

# Working together for improved statistics for refugees and internally displaced persons

EXPERT GROUP ON REFUGEE AND INTERNALLY DISPLACED PERSONS STATISTICS (EGRIS)



**“In the midst of migrants in search of a better life there are people in need of protection: refugees and asylum-seekers, women and children victims of trafficking... Many move simply to avoid dying of hunger. When leaving is not an option but a necessity, this is more than poverty.”**

**António Guterres, United Nations Secretary General.**

The United Nations Statistical Commission (UNSC), at its 47<sup>th</sup> session in 2016, decided to establish an international **Expert Group on Refugee and Internally Displaced Persons Statistics (EGRIS)**. The group consists of participants from national authorities, international statistical organizations and other technical experts. This decision was based on a joint proposal by Statistics Norway, Eurostat, the Turkish Statistical Institute (TURKSTAT) and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).

## **Why are statistics on refugees, asylum seekers and internally displaced persons (IDP) important?**

There is a rapidly growing numbers of displaced persons worldwide. It is therefore an urgent need to build better and more efficient statistical systems on these populations. Statistics in this area:

- provides the foundation for sound and better policies, programs and decisions;
- leads to more effective measurement and evaluation for decisions makers and
- gives increased accountability, support policy debate and stronger advocacy based on evidence.

## **Challenges related to refugee and IDP statistics:**

- limited connection between national statistics on refugees and national figures on migration and population;
- lack of comparability between national and international refugee figures;
- limited availability of official or agreed upon quality statistics on IDPs and
- multiple conceptual, operational and ethical challenges impacting data collection and production of statistics.



## What will the recommendations Refugee Statistics focus on

Chapters on:

- legal framework & refugee definitions;
- defining refugees and asylum seekers for the purposes of statistical measurement;
- measuring the number of refugees;
- measuring the characteristics and integration of refugees;
- coordination and systems at the international, regional and national level;
- constraints and future developments.

## What will the IDP technical report include

Overview of:

- existing legal and policy frameworks/IDP definition;
- defining IDPs for the purpose of statistical measurement;
- sources of IDP data;
- measuring numbers and characteristics of IDPs in official statistics;
- coordination systems at national and international levels;
- conclusion and next steps.



## What are the key achievements so far?

- the first meeting of the EGRIS hosted by UNHCR took place in Copenhagen on 7-8<sup>th</sup> November 2016;
- work on recommendations and IDP technical report undertaken by core group;
- consultation on draft by EGRIS;
- the second meeting of the EGRIS will be hosted by Statistics Norway in Oslo on 25-27<sup>th</sup> April 2017.

## What are the next steps?

- September 2017 — review and final contributions.
- Autumn 2017 — tentatively a 3<sup>rd</sup> EGRIS meeting.
  - finalisation of the draft and submission to UNSC;
  - global consultation — let your voice be heard!
  - start of work on Compilers Manual.
- March 2018 — presentation of IRRS and IDP Technical Report to 49<sup>th</sup> UNSC.

## How to engage

- Visit this website:  
<http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/expert-group-on-refugee-statistics/home>
- If your organization would like to get involved in the work of the group please contact Aina Saetre ([saetre@unhcr.org](mailto:saetre@unhcr.org)), Vebjørn Aalandslid ([vaa@ssb.no](mailto:vaa@ssb.no)) or Piotr Juchno ([piotr.juchno@ec.europa.eu](mailto:piotr.juchno@ec.europa.eu))
- Follow progress of EGRIS on twitter: #EGRIS
- Useful links:
  - <http://sens.unhcr.org>
  - <http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/asylum-and-managed-migration/overview>
  - <http://www.ssb.no/en/befolkning/statistikker/flyktninger>
  - <http://www.jips.org> & <http://jet.jips.org/> or twitter @JIPS\_profiling
  - <http://www.internal-displacement.org/>
  - <http://microdata.worldbank.org> & <http://data.worldbank.org>
  - <http://www.ihsn.org/>
  - <https://data.cdc.gov/>

This publication was prepared by Eurostat jointly with colleagues from UNHCR, JIPS and Statistics Norway.

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Printed by the Publications Office in Luxembourg



Publications Office

PDF: ISBN 978-92-79-66856-2 doi:10.2785/3432

Print: ISBN 978-92-79-66855-5 doi:10.2785/406392