

10. Including forced displaced and stateless populations in housing and population censuses

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The inclusion of forcibly displaced and stateless populations in existing national data collection systems is crucial to inform sound decision-making and support longer-term development strategies. In order to support countries and international organizations to harmonize and improve the overall quality of statistics on forcibly displaced populations, the Expert Group on Refugee and IDP Statistics (EGRIS) has developed internationally-agreed-upon recommendations on refugee and IDP statistics (IRRS & IRIS). They provide a set of specific recommendations to improve the production, overall quality, coordination, and dissemination of statistics on refugees, asylum seekers and IDPs. The IRRS and IRIS assess the main sources of data collection, with specific reference to population and housing censuses, household surveys, and administrative records, and provide recommendations on the core data needed to produce statistics on refugee and IDP populations. International Recommendations on Statelessness Statistics (IROSS) are also underway, being developed under the umbrella of EGRIS.

Censuses are a useful tool to measure the stock and demographic composition of refugees, IDPs, and stateless persons. This data collection method can provide evidence on forcibly displaced persons' housing and living conditions and allow this information to be compared to general migrant groups in the country, as well as to the general population. As EGRIS moves forward with its implementation phase of the recommendations, many examples of the inclusion of refugee and IDPs in housing and population censuses are observed. In Georgia, for example, the population census from 2014 provides official statistics on IDPs and refugees, including information on their geographic distribution. The 2019 population and housing census conducted in Kenya integrated a module on refugees and stateless persons. Efforts are underway to also include IDP statistics moving forward. The inclusion of the recommendations in the upcoming round of censuses is also planned to take place in Morocco.