The International Recommendations on Refugee, IDP and Statelessness Statistics

(e-Learning course)

17 August – 9 October 2026

Guideline

I. OVERVIEW OF THE COURSE

The numbers of refugees and internally displaced persons (IDPs) have increased rapidly in recent years, with UNHCR estimating over 117.8 million forcibly displaced persons by the end of 2025. Similarly, the issue of statelessness continues to persist in society, with 4.5 million people currently estimated to be stateless. With the growing prominence of displacement and statelessness, there is increasing interest at national, regional and international levels in statistics on refugees, IDPs and stateless persons, including complete, accurate, timely and internationally comparable estimates on the numbers of people impacted, their well-being and vulnerabilities. Good-quality statistics are a requirement for developing, implementing and monitoring national, regional and international policies and agreements concerning refugees, IDPs and stateless persons.

The course introduces the "International Recommendations on Refugee Statistics" (IRRS), the "International Recommendations on IDP Statistics" (IRIS) and the "International Recommendations on Statelessness Statistics" (IROSS). These sets of recommendations were endorsed by the United Nations Statistical Commission in 2018 (IRRS), 2020 (IRIS) and 2023 (IROSS), respectively. The course is spread over six substantive modules and provides details on the statistical framework for compiling refugee, IDP and stateless persons statistics. It introduces concepts, definitions, classifications and methodologies relevant to collecting, compiling, analyzing and disseminating data and indicators on refugees, IDPs and stateless persons, including Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) indicators. The course also includes information on data sources, institutional mechanisms, and coordination.

II. TARGET PARTICIPANTS

Target participants for the course are staff of national statistical offices, relevant line ministries and other institutions working on issues related to refugees, IDPs and stateless persons (including, for example, Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Justice, Immigration Agencies, etc.). Others who would benefit from the course include those working on refugee, IDP and statelessness issues in international organizations, regional organizations and NGOs.

III. COURSE LANGUAGES

The course modules will be available in English, French and Spanish – translations made available in 2026 based on participant feedback. All other course content will be in English.

IV. LEARNING OUTCOMES

By the end of the course, participants will be expected to:

- Describe the importance of refugee, IDP and statelessness statistics, relevant international legal frameworks, and their relevance for operational and national policy applications.
- Discuss the role of the Expert Group on Refugee, IDP and Statelessness Statistics (EGRISS) and its outputs in providing the statistical framework for the compilation of official statistics in response to the various data needs.
- Apply concepts and definitions and make use of the main data sources for refugee, IDP and statelessness statistics according to internationally endorsed recommendations.
- Outline the challenges associated with the collection, compilation, and dissemination of statistics on refugees, IDPs, and stateless persons.
- Appraise the importance of coordination of data on refugees, IDPs and stateless persons to facilitate policy development and apply the recommendations in practice.

V. COURSE DESIGN AND CONTENT

The e-learning course is comprised of 6 interactive modules that are hosted on the SIAP Learning Management System (LMS). Each of the 6 interactive modules consists of slides with explanations. Avatars and interactive elements are used throughout the course to enhance participant engagement and additional resources are provided at the end of each module. After all modules have been completed, participants who would like to receive a certificate will be required to complete a final assessment that covers all modules and a short course evaluation form. The online modules are expected to take about 7 hours to complete.

Participants are also expected to attend a series of webinars that will provide an overview of the course topics and allow participants to ask questions. These webinars also aim to provide a space for practitioners to share their experiences of using the recommendations and offer

insights to support their implementation. They will be recorded and shared through the course webpage. More details will be provided at the beginning of the course. Furthermore, participants are encouraged to actively participate in the online discussion forum of the course. Topics for discussion will be posted on a regular basis and participants are invited to share their views/comments/questions. In total, it is estimated that the course will take about 26 hours (online modules, webinars, contributions to online discussions and review of course reference materials).

Course Outline

Module	Coverage
1. Introduction to the International Recommendations on Refugee, IDP and Statelessness Statistics	• Why we need statistics on refugees, IDPs and statelessness • Applications and challenges • Official statistics and operational data • EGRISS and its key achievements • Defining refugees, IDPs and statelessness in statistics • Data sources for refugees, IDP and statelessness statistics • Coordination of refugee, IDP and statelessness statistics
2. **Refugee statistics: measuring stocks, flows and characteristics**	• Legal framework • Statistical framework • Stocks and flows • Measuring integration and satisfaction of ongoing needs
3. **IDP statistics: measuring stocks, flows and characteristics**	• Legal and policy framework • Statistical framework • Stocks and flows • Durable solutions and key displacement-related vulnerabilities • Variables and tabulations for IDP statistics
4. **Statelessness statistics: measuring stocks, flows and characteristics**	• Policy and legal framework • Statistical framework • Stocks and flows • Measuring the characteristics of stateless populations

5. Data sources, analysis and dissemination	• Population and housing censuses • Sample surveys • Administrative data • Alternative data sources • Operational data • Confidentiality and data sharing • Evaluation and quality assessment • Analysis and dissemination
6. National, regional and international statistical coordination	• Principles of statistical coordination • Statistical coordination at the national level • Coordination amongst regional and international partners • Recommendations to improve the coordination of refugee, IDP and statelessness statistics

VI. EVALUATION

Participants' understanding of the material will be reinforced through integrated mini assessments in each interactive module as well as a final assessment upon completion of all modules.

Participants will be given 60 minutes to complete the final assessment. They may take the exam up to five times and retain their best score. Participants may not work together on the assessment.

Participants will be eligible to receive certificates of completion upon (i) attaining a minimum grade of 70% in the final assessment; and (ii) completing the course evaluation questionnaire.