International Recommendations on Refugee Statistics (IRRS)

Regional workshop: *Strengthening the collection and use of international migration data in the context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*,
5 – 8 Feb 2019, Bangkok, Thailand

Piotr Juchno
Eurostat, Unit F2 – Population and migration
Refugee population worldwide

- 25.4 million refugees and 3.1 million asylum seekers
- 57% of world’s refugees come from three countries: South Sudan, Afghanistan and Syria.

Source: UNHCR
Statistical challenges in the background

1. Growing numbers / number of countries affected by increasing flows and stocks

2. Growing interest in statistics

3. Urgent need to robust statistics for informed policy making

4. Very limited guidance at international level
State of play of statistics on refugees

- Lack of **comparability**
- No **consistency** in terminology
- No **guidance** for methods of data collection
- Poor understanding of **concepts** of flows and stocks
- **Gaps** in data
- Non optimal use of existing **sources**
- No or limited **coordination** at national level
- **Data access** problems due to sensitivity or lacking legal framework
- Large differences in **capacities** between countries/regions
EGRIS – Expert Group on Refugee and IDP Statistics

- **Report by UNHCR/Statistics Norway** for the 46th UNSC session in 2015 - How to better incorporate statistics on displacement into national statistical systems
- 2015 - **First time in the 70 year history** refugee statistics discussed at the UNSC
- Asked for UNSC mandate to hold a **conference on refugee statistics** to explore feasibility of developing international recommendations
- October 2015: **first conference** held in Antalya, Turkey
- **March 2016 – UNSC mandates the work of Expert Group**
Country-led and experience-informed process to develop solid report with realistic and tangible recommendations
International and regional organisations

- AfDB
- European Commission (DG Home and DG Employment)
- EASO
- EFTA Statistical Office
- ESCWA
- **Eurostat**
- IDMC
- IOM
- JIPS
- MED-HIMS/Medstat
- OECD
- PARIS21

- UNECA ACS
- UNHCR
- UNFPA
- **UNHCR**
- UNICEF
- UNRWA
- UN Special Rapporteur on human rights of IDPs
- **UNSD**
- WB
- WFP
PHASE I

March 2016:
Initial mandate from UNSC

November 2016:
1st All EGRIS meeting

March 2017:
Initial outline of IRRS/IDP report

April 2017:
2nd EGRIS meeting

August 2017:
1st IDP subgroup meeting

Jul–Oct 2017:
Complete draft of IRRS/IDP report

Nov–Dec 2017:
Global consultation

March 2018:
Adoption by UNSC & extended mandate

EGRIS timeline (Phase I)
EGRIS achievements (Phase 1)


IRRS – main achievements

1. Creation of a **statistical framework** standardising relevant terminology and classifications

2. List of basic **data tabulations** and indicators

3. Assessment of **data sources** and **methods** and recommendations for their use/improvement

4. Identification of **socioeconomic indicators** for refugee integration

5. Recommendations to improve
   - coordination at national, regional and international level
   - data quality, legal frameworks and capacity building
Examples of concrete recommendations
A. Persons in need of international protection

1. Prospective asylum seekers
2. Asylum seekers
3. Persons with determined protection status
4. Others in refugee-like situations

B. Persons with a refugee background

1. Naturalised former refugees
2. Children born of refugee parents
3. Reunified refugee family members from abroad
4. Others with refugee background

C. Persons returned from abroad after seeking international protection

1. Repatriating refugees
2. Repatriating asylum seekers
3. Returning from international protection abroad
4. Others returning from seeking international protection abroad

I. Refugees
   i. Refugees
   ii. Admitted for complementary and subsidiary forms of protection
   iii. Admitted for temporary protection

IRRS - statistical framework
Basic classificatory variables for collecting and compiling refugee statistics

a) Age or date of birth
b) Sex
c) Country of birth
d) Country of citizenship (including stateless, undetermined status and multiple citizenship)
e) Date of arrival in country
f) Reason for migration
g) Country of previous or last residence
h) Date of first displacement/leaving previous country of habitual residence
i) Parents’ refugee statuses
j) If an unaccompanied child
k) Legal residential/international protection status as applicable to the national context
Basic statistics (example for stock data)

a) Total number of persons in a country for international protection, by sex and age
b) Total number of asylum seekers, by sex and age
c) Total number of refugees, by sex and age
d) Total number of persons admitted for subsidiary, complementary protection, by sex and age
e) Total number of persons admitted for temporary protection, by sex and age
f) Total number of persons with refugee-like status, by sex and age
g) Total number of persons with refugee background, by sex and age
h) Total number of persons returned from abroad after seeking international protection, by sex and age
Data sources and methods

Censuses and household surveys

• Current core topics (in census recommendations):
  a) Country of birth
  b) Country of citizenship
  c) Acquisition of citizenship
  d) Year or period of arrival in the country

• Additional topic proposed:
  a) **Reason for migration, with response categories:**
     i. Employment (including military service)
     ii. Education and training
     iii. Marriage, family reunification or family formation
     iv. Forced displacement (refugees, asylum seekers, temporary protected status, others)
     v. Other
# Socioeconomic indicators

*Dimensions of topics of indicators of the satisfaction of the immediate and ongoing needs and integration:*

1. Legal indicators
2. Civil-political indicators
3. Demographic and migration indicators
4. Education indicators
5. Economic indicators
6. Social inclusion indicators
7. Health indicators

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Dimension</th>
<th>Level of Indicator</th>
<th>SDG Equivalence for the category (indicator number)</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Priority</td>
<td>Second level</td>
<td>Third level</td>
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</table>
EGRIS moving into Phase II

Extended mandate from the UN Statistical Commission (March 2018) to work during 2018-2020 to develop:

1. Develop manual and associated tools for compilation of refugee and IDP statistics (tools to be continuously improved) – **COMPILERS MANUAL**

2. **International Recommendations on IDP Statistics:** Reference guide for national and international work concerning statistics on internally displaced persons

3. **Promotion** and **dissemination** of the Groups’ work
### EGRIS timeline (Phase II)

**Phase I**
- **Mar 2016:** Initial mandate from UNSC
- **Nov 2016:** 1st All EGRIS meeting

**March 2017:**
- Initial outline of IRRS/IDP report

**April 2017:**
- 2nd EGRIS meeting

**Aug 2017:**
- 1st IDP group meeting
- July –Oct 2017: Complete draft of IRRS/IDP report
- Nov-Dec 2017: Global consultation

**March 2018:**
- Adoption by UNSC & extended mandate

**Phase II**
- **March 2018:** Adoption by UNSC & extended mandate
- **December 2018:**
  - 2nd IDP group meeting
  - Expected adoption by UNSC

**February 2019:**
- 3rd All EGRIS meeting on Compilers Manual

**Feb-Nov 2019:**
- Compilers Manual development

**November 2019:**
- Global consultation

**February 2019:**
- Global consultation

**March 2020:**
- Expected adoption by UNSC
EGRIS moving beyond Phase II

Aim to complement Phase II (and continue in Phase III) through:

- Promoting & disseminating IRRS, IRIS & Compiler’s Manual
- Capacity strengthening
- Continuous learning & update manual
Thank you for your attention!

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