



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

Egypt-Cairo, 26 - 28 November 2024

Concept Note

Members of:





Background

The Arab region hosts almost one third (31%) of the world's refugees, asylum-seekers and IDPs according to most recent global estimates that report 117.3 million forcibly displaced persons worldwide.¹ Given this reality, data on the magnitude, demographic composition and other characteristics of refugees, IDPs and stateless persons in the region is critical for evidence-based policy development and decision making. However, producing statistics on refugees, IDPs and stateless persons faces several challenges especially in countries that suffer from protracted humanitarian crises, occupation and instability. In some contexts, little is known about the living conditions of refugees and IDPs as compared to non-displaced populations.

Data on refugees and IDPs if available are often program-oriented and of modest quality and accessibility. Inconsistent concepts and definitions and variation in data collection and compilation methods can also be challenging. Coordination between different stakeholders within a country is an additional challenge, especially between national statistical offices and other institutions responsible for collecting data on refugees, IDPs and stateless persons.

In 2016, in its decision 47/111 (E/2016/24²), the Statistical Commission established an expert group on refugee statistics, acknowledging the need to develop and improve standards concerning refugee statistics in national statistical systems through the development of international statistical recommendations. The International Recommendations on Refugee Statistics (IRRS) adopted by the United Nations Statistical Commission in March 2018 (Decision 49/115), provide a set of specific recommendations that countries and international organizations can use to improve the collection, collation, disaggregation, reporting, and overall quality of statistics on populations forcibly displaced across borders. The recommendations are intended to help improve national statistics on the stocks and flows and characteristics of refugee and refugee related populations, and to help make such statistics comparable internationally.

¹ UNHCR Global Trends 2023: [Global Trends report 2023 | UNHCR](#)

² Statistical Commission Report on the forty-seventh session (8-11 March 2016), <https://documents-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/N16/082/37/PDF/N1608237.pdf?OpenElement>.



Subsequently, the terms of reference of the expert group were expanded to deliver similar recommendations for internally displaced persons and statelessness. The International Recommendations on Internally Displaced Persons Statistics (IRIS) were unanimously adopted at the UN Statistical Commission (UNSC) 51st session in 2020 (Decision 51/116) and the International Recommendations on Statelessness Statistics (IROSS) were unanimously endorsed at the 54th session of the United Nations Statistical Commission (Decision 54/121) in 2023. As of 2024, the Expert Group on Refugee, IDP and Statelessness Statistics (EGRISS) includes members from 58 countries and 37 international and regional organisations.³

Within the framework of the efforts made so far in compiling, analyzing, and disseminating refugee, IDP and statelessness statistics data, The UN Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA), in cooperation with the Arab Institute for Training and Statistical Research and the Expert Group on Refugee, IDP and Statelessness Statistics (EGRISS) are organizing a workshop on the international statistical recommendations for refugees, internally displaced persons and stateless persons. The workshop is co-organized with the UN Agency for Refugees (UNHCR), the Internal Displacement Profiling Service (JIPS), the UN Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA). It will take place during the period from 26 – 28 November 2024, generously hosted by the League of Arab States in Cairo, Arab Republic of Egypt.

A. **Objectives**

The workshop will introduce participants to the international recommendations on refugees, IDPs and statelessness statistics, and enhance the capacities of Member States in data collection on these populations according to the international statistical standards developed by the EGRISS.

The workshop is expected to accomplish the following:

³ See [EGRISS Home - EGRISS \(egrissstats.org\)](https://www.egrissstats.org) for more information about EGRISS including a full list of members and its most recent TOR from the UN Statistical Commission.



- Improve participants' understanding of concepts and methodologies in the production of statistics on refugees, IDPs, and stateless persons.
- Encourage the exchange of experiences between countries and other stakeholders related to the production of statistics on refugees, IDPs, and stateless persons in general and more specifically in the implementation of the International Recommendations on Refugee Statistics (IRRS), the International Recommendations on Internally Displaced Persons Statistics (IRIS), and International Recommendations on Statelessness Statistics (IROSS).
- Identify gaps and recurring challenges, including in age disaggregation, that need to be addressed and facilitate discussions around solutions and innovative means to coordinate the production of data on refugees, IDPs, and stateless persons.
- Strengthen Member States capacity to implement the recommendations as relevant in their respective contexts, and to identify possible areas of technical support opportunities and partnerships with international and regional stakeholders.

Outputs of the workshop

- Member States awareness and understanding of the International Recommendations on refugees, IDPs, and statelessness statistics are enhanced.
- National/regional capacity and momentum towards action on inclusion of forcibly displaced and stateless persons in national/regional statistics is strengthened.
- Existing collaboration efforts in this area are identified and a platform is initiated to discuss recent statistics, challenges and solutions related to collecting data on refugees, IDPs, and stateless persons.
- Capacity development needs of participating Member States are identified and where possible, connections are made with organizations that can provide the needed support.

Deliverables:

- A concise outcome document with a set of agreed upon recommendations for follow-up action.



- Roadmap for establishment of regional coordination and collaboration platform, including identification of possible regional forum to continue the dialogue and follow-up on workshop action points.

B. Participants and Trainers

Participants: Statisticians employed by National Statistical Offices working on forced displacement, migration statistics, social statistics, national census and/or national surveys, as well as staff from line Ministries in Arab countries coordinating responses to refugees, IDPs and stateless persons. Two delegates from each country will participate in the workshop. We encourage participants to ensure gender balance in their delegations.

Trainers/Facilitators: Regional and International experts working on refugee, IDP and statelessness statistics or supporting the work of national statistical systems.

C. Documents

Relevant training materials will be provided by the trainers ahead of the meeting.

Key EGRISS resources that can be consulted ahead of the training include:

- [International Recommendations on Refugee Statistics \(IRRS\)](#) – English
- [International Recommendations on Refugee Statistics \(IRRS\)](#) – Arabic
- [International Recommendations on Internally Displaced Persons Statistics \(IRIS\)](#) – English
- [International Recommendations on Internally Displaced Persons Statistics \(IRIS\)](#) – Arabic
- [International Recommendations on Statelessness Statistics \(IROSS\)](#) – English
- Recommendations at a Glance series: [IRRS](#), [IRIS](#) and [IROSS](#) (English)
- [Self-paced EGRISS e-learning course](#) – specifically, modules 1, 2, 3 and 4 (English)
- [EGRISS Compilers' Manual](#) (English)
- [EGRISS 2023 Annual Report](#) (English)

Other resources include:

- [JIPS – Initiating Implementation of the International Recommendations on IDP Statistics \(IRIS\) at Country Level: A Pocket Guide for National Statistical Systems](#) (English)



Additional documents will be posted on the meeting's website: <https://www.unescwa.org/events>

D. Language

The language of the workshop will be in Arabic and English. Simultaneous interpretation will be made available.

E. Venue and time of the workshop

The workshop will be held in-person (face to face) at the League of Arab States- El Tahrir Square- Downtown Cairo, Egypt during the period 26 - 28 November 2024.

F. For further information, contact:

For logistics matters:

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