

## Directory of statistical services of international organisations



### UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES

Brief description of the organisation	<p>UNHCR, the UN Refugee Agency, is a global organization dedicated to saving lives, protecting rights and building a better future for people forced to flee their homes because of conflict and persecution. Formally known as the Office of the High Commissioner for Refugees, UNHCR was established by the General Assembly of the United Nations in 1950 in the aftermath of the Second World War to help the millions of people who had lost their homes. UNHCR is mandated by the United Nations to protect and safeguard the rights of refugees. It also supports former refugees who have returned to their home country, people displaced within their own country, and people who are stateless or whose nationality is disputed. In more than seven decades, the agency has helped tens of millions of people restart their lives. Today, a staff of some 20,000 people in more than 135 countries continues to help more than 120 million people.</p>
Mission	<p>The UNHCR statistics-related mission is to produce and enable the production, analysis and dissemination of high-quality population and socio-economic statistics on forcibly displaced and stateless persons. To achieve this, the Section maintains close linkages with UNHCR country and regional offices, the competent governmental authorities in charge of asylum or immigration activities, national statistics offices as well international organizations (UN, World Bank, etc.).</p>
Fields of activity/structure	<p>High-quality data is central to the success of UNHCR's efforts to safeguard the rights and well-being of forcibly displaced and stateless persons, and to achieving the vision of becoming, by 2025, a trusted leader on data and information related to refugees and other affected populations (see <a href="#">UNHCR Data Transformation Strategy 2020-2025</a>).</p>

	<p>The Statistics, Data Science, and Survey Section (SDSS) which is located in UNHCR’s Global Data Service in Geneva/Copenhagen, develops statistical definitions and standards, oversees the production of global statistics on forcibly displaced and stateless persons, applies innovative data science methods and implements international household survey programmes to answer questions related to forced displacement.</p>
Mandate	<p>Statistics are part of UNHCR’s daily work. Both the <b>1951 Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees</b> (Chapter VI, article 35: Co-operation of the national authorities with the United Nations) and the <b>Statute of the Office</b> (Chapter II, paragraph 8: Functions of the High Commissioner) refer to the obligation of States to report statistical data to the High Commissioner.</p>
Statistical work programme	<p>The SDSS statistical work programme encompasses a variety of topics, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Implement statistical standards and definitions for the collection of timely, comparable, reliable and coherent data on forcibly displaced and stateless populations.</li> <li>• Publish flagship statistical reports to inform partners, donors, media, the public and other stakeholders on global trends in forced displacement.</li> <li>• Promote the statistical inclusion of refugees and other displaced and stateless populations in national data collection activities (e.g., census, surveys etc.).</li> <li>• Implement the Forced Displacement Survey, UNHCR’s standardized and compatible survey programme that produces multi-topic, high-quality, and timely data on people forced to flee.</li> <li>• Invest in data science capacity, knowledge and partnerships which are critical to build more innovative systems and to drive efficiency and effectiveness. This includes improvement and expansion of predictive models, partnerships with big data providers and exploring non-traditional sources to estimate indicators.</li> <li>• Host and support the Expert Group on Refugee, Internally Displaced Persons and Statelessness Statistics (<a href="#">EGRISS</a>) to advance the implementation of three statistical standards endorsed by the UN Statistical Commission (see below).</li> </ul>

Number of staff	SDSS includes some 35 personnel at UNHCR’s headquarters in Geneva and Copenhagen. There are also Statisticians and some Data Scientists in UNHCR’s seven regional Bureaus.
Flagship publications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Global Trends in forced displacement</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Mid-Year Trends report</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Global Compact on Refugees Indicator Report</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">UNHCR Forced Displacement Survey reports</a></li> </ul> <p>International statistical standards in forced displacement and statelessness context:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">International Recommendations on Refugee Statistics</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">International Recommendations on Internally Displaced Persons Statistics</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">International Recommendations on Statelessness Statistics</a></li> </ul>
Website	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">UNHCR Data</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">UNHCR Refugee Data Finder</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">UNHCR Microdata Library</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">UNHCR Forced Displacement Survey</a></li> </ul>

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