

51st Session of the United Nations Statistical Commission Expert Group on Refugee and IDP Statistics (EGRIS)

Side event at UNSC

3 March at 8:15 – 9:30

Venue: DC2, New York

Session title:

Making Progress to Improve Statistics on Forced Displacement: Experiences from Developing and Implementing International Recommendations

The event is linked to agenda item 3n in the upcoming UNSC agenda on Refugee statistics and the Report of the Expert Group on Refugee and Internally Displaced Persons Statistics Background documents to be found here: <https://unstats.un.org/unsd/statcom/51st-session/documents/>

Short description

Reliable statistics on forced displacement are critical for informed decision-making and to ensure national policies and development plans respond to the commitments of the 2030 Agenda and do not leave these vulnerable groups behind. This need is becoming more urgent with growing numbers of refugees, asylum-seekers and IDPs globally ([70.8 million](#)), alongside the clear recognition that an adequate response requires both humanitarian and development action, as well as leadership from national authorities.

Disaggregated data by migratory status, including within the framework of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), are necessary to better understand situations of forced displacement and migration more broadly, to analyse its impacts on host communities, countries and areas, to measure changes over time and to inform an adequate response. However, there are numerous challenges in producing these statistics nationally and aggregating them internationally, due to capacity constraints, varied definitions and practice, operational challenges and political sensitivities. The [Expert Group on Refugee and IDP Statistics](#) (EGRIS), established by a decision of the 47th session of the [UN Statistical Commission](#) (UNSC), has been working since its inception in 2016 to address these challenges. It is overseen by a Steering Group consisting of by [Eurostat](#), [Statistics Norway](#), [Turkish Statistical Institute](#), [UN Statistical Division](#), [World Bank](#), [UNHCR](#) and the [Joint IDP Profiling Service](#), and includes representatives from statistical/national authorities, regional bodies, international organisations and subject matter experts.

Bringing attention to the outputs of the [60+ member-strong Expert Group](#) – with a special focus on the upcoming *International Recommendations on IDP Statistics (IRIS)* and *Compilers' Manual* with technical guidance on how to implement the IRIS and IRRS (to be submitted to

the UNSC 2020 session) – this session seeks to contribute to improved availability, of statistics on internal displacement. It aims to promote nationally-owned statistics that can provide the back-bone for national development planning processes that adequately include IDPs.

Good quality statistics on internal displacement are a requirement for including these population groups in monitoring and implementing of several international agendas and agreements, including but not limited to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development¹ and its commitment to leave no one behind, and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030². They are also needed for monitoring progress towards the UN Secretary General’s ambitious call to reduce new and protracted internal displacement by at least 50 per cent by 2030³ and will also be necessary to inform action under the Global Compacts for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration and the Global Compact Refugees⁴ though these do not explicitly address internal displacement, as well as other relevant policy processes. In addition, the UN Secretary General has recently responded to calls from UN member states to establish a High-Level Panel on Internal Displacement that will include in its scope considerations for improving data on internal displacement.

Looking forward towards implementation, this event will showcase **examples from countries and international organizations already taking steps to put the recommendations into practice**. It will showcase examples from both refugee and IDPs contexts, with a focus on the IDP context and include a focus on different data sources as well as statistical coordination arrangements. It will also highlight the importance of **capacity development for many affected states and the critical role of peer-to-peer exchange** supported by regional institutions and international organizations in order to accelerate implementation of the IRIS and the IRRS. Building upon the momentum and progress made so far by EGRIS as well as the expertise of participants joining the UNSC, the session aims to capitalise on the “nexus” of expertise on forced displacement and statistical capacity building to identify strategic opportunities for furthering this work in the coming years.

Session format

- 75 minutes
- Panel with subsequent open discussion

Chair: Tarek Abou Chabake, Chief Statistician (ad interim), UNHCR

Panellists:

Name	Affiliation	Topic
Director General, Geir Axelsen	Statistics Norway (EGRIS member)	Open the event

¹ Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, A/RES/70/1

² https://www.unisdr.org/files/43291_sendaiframeworkfordrren.pdf

³ UN General Assembly, A/70/709: One Humanity: Shared Responsibility, 2016, paragraphs 81-84, available at https://www.securitycouncilreport.org/atf/cf/%7B65BFCF9B-6D27-4E9C-8CD3-CF6E4FF96FF9%7D/A_70_709.pdf

⁴ <https://www.unhcr.org/the-global-compact-on-refugees.html>

Alejandro García, Head of Capacity Building	National Institute of Statistics and Geography of Mexico	Planned implementation of EGRIS recommendations
Olena Shevtsova, Deputy Director of Administrative Directorate	State Statistics Service of Ukraine	Planned implementation of IRIS
Director General, Zachary Mwangi	Kenya National Statistical Bureau	Implementation of IRRS
Natalia Baal, Senior Strategy & Policy Officer	UNHCR – World Bank Joint Data Center	Capacity development strategy for IRRS and IRIS implementation
Vibeke Nielsen, Inter-Regional Adviser on Statistical Training and Capacity Building	UNSD and member of EGRIS steering committee	IRIS and recommendations around how to measure progress and how to overcome key displacement related vulnerabilities.