International Recommendations on Refugee Statistics (IRRS)

The recommendations help countries and international organizations to harmonize and improve the quality of statistics on refugees and asylum seekers, to contribute to improved overall statistics on international migration and common information about a situation with a significant impact on global welfare.


The report provided a stock-take of the current state of official IDP statistics as well as preliminary recommendations for improvement. Building on this report, the Expert Group has developed International Recommendations on IDP Statistics (IRIS), submitted to UNSC for endorsement in March 2020.

Compilers’ Manual

This is a hands-on guide designed to support those using the International Recommendations on Refugee Statistics (IRRS) and IDP Statistics (IRIS) to compile statistics on displaced persons. It is based on contributions and examples provided by the Expert Group.

Milestone achievements so far:

3rd phase of EGRIS: Implementation of IRRS and IRIS

Steps ahead

- Technical support and capacity strengthening of national partners to facilitate the implementation of the recommendations.
- Strengthening national systems in the area of displacement statistics.
- Advocacy and ownership building of national partners in the area of displacement statistics.

EGRIS timeline

- 2016 EGRIS start of work
- 2018 March IRRS + Technical Report endorsed by UNSC
- 2020 March IRIS and Compilers Manual submitted to UNSC
- 3rd phase of EGRIS: Implementation of IRRS and IRIS

Get in touch!

unstats.un.org/unsd/demographic-social/standards-and-methods
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Why are statistics on refugees, asylum-seekers and IDPs important?

There is a rapidly growing number of displaced persons worldwide. It is therefore urgent to build better and more efficient statistical systems on these populations.

Displacement statistics provide the foundation for sound policies, programs and decisions; lead to more effective measurement and evaluation for decision makers; and give increased accountability, support policy debate and stronger advocacy based on evidence.

About EGRIS

The Expert Group on Refugee and Internally Displaced Persons Statistics (EGRIS) was established by the United Nations Statistical Commission (UNSC), at its 47th session in 2016.

The group consists of participants from national statistical authorities, international and regional statistical organizations and other technical experts. EGRIS was mandated to develop recommendations on refugees, asylum-seekers and internally displaced persons (IDPs) statistics.

Why are the international recommendations on displacement statistics important?

- Promote consistent and comparable data between countries, organisations and statistical systems.
- Provide the basis for inclusion of forcibly displaced populations in national statistical systems and national development plans, as well as in national identity management and Civil Registration and Vital Statistics systems.
- Provide comparative analysis of host and displaced populations.
- Provide basis to build consistency and comparability of numbers on forcibly displaced populations, but also key factors underlying needs, conditions, welfare, integration and solutions.
- Provide a comprehensive picture on the issues related to asylum, international protection, and solutions by covering not only refugees, but a wider group of populations with a refugee background in order to reflect the growing diversity of responses to international protection needs.

Who would they apply to?

- National statistical systems
- International and regional statistical organizations and entities

What is included?

- Agreed indicators to report on, including the number and demographic characteristics of forcibly displaced, and the living conditions and well-being of forcibly displaced.
- Agreed methodologies for collecting and analysing statistics on forcibly displaced populations, including appropriate data sources and methods for estimating figures.

Useful links

www.unhcr.org
ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/asylum-and-managed-migration/overview
www.ssb.no/en/befolkning/statistikker/flyktninger
www.jips.org/tools-and-guidance/idp-refugee-statistics
www.internal-displacement.org
microdata.worldbank.org
data.worldbank.org
www.ihsn.org
data.cdc.gov