WRITTEN SUBMISSION FOR THE HIGH-LEVEL PANEL ON INTERNAL DISPLACEMENT
FROM THE EXPERT GROUP ON REFUGEE AND IDP STATISTICS

Contents

Introduction

This paper contains a submission from the Expert Group on Refugee and IDP Statistics (EGRIS) for the consideration of the High-Level Panel on Internal Displacement.[1] As such, it focuses on the topic of official statistics on internally displaced persons (IDPs) for improving national policy and response to internal displacement. The submission highlights the importance of **producing good quality official statistics on IDPs through national statistical systems**, which requires **effective coordination and capacity development**. It further highlights the crucial benefits this entails for **improving national ownership and government responses to displacement** in line with the scope and areas of interest of the High-Level Panel on Internal Displacement. The submission brings the recently endorsed **International Recommendations on IDP Statistics** (IRIS) to the attention of the High-Level Panel as the first statistical recommendations on covering internal displacement in official statistics to promote inclusive national policies.

The submission is informed by several key documents, as well as processes that led to their development, including:
- The Technical Report on the Statistics of IDPs[2]
- The International Recommendations on IDP Statistics (IRIS)[3]
- The Compilers' Manual on Displacement Statistics[4]

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[1] The submission was co-authored by the WB-UNHCR Joint Data Center (https://www.jointdatacenter.org/) and the UN Statistical Division (https://unstats.un.org/home/) on behalf of the wider Expert Group in Nov 2020-Feb2021.
[2] See https://unstats.un.org/unsd/demographic-social/Standards-and-Methods/files/Technical-Report/national-reporting/Technical-report-on-statistics-of-IDPs-E.pdf
[3] See https://unstats.un.org/unsd/statcom/51st-session/documents/BG-item-3n-international-recommendations-on-IDP-statistics-E.pdf
[4] See https://unstats.un.org/unsd/statcom/51st-session/documents/BG-item-3n-compilers-manual-E.pdf

Overall, it is grounded in the *UN Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement[5]* and the *IASC Framework on Durable Solutions for IDPs*.[6]

The submission is structured in four sections. The first section provides background on why the Expert Group on Refugee and IDP Statistics was established. The second section outlines key elements of the International Recommendations on IDP Statistics for the attention of the Panel. While the third section highlights recent efforts by the EGRIS to improve official statistics under their phase III, the final section sums up key recommendations for the Panel.

What is the EGRIS and why was it established?

An introduction to EGRIS and its work on IDPs

Against the backdrop of high and growing numbers of forcibly displaced persons globally, the need for more comprehensive and country-driven responses to secure durable solutions has become widely recognized. The data challenges related to this conundrum have also received similar attention, and it is against this background that stakeholders came together to develop a comprehensive set of statistical recommendations for countries to improve data on refugees and IDPs.

The Expert Group on Refugee and Internally Displaced Persons Statistics (EGRIS) was established by a decision of the UN Statistical Commission (UNSC) in 2016. The Expert Group was mandated to provide comprehensive statistical recommendations and technical guidance for capturing forcibly displaced populations in official statistics. Under its first mandate, the EGRIS developed *International Recommendations on Refugee Statistics (IRRS)[7]* and, following a request by countries to include IDPs in the scope of its work, a *Technical Report on Statistics of IDPs* that were both formally endorsed at the 49th UNSC session in 2018. Following this initial success, the Expert Group's mandate was extended to develop *International Recommendations on IDP Statistics* (IRIS) and to continue work on an associated *Compilers' Manual [8]* that were endorsed by the UNSC in 2020. During these first two phases, EGRIS was overseen by a Steering Committee comprised of Norway, Eurostat, Turkey, UNHCR, UN Statistics Division (UNSD), World Bank and the Joint IDP Profiling Service (JIPS). A third mandate for the Expert Group, shaped through its Terms of Reference endorsed by the UNSC in March 2020, allows EGRIS to continue the group's work on implementing and disseminating both sets of new international recommendations over the five year period from 2020 until 2024.[9]

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[5] See https://www.internal-displacement.org/sites/default/files/publications/documents/199808-training-OCHA-guiding-principles-Eng2.pdf

[6] See https://interagencystandingcommittee.org/system/files/2020-11/IASC%20Framework%20on%20Durable%20Solutions%20for%20Internally%20Displaced%20Persons%2C%20April%202010.pdf
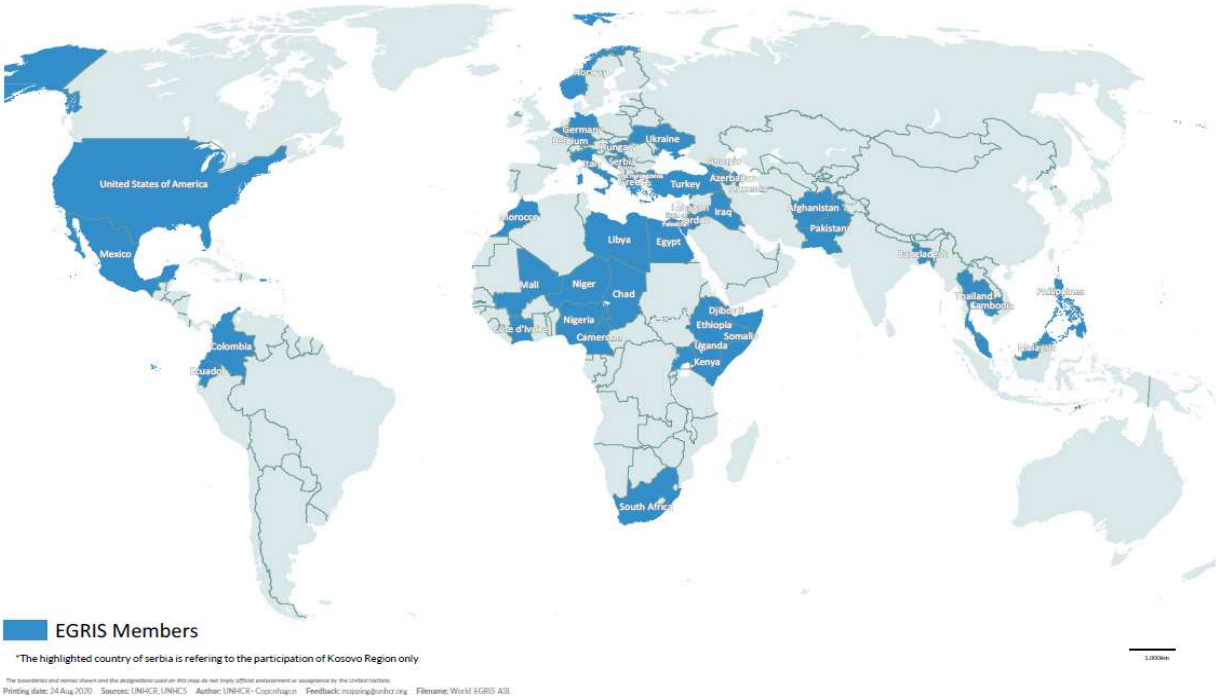
[7] See: https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/documents/3859598/9315869/KS-GQ-18-004-EN-N.pdf/d331c9cc-1091-43c2-b589-2c250bccc281?t=1542636809000

[8] The *Compiler's Manual* is a practical guide for the collection, analysis and dissemination of statistics on populations that fall within the scope of the International Recommendations on Refugees and IDPs. It takes into consideration existing methods and initiatives and provides operational instructions to practitioners for the implementation the IRRS and IRIS. It is a living document that is currently being strengthened by the dedicated Subgroup of EGRIS Phase III.

[9] See: https://unstats.un.org/unsd/statcom/51st-session/documents/BG-item-3n-terms-of-reference-for-EGRIS-E.pdf

EGRIS' governance and membership reflect its inclusive and consultative way of working. As of January 2021, the group comprises 45 country members (primarily representatives from national statistical offices; see map below for an overview of the membership) and over 23 international and regional organizations involved in the production of data on forcibly displaced populations or supporting national statistical systems. The way of working is characterized by peer-to-peer exchange between members, interactive workshops/meetings and the designation of thematic working groups as relevant.

A dedicated IDP subgroup was set up during EGRIS' first two phases of work to focus on internal displacement. The subgroup was led by the JIPS with the support of the UNSD, Statistics Norway and the Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre (IDMC). Representatives of the following countries and territories also took part in the IDP subgroup: Azerbaijan, Afghanistan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Colombia, Côte d'Ivoire, Georgia, Kosovo, Kurdistan Region of Iraq, Mexico, Nigeria, Philippines, Somalia, Ukraine. This expertise was also complemented by participants from the African Centre for Statistics, the African Development Bank, the International Organization for Migration (IOM), the International Security and Development Center, the mandate of the Special Rapporteur on the Human Rights of IDPs, the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), the Platform on Disaster Displacement, the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR), and the World Bank Group. The group therefore benefitted from a broad range of expertise including legal, operational, policy and statistics. The IDP subgroup has been disbanded for EGRIS third mandate which is focused on working collectively on the refugee and IDP agenda (see more details on phase III below).

EGRIS Members

*The highlighted country of serbia is refering to the participation of Kosovo Region only.

The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.
Printing date: 24.Aug.2020   Sources: UNHCR, UNHCS   Author: UNHCR - Copenhagen   Feedback: mapping@unhcr.org   Filename: World EGRIS A3L

An introduction to official statistics on IDPs

Official statistics are produced by government bodies, ministries, departments and agencies that form one National Statistical System (NSS) that is often coordinated by a national statistical office (NSO). Official statistics provide information on population in a country on all major areas of people's lives. Their production is traditionally based on censuses, surveys, and administrative registries and they follow a set of national standards that are grounded in the *UN Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics*[10] to ensure transparency and accountability. Official statistics must be based on systematically applied definitions and robust methodologies; they should follow quality standards which include confidentiality, representativeness and impartiality; and the results should be accessible and interpretable for a wide audience. These standards for official statistics aim to ensure that there is trust in the resulting data and reports. It is further important to distinguish official statistics from operational data collected by government, humanitarian, or development agencies to address data needs to inform their operational or programmatic interventions.[11]

Official statistics are the indispensable backbone in governments' information systems because they shape decision-making processes, inform the prioritization of thematic policies, and underpin budgeting decisions at the national and sub-national levels. They are of central importance to hold governments accountable, for example in the reporting on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Official statistics are often used beyond government agencies by other actors, primarily development organizations, to inform their analysis, operations and investments and by researchers to enhance analysis of displacement trends.

A challenge in the production of official statistics can be that the NSS and NSOs have to maintain professional independence from political influences within their governments to base the production of data on statistical standards and regulations rather than on political considerations. In many contexts, NSOs are also challenged by lacking capacity and resource constraints to produce all relevant data. This can lead to the challenge that official statistics exclude or do not sufficiently capture vulnerable groups such as the economically disadvantaged, elderly, homeless, migrants or ethnic minorities.

IDPs are a clear example of such a vulnerable group that often reside in contexts of heightened political sensitivities and limited statistical capacity. In the absence of clear recommendations, definitions and methods used to capture data on IDPs vary significantly across contexts, making data difficult to use and to compare. As a population group who have been traditionally perceived as in need of solely humanitarian assistance, responsibility to collect data on their situations often falls into the hands of humanitarian actors and associated coordination bodies. Operational data captures information on the number, movement patterns and needs of vulnerable populations and can be used to inform context-specific responses. In some contexts, it can also be used to inform

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[10] See: https://unstats.un.org/unsd/dnss/gp/FP-New-E.pdf

[11] Operational data refers to data collected by a range of organizations including government ministries, and humanitarian and development actors to satisfy timely data needs during operations. There are no unified standards on how to produce operational data in IDP settings. While it is not always possible for operational data to follow the highest quality standards, operational data can often be the only type of data available on IDPs, especially in emergency contexts and protracted crises. As such, operational data can be a crucial basis for international statistics and global estimates where no official statistics are produced, and they can be used in the process of producing official statistics.

official statistics. This, however, depends on – and is often impeded by – the quality and coverage of the data collection undertaken.

The EGRIS has hence developed recommendations on how to produce official statistics on IDPs to raise the profile of NSOs in the process and to provide very practical guidance to improve data quality and coordination in the NSS. Building the capacity to produce official statistics on IDPs can enhance the accountability of governments to respond to internal displacement and, as is broadly true for all official statistics on vulnerable populations, plays a critical role to inform "policy decision-making in support of sustainable development, peace and security".[12]

Why do official statistics on IDPs matter?

- The production of high-quality data on IDPs through national statistical systems increases **national ownership** over matters of internal displacement. Improved official statistics on IDPs can **support political will** to secure solutions for IDPs and **increase the accountability** of governments as the holder of primary responsibility to respond to internal displacement.

- As a public good, official statistics on IDPs **inform decision-making, budgeting, and policies by governments** but also by the **wider international community**. National development agendas can be shaped with evidence from official data sources.

- When official statistics follow the high-quality standards of the UN Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics and are nationally owned, they serve as the most important source of information to determine the **"agreed upon" size of the IDP population** in a country. Determining the scope of displacement is crucial to direct services and aid, however many IDP contexts currently struggle with competing population estimates produced by different partners.

- The regular inclusion of IDPs in official statistics allows policymakers to **understand internal displacement in relation to other phenomena and population groups**. Having data on IDPs allows comparisons to other vulnerable groups and non-displaced populations on issues of national priority or important socio-economic and psycho-social dimensions such as poverty, climate, urban development, social cohesion, gender or protection.

- Including IDPs in official statistics can enable governments to **disaggregate SDG reporting** and contribute to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in a transparent and inclusive manner.

- **Censuses and nationally representative surveys** that include IDPs and are sensitive to displacement-related issues, can **fill systematic data gaps** that
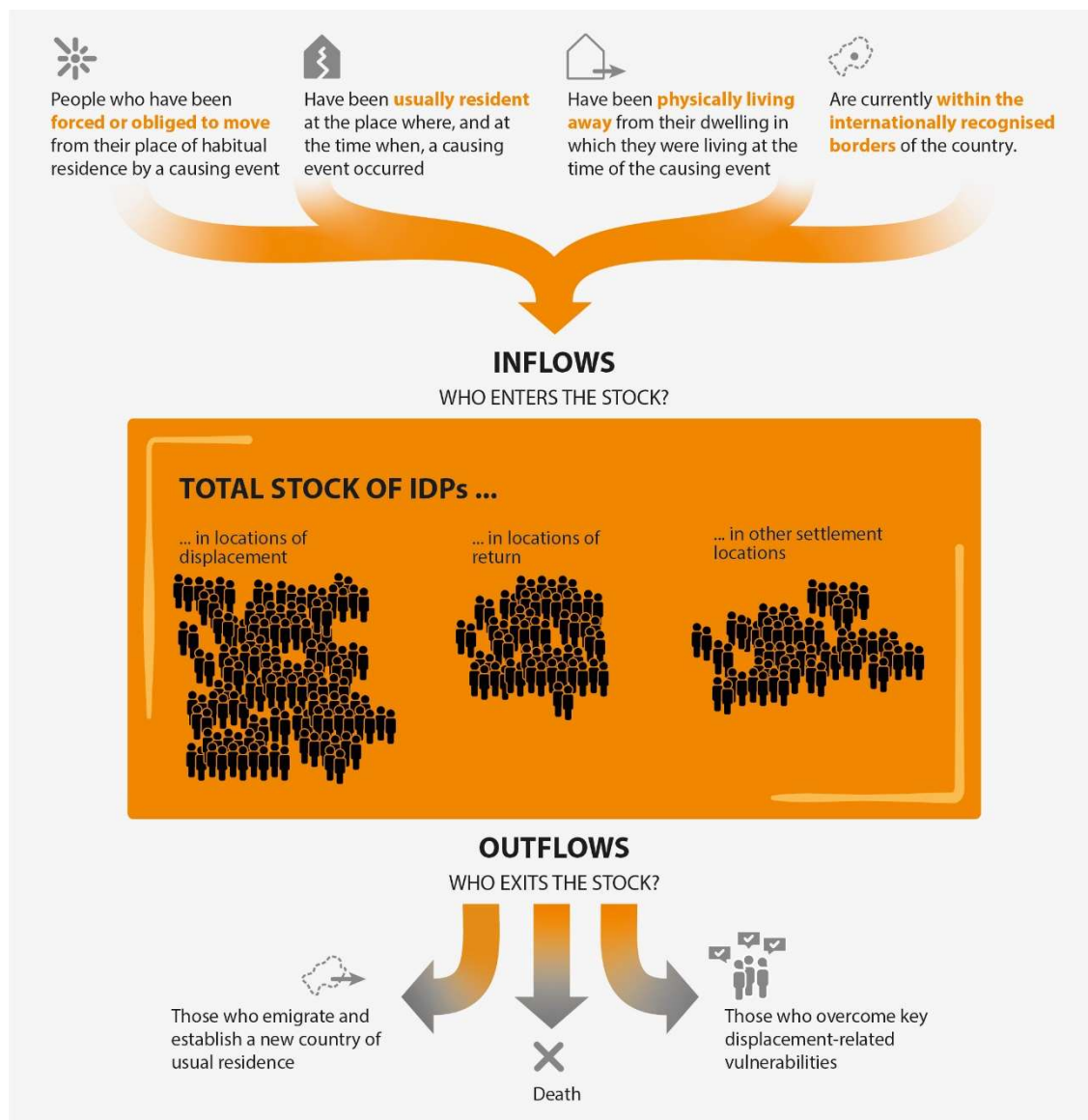
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[12] Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 29 January 2014 on the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics, https://unstats.un.org/unsd/dnss/gp/FP-New-E.pdf

> persist in the realm of internal displacement, for example on the socio-economic wellbeing of IDPs.
>
> ● As official statistics are guided by statistical standards and must provide clear definitions of the concepts measured, the capturing of IDPs in a transparent way allows for more **systematic use of IDP data** and **comparability across contexts**.

Key elements of the IRIS and why they matter

The *International Recommendations on IDP Statistics* (IRIS), produced by EGRIS, are the first ever official recommendations on IDP statistics and were endorsed unanimously by the UN Statistical Commission in 2020. This is a crucial milestone towards government-owned high-quality data on internal displacement that can inform national and international policymaking and decisions.

People who have been **forced or obliged to move** from their place of habitual residence by a causing event

Have been **usually resident** at the place where, and at the time when, a causing event occurred

Have been **physically living away** from their dwelling in which they were living at the time of the causing event

Are currently **within the internationally recognised borders** of the country.

INFLOWS
WHO ENTERS THE STOCK?

TOTAL STOCK OF IDPs ...

... in locations of displacement

... in locations of return

... in other settlement locations

OUTFLOWS
WHO EXITS THE STOCK?

Those who emigrate and establish a new country of usual residence

Death

Those who overcome key displacement-related vulnerabilities

The IRIS presents a full statistical framework for internal displacement with the aim to increase internal consistency and comparability of IDP numbers and data. The recommendations provide clear statistical definitions of IDPs and IDP-related populations, in contrast to other populations affected by displacement, which are grounded in the UN Guiding Principles and have been assessed by legal experts from a number of the participating agencies. By making sure that IDPs enter and leave the national stock of IDPs based on the same definition of being displaced and suffering from associated vulnerabilities, the IRIS enhances the interoperability of data across different contexts and countries (see a visualization of in- and outflows of the IDP stock above or page 34 of IRIS). The IRIS also provides recommendations on data sources to obtain reliable IDP numbers and ways to enhance the coordination amongst national and international data producers. Overall, having consistent IDP data that are comparable over time and between regions and countries is a major step to facilitate joint use of data by different actors, to increase national ownership over IDP data, and to form evidence-driven national and international responses to displacement.
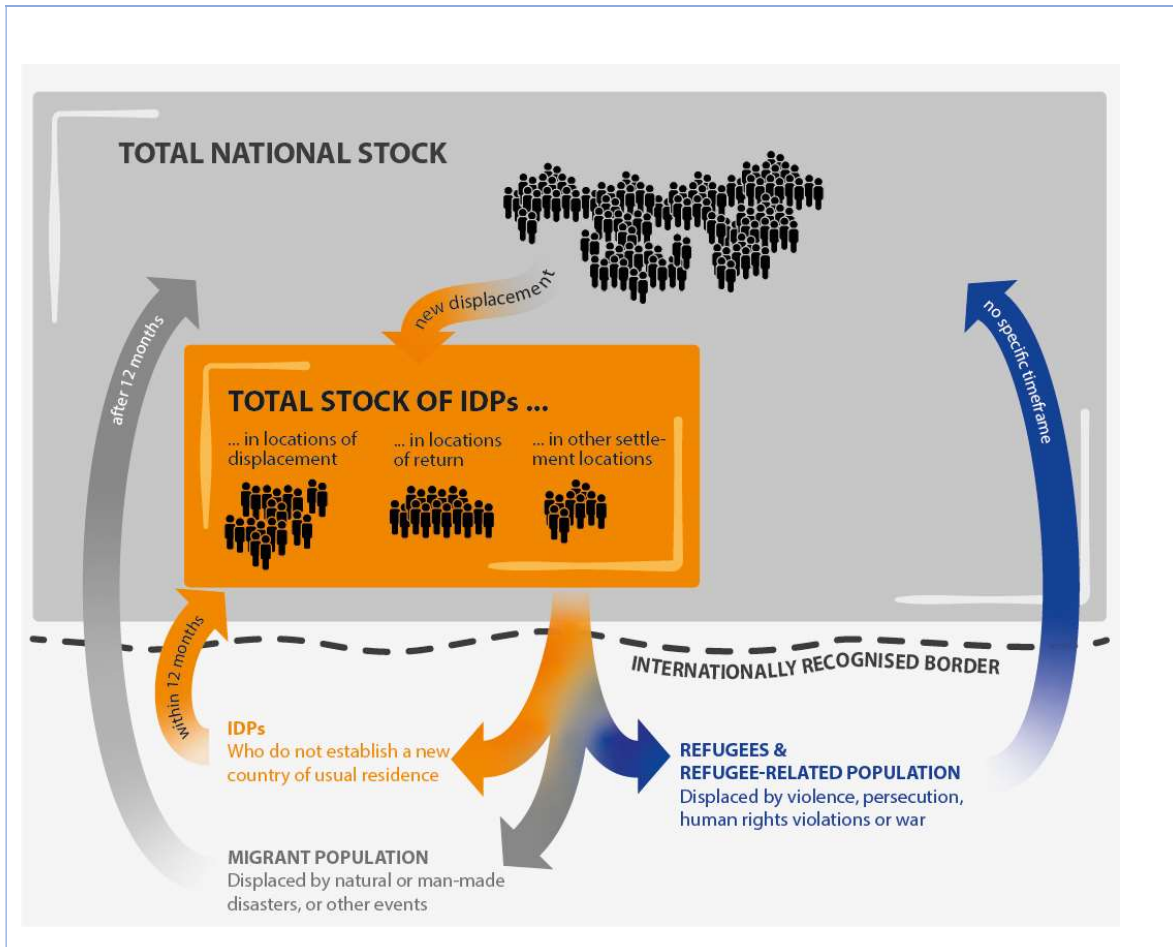
The following key elements of the recommendations are highlighted as particularly relevant for the Panel's attention:

1. Becoming an IDP or "being included in the IDP stock" (paragraph 101-119)

> The IRIS are the first translation of the well-known definition of an IDP from the UN Guiding Principles into a statistical concept that can be measured in official statistics. Only if all elements of the IDP definition are met, should the associated individuals/groups be counted in the national stock (i.e. the number) of IDPs. It is important to clarify all conceptual elements of being an IDP for wide use in national statistical systems as current practice to count IDPs is varied across contexts and time. Following a consistent definition of IDPs will increase the transparency and comparability of IDP numbers.

2. Distinguishing IDPs from those returning from abroad (e.g. returning refugees) (paragraph 82-89)

> The recommendations clarify the relationship of IDPs to those that are forcibly displaced across an internationally recognized border and those that return from abroad after seeking international protection or staying abroad for an extended period for other reasons. The distinctions made in the IRIS facilitate the clear delineation of IDPs from other forcibly displaced populations and persons of concern. This is important as the *International Recommendations on Refugee Statistics (IRRS)* cover refugees and refugee returnees and it must be avoided to double count displaced population groups in official statistics. In particular regarding returning refugees, the IRIS clarify that while returning refugees may often have similar characteristics and vulnerabilities as IDPs, they do not automatically become IDPs upon return to their country of origin; instead they only become IDPs if and when they are re-displaced (see visual below). Returning refugees might require policy responses distinct from those related to IDPs and should not artificially inflate IDP numbers, even if needs for assistance may be similar in some contexts. Overall, the IRIS with a focus on internal displacement complement the IRRS to ensure that statistical population categories do not overlap.

TOTAL NATIONAL STOCK

TOTAL STOCK OF IDPs ...

... in locations of displacement

... in locations of return

... in other settlement locations

new displacement

after 12 months

within 12 months

no specific timeframe

INTERNATIONALLY RECOGNISED BORDER

IDPs
Who do not establish a new country of usual residence

REFUGEES & REFUGEE-RELATED POPULATION
Displaced by violence, persecution, human rights violations or war

MIGRANT POPULATION
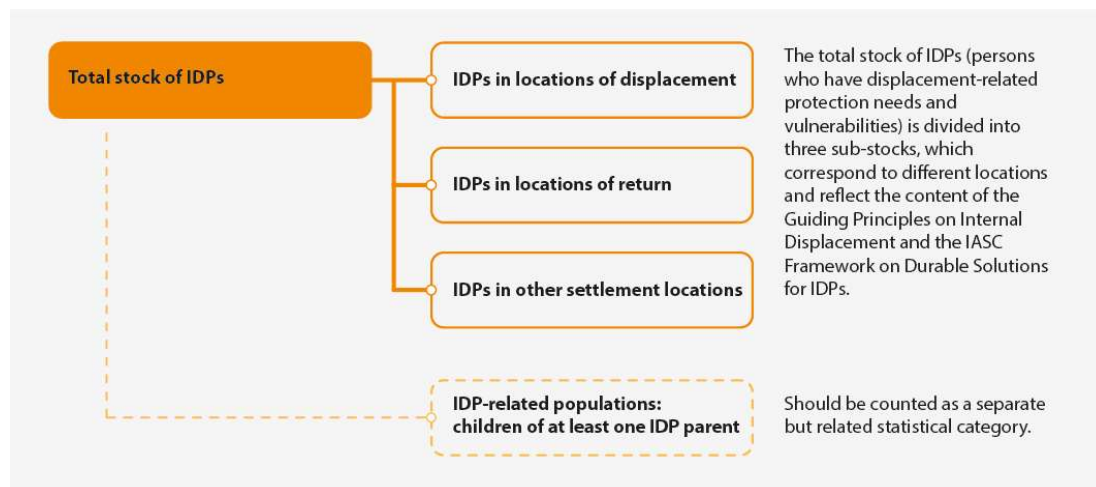Displaced by natural or man-made disasters, or other events

3. Covering children of IDPs in national statistics (paragraph 78-79)

The IRIS identifies an IDP-related category that refers to children of at least one IDP in displacement who were born after their parents were displaced and have thus not experienced displacement themselves. Since they will likely face vulnerabilities related to their parents' displacement, official statistics should be able to produce a reliable estimate of IDP-related persons for the purpose of targeting assistance - however they should not artificially inflate IDP figures. Given the increasingly protracted nature of many IDP situations, governments and international organizations may want to monitor how the children of IDPs perform on important socio-economic dimensions without being forced to include them in IDP statistics.

4. Describing the national IDP stock (paragraph 91-92)

In order to fully describe the national IDP stock, the IRIS promote that the total stock of IDPs should be divided into three sub-stocks (see visual below or on page 28 of IRIS): 'IDPs in locations of displacement' should be differentiated from 'IDPs in locations of return' and 'IDPs in other settlement locations'. Policy responses to IDPs may vary across locations of displacement, return and settlement, therefore statistical analysis should enable this delineation. This distinction is important to draw attention to IDPs that settle in a new area after displacement and those who return (who often

receive less attention than those in locations of displacement) in order to help secure appropriate solutions.

The total stock of IDPs (persons who have displacement-related protection needs and vulnerabilities) is divided into three sub-stocks, which correspond to different locations and reflect the content of the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement and the IASC Framework on Durable Solutions for IDPs.

Should be counted as a separate but related statistical category.

5. Measuring solutions and "exiting the IDP stock" (paragraph 122-172)

Based on the *UN Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement* and the *IASC Framework for Durable Solutions for IDPs*, the recommendations define how to measure progress towards durable solutions. They outline a methodology based on all 8 IASC criteria to ensure that official statistics cover progress in a consistent manner and focus on all relevant and not only a selection of dimensions. This analysis will facilitate the prioritization of government policies and humanitarian and development interventions towards those criteria that underperform in comparison with non-displaced populations. This measure also allows for a more nuanced understanding of the severity of the situation of internally displaced at national, regional and global level.

Beyond measuring overall progress towards solutions for IDPs, it is also crucial to define how IDPs that are counted in the national stock can exit it. This, of course, includes death or moving abroad but also importantly includes a statistical measure to assess when IDPs have overcome key displacement-related vulnerabilities. This measure completes the statistical framework for internal displacement and is based on a comparison with non-displaced populations against 5 IASC criteria (4 that are highlighted by the *Framework* as always applicable in addition to access to legal documentation with sub-criteria identified for all – see table).

Criteria	Sub-criteria		
1. Safety and security	1	1.1	Victims of violence
	2	1.2	Freedom of movement
2. Adequate standard of living	3	2.1	Food security
	4	2.2	Shelter and housing
	5	2.3	Medical services
	6	2.4	Education
3. Access to livelihoods	7	3.1	Employment and livelihoods
	8	3.2	Economic security
4. Restoration of housing, land and property	9	4.1	Property restitution and compensation
5. Access to documentation	10	5.1	Documentation

The measure, designed to balance comprehensiveness and feasibility, represents a significant advancement in this area of policy and practice as it enables a more systematic approach between countries to determine the "end of displacement" in statistical and aggregated terms although it does not amount to a full durable solutions measure. Further work under phase III of EGRIS is ongoing to develop a fully applicable measure based on core elements agreed upon in the IRIS to support countries to measure when IDPs should exit the national stock.

6. Data quality and confidentiality (paragraph 191-196)

A focus on improving the quality of data on IDPs is central to the IRIS. Specific challenges in collecting reliable IDP data are often related to:

- Confidentiality/anonymity (i.e. information on IDPs can be sensitive and should not be shared in a way that allows for identification),
- Coverage (i.e. the challenge to cover whole IDP populations if access is limited and the safety of IDPs and data collectors is paramount),
- Representativeness (i.e. ensuring that collected data on IDPs represent the total IDP populations and is not systematically biased),
- Timeliness (i.e. IDP populations change rapidly as events causing displacement change),
- Periodicity (i.e. data on population flows can be more useful if collected periodically),
- Comparability (i.e. international standards, definitions, and survey methodologies allow comparisons between contexts and over time),
- Impartiality (i.e. official statistics on IDP displacement are free from political influence despite highly political contexts), and
- Transparency (i.e. well-documented processes and accessibility of data and methodological/technical documentation is crucial to increase credibility and trust).

7. Data sources for IDP statistics (paragraph 191-282)

The recommendations provide an overview of potential data sources on IDPs from a variety of agencies, national authorities, international organizations and NGOs. IDP data can stem from population and housing censuses, sampled household surveys,

administrative data and registers, as well as alternative data sources, or a combination of these. At present, surveys are the most adaptable to the data needs and the IRIS recommend including IDPs in sampling frames and questionnaires. Administrative sources, such as civil and population registers, if their coverage and representativeness are of sufficient quality, can also provide important information for example on voter registration and access to/eligibility for basic services. Moving forward, the use of alternative data sources such as geospatial information and mobile phone data, will be explored further, however quality considerations, including confidentiality and coverage, will continue to require attention.

8. Coordination of statistics (paragraph 305-386)

The production of good quality official statistics requires effective coordination among and between national, sub-national and international actors to ensure comparability, trust and ownership. The IRIS highlight this need for coordination and describe coordination mechanisms that could facilitate the production of IDP statistics. As generating official statistics on IDPs can be challenging in displacement contexts, a specific focus is on discussing how operational data can complement official statistics and can support the development of capacity to produce official statistics. Specific recommendations include: to clearly mandate the NSS to produce IDP statistics and to mainstream the production of official IDP statistics in National Strategies for the Development of Statistics and regular statistical publications. Dissemination and accessibility of data under responsible data sharing frameworks is also a key area of work identified by the recommendations. Overall, coordination to achieve official statistics on IDPs is crucial to foster the ownership of national governments and to increase their accountability for IDPs as national governments hold the primary responsibility to respond to displacement.

EGRIS phase III

Given the successful endorsement of the IRIS by the UN Statistical Commission in 2020, the work of the Expert Group has attracted attention. The addition of new Steering Committee[13] members to the coordination body of EGRIS, including Colombia, the Ukraine, the Kurdistan Regional of Iraq, the African Union Commission, UNESCWA, World Bank-UNHCR Joint Data Center on Forced Displacement, IOM and IDMC, has further demonstrated that the work of the Expert Group has gained momentum and speaks to important challenges around data on internal displacement for governments as well as national data on refugees.

The Expert Group has moved to a third work phase that can be characterized as its implementation phase. According to its Terms of Reference, the EGRIS will focus on three main areas, each of which initiated planning and activities in 2020:

1) The **promotion and dissemination** of the international recommendations on both refugee and IDP statistics. In order to be directly implemented by states, awareness

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[13] These new members join existing Steering Committee members who oversaw the work of phase I and phase II, including Norway, Eurostat, Turkey, UNHCR, UNSD, World Bank and JIPS.

raising amongst relevant stakeholders at the national, regional and international levels will be key.

2) As outlined above, national statistical systems can play an important role in government structures; however, capacity can be lacking. EGRIS' phase III therefore also focuses on the **delivery and coordination of capacity development** as part of its implementation strategy.

3) This work will be supported by **continued improvements to the Compilers' Manual**, based on the increasing amount of national experience and peer-to-peer exchange between countries. The Manual provides the technical guidance for practitioners to implement the statistical recommendations. Further refinement to the recommendations is also planned, in particular to finalize a statistically applicable metric to measure the overcoming of displacement-related vulnerabilities in the context of internal displacement.

The Expert Group's Steering Committee is supported by a Secretariat that is hosted by UNHCR. Its membership is organized into dedicated technical subgroups to work on the three priority areas listed above, each one co-led by different members. New subgroups can be established, as needed. The Steering Committee oversees the work and is responsible for reporting on progress to the UNSC. Any potential future revisions to the IRRS or the IRIS will be submitted for endorsement by the UNSC in due course. Updated versions of the Compilers' Manual will be formally shared with the UNSC.

The Expert Group aligns their work with the requirements of SDG monitoring and actively identifies opportunities to include internal displacement in the SDGs and to encourage the "disaggregation of SDGs by forced displacement".[14] In 2019, the UN Statistical Commission adopted a document on SDG disaggregation put forward by the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on the SDGs (IAEG-SDGs). In the document, based on input from EGRIS, 12 SDG indicators are recommended to be disaggregated by forced displacement[15]. Moving forward, EGRIS members will seek to provide data disaggregated by forced displacement for these 12 indicators and beyond, as far as possible and in line with national priorities. Since NSOs in most countries play a key role in coordinating national SDG reporting, ensuring that they have a role in national IDP statistics production, will help ensure that IDPs are also reported on in the SDG framework. Additional momentum for this work will be found in the recently added SDG indicator (10.7.4) on refugees, which will already bring more attention to forced displacement within the global framework. These efforts to report on how IDPs are doing in achieving the SDGs are mainstreamed across the three areas of work outlined above.

As shown in the examples from countries below, work to implement IRIS is already ongoing and there is strong ownership among many of the country members. Most of the countries with IDP populations do, however, have limited capacities and resources and the NSS is no exception. **Capacity development and support in implementation is therefore highlighted as a key element moving forward** and where EGRIS members are now working actively to identify how to most efficiently provide support. A substantial benefit is that so many different organizations come together under the EGRIS umbrella which can help ensure that duplication of work is avoided, synergies explored, and resources spent as efficiently as possible. As an example, one of EGRIS phase III subgroups is already working on a capacity mapping exercise and outlining

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[14] See https://www.unhcr.org/5fd237b84.pdf
[15] See https://unstats.un.org/unsd/statcom/50th-session/documents/BG-Item3a-Data-Disaggregation-E.pdf, page 19 from table 13 and onwards.

modalities for providing technical support to countries - first steps towards a concrete coordination of capacity development efforts. Another has mapped the priority areas of improvement for the Compilers' Manual and initiated work on a number of them, including on the measures related to IDP solutions. Another important aspect of the joint EGRIS work is the peer-to-peer exchange between country members of the group, as well as making these experiences available to other countries, will also bring much added value as the work progresses. Many countries have already reported concrete examples of learning between NSOs.

Overall, the Panel should note that work is ongoing to make official statistics on IDPs more reliable and transparent, more comparable and consistent across countries, and more embedded in national systems. **The central aim is to give governments an evidence-driven voice in finding solutions to displacement and to steadily increase their sense of responsibility and ownership.** Several countries have already taken steps to implement the IRIS into their data generating processes.

Examples of implementation (provided by EGRIS members directly)

Armenia

The IRIS are an important tool for the Statistical Committee of the Republic of Armenia (ARMSTAT) to produce official statistics on IDPs according to the recommended international definitions and methodologies. The Migration Service of the Armenian Ministry of Territorial Administration and Infrastructure is currently discussing the normative framework to cover IDPs in official statistics, potential data sources on IDPs, as well as possible partnerships with national and international actors. Further discussions are planned with relevant government bodies, ministries, departments, and non-government organizations. Armenia will conduct a population census in October 2021, using the state's population register and a 25% field sample, that will also cover displacement-related modules informed by the IRIS.

Colombia

Colombia has conducted a national assessment of displacement-related vulnerabilities to measure progress toward the socioeconomic stabilization of IDPs. The measurement is based on data collected though official administrative records and it addresses the fulfilment of the rights to housing, income generation, food security, identification, education, health and family reunification. The criteria have been adapted to the IASC framework on durable solutions and informed by the IRIS. Even though the Colombian government does not take IDPs off the victim's registry when displacement vulnerabilities are overcome, it keeps a separate official record of IDPs who have reached a durable solution.

Kurdistan Region of Iraq

Kurdistan Region Statistics Office (KRSO) will be using the Arabic translation of the IRIS to advocate and lobby for the use of the recommendations in all of Iraq and not

Mexico

INEGI, the NSO of Mexico, has followed the recommendations in the most recent Population and Housing Census of 2020, where questions about migration and displacement were incorporated. In

only in the Kurdistan Region, as part of the larger effort by EGRIS to invite all international and national statistical agencies to start using the recommendations in jointly planned surveys and data collection efforts that include IDPs. Additionally, KRSO will publish the final version of the IRIS on its website in the three languages Kurdish, Arabic and English to increase accessibility for all interested governmental and non-governmental organizations working in the region.

addition, INEGI is working to establish IDP statistics in the National System of Statistical and Geographic Information by including specific variables into statistical programs and administrative records analysis of socio-demographic, government and crime information. INEGI is working on adjusting these exercises to IRIS guidelines.

Somalia

Somalia is keen to produce official statistics on IDPs in line with the IRIS as there is currently only operational data available to identify the stock of IDPs in the country. The statistical office is exploring opportunities, inspired by the IRIS, to address this data gap, through activities possibly including: an IDP Profiling Survey, integration of IDPs into other surveys (with appropriate sampling frames and questionnaire modules) and the establishment of a national database on IDPs that is routinely updated. Close cooperation between the Somalian NSO, the Ministry of Humanitarian and Disaster Management, the National High Commission for Refugees & IDPs, and other stakeholders will be important for effective implementation of the above plans. To achieve these aims technical support and capacity-building is needed with a focus on the collection, analysis, reporting and dissemination of IDP statistics.

Ukraine

Following a webinar on "International Recommendations and IDP Statistics in Ukraine", jointly organized by the State Statistics Service of Ukraine and the International Organization for Migration (with participation from EGRIS secretariat), a new working group has been set up to implement the IRIS in Ukraine. The working group already includes the Secretariat of the Ukrainian Parliament Commissioner for Human Rights, UNHCR, State Migration Service of Ukraine, Ministry for Development of Hromadas and Territories of Ukraine, and VoxUkraine with more stakeholders expected to join. The working group has initiated preparatory discussions and work is in progress to develop a clear roadmap for the coordinated implementation of IRIS in Ukraine.

Recommendations

The below recommendations are developed for the Panel's consideration to inform the development of its final report.

1) **Put official statistics on IDPs on the national agenda of governments**. Governments should clearly identify the reporting responsibility for IDP statistics (e.g. in their SDG reporting) in their national statistical system. Funds should be set aside to include IDPs in data collection efforts for official statistics such as censuses and nation-wide household surveys. Governments should commit to build capacity in their national statistical offices and to give their national statistical offices or relevant agencies the independence to

generate non-politicized official statistics on IDPs. National Strategies for the Development of Statistics in affected countries should actively discuss and plan for the inclusion of IDPs.

2) **Stress the requirement for data to be handled according to the UN Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics**, including confidentiality criteria for the protection of forcibly displaced populations.

3) **Underline the value of implementing the statistical framework on internal displacement**, as outlined in the IRIS. Ensuring common definitions for the identification of IDPs and IDP-related populations in official statistics will enhance data quality, interoperability and comparability between contexts and over time.

4) **Promote the IRIS through relevant channels** in particular with national governments, IDP ministries/authorities, regional networks/platforms and international organizations best placed to support the coordinated implementation of the recommendations. Through promotion of the statistical framework included in the IRIS, duplicative or competing efforts should be discouraged. Through attention to coordination-related recommendations in IRIS, the inclusion of relevant national and international stakeholders can together improve official statistics on internal forced displacement.

5) **Encourage the completion of the statistical measures for solutions to internal displacement and overcoming displacement-related vulnerabilities** with new investments in data, field-testing and methodological work, and strong participation from affected states. Once ready the IRIS should be formally updated with results from this work.

6) **Support EGRIS during its implementation phase (2021-2024),** by encouraging participation from countries and institutions to enhance the group's ability as an effective coordination mechanism, particularly for capacity development activities, and platform for peer-to-peer exchange at global and regional levels. Support from the Panel could also indicate that further financial support is required for EGRIS to increase its capacity to provide technical support to countries and regions.[16]

7) **Advise donors to invest into official statistics on IDPs with a focus on capacity development and technical support**. These efforts should be context-sensitive, complement investments in operational data, be long-term in nature, and encourage compliance with the IRIS as far as possible. Operational partners generating data on forced displacement should be encouraged to work closely with NSOs/NSS to identify collaboration opportunities in line with the IRIS.

In addition, this final recommendation encourages the Panel to provide feedback and guidance to EGRIS from its broader policy perspective:

8) **Advise EGRIS from the broader perspective of the Panel** on how the group's work can be further strengthened, including the enhancement of political support at country, regional and global levels. EGRIS is open for guidance from the Panel to inform implementation of its third (ongoing) phase as well as future priorities, including new areas of work to explore if relevant**.**

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[16] Currently EGRIS Phase III receives funds from the World Bank-UNHCR Joint Data Center on Forced Displacement with funding provided by the European Union, alongside in-kind support from its members.

Complementary resources

- Website of the Expert Group on Refugee and IDP statistics is under development (part of phase III workplan); in the mean-time useful additional resources on the EGRIS include:
  - Eurostat website on the Expert Group on Refugee and IDP statistics
  - JIPS website on Official IDP and Refugee Statistics (with a focus on IDPs)
  - UNHCR website on Measuring Forced Displacement and Statelessness
- Written submissions to the High-Level Panel by EGRIS members that include a mention of EGRIS/IRIS, include: Norway, UNHCR, JIPS, IOM, IOM-Displacement Tracking Matrix, World Bank, World Bank – UNHCR Joint Data Center on Forced Displacement, IDMC, European Union