Working together for improved statistics for refugees and internally displaced persons

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





COMPACT GUIDES "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 47th 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?

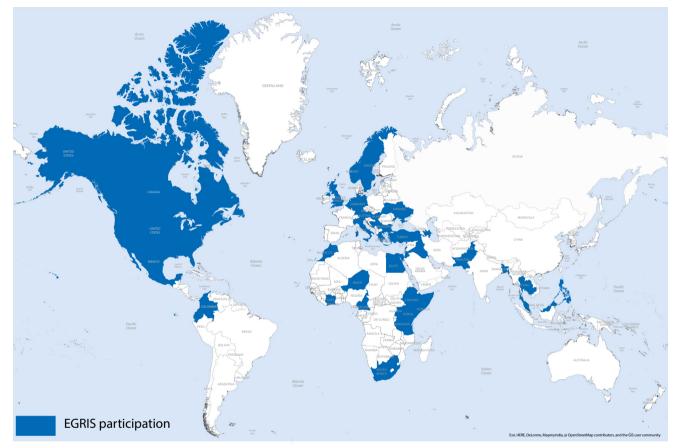
There is a rapidly growing numbers of displaced persons worldwide. It is therefore an urgent need to build better and more efficient statistical systems on these populations. Statistics in this area:

- 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.

Participation in the work of the EGRIS group



To address these challenges the EGRIS group is mandated to develop:

- International Recommendations on Refugee Statistics (IRRS) the publication will be a reference guide for national and international work concerning statistics on refugees and asylum seekers (submit to UNSC in March 2018 49th session);
- Refugee Statistics Compilers Manual, with operational instructions on how to collect statistics on refugees and asylum seekers (submit in March 2019 50th UNSC session);
- Technical Report outlining a way forward for development of comparable international standards for statistics on internally displaced persons (submit in March 2018 49th UNSC session).

Work of the group shall:

- include Internally Displaced Persons in its scope of work;
- take user perspectives into account;
- refine statistical concepts related to refugees;
- build on existing technical work and country experience.

Composition of the group:

- around 40 national statistical authorities (see map);
- steering Committee: UNHCR, Statistics Norway, Eurostat
- 15 international organizations;
- other countries/organisations interested to join the group or contribute to its work.

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 7-8th 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 25-27th April 2017.

What are the next steps?

- September 2017 review and final contributions.
- Autumn 2017 tentatively a 3rd 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 49th UNSC.

How to engage

 Visit this website: http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/expert-group-on-refugeestatistics/home

- If your organization would like to get involved in the work of the group please contact Aina Saetre (saetre@unhcr.org), Vebjørn Aalandslid (vaa@ssb.no) or Piotr Juchno (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
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 - http://www.internal-displacement.org/
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