United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

| Brief description of the organisation | The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) is mandated to lead and coordinate international action to protect refugees and resolve refugee problems worldwide. It strives to ensure that everyone can exercise the right to seek asylum and find safe refuge in another State, with the option to return home voluntarily, integrate locally or to resettle in a third country. It also has a mandate to help stateless people. In more than six decades, the agency has helped tens of millions of people restart their lives. Today, a staff of some 6,600 people in more than 110 countries continues to help more than 36 million persons. |
| Mission | The UNHCR statistics-related mission is to provide the data and methodologies to monitor trends in forced displacement at the national, regional and global level. It maintains close linkages with all UNHCR country offices, the competent authorities of many industrialized countries (asylum and immigration authorities, ministries of interior, etc.) and international organizations (UN, EU, etc.) and cooperates with institutions, researchers and experts in the area of global forced displacement, refugees, asylum and immigration. |
| Fields of activity/structure | The Field Information and Coordination Support Section (FICSS) is the focal point in UNHCR for the collection, analysis and dissemination of operational data, and for technical support, including training, on related methodologies and activities. The effective management of operational data is a prerequisite for successful interventions that have an impact on the well-being of UNHCR’s beneficiaries. It is the goal of |
FICSS to support all UNHCR offices, at Headquarters and in the Field, to better manage operational data.

**Mandate**

Statistics are part of UNHCR’s daily work. Both the 1951 Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees (Chapter VI, article 35: Co-operation of the national authorities with the United Nations) and the Statute of the Office (Chapter II, paragraph 8: Functions of the High Commissioner) refer to the obligation of States to report statistical data to the High Commissioner.

**Statistical work programme**

FICSS statistical work programme encompasses a variety of topics, such as:

- Setting of standards for the collection of timely, comparable, reliable and coherent data for population and statistical analysis
- Development of tools and guidelines, methods, processes, best practices, and training programmes for data collection, data management, and data analysis to support evidence-based decision-making
- Support and capacity building through the provision of technical advice and training on data collection, management and analysis, including through the Operational Data Management Learning Programme (ODMLP)
- Collection, verification, and analysis of statistics and indicators on refugees and other populations falling under UNHCR’s mandate
- Publication and dissemination of data and analyses to partners, donors, the public and other stakeholders in the form of ad-hoc reports and online and periodical publications

**Number of staff**

FICSS includes 4 regular statistics staff at UNHCR’s headquarters in Geneva. There are also statistician/operational data management experts in selected UNHCR regional country offices.

**Flagship publications**

- Statistical Yearbook
- Global Trends in forced displacement
- Asylum levels and trends in industrialized countries

**Website**

[www.unhcr.org/statistics](http://www.unhcr.org/statistics)
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