THE 3\textsuperscript{rd} GLOBAL MEETING OF THE EXPERT GROUP ON REFUGEE AND IDP STATISTICS (EGRIS)

Co-organized by the EGRIS steering committee and the Statistical, Economic, and Social Research and Training Centre for Islamic Countries (SESRIC) in Ankara, Turkey

12 – 14 February 2019

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**Background**

The Expert Group on Refugee and IDP Statistics (EGRIS) was established by a decision of the 47th session of the UN Statistical Commission (UNSC) in 2016, against the backdrop of an ever-growing number of forcibly displaced persons worldwide as well as the mixed practices on production of statistics on them. The Expert Group’s original mandate was to develop “recommendations on refugee statistics, as a reference guide for national and international work concerning asylum statistics” and to “include IDPs in the scope of their work”. Based on this mandate, EGRIS is developing guidance on the production of refugee and IDP statistics and working to support countries to improve nationally owned data on these vulnerable populations through both traditional and innovative approaches. With active membership from over 40 countries (mainly representatives of national statistical offices in host countries) alongside international experts, the EGRIS also enables peer learning and mutual exchange of experience.

In 2016-2017, the Expert Group, co-led by UNHCR, Statistics Norway and Eurostat, developed the *International Recommendations on Refugee Statistics* (IRRS) and a *Technical Report on Statistics of Internally Displaced Persons*. These were formally adopted with strong support from member countries at the 49th session of the UNSC in March 2018. As a result, the members also strongly supported a Phase II of the group’s work, the objectives of which are outlined below. To oversee the work of Phase II, the existing steering committee members have been joined by two new members: the Turkish Statistical Institute and the Joint IDP Profiling Service (JIPS).

**Phase II Objectives**

1. **Develop International Recommendations for IDP Statistics**, based on the Technical Report on Statistics of IDPs and taking into consideration the existing IRRS;
2. **Develop a Manual on Compilation of Statistics of Refugees and IDPs** based on the IRRS and the forthcoming IDP Recommendations;
3. **Promote and disseminate the work done through EGRIS** to ensure appropriate linkages are made to SDG reporting, the Global Compacts on Refugees and Migrants, Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework, Sendai Framework monitoring, the World Bank-UNHCR Joint Data Centre, and other relevant initiatives;

4. **Continuously collect countries’ achievements, lessons learnt and challenges** in strengthening statistics on forced displacement in order to improve the guidance provided in the Manual.

Through funding from the World Bank and leadership from JIPS, the EGRIS IDP-subgroup has met several times and completed extensive work on the *International Recommendations for IDP Statistics* (IRIS). Progress on the other Phase II objectives must continue, as well.

**Next Steps: 3rd Global Meeting of EGRIS**

The Statistical, Economic, and Social Research and Training Centre for Islamic Countries (SESRIC) has generously offered to host the next global meeting of EGRIS is in Ankara, Turkey on 12 February - 14 February, 2019. The meeting will be hosted in SESRIC’s facilities and co-organized by SESRIC and EGRIS steering committee. The meeting starts in the morning on 12 February and ends noon on 14 February.

The focus of the meeting will be to complete an advanced draft of the compilers manual.

All EGRIS members are invited and encouraged to actively participate.

Two complementary meetings will follow the EGRIS meeting. Please see the *Addendum* for more details.

**Meeting Objectives**

The meeting has two objectives, where objective A will be devoted the majority of time:

A. **Develop an advanced draft of the Compilers Manual**

The manual will be a practical guide for practitioners in countries working to improve statistics on forced displacement, based on the recommendations made in IRRS and the forthcoming International Recommendations for IDP Statistics (IRIS).

The manual will be structured according to the relevant chapters of the IRRS and the forthcoming IRIS. Topics to include:

- Operationalization of key definitions relating to refugees and IDPs for statistical purposes, including durable solutions for IDPs;
- Measuring numbers on refugees, asylum seekers and IDPs;
- Measuring characteristics of refugees, asylum seekers and IDPs;
- Coordination of production of statistics on refugees, asylum seekers and IDPs
- Country examples focusing on good practice, challenges and limitations in measuring numbers on refugees, asylum seekers and IDPs.

Keeping users in mind, the manual will be complemented by an array of relevant tools and technical guidance, which will be made available to practitioners through a web interface.

B. **Discuss capacity building activities**

One of the complementary activities of the EGRIS group is to support efforts to strengthen statistics on forcibly displaced populations through investment in capacity building. This includes incorporating EGRIS recommendations in relevant existing trainings (e.g. UNHCR workshops/training, World Bank training on the
LSMS Conflict Exposure Module, JIPS Profiling Coordination Training). Engaging in further discussions on this matter and developing relevant activities will be the second objective of this meeting.

Preparation for the meeting
Similar to the process in writing the *International Recommendations*, identified and willing experts within the wider EGRIS will take a leading role within their areas of expertise in the development of the compilers manual. These chapter leads will lead the development of draft chapters before the meeting. The draft will be based on a compilers manual outline to be shared shortly. Chapter leads will also coordinate and reach out to other EGRIS members for input and comments on the draft. A consolidated draft of each chapter should be brought to the February meeting and will be the starting point for group work.

We have identified chapter leads from the following organizations: UNHCR, Eurostat, Turkstat, Statistics Norway, JIPS, Victims unit (Colombia), the Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre (IDMC), the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), US Census Bureau, UNSD, the Federal Statistical Office of Germany (DESTATIS), the Mediterranean Household Information Management System (MED—HIMS), IOM, INS (Côte d'Ivoire) and INES (Cameroon).

More countries will be added to this list. Please contact me at saetre@unhcr.org if you or your organization would be interested to take a more active role in the development of the compilers manual in advance of the global meeting.

Outputs
The expected outputs of this meeting are:
A. An advanced draft of the compilers manual and clear steps to finalize
B. Identification of tools to include alongside the manual
C. Agreement on modalities for the compilers manual, including document, e-learning and information sharing platforms and tool.
D. Repository of identified capacity building opportunities

The meeting modalities will include plenary sessions, group work, information exchange between different chapter groups, and informal discussions between members.

Meeting logistics
The meeting venue will be SESRIC’s facilities in Ankara, Turkey. A budget will be available for participants from developing countries to assist them with relevant travel and accommodation costs. More information to follow. EGRIS’ members are requested to stay for the full time of the meeting from 12 February to 14 February, 2019.
Addendum

PENDING FINAL CONFIRMATION: Two complementary meetings will be held following the EGRIS meeting in Ankara:

**MED-HIMS:** The Mediterranean Household Information Management System will be hosting a workshop on the national survey experiences and the model manuals of the MED-HIMS Program on 14 – 16 February, beginning in the afternoon on 14 February.

**Statelessness:** A one-day meeting on statelessness will be held on 15 February. Selected countries will receive an invitation. A separate concept note will be developed for this meeting, as well.