

Including forced displaced and stateless populations in housing and population censuses

Group of Experts on Population and Housing Censuses, 19-20 May 2021

Aina Saetre – Coordinator of the Expert Group of Refugee and IDP Statistics (UNHCR)

Presentation outline

1. Introduction to the Expert Group on Refugee and IDP Statistics
2. Snapshot of the International Recommendations on Refugee and IDP Statistics (IRRS & IRIS)
3. Specific advantages and limitations of censuses for forced displacement statistics
4. Recommendations to improve census data on forced displacement
5. EGRIS ongoing work

Expert Group on Refugee and IDP Statistics (EGRIS)

2015

2016

2017

2018

2019

2020

2021

Original mandate from the UN Statistical Commission (March 2016) to develop:

- International Recommendations on Refugee Statistics
- Technical Report on Statistics of IDPs

Mandate extended (March 2018) to develop:

- International Recommendations on IDP Statistics
- Compilers' Manual

EGRIS is currently in its third phase of work, implementing the recommendations and developing:

- International Recommendations on Statelessness Statistics (IROSS)

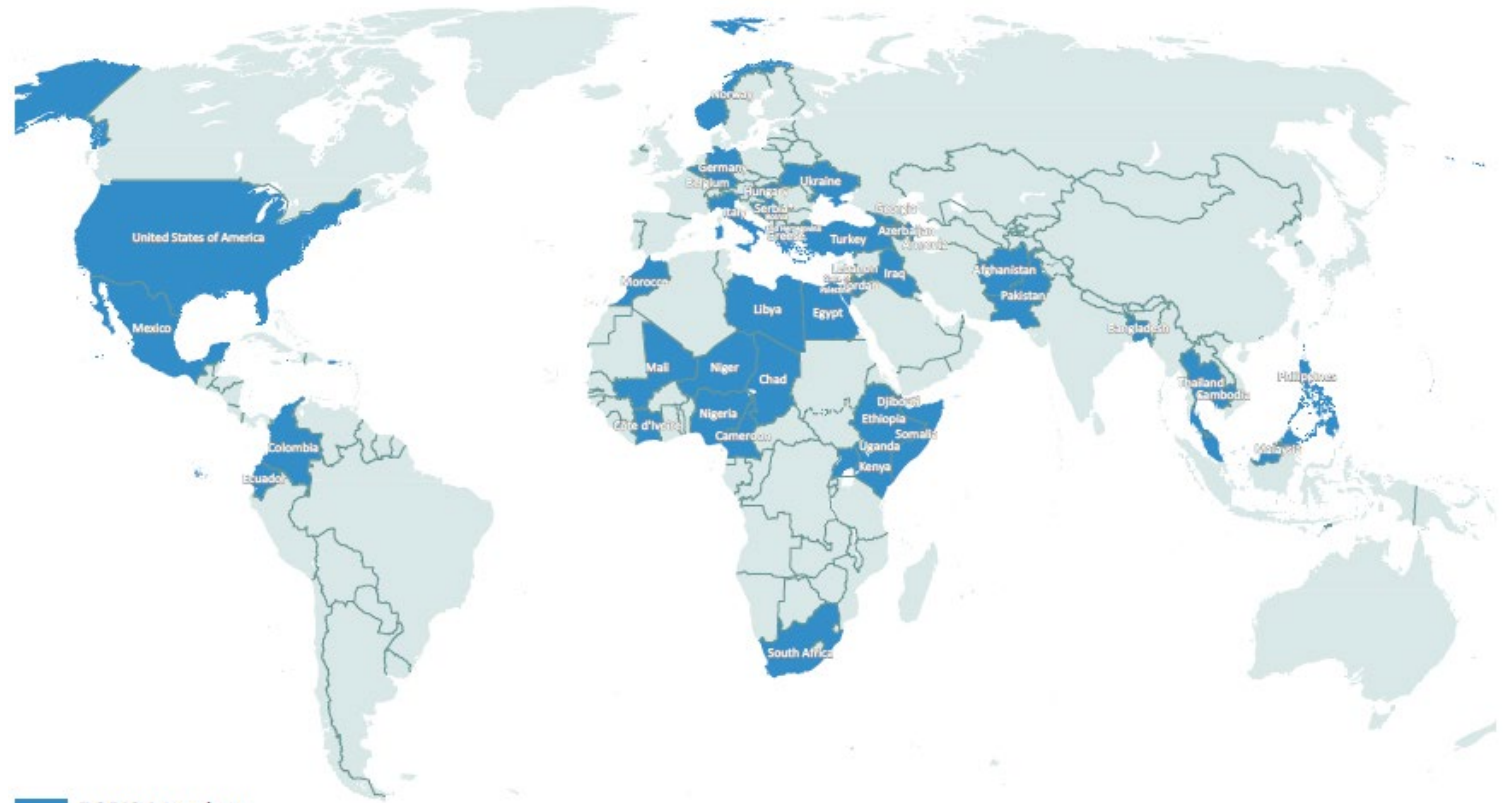


EGRIS Membership

45 Countries | 25 Regional and International Organizations

13 UNECE Members

- Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Norway, Turkey, Ukraine, USA
- Members from both NSOs and other national authority representatives
- Membership includes regional organizations such as Eurostat and EASO
- Membership includes international organizations such as IDMC, IOM, JDC, JIPS, OECD, OHCHR, UNFPA, UNDP, UNICEF, UNHCR, UNRWA, UNSD, WFP, World Bank



EGRIS Members

*The highlighted country of serbia is referring to the participation of Kosovo Region only.

The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.
Printing date: 24 Aug 2020 Sources: UN/ICR, UN/ICR Author: UN/ICR Copenhagen Feedback: mapping@unhcr.org Filename: World EGRIS A31

Core population groups covered in the recommendations



Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs)

Those who are forced to flee their homes because of natural or man-made disasters, violence or persecution. They are displaced within their own country and have not crossed an internationally recognized border.



Refugees

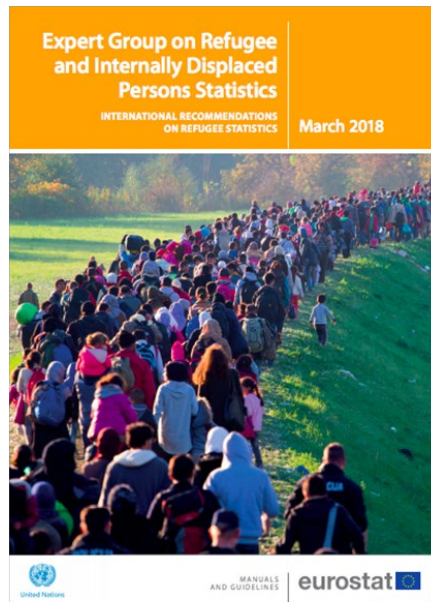
Those who are forced to flee their country because of violence, conflict or fear of persecution. They are unable to seek protection from their country, or return there, for fear of discrimination.



Asylum seekers

Those who have applied for the right to be recognized as a refugee and receive legal protection and material assistance from another country.

International Recommendations on Refugee and IDP Statistics (IRRS & IRIS)



1. Creation of a **statistical framework** standardizing **relevant terminology** and classifications
2. List of **basic data tabulations** and indicators
3. Assessment of **data sources (including census)** and **methods** and ways to improve them
4. Identification of **socioeconomic indicators** for refugee integration and wellbeing/ and measurement of progress towards durable solutions and overcoming key displacement-related vulnerabilities for IDPs
5. List of recommended **SDG indicators** to be disaggregated by forced displacement
6. Steps to improve **statistical coordination** at national, regional, international levels

Specific advantages and limitations of censuses for forced displacement statistics

ADVANTAGES

- Censuses offer huge potential for establishing stock numbers of forcibly displaced populations with the potential for disaggregation by age, sex and other characteristics.
- Comparison with other population groups, such as general migrants and host population.
- Censuses can be used as a sampling frame for designing prospective sample surveys.

LIMITATIONS

- Few countries have census' questions that can directly be used to identify forcibly displaced persons
- The few available examples from the 2010 census round suggest that it is difficult to compare figures from censuses with administrative data on forcibly displaced persons, as census' questions are based on self-identification, whereas administrative data are based on legal status.
- Censuses tend to underestimate the number of forcibly displaced persons.
- Hard to reach refugees and IDPs.

Recommendations to improve census data on forced displacement

- 1)** Encourage all future censuses to include three core migration topics (country of birth, country of citizenship, and year or period of arrival).
- 2)** Include “reason for migration” with response categories including forced displacement (refugees, asylum seekers, temporary protected status, other) as an additional core topic in the international census recommendations and censuses.
- 3)** A question on current residence is usually included in all censuses and can be used in combination with the above questions to identify movements and current situation.
- 4)** Include persons living in refugee camps, receptions centers, temporary structures and collective accommodation in all census enumerations.
- 5)** Exploit other data sources, such as registers, other administrative sources and sample surveys, and combine with census data to produce more extensive and detailed refugee statistics.
- 6)** It is advisable that questions on migration be thoroughly tested to improve reliability.
- 7)** Advocate for wider release of census data and exploit refugee data to the fullest. To ensure maximum use of available census data, detailed geographically referenced data should be made available, while protecting the security and confidentiality of respondents.
- 8)** Use individual census data to update the sampling frames for socioeconomic surveys to ensure coverage of forcibly displaced populations.

EGRIS ongoing work

- EGRIS is currently in its **third mandate (2020-2024)** which focuses on the implementation of the recommendations through activities around: **1) Promotion & dissemination; 2) Capacity Building; and 3) Knowledge sharing & refinement of the CM.**
- **Funding secured** from JDC/DEVCO for the implementation of the third phase of EGRIS mandate.
- The group is currently developing **International Recommendations on Statelessness Statistics (IROSS)** which will be discussed at the 54th session of the UNSC in March 2023.

Contact

EGRIS Secretariat

Aina Helen Saetre (saetre@unhcr.org)

Natalia Krynsky Baal (baal@unhcr.org)

Carolina Ferrari (ferraric@unhcr.org)