provided some insights and created a shared understanding of the various roles and responsibilities in IDP data production among the participants. Participants also agreed that, going forward, it will be important to enhance existing multi-stakeholder coordination platforms to share information on plans for data collection by various stakeholders. This coordination should be based on enhanced communication channels where humanitarian, development and government actors share plans for upcoming data collection, discuss methodologies and standards and disseminate results.

*Enhanced coordination and regular technical discussions among actors are needed to agree upon definitions and timely planning for data collection exercises, to find synergies and avoid duplication.* Some actors may not be aware of upcoming surveys and data collection carried out by other agencies, and may thus not be able to provide inputs and identify opportunities for collaboration in the planning phase of these activities. A formal structure where the Government regularly discusses upcoming plans for surveys with the humanitarian, development and donor community is key. Given that some of these data collection sources are not solely focused on displacement, this coordination should take place through a National Statistical System structure; humanitarian and development agencies should be included in such coordination efforts.

### **Address uncertainty around IDP figures**

*According to the IRIS, stock of IDPs is one of the basic statistics to be included in national statistical frameworks. There is a need to address uncertainty around estimates of the total number of IDPs in the country.* Such estimates are an important input when determining the overall size and shape of the humanitarian response. The current set-up relies on key informants and is conducted by humanitarian agencies. There are also existing efforts to collect data on durable solutions for targeted areas and for programming purposes. While this is understandable in contexts of emergency or crisis when regular data collection is not feasible, it is not ideal in situations of protracted displacement such as in the case of Somalia. If data collection in the field becomes more feasible, it should be discussed how more rigorous statistical methodology could be applied to the estimates of IDPs. Improved coordination and knowledge sharing on methodologies on a regular basis, for instance through workshops or peer-to-peer exchange could forge a common ground on IDP estimates. Further, a stronger focus on documenting the various methodological approaches would facilitate a better dialogue around combining efforts towards producing IDP statistics and enhancing the data ecosystem for official statistics on internal displacement in Somalia.

### **Strengthen intra-governmental coordination of statistical production**

*The production of national statistics requires a whole-of-government approach. Given the different mandates of federal and state actors, there is a need for improved coordination amongst different government bodies around statistical production.* This should happen at the federal level, where the roles of SNBS, NCRI and various line ministries should be clarified and agreed upon. The division of labour between federal bodies and statistical units at State level (both statistical offices and statistical units within State-level ministries) should also be addressed. The best way to address this would be to support the set-up of a National Statistical System, led by the SNBS and its statistical authorities partners at state level, where such coordination could take place. It should also be mentioned that the impending change of Government may open up a space for framing this coordination.

### **Strengthen coordination of EGRISS members at global and national levels**

*It is important for all EGRISS members to continue a technical discussion at global and national level to align the IRIS to the work and the mandate of EGRISS members in Somalia.* EGRISS is a multi-stakeholder global platform with members in more than 50 countries and 28 regional and international organisations. EGRISS members in Somalia include the National Bureau of Statistics and UN agencies such as UNHCR, IOM, OCHA, UNFPA and UNICEF. The technical meeting was a step to raise awareness and build knowledge on the

International Recommendations on IDP Statistics. A shared understanding may facilitate more effective country-level coordination between EGRISS members and other stakeholders in-country. It may sometimes be unclear at country level how IRIS fits in with broader humanitarian and development agendas, and headquarters of EGRISS members may be able to guide country offices on this.



## Frameworks

### Agree upon a uniform IDP definition in Somalia

Adapting the definition of internally displaced persons in Somalia requires a thorough understanding of the context and the nuances at state level. There may be some differences in how various actors define IDPs in their data collection, which opens an opportunity to adapt and shape up the definition of IDP for statistical purposes as recommended by the IRIS. The Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement provide guidance on how to define IDPs, but there is room for countries to adapt the definition based on their context. *EGRISS members in Somalia could support the Government to agree upon a definition that is relevant and comprehensive for the context so that it could be incorporated uniformly into various data collection exercises and ideally legally bound.*

### Find synergies between various Acts

Different national frameworks in Somalia support the acknowledgement and collective response to internal displacement, others address the management of data and the production of official statistics. For instance, the National Policy on Refugee-Returnees and Internally Displaced Persons (2019) and the National Durable Solutions Strategy (2020) manage the roles and responsibilities for all activities supporting durable solutions in Somalia, whereas the Statistics Act (2020) manages the roles and responsibilities in data collection in general. *There is an opportunity to find synergies between the two frameworks where outcomes and targets on durable solutions can inform the formulation of official statistics*

## Definitions

### Adjust the IDP definitions to national context

As already mentioned, *the definition of IDPs from IRIS will need to be adapted to the Somali context*. The participants agreed that it would be useful if a definitive definition for IDPs in Somalia was adopted by the Government of Somalia, so that it could be used uniformly by all actors collecting data on IDPs, including humanitarian, development and Government actors. This national definition should include both who are IDPs and also what constitute Durable Solutions in a Somali context.



## Data sources

### Map data sources for Official Statistics

Existing data sources for IDP data collection were extensively discussed during the technical meeting. Use cases were showcased by participants to reflect on good practices and challenges on data collection against the IRIS and the role of Official Statistics. Participants spent time on mapping existing data sources within the humanitarian sector using criteria for Official Statistics. *This initial mapping can be further refined and used as a basis for selecting potential sources for Official Statistics on displacement in Somalia*. Some data sources, while very useful for humanitarian programming, are not fit for purpose in Official Statistics due to their methodological approaches.

### Consult with humanitarian actors in planning of SNBS survey work

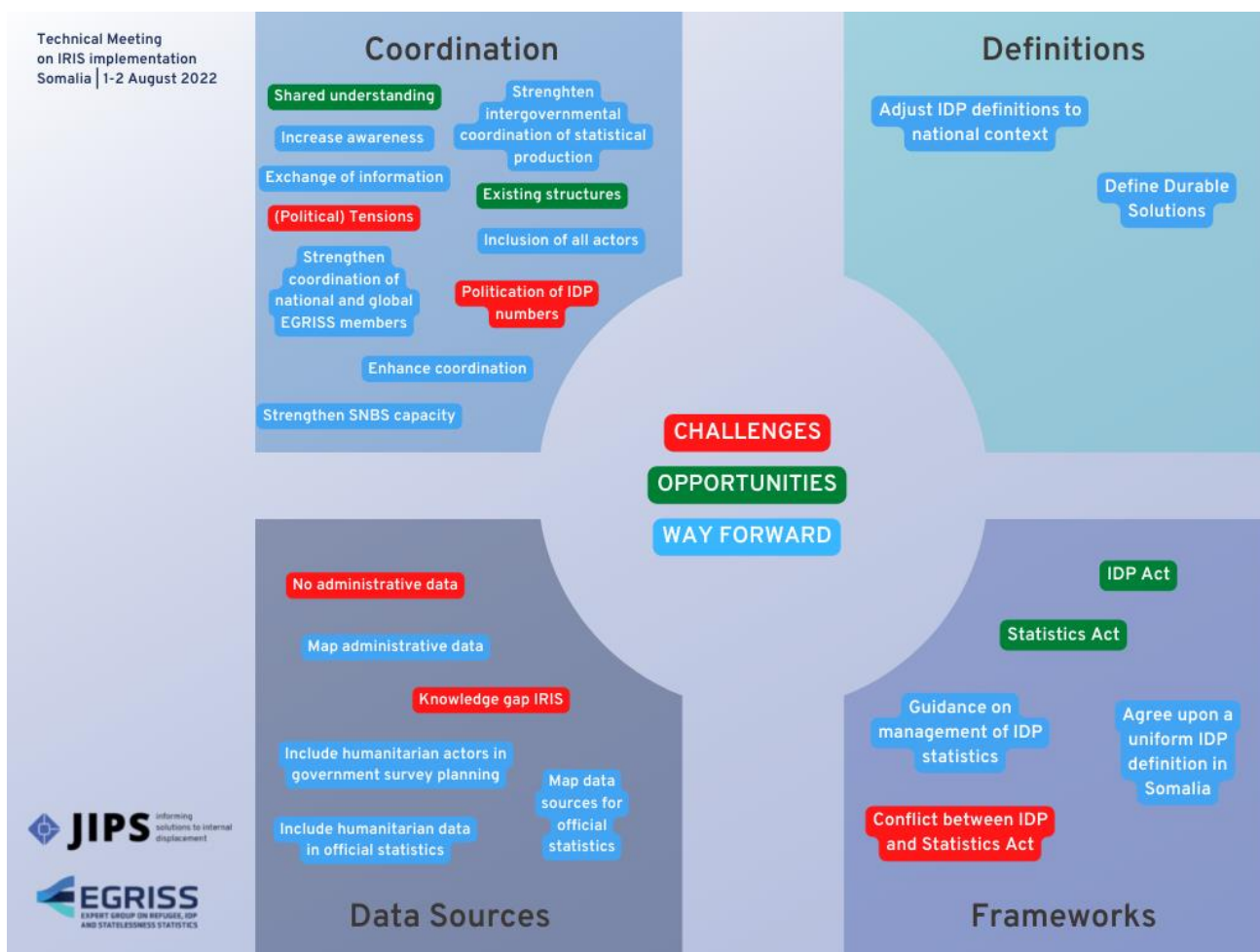
Several of recent and upcoming SNBS surveys are not specifically focusing on IDPs, but they could be very valuable and rich sources for comparing IDPs and the general population on a range of socio-economic indicators, either for general comparison of living conditions or more specifically for inclusion of measurements of Durable Solutions. *The SNBS should seek to involve humanitarian and development actors early in the planning process of these surveys to jointly explore the possibility of including questions for identification of IDPs*. Such inclusion may greatly enhance the availability of IDP data and may simultaneously reduce the need for separate data collection by the humanitarian sector itself.

### Explore ways humanitarian data can be useful for Official Statistics

While most humanitarian data is not collected in line with methods and standards for Official Statistics, participants agree that some of the site mapping conducted by the CCCM cluster may be very useful for the SNBS in their planning phase for the upcoming census. *SNBS, together with their partner UNFPA, should be encouraged to work with the CCCM cluster and the IDP Working Group to explore how the detailed and updated site mapping could inform the mapping stage of the Census.*

### Map administrative data sources on IDPs

The SNBS primarily conducts surveys in their production of Official Statistics. However, there may be administrative data collected on IDPs, either by international humanitarian agencies or national actors such as National Commission for Refugee and IDPs (NCRI) or other line ministries. *It would be useful to conduct a mapping and quality assessment of existing administrative data sources on IDPs to assess their readiness for use in production of statistics.* Which institutions should have which responsibilities in such an endeavour will need to be clarified, the SNBS should be involved in the process. While the hosting organisation (for instance the NCRI) would be the custodian of the data, the SNBS could advise any alignments of definitions and standards that would be helpful for using the data in statistical production.



## Recommendations

1. **We recommend a dedicated forum to discuss official statistics in Somalia.** A whole-of-government approach will bring together government actors responsible for providing solutions to displacement, the national statistical authority in the country as well as key stakeholders from the humanitarian and development sector and donors. This coordination should take place through the National Statistical System.
2. **We recommend cooperation among actors to strengthen the technical capacity of the statistical authority in Somalia for a nationally owned IDP statistical system.** This should be facilitated through a coordinated capacity building effort from the international community, both in terms of funding and training. Existing donor coordination mechanisms should be used for this purpose.
3. **We recommend an expedited communication channel where the Government regularly discusses plans for data collection exercises with non-governmental stakeholders.** Coordination around IDP statistics requires enhanced communication channels between humanitarian and government actors where upcoming plans for data collection exercises are discussed.
4. **We recommend EGRISS members in Somalia, to act as catalysts for the implementation of IRIS and collaborate with the government to build their capacity to lead on the process.** Headquarter offices of EGRISS members in Somalia, represented by UNHCR, IOM, OCHA, UNICEF and UNFPA should promote technical exchange to develop capacity in their country-level teams and discuss context driven challenges to implement IRIS.
5. **We recommend the Government to draft a strategic plan for IDP official statistics in Somalia aligning the different national frameworks addressing the production of statistics and the response to internal displacement.** The Federal Government of Somalia addresses internal displacement through a robust legal framework and internal displacement is also a priority of the current National Development Plan 9 (2020-2024). Additionally there are dedicated national frameworks responding to refugees and IDPs needs and international frameworks guiding the field of statistics in Somalia as well as their own Statistical Act (2020).
6. **We recommend that the Government endorses a standard definition of IDPs as well as the classificatory variables and indicators to measure stocks and progress towards solutions.** This requires a definition and a set of statistics that are legally binding and that can serve both operational and statistical purposes. Good practices around geographical coverage, representativity and method should be promoted when feasible.
7. **We recommend that all stakeholders involved in IDP data in Somalia cooperate to build capacity on statistical rigour.** This will result in statistically sound data which can inform targeted humanitarian response and support the Government to measure progress towards durable solutions. Furthermore, quality data can benefit the production of operational data and likely assess its use as a source for official statistics.





## Next steps

JIPS on behalf of EGRISS will:

- Follow up with key Government counterparts to support a whole-of-Government endorsement to implement the IRIS in Somalia.
- Coordinate a workshop with Government actors to raise awareness around the IRIS and identify opportunities for potential government-led data sources to support official statistics.
- Continue technical meetings with the SNBS to provide technical support on the upcoming data collection exercises led by the statistical authority and on the draft of a strategic plan for IDP statistics.
- Promote activities of capacity development on the IRIS across EGRISS members at international and country level in Somalia.

## Annex 1. Agenda and description of the sessions

### Day 1

09:00 – 09:30	Registration
09:30 – 09:50	Welcome and setting the scene <i>Mr. Oscar Rico, Head of Information Management, JIPS</i>
09:50 – 10:00	Opening remarks <i>Mr. Charles Mballa, Head of Protection Service, UNHCR Regional Bureau</i>
10:00 – 10:30	Introduction of participants
10:30 – 10:45	Coffee break
10:45 – 12:00	Session 1: Introduction of the IRIS This initial session walked participants through the basics of the International Recommendations on IDP statistics (IRIS) and will open the floor to answer practical questions about the scope of the IRIS. <i>Session facilitated by JIPS</i>
12:00 – 12:45	Session 2: Introducing participants: The Data Ecosystem This interactive session aimed to share and exchange best practice as well as challenges around the production and use of national official statistics on Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) in general and specifically in Somalia. <i>Session facilitated by JIPS</i>
12:45 – 13:45	Lunch
13:45 – 14:30	Session 2: cont.d, followed by group presentation
14:30 - 15:30	Session 3: Official Statistics and Data Sources This session discussed the requirements for official statistics on IDPs according to the IRIS and focus on the recommended data sources can be used to produce official statistics. <i>Session facilitated by JIPS</i>
15:30 – 15:45	Coffee break
15:45 – 16:15	Session 4: Coordination of National Statistics In this session participants reflected on the coordination processes and mechanisms suggested by the IRIS on IDP statistics and the opportunities to leverage and support existing coordination mechanisms in Somalia for the implementation of IRIS <i>Session facilitated by JIPS</i>
16:15 - 16:30	Wrap up day 1

## Day 2

09:00 - 09:10	Recap Day 1
09:10 – 10:15	Session 5: Requirements for IRIS implementation This hands-on session enticed a discussion to evaluate the suitability of IDP-relevant data collection exercises for use in official statistics. <i>Session facilitated by JIPS</i>
11:00 - 11:15	Break
11:15 - 12:00	Session 6: Practical challenges for IDP data collection in Somalia In this session the participants reflected on a practical case study sharing the lessons learnt and challenges in the process of data collection against the standards proposed by the IRIS. <i>Session facilitated by Mr. Felix Mulama, Demographer, UNFPA</i>
12:00 - 13:00	Session 7: Progress towards the implementation of official statistics in Somalia In this Session, the Director General of the Statistics Office of Somalia presented insights on the background of SNBS, current and planned data exercises as well as coordination challenges on IDP data. <i>Session facilitated by Mr. Sharmarke Farah, Director General, SNBS</i>
13:00 – 14:00	Lunch
14:00 – 15:00	Session 8: Opportunities, challenges and needs for future collaboration on official statistics This interactive session aimed to reflect on the knowledge and information shared during the different sessions of the meeting in order to envision how this can be leveraged through the lenses of the IRIS: What are opportunities, what are challenges and what could be a collaborative way forward? <i>Session facilitated by JIPS</i>
15:00-15:15	Closing remarks <i>Mr. Justin McDermott, Deputy Regional Director, IOM Regional Office for the East and Horn of Africa</i>

## Annex 2. Participants in alphabetical order

### Opening and closing remarks

Charles	Mballa	Head of Protection Service Regional Bureau	UNHCR
Justin	McDermott	Deputy Regional Director, IOM Regional Office for the East and Horn of Africa	IOM
Natalia*	Baal	EGRISS Coordinator	EGRISS Secretariat

\*virtual connection

### Participants

Albert	Hamra	Head Of Information Management Unit Somalia	OCHA
Andrew	Maina	Solutions Coordinator Somalia	ReDSS
Anna	Minuto	Regional Bureau	UNHCR
Ben	Conner	CCCM Cluster Co-Coordinator Somalia	IOM
Chiara	Lucchini	DTM Regional Coordinator	IOM
Ephrem	Belay	PME Specialist	UNICEF

Felix	Mulama	Demographer	UNFPA
Jack	Palazzo	Deputy Country Coordinator	REACH-INITIATIVE
James	Macharia	CCCM Cluster Co-Coordinator Somalia	UNHCR
Julius	Velas	Information Management Officer Somalia	UNHCR
Karel	Boers	Monitoring & Evaluation Officer (& Saameynta Program)	IOM
Lena	Von Naso	Danwadaag Durable Solutions Deputy Consortium Coordinator and MEAL Coordinator	IOM
Mirjam	Kuschnitzki	Regional advisor EAGL	JIPS
Phidel	Hazel	Information Management Associate	UNHCR
Oscar	Rico	Head of Information Management and Innovation	JIPS
Sadiq Kwesi	Boateng	Senior Statistics and Data Analysis Officer, DIMA, Regional Bureau	UNHCR
Sharmarke	Farah	Director General	SNBS
Stein	Vikan	Statistical and EGRISS expert	JIPS
Tessa	Richardson	Programme Manager DTM Somalia	IOM
Tendai	Chabvuta	Monitoring and Evaluation Analyst-ERID (& Saameynta Program)	UNDP



## ABOUT 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. JIPS is a globally recognized neutral broker that 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.

This is done through technical and collaboration support to field partners, by providing quality guidance and hands-on tools, and by advancing global discourse towards sound global action and standards. JIPS is an active member of EGRISS, part of the Steering Committee and a leading partner in the development of the IRIS, adopted by the UN Statistical Commission in 2020.

## ABOUT 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 28 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.