

International Recommendations on Internally Displaced Persons Statistics (IRIS)

EXPERT GROUP ON REFUGEE AND INTERNALLY
DISPLACED PERSONS STATISTICS (EGRIS)

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Abbreviations

CCSA	Committee for the Coordination of Statistical Activities
DRC	Danish Refugee Council
DTM	Displacement Tracking Matrix
EGRIS	Expert Group on Refugee and IDP Statistics
IASC	Inter-Agency Standing Committee
IDMC	Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre
IDP	Internally displaced person
IHL	International humanitarian law
IHRL	International human rights law
IOM	International Organization for Migration
IRIS	International Recommendations on IDP Statistics
IRRS	International Recommendations on Refugee Statistics
JIPS	Joint IDP Profiling Service
NGO	Non-governmental organisation
NRC	Norwegian Refugee Council
NSDS	National Strategies for the Development of Statistics
NSO	National statistical office
NSS	National statistical system
OCHA	United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
OECD	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
PDD	Platform on Disaster Displacement
PIN	Personal identification number
SDG	Sustainable Development Goal
UN	United Nations
UNFPOS	United Nations Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics
UNHCR	United Nations Refugee Agency
UNSC	United Nations Statistical Commission
UNSD	United Nations Statistical Division
UN-SQAF	United Nations Statistics Quality Assurance Framework
WFP	World Food Programme

1

Introduction

A. Need for recommendations on IDP statistics

1. This introductory chapter aims to provide context for the recommendations and to introduce the rationale and scope of the report itself. It will briefly present background information, identify key linkages between these recommendations and other efforts, including the *International Recommendations on Refugee Statistics* (IRRS) ⁽¹⁾, and provide a summary of the structure of the recommendations and the process through which they were developed.
2. Internally displaced persons (IDPs) are understood to be ‘persons or groups of persons who have been forced or obliged to flee or to leave their homes or places of habitual residence, in particular as a result of or in order to avoid the effects of armed conflict, situations of generalised violence, violations of human rights or natural or human-made disasters, and who have remained living in the country’s internationally recognised border’ ⁽²⁾. This definition provides the basis for compiling official statistics and for the recommendations in this report.
3. Today, IDPs account for the greatest share of displaced populations globally. Data and statistics on IDPs are necessary to inform policy responses to internal displacement. IDP data are especially helpful for providing a yardstick from which the situation of IDP populations can be monitored and the achievements of related policies and programmes measured. Yet, to date, international guidance on how to best produce good-quality IDP official statistics remains scarce, and many of the available data are based on operational data produced by humanitarian agencies as part of their assistance programmes, rather than official statistics. Since IDP data are collected for people impacted by conflict, disaster or violence, at the initial stage of displacement it can be difficult or impossible to collect official statistics, and operational data are often the best available; these recommendations discuss the roles of both types of data.
4. International quality standards ⁽³⁾ require official statistics to be consistent internally and over time and comparable between regions and countries, and to allow the organisations of a country’s statistical system to make joint use of related data from different sources. The Expert Group on Refugee and IDP Statistics (EGRIS) reported on statistical quality issues as part of its stocktake of IDP statistics. The IDP statistics were presented in the *Technical Report on Statistics of Internally Displaced Persons* ⁽⁴⁾ to the 49th United Nations Statistical Commission (UNSC) session in 2018, where they were formally adopted.
5. Good-quality statistics on displacement are a requirement for monitoring and implementing a number of international agendas and agreements. These include the:
 - a) 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its commitment to leave no one behind, including IDPs ⁽⁵⁾;
 - b) Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030 ⁽⁶⁾;
 - c) United Nations (UN) Framework Convention on Climate Change Paris Agreement ⁽⁷⁾;
 - d) Nansen Initiative’s protection agenda for people displaced across borders by disasters ⁽⁸⁾;
 - e) Agenda for Humanity ⁽⁹⁾;

- f) Agenda 2063 for Africa ⁽¹⁰⁾;
 - g) Valletta Summit action plan ⁽¹¹⁾; and
 - h) New Urban Agenda ⁽¹²⁾.
6. Credible and comprehensive statistics on internal displacement 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 % by 2030 ⁽¹³⁾. They will also be necessary to inform action under the *Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration* ⁽¹⁴⁾ and the *Global Compact on Refugees* ⁽¹⁵⁾, although these do not explicitly address internal displacement, as well as other relevant policy processes ⁽¹⁶⁾. Even though several international initiatives supported by development partners relate to the development of IDP statistics, the ultimate responsibility will always rest with national governments.
 7. A range of national and international practices exists for translating the international definition of an IDP into a measurable statistical concept. These variations reflect differences in interpretation and ad hoc responses to practical, technical and policy challenges encountered across displacement events. Although statistics in many contexts depart from the comprehensive definition of IDPs established in the *Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement*, important commonalities exist. The UNSC has recognised a need for improved practice using an internationally agreed statistical framework for this population and has asked for recommendations that provide clarity on conceptual challenges and allow better comparability of data.

B. Process of developing the recommendations

8. Following discussions in 2015 concerning a paper on refugee statistics ⁽¹⁷⁾, the 46th session of the UNSC requested that a conference of experts be organised to investigate the matter in depth. Based on the outcome of this expert conference, a technical report was submitted to the UNSC recommending that a handbook on official refugee statistics be developed ⁽¹⁸⁾. Further discussions at the 47th session in 2016 resulted in another decision to establish an international Expert Group on Refugee and IDP Statistics (EGRIS), comprising participants from national authorities and regional and international statistical organisations, as well as other technical experts.
9. EGRIS is co-chaired by Statistics Norway, the Turkish Statistical Institute, Eurostat, the United Nations Refugee Agency (UNHCR), the Joint IDP Profiling Service (JIPS), the World Bank and the United Nations Statistical Division (UNSD). Notably, the UNSC requested that EGRIS include IDPs within its scope of work, in addition to refugees. A subgroup of EGRIS was also established to work on the development of the technical report on IDP statistics.
10. The UNSC tasked EGRIS with producing two documents for the 49th UNSC session in 2018, following a global consultation ⁽¹⁹⁾. These two documents, the IRRS and the *Technical Report on Statistics of Internally Displaced Persons*, were welcomed ⁽²⁰⁾ and endorsed by the Commission:
11. The 49th UNSC session in 2018 also made the following decisions in respect of these two documents and the way forward proposed in the *Report of the Expert Group on Refugee and Internally Displaced Persons Statistics* (Decisions brought to the attention of the Council: 49/115 ⁽²¹⁾):
 1. 'Supported the proposal to upgrade the technical report on statistics on internally displaced persons to a set of recommendations' – the *International Recommendations on IDP Statistics (IRIS)*.
 2. 'Recognized the challenges in implementing the recommendations on refugee statistics and internally displaced persons statistics, and expressed support for the development of a compiler's manual to provide hands-on guidance and a refined methodology in collecting statistics on internally displaced persons' – this is to be the *Compilers' Manual on Refugee and Internally Displaced Persons Statistics*.
 3. Requested that the IRIS and the Compilers' Manual be submitted to the Commission at its 51st session in 2020.

12. Further, the UNSC members:
 1. 'Acknowledged the importance of a harmonized statistical framework on refugees and internally displaced persons statistics for comparable data within a country and between countries and international agencies, and emphasized that all data sources, including population censuses, sample surveys and administrative sources, should be used;
 2. Expressed the need for clear definitions of refugees, migrants and internally displaced persons and the need for national statistical capacity-building to support member states in improving the quality and availability of statistics on refugees and internally displaced persons, and invited international and regional organizations to support member states in this regard, at their request; and
 3. Emphasized the need for better coordination of different data needs between the United Nations, Eurostat and other relevant international organizations' ⁽²²⁾.
13. The drafting of the IRIS is a result of this decision. The recommendations were developed by the EGRIS subgroup on IDP statistics, led by JIPS with support from Statistics Norway, the UNSD and the Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre (IDMC). The subgroup comprised members representing governmental bodies, including national statistical offices (NSOs) and agencies responsible for IDP statistics ⁽²³⁾. These representatives formally participated in two face-to-face meetings following broad invitations sent to all countries during and after the 47th session of the UNSC in 2016. Together, they represent a variety of regions and types of displacement situations.
14. The subgroup also benefited from input from technical experts from the UNHCR, the Mandate of the Special Rapporteur on the Human Rights of Internally Displaced Persons, the International Organization for Migration (IOM), the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), the African Centre for Statistics of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA), the African Development Bank, the World Bank, the International Security and Development Center (ISDC) and the Platform on Disaster Displacement (PDD).
15. The IRIS are the result of a thoroughly collaborative process that built on the experience and expertise of all members of the IDP subgroup. Following consultations on the first draft, developed on the basis of the *Technical Report on Statistics of Internally Displaced Persons*, which was reviewed and discussed in Kampala in December 2018 and in Ankara in February 2019, two sub-working groups were established to tackle more challenging topics. These included recommendations around the global coordination of IDP statistics and recommendations for measuring the outflow from the stock to complete the statistical framework for internal displacement ⁽²⁴⁾. Results from these sub-working groups were incorporated into the draft and reviewed and finalised by the EGRIS IDP subgroup and EGRIS steering group. Finally, in advance of submission to the UNSC in 2020, the recommendations were subjected to global consultation, facilitated by the UNSD.

C. Rationale and scope

16. The aim of this report is to provide recommendations on the production and dissemination of statistics on internal displacement. This will help to strengthen evidence-based public policy and national responses to displacement in the long term by:
 - a) increasing the visibility of internal displacement by providing stronger evidence about it;
 - b) improving the quality, comparability, accessibility and coherence of statistics on IDPs;
 - c) better informing efforts by national authorities to ensure the protection of and provision of assistance to IDPs and to enable the achievement of durable solutions;
 - d) supporting analyses of the impact of internal displacement and progress towards durable solutions for affected populations;
 - e) systematising analyses of vulnerability data relating to displacement and better targeting of populations in need of humanitarian and development interventions in response;

- f) supporting the inclusion of internal displacement in local and national development plans and reporting on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
17. This report remains primarily concerned with producing official statistics about IDPs, but some elements are also applicable to operational data on IDPs produced in the course of a humanitarian response. Operational data usually do not meet the requirements of official statistics but, in view of the lack of official statistics produced on IDPs, operational data might inform the production of new official statistics or might facilitate the transition to official statistics. These recommendations should also help to improve the quality and coherence of operational data, to both improve their accessibility to users and facilitate their replacement by official statistics produced by national authorities or their transition to official statistics.
18. Official statistics are generally accepted as those produced and published by government agencies or other public bodies such as international organisations. The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) defines official statistics as ‘statistics disseminated by the national statistical system, excepting those that are explicitly stated not to be official’. Eurostat has a similar definition, adding in the legal basis for collection and professional standards ⁽²⁵⁾. The UN does not have a formal definition but provides the 10 *Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics*, adopted by the UN General Assembly in 2014 (UNFPOS; see Chapter 7 for more details).
19. Based on the *Technical Report on Statistics of Internally Displaced Persons* presented at the UNSC’s 49th session in 2018, this document provides recommendations on how to improve the quality and availability of IDP statistics, for consideration at the UNSC’s 51st session in 2020.

D. Linkages to other products of the expert group on refugee and IDP statistics

20. Although a separate product, this report is aligned with the IRRS, also developed by the EGRIS, as far as possible. The link between these two documents is important because of similarities between the production of statistics about the populations concerned, which are often relevant in the same countries, and particularly where returning refugees may be reintegrating alongside IDPs. In addition, aligning the statistical recommendations for both populations is necessary for efficient data collection and for producing interoperable statistics on different displaced populations to inform comprehensive policymaking and responses. Although different in terms of objectives and scope, both documents follow a similar structure and strive to harmonise concepts and definitions to the extent possible. Furthermore, this document makes references to the *Recommendations on Statistics of International Migration* ⁽²⁶⁾ and other broadly endorsed technical guidelines on statistical standards and definitions.
21. These recommendations build on the *Technical Report on Statistics of Internally Displaced Persons*, endorsed by the UNSC at its 49th session in 2018, and links between the two documents are referred to throughout, particularly in respect of country practices.
22. These recommendations also link to the *Compilers’ Manual on Refugee and Internally Displaced Persons Statistics*, which is being presented concurrently to the UNSC. The Compilers’ Manual will provide more specific guidance on collecting and compiling statistics on IDPs and refugees.

E. Organisation of these recommendations

23. The IRIS cover all the main elements of a statistical framework and provide recommendations on how to improve frameworks. As far as possible the recommendations are aligned with the IRRS. The remaining chapters are organised as follows:
- a) **Chapter 2: The legal and policy frameworks** summarises the current international and regional frameworks relevant for protecting and identifying IDPs. It reviews pertinent laws and policies and touches upon challenges with, and deviations from, commonly used IDP definitions.

- b) **Chapter 3: Developing a statistical framework** draws on Chapter 2 to define the populations in the scope of the recommendations, classifications and the measurement of stocks and flows, relevant for producing statistics about IDPs.
- c) **Chapter 4: Durable solutions and key displacement-related vulnerabilities** focuses on the analysis of IDP vulnerabilities and proposes a statistical measure for assessing progress towards durable solutions and identifying whether or not IDPs have overcome key displacement-related vulnerabilities.
- d) **Chapter 5: Variables and tabulations** outlines the recommended variables and tabulations for the different categories of persons that fall within the internal displacement statistical framework that should be adopted in the national context.
- e) **Chapter 6: Data sources for collecting statistics on IDPs** outlines the main types of data sources available for the production of IDP statistics and details some issues related to data quality and the constraints inherent to each source.
- f) **Chapter 7: Coordination of IDP statistics** describes how the various data producers and users of IDP statistics can work collaboratively to enhance the quality and accessibility of IDP statistics and discusses quality measures and governance of IDP statistics.

2

The legal and policy frameworks

A. Introduction

24. Because the normative legal and policy frameworks for protecting IDPs serve as the basis for IDP statistics, this chapter summarises these frameworks. Specifically, this chapter describes international and regional standards, as well as national laws and policies (Part B); outlines the elements of the commonly used non-statistical definitions for IDPs and departures from those definitions (Part B); and highlights challenges in operationalising existing frameworks in relation to becoming an IDP (Part C) and securing durable solutions (Part D). The following chapters elaborate on the implications of these different elements for the statistical framework on internal displacement.

B. The legal and policy frameworks for protecting IDPs

1. International framework

25. Internal displacement describes the situation of persons who have been forced or obliged to leave or abandon their homes and who have not crossed an internationally recognised border ⁽²⁷⁾. The *Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement*, submitted to the UN Commission on Human Rights in 1998, have been recognised unanimously by Heads of State and Government as ‘an important international framework for the protection of internally displaced persons’ ⁽²⁸⁾. The UN General Assembly has, moreover, encouraged ‘all relevant actors to make use of the Guiding Principles when dealing with situations of internal displacement’ ⁽²⁹⁾. The Guiding Principles set out 30 principles ⁽³⁰⁾ that cover the broad range of IDP assistance and protection needs required during displacement, return, and resettlement or reintegration. They also cover protections against arbitrary displacement.
26. Although the Guiding Principles do not explicitly refer to the need to collect data on IDPs, the annotations ⁽³¹⁾ to the Guiding Principles imply a need for states to identify individuals and groups in need because of displacement, including those who may have special needs linked to their age, gender or other diversity factors.
27. The Guiding Principles do not create a legal status for, or confer a legal status on, the internally displaced. Rather, they are based on the principle that IDPs have the same rights and obligations as other persons living in their own state. They help to identify the potential needs and vulnerabilities of those who have been forcibly displaced. Although not a legally binding document, the Guiding Principles reflect and are consistent with international human rights law (IHRL) and international humanitarian law (IHL), and refugee law by analogy, and thus codify and make explicit protection guarantees for IDPs that are inherent in these bodies of law ⁽³²⁾. Since they were first presented, the Guiding Principles have achieved almost universal

recognition as the normative departure point for dealing with internal displacement ⁽³³⁾. They have also informed the development of regional agreements and national laws pertaining to internal displacement.

2. Regional instruments

28. The most significant normative advance with respect to internal displacement since the Guiding Principles is the legally binding African Union Convention for the Protection and Assistance of Internally Displaced Persons in Africa (hereafter the Kampala Convention) ⁽³⁴⁾. The Guiding Principles are directly incorporated in many of the Kampala Convention's core provisions, such as the definition of IDPs. However, whereas the Guiding Principles merely reflect pre-existing norms of IHRL and IHL, the Kampala Convention moves to further advance international norms on internal displacement ⁽³⁵⁾. Among the advances found in the Kampala Convention is the extension of responsibilities for IDP protection beyond states to the African Union, international organisations, humanitarian agencies, civil society and non-state actors (including armed groups). The Kampala Convention also makes explicit a range of human rights violations that can cause internal displacement, such as gender-based violence and other harmful practices or inhumane treatment.
29. The Kampala Convention was preceded by the 2006 Pact on Security, Stability and Development in the Great Lakes Region of Africa, which includes the Protocol on the Protection and Assistance to Internally Displaced Persons and the Protocol on the Property Rights of Returning Persons. The first protocol served as the impetus for the African Union to draft the Kampala Convention by obliging states to incorporate the Guiding Principles in their legal frameworks ⁽³⁶⁾. It exemplifies how regional bodies advised the incorporation of the Guiding Principles into national legislation. The Organization of American States and the Council of Europe have also called upon their member states to use the Guiding Principles and incorporate them into their domestic laws and policies ⁽³⁷⁾.
30. The need for data collection on IDPs is explicitly described in regional-level instruments. The Great Lakes Protocol on the Protection and Assistance to Internally Displaced Persons highlights that member states shall be responsible for assessing the needs of IDPs and provides for the establishment of databases in specific situations for the registration of IDPs ⁽³⁸⁾. The Kampala Convention contains a similar provision, imposing an obligation on states to assess or facilitate the assessment of the needs and vulnerabilities of IDPs and those of their host community, in cooperation with international organisations and agencies ⁽³⁹⁾. The Kampala Convention also requires state parties, in collaboration with international organisations, humanitarian agencies or civil society organisations, to create and maintain an up-to-date register of all IDPs ⁽⁴⁰⁾. The collection of administrative data is described in greater detail in Chapter 6.

3. National laws and policies

31. Another sign of international acceptance of the Guiding Principles has been the development, adoption and implementation of numerous national laws, policies and decrees addressing internal displacement in all regions of the world – either explicitly based upon or in a manner consistent with the Guiding Principles ⁽⁴¹⁾.
32. The legal use of the Guiding Principles is also visible in court rulings, such as the Constitutional Court of Colombia's Decision T-025 of 2004, which formally incorporated them into the country's legal framework ⁽⁴²⁾. The German government has additionally taken the official position that 'the Guiding Principles can now be considered to be international customary law' ⁽⁴³⁾ and, in its 2008 national policy, the Iraqi government stated that the Guiding Principles had become part of international law ⁽⁴⁴⁾, indicating a viewpoint that the Guiding Principles should provide guidelines for rules and regulations adopted at the national level.

4. Definition of IDPs in the Guiding Principles

33. As noted above, the definition of IDPs found in the Guiding Principles and mirrored in regional and national frameworks does not confer a legal status, but rather provides a description to identify the category of persons of concern ⁽⁴⁵⁾. Its aim was not to recommend that states assign IDPs a particular legal status that could be granted (and eventually revoked). Doing so would raise issues of status determination, increase the risks of excluding IDPs from benefits or not legally recognising de facto IDPs and increase the risks of

any ensuing discrimination, and could lead to difficulties in determining the end of status. Instead, the definition serves to bring visibility to the potential risks, needs and vulnerabilities of IDPs, and it provides a framework for protecting their rights and enables the achievement of durable solutions. As this definition has been widely endorsed and incorporated into many national and regional normative documents, it is the most appropriate starting point for developing a framework for statistics on internal displacement. It does, however, need to be operationalised for use in statistical production.

34. The Guiding Principles state that IDPs are ‘persons or groups of persons who have been forced or obliged to flee or to leave their homes or places of habitual residence, in particular as a result of or in order to avoid the effects of armed conflict, situations of generalised violence, violations of human rights, or natural or human-made disasters, and who have not crossed an internationally recognised state border’ ⁽⁴⁶⁾.
35. This notion of an IDP is based on two components: (1) that their movement is coerced or involuntary (to distinguish them from economic and other voluntary migrants); and (2) that they remain within internationally recognised state borders (unlike refugees). While there is broad international agreement about a definition that includes these two core components, interpretations of the definition and practical operationalisation vary from state to state.
36. Departures from the internationally accepted definition are acceptable when they broaden the definition but can become problematic when they narrow it. A law or policy may focus on a specific cause or phase of displacement, or a specific group within the overall displaced population, but the state and other entities still have responsibilities to assist and protect all IDPs under the terms of the Guiding Principles. Therefore, any applied national instrument should not allow for discrimination against or inequitable treatment of others. As stated within the Guiding Principles, instruments should be applied ‘without discrimination of any kind such as race, colour, sex, language, religion or belief, political or other opinion, national, ethnic or social origin, legal or social status, age, disability, property, birth or on any other similar criteria’ ⁽⁴⁷⁾. Therefore, the elements of the IDP definition in the Guiding Principles should be considered to be the minimum requirements ⁽⁴⁸⁾.

C. Elements of the definition of IDPs in the Guiding Principles

1. Forced or obliged to flee or leave

37. The forced or obliged nature of a movement distinguishes persons who have a ‘coercive or otherwise involuntary character of movement’ from those ‘who move voluntarily from one place to another solely in order to improve their economic circumstances’ ⁽⁴⁹⁾. Therefore the Annotations to the Guiding Principles clarify that both being forced and being obliged to flee, despite implying a different level of agency, are synonymous with a lack of voluntariness.
38. International criminal and humanitarian law suggests that force, or lack of voluntariness, is measured in certain circumstances by the lack of personal consent of an individual within the context of the surrounding circumstances ⁽⁵⁰⁾. A lack of voluntariness or obliged movement, particularly when it comes to human-made or natural hazard-induced disasters, could also be measured objectively. The inclusion of both subjective and objective elements as part of the analysis of what constitutes ‘force’ or ‘obligation’ highlights why both are relevant for assessing causes of displacement.
39. It is important to note that the element of force or obligation makes no reference to the lawful or unlawful nature of a movement, indicating that both lawful and unlawful movements are included in the definition. Persons who are lawfully displaced, such as evacuees, evictees or otherwise relocated persons, may be counted as IDPs.

2. Homes or places of habitual residence

40. This element of the definition is important in clarifying that an IDP need not be a citizen of the country concerned – habitual residency is enough. Habitual residency is determined on both an objective basis (presence over a certain period of time) and a subjective one (the ‘intention of remaining’ or *animus manendi*), although the definition found in the Guiding Principles does not provide a test for either basis. Legal arguments continue over the need for the subjective element to prove habitual residence. Hence, non-citizens, foreigners and stateless persons who have their habitual residence in the country concerned may also qualify as IDPs if they meet the defining criteria. Former refugees who have returned to their country of origin and who nonetheless are unable to find a durable solution may qualify as well ⁽⁵¹⁾.
41. This element of the definition importantly refers to a person’s place of habitual residence at the time of the displacement-causing event. It does not refer to the current location of IDPs who may be residing away from this place (i.e. in a place of displacement or settlement elsewhere) or who may be residing some or all of the time in their place of habitual residence while still suffering the impact of forced displacement and who therefore should still be considered as IDPs.
42. The use of the term ‘habitual residence’ also raises the question of whether pastoralists and nomads fall within the IDP definition. The fact that pastoralists can become internally displaced is reflected in the particular obligation set out in Principle 9 of the Guiding Principles, which articulates that states are under a particular obligation to protect against the displacement of indigenous peoples, minorities, peasants, pastoralists and other groups with a special dependency on and attachment to their lands. For example, the Government of Colombia recognises indigenous communities to be victims of conflict and includes the right for reparation of the territorial rights of indigenous groups ⁽⁵²⁾. This is also reflected in the Great Lakes Protocol on IDPs ⁽⁵³⁾ and the Kampala Convention ⁽⁵⁴⁾. One approach, supported by the UN Special Rapporteur on the Human Rights of Internally Displaced Persons and the IDMC ⁽⁵⁵⁾, describes displacement of a pastoralist as a process whereby a habitual living space on which their pastoral way of life is dependent becomes inaccessible ⁽⁵⁶⁾.

3. As a result of or in order to avoid

43. This element of the definition acknowledges that people can become internally displaced not only following but also in anticipation of coercive factors, hazardous events or life-threatening circumstances compelling them to move (e.g. for fear that an attack might happen). These circumstances include emergency and mandatory evacuations or resettlement away from areas deemed to be unsafe or uninhabitable. Similar to the element of force, this anticipatory flight analysis is more difficult to assess in practice because the causal event has not yet taken place. In addition, when the pre-emptive movements are linked to slow-onset disaster situations (explained in detail in paragraph 54), the element of compulsion may be even more difficult to demonstrate. Often, those movements are better characterised as forms of adaptive migration ⁽⁵⁷⁾.

4. Causes

44. The Guiding Principles list a number of potential causes of internal displacement. The list, however, is not exhaustive and, while some national laws and policies expand upon or specify causes of displacement for their specific contexts (with some even specifying specific events linked to the broader cause that can trigger individuals, households or groups to flee), others have limited their scope or focus to a shorter list of causes than those listed in the Guiding Principles. For example, Azerbaijan’s Law on the Status of Refugees and Internally Displaced Persons ⁽⁵⁸⁾ restricts the causes of internal displacement to military aggression, natural disasters or technological disasters. Similarly, both the Peruvian Law Concerning the Internally Displaced ⁽⁵⁹⁾ and the Colombian Law on Internal Displacement ⁽⁶⁰⁾ do not include natural or human-made disasters as a cause in their definitions of internal displacement. However, it should be acknowledged that, in 2018, Peru adopted a law on climate change that includes reference to forced migration as a result of climate change ⁽⁶¹⁾. In addition, it should be considered that in many situations a combination, sequence or accumulation of causes and a multiplicity of factors lead to internal displacement.

45. The causes of internal displacement explicitly mentioned within the Guiding Principles are described in the following sections.

a. Armed conflict

46. Armed conflict is a precondition for the applicability of IHL in addition to IHRL. While IHL distinguishes between international and non-international armed conflict, either form can cause internal displacement. In situations of armed conflict, forced displacement can be caused by the secondary effect of the hostilities (general hardship, fear); the direct effect of the hostilities and humanitarian consequences of IHL violations, such as attacks against and ill-treatment of civilians, destruction of property, sexual violence, and restricted access to healthcare and other essential services ⁽⁶²⁾; or the explicit order or deliberate intention to displace, when forced displacement is used as a method of warfare. IHL rules protecting IDPs and preventing internal displacement are found mainly in Geneva Convention IV and Additional Protocols I and II, as well as in customary international law.

b. Situations of generalised violence

47. This category encompasses disturbances that are below the threshold of an armed conflict. It includes widespread criminal, ethnic, political and intercommunal violence. Examples include the post-election violence in Kenya in 2007–2008 and generalised violence related to gang activity or organised crime, for example in Central America.

c. Human rights violations

48. Human rights violations are common causes of displacement. These violations may include violations of general international human rights covenants, specific international human rights treaties or national human rights provisions.

49. For example, the Colombian Victims' Law defines 'victims' as persons who individually or collectively have suffered harm because of violations of IHL or IHRL, as part of internal armed conflict ⁽⁶³⁾. These violations include land abandonment or dispossession, terrorist attacks, threats, crimes against sexual liberty and integrity, forced disappearance, homicide, use of landmines and kidnapping. According to the Colombian Single Victims Registry, 1 in 10 victims of internal displacement is also registered as having experienced other human rights violations, with threat to and homicide of relatives being the most common ⁽⁶⁴⁾.

50. The issue of displacement caused by land acquisition and forced internal resettlement as a result of large-scale development projects and forced eviction requires particular attention. Even though this issue is not mentioned specifically in the definition of IDPs in the Guiding Principles, displacement caused by large-scale development projects not justified by compelling and overriding public interests is described as a form of arbitrary displacement under Guiding Principle 6 and is considered a type of human rights violation. The Great Lakes Protocol includes displacement from large-scale development projects in a separate but adjacent clause to the IDP definition ⁽⁶⁵⁾. Similarly, the Kampala Convention has a specific article on 'Displacement induced by projects' ⁽⁶⁶⁾ that describes the steps a state must take to avoid forced displacement of persons during development, based on the UN *Basic principles and guidelines on development-based evictions and displacement* ⁽⁶⁷⁾.

51. Furthermore, some national instruments explicitly consider IDPs to include those forcibly evicted. An example is Afghanistan's national policy on internal displacement, which defines IDPs as 'Persons or groups of persons who are displaced as a result of a development project and who have not received an adequate housing and/or land alternative or appropriate compensation allowing them to restore their lives in a sustainable manner' ⁽⁶⁸⁾.

d. Natural or human-made disasters

52. Disasters are a major cause of internal displacement worldwide. Widely accepted definitions of the term 'disaster' acknowledge that a disaster is something that results from a combination of pre-existing vulnerabilities and exposure to hazard(s), which may be 'natural' (e.g. earthquakes, storms and heavy rainfall),

'human-made' (e.g. industrial accidents) or 'socio-natural', which is a combination of both (e.g. floods in poorly drained urban areas and landslides on deforested hillsides). In all but the most extreme cases, it is primarily a person's vulnerability to such hazards and their lack of capacity to prevent or cope with a hazard that creates a disaster, rather than the hazard itself ⁽⁶⁹⁾. Usually, people who are vulnerable to conflict and violence are also vulnerable to other types of hazards. In reality, displacement is often multi-causal.

53. As defined in the terminology used for disaster risk reduction ⁽⁷⁰⁾, 'A sudden-onset disaster is one triggered by a hazardous event that emerges quickly or unexpectedly. Sudden-onset disasters could be associated with, e.g. earthquake, volcanic eruption, flash flood, chemical explosion, critical infrastructure failure.' The resulting displacement is relatively more straightforward to identify in the face of acute threats or the resulting impacts of such hazards, including emergency evacuations to remove people from immediately dangerous areas.
54. A slow-onset disaster is defined as one that emerges gradually over time. Slow-onset disasters can be associated with, for example, drought, desertification or rises in sea level. Displacement is more complicated to identify in such contexts, as population movements exist over a continuum between voluntary and forced movements, which evolve over time as the situation changes. Monitoring of slow-onset displacement is further complicated because various factors may combine to contribute to the displacement, making it difficult to attribute displacement to one cause.

5. Internationally recognised borders not crossed

55. The second core component of the IDP definition requires that an internationally recognised state border (a formulation deliberately chosen to guide the definition in the case of contested territories) has not been crossed. This element is crucial, as it highlights an essential difference between an IDP and a refugee, which has critical implications for the provision of assistance and protection.
56. This component of remaining within state borders is to be understood in a broad sense. It can be the place where the displaced person finds refuge or simply stops in their migratory path. Yet this condition is also met, for example, if a displaced person has to transit through a neighbouring state in order to gain access to a safer part of their own country. Venturing to another part of one's country voluntarily and then finding oneself unable to return home because of events that make return impossible or unreasonable also qualifies ⁽⁷¹⁾. In this sense, relevant normative frameworks in some countries simply require that the displaced person is within the territory of the country (e.g. Azerbaijan ⁽⁷²⁾ or Bosnia and Herzegovina ⁽⁷³⁾) or living somewhere else in the country (e.g. Nepal ⁽⁷⁴⁾).
57. As explained in paragraph 40, seeking refuge abroad and then returning (voluntarily or involuntarily) to one's own country of origin, without being able to go back to one's home or place of habitual residence or otherwise achieve a durable solution for reasons outlined in paragraph 2 of the Guiding Principles, may still qualify as internal displacement according to international frameworks.
58. The concepts of returning refugees and IDPs are therefore not mutually exclusive and, under certain circumstances, an individual can be both a returning refugee and an IDP. The 1951 Refugee Convention refers to returning refugees under Article 1C(4) ⁽⁷⁵⁾, which indicates that a person ceases to be a refugee when he or she has voluntarily re-established himself or herself in the country that he or she left owing to fear of persecution, or outside in a country in which he or she remains. Prior to 're-establishment' (a concept that includes length of stay and the commitment to staying and is not necessarily linked to a return to the place of origin), however, an individual could be both a returning refugee and an IDP ⁽⁷⁶⁾. Some national frameworks explicitly include returnees in their IDP definition. Afghanistan's IDP policy, for instance, includes in its framework 'returnees (returning refugees and migrants deported back to Afghanistan) who are unable to settle in their homes and/or places of origin' ⁽⁷⁷⁾.

6. Other issues not explicitly mentioned in the Guiding Principles

a. Duration and timing of displacement

59. The Guiding Principles contain no specifications related to the length of time a person must be displaced in order to meet IDP criteria. Even a brief pre-emptive voluntary evacuation may qualify. However, brief evacuations may not generate particular needs or human rights concerns if the displacement is requisite, prepared for and safely executed, especially if due attention is given to the specific needs of vulnerable populations and if homes and livelihoods are not significantly disrupted. Similarly, someone does not cease to be displaced after a set period of time. Many IDPs remain IDPs for decades and there may be intergenerational vulnerabilities (see paragraph 61 and Chapter 3 on classifying children of IDPs as IDP-related persons).
60. In some cases, national instruments restrict the IDP definition to specific groups by specifying a time frame within which displacement must occur for IDPs to be recognised as such for the purposes of the laws' provisions. For example, the Law on Refugees from Bosnia and Herzegovina and Displaced Persons in Bosnia and Herzegovina ⁽⁷⁸⁾ states that 'A displaced person is a citizen of Bosnia and Herzegovina, residing within Bosnia and Herzegovina, who has been expelled from his/her habitual residence as the consequence of the conflict, or left her/his habitual residence, after 30 April 1991.'

b. Children of IDPs

61. The definition of IDPs in the Guiding Principles does not state whether or not children are considered IDPs when they are born to internally displaced parents after the displacement event itself. A strict interpretation suggests that children born into displacement are not IDPs, as they themselves were not forced or obliged to flee. Yet, from a human rights perspective, there are strong arguments that advocate that children of IDPs should benefit from the same rights and assistance as their parents, depending on the context. However, this does not automatically mean they should be considered IDPs. While state normative practice generally tends to either not specify or not include children of IDPs in the definition, there are some exceptions ⁽⁷⁹⁾.

c. Distance from home/place of habitual residence

62. The definition of IDPs in the Guiding Principles does not specify the distance from their home or habitual residence that an individual should be displaced by to be recognised as an IDP. Displacement may include situations in which people are rendered homeless but remain close to their original dwelling, whether for personal choice or because of a lack of means or freedom to access shelter and assistance elsewhere. In many situations, displaced persons may return to, temporarily return to or regularly visit their homes. There is an obligation to protect pastoralists against displacement from their habitual living spaces; this also applies to indigenous peoples, minorities, peasants, nomads and other groups with a special dependency on and attachment to their lands (see paragraph 42).

d. Location

63. People displaced within their country's official borders should be considered IDPs irrespective of their location, including if they are in territory controlled by insurgent, dissident or occupying forces. That said, some national instruments limit which geographical locations may constitute an IDP's place of origin. For example, the 1996 Law of Georgia on Forcibly Displaced Persons-Persecuted Persons stipulated that a person had to come from one of a number of clearly defined occupied areas to qualify as an IDP. This issue was addressed when the law was reformed in 2014, but similar limitations can be found in other national frameworks.
64. Moreover, IDPs live in a variety of circumstances, including in camps, in informal settlements, in makeshift dwellings such as tents, with host families and in independently rented or purchased accommodation. It is important that this variety is considered in order to decrease the risk of oversight, neglect and discrimination of different groups of IDPs.

D. Durable solutions and the end of internal displacement

65. While the IDP definition in the Guiding Principles is well established and helps explain when an individual or community becomes displaced, it provides little insight into the issue of when displacement ends. Principles 28–30 address the issue of durable solutions for IDPs. Consistent with the human right to freedom of movement, IDPs have the right to choose freely between return to their former homes or habitual places of residence, local integration in areas where they take refuge, or settlement and integration elsewhere in the country. Competent authorities are responsible for creating the conditions that allow displaced persons to rebuild their lives in any one of these locations. No one option is preferable to another.
66. The Inter-Agency Standing Committee's (IASC) *Framework on Durable Solutions for Internally Displaced Persons* aims to provide clarity on the concept of a durable solution and provides general guidance on how durable solutions are achieved and supported ⁽⁸⁰⁾. It is not a legally binding instrument. Like the Guiding Principles, the IASC Framework stresses that IDPs have a right to make a voluntary and informed choice about what durable solution to pursue with safety and dignity and to participate in the planning and management of durable solutions. The IASC Framework states that a durable solution is achieved when 'IDPs no longer have any specific assistance and protection needs that are linked to their displacement and can enjoy their human rights without discrimination on account of their displacement' ⁽⁸¹⁾. This definition of a durable solution takes the position that the end of displacement is determined not by the location of the displaced person, but rather by their level of access to their human rights.
67. How this definition should be operationalised for accounting or statistical purposes, however, is not laid out in the framework. In many cases, even when a displacement may appear to have physically ended, people can continue to experience related consequences, including discrimination and violation of human rights. These consequences can include lack of access to adequate housing, basic services, security and livelihood opportunities and being unable to recover personal assets. For this reason, it is necessary to consider the sustainability of the situation and the conditions of an IDP when assessing the achievement of durable solutions. A mere physical return to the place of habitual residence, long-term presence in a place of refuge or relocation to a new settlement location at the end of a physical displacement does not indicate that displacement-related needs and vulnerabilities have been overcome.
68. Accordingly, the IASC Framework proposes eight criteria based on fundamental human rights that should be considered to help determine if durable solutions have been achieved for IDPs. These eight criteria are:
1. safety and security;
 2. adequate standard of living;
 3. access to livelihoods;
 4. restoration of housing, land and property;
 5. access to documentation;
 6. family reunification;
 7. participation in public affairs; and
 8. access to effective remedies and justice.
69. However, when it comes to measuring the achievement of durable solutions in practice, there is still limited global use of the IASC Framework. This may be because of its qualitative nature. However, some states, such as Sri Lanka ⁽⁸²⁾ and Zimbabwe ⁽⁸³⁾, have included the IASC criteria in their IDP policy framework; others, such as Kenya ⁽⁸⁴⁾, have included the criteria in their IDP legislation. At the same time, various instruments currently attempt to measure the achievement of durable solutions, highlighting the difficulties that states have in operationalising such measurements.
70. The Guiding Principles and the IASC Framework provide the substantive basis for operationalising the definitions of IDPs and durable solutions for use in statistical production ⁽⁸⁵⁾. As the causes and

consequences of internal displacement vary, the conditions considered to be sufficient to recognise the achievement of durable solutions will vary between contexts. In the development of national statistics on internal displacement, a statistical measurement is proposed to support countries in measuring progress towards durable solutions and overcoming key displacement-related vulnerabilities, as distinct from measuring the legal achievement of durable solutions ⁽⁸⁶⁾. Defining when IDPs should no longer be counted as such for the purpose of official statistics, and measuring progress towards this end, are critical for the production of statistics on internal displacement and, in particular, for measuring stocks and flows (see Chapters 3 and 4).

E. Conclusion

71. There is widespread international acceptance of the IDP definition provided in the preamble to the Guiding Principles. Therefore, this definition can be used as a starting point for a definition of who an IDP is for statistical purposes. In particular, two elements of the IDP definition – that of forced movement and movement within internationally recognised state borders – are required for statistical purposes. However, despite the broad agreement on the definition, national practice varies from state to state. There is less agreement on when an IDP should stop being counted as displaced. Where there is a national law covering the IDP population, most states do not follow the qualitative definition and the framework proposed by the IASC for purposes of measurement. Variations in current state practices are widespread, making international comparability currently impossible.

3

Developing a statistical framework

A. Introduction

72. As discussed in Chapter 2, national and regional legal instruments tend to follow the IDP definition used in the UN *Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement*. The practical applications of the international definition ⁽⁸⁷⁾ often vary, in particular in determining durable solutions. This has a detrimental impact on the coherence of internal displacement statistics. While the Guiding Principles provide a legal framework, which is necessarily complex and nuanced for implementation on a case-by-case basis, statistical definitions require a clear and definitive explanation for broad groups of the population. They must be capable of being easily implemented and understood by data collectors in a wide variety of situations and be unambiguous to ensure global comparability. This necessarily requires a simplification of the complexities outlined in Chapter 2.
73. This chapter presents the statistical framework for internal displacement. Part B defines the population groups within the scope of the recommendations and those groups that fall outside this scope. Part C summarises the population inflows, stocks and outflows of the statistical framework. Part D develops in more detail the elements required for defining the inflow to the IDP population, applicable to both national and international statistical systems, for the purpose of statistical measurement. This chapter builds upon the core elements outlined in Chapter 2, which are in turn based on the UN Guiding Principles' definition of internal displacement. A more detailed description of how to statistically measure progress towards durable solutions and identify when key displacement-related vulnerabilities have been overcome and IDP groups can be taken out of the stock is provided in Chapter 4.

B. Internal displacement statistical framework

1. Categories included in the internal displacement statistical framework

74. This section outlines the different categories of persons included in the statistical framework for internal displacement and therefore falling within the scope of these recommendations. The primary focus of these recommendations is on:

1. IDPs (or persons who have displacement-related protection needs and vulnerabilities); and
2. IDP-related populations.

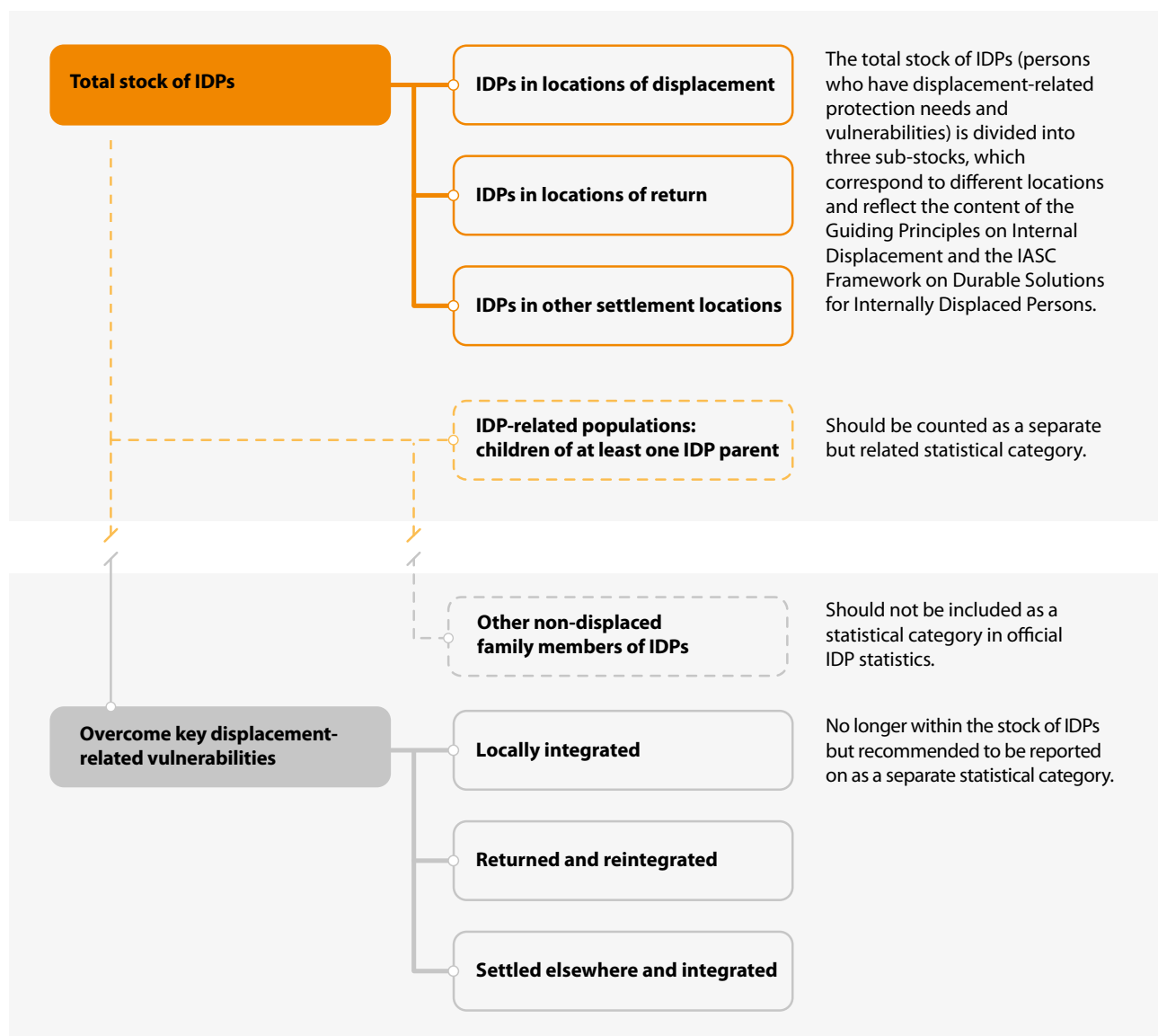
Two further categories fall within the statistical framework; however, because of their specific characteristics they are not the primary concern of these recommendations:

1. other non-displaced family members of IDPs; and

- 2. those who have overcome key displacement-related vulnerabilities.

These categories and their relationships with one another are visualised in Figure 3.1. The displacement-related protection needs and vulnerabilities and how these relate to the internal displacement statistical framework are described in Chapter 4. A further category of persons, not included in the statistical framework as such, is mentioned in these recommendations (see Chapter 4, paragraphs 138–144) as a comparative population group, either at the national level (general population of a country/region) or as a subset thereof, to demonstrate opposite characteristics to IDPs (i.e. the non-displaced or host population).

Figure 3.1 Population categories in the statistical framework for internal displacement



a. Persons who have displacement-related protection needs and vulnerabilities

- 75. As described earlier, an IDP is defined as a person who was forced or obliged to leave his or her place of habitual residence (i.e. usual residence at the time of a displacement event) and who is found within the internationally recognised borders of the country (see Box 3.1 for an overview of the definition of an IDP). All causes of displacement, as outlined in the Guiding Principles (see Chapter 2), should be included and distinguished from each other appropriately ⁽⁸⁸⁾. An IDP who went abroad following the displacement for a temporary period of less than 12 months and/or who did not establish a new country of usual

residence remains an IDP. The total stock of persons who have displacement-related protection needs and vulnerabilities is divided into three sub-stocks that correspond to the different locations where they may reside at the time of data collection and reflect the contents of the Guiding Principles and IASC Framework; despite their physical location, they may still be suffering from displacement-related needs and vulnerabilities (see paragraphs 65–67):

1. IDPs who remain in locations of displacement (IDPs in locations of displacement);
 2. IDPs who have returned to their place of habitual residence (IDPs in locations of return);
 3. IDPs who have settled elsewhere in the country (IDPs in other settlement locations).
76. In order to measure the total stock of persons who have displacement-related protection needs and vulnerabilities, a statistical assessment of the extent to which these populations have achieved a durable solution is needed. As will be described in more detail in Chapter 4, a recommended approach is to use the IASC Framework as a starting point to measure progress towards durable solutions and whether or not key displacement-related vulnerabilities, as outlined in the IASC Framework, have been overcome.

Box 3.1 Definition of IDPs (or persons who have displacement-related protection needs and vulnerabilities)

A person must meet the following criteria to be included in this category:

- has been usually resident at the place where a causing event occurred, at the time of the event;
- has been forcibly displaced, including preventative movements, by:
 - armed conflict;
 - generalised violence;
 - violations of human rights;
 - natural or human-made disasters;
 - other forced displacements or evictions;
- following this, has been physically living away from the dwelling in which he or she was living at the time of the causing event;
- is found within the internationally recognised borders of the country where he or she was displaced (even if he or she temporarily went abroad for a period of less than 12 months after the causing event); and
- key displacement-related vulnerabilities (as derived from the IASC Framework on Durable Solutions for Internally Displaced Persons) have not been assessed or, upon assessment, it is established that they have not been overcome.

This total stock is divided into three sub-stocks that correspond to the different locations where IDPs may reside:

- IDPs who remain in locations of displacement (IDPs in locations of displacement);
- IDPs who have returned to their place of habitual residence (IDPs in locations of return);
- IDPs who have settled elsewhere in the country (IDPs in other settlement locations).

77. In some contexts, households are not always displaced as a single unit. Family members may stay behind after the occurrence of the event leading to displacement, but subsequently follow the originally displaced household members. In cases such as this, although it can be challenging to capture, these persons should also be included in the statistical category of persons who have displacement-related protection needs and vulnerabilities, as they were affected by the causing event even though their physical movement was delayed.

b. IDP-related populations

78. Children of at least one internally displaced parent who were born after the displacement occurred should not be included in the overall count, as they did not experience the displacement themselves. However, as many children of IDPs are impacted by or exposed to protection needs and vulnerabilities directly related to their family's displacement, they should be observed and counted as a separate but related statistical category: IDP-related populations (see Figure 3.1).
79. The IDP-related population group comprises those who were born after the displacement occurred, to one or more parent(s) who are or were internally displaced. In practice it may be difficult to identify children who are no longer living with their parents. The age of the child is immaterial in defining the population and the descendant may be aged over 18 years. Although some countries extend a legal IDP status and/or provide specific benefits to children of IDPs, for the purpose of official statistics the definition does not pass on to subsequent generations. This separate category enables this population group to be identified for programming and policy purposes and is required to be distinguished from IDPs for statistical purposes.

c. Other non-displaced family members of IDPs

80. Other family members of IDPs not directly affected by the causing event should not be included in the stock of IDPs. However, it is recognised that the availability of official statistics on this group (especially those who are dependents living in or supported by an IDP-affected household) is often relevant for policy and programmatic purposes; hence, they are included as a category in the framework but are not a primary focus of these recommendations. Information about them is often collected as part of IDP-specific surveys and other data collections, because they can be difficult to distinguish from IDPs, and this information may be made available if needed. These data could be reported on separately from data on IDP-related populations, as outlined in these recommendations (see Figure 3.1).

d. Those who have overcome key displacement-related vulnerabilities

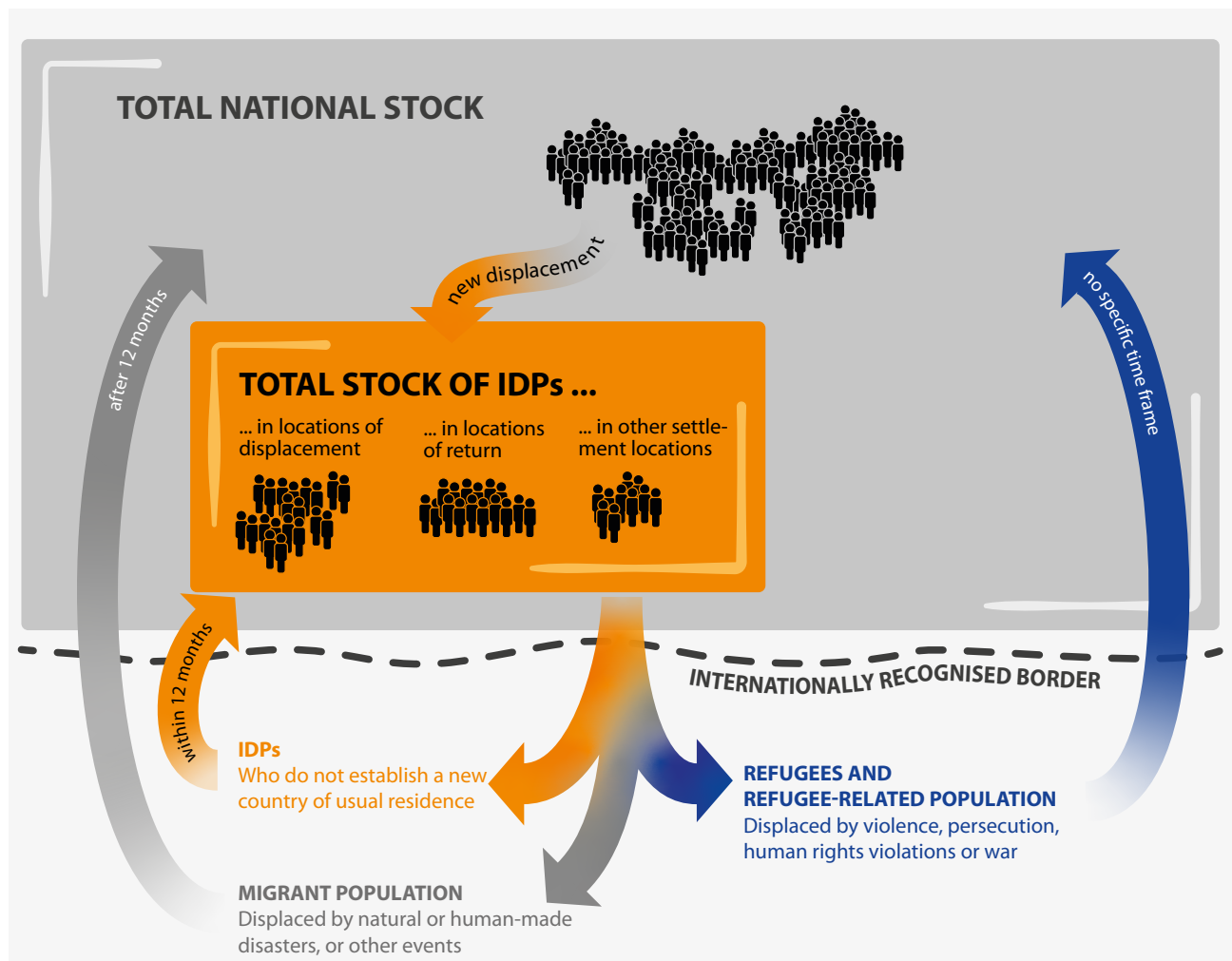
81. Displaced people remain of concern and within the stock of IDPs until they have definitively overcome key displacement-related vulnerabilities, unless a new country of residence is established or they die. Measuring whether or not these vulnerabilities have been overcome requires an assessment of their circumstances to be undertaken, and this assessment needs to be made for all three sub-stock categories of IDPs (see Chapter 4). Although no longer within the IDP statistical category as they have overcome key displacement-related vulnerabilities, members of this group continue to be of interest and it is recommended that they are reported on as a separate category (see Figure 3.1). This is because it remains policy relevant to understand how their circumstances change after having overcome key displacement-related vulnerabilities. It should also be acknowledged that, despite no longer being counted as IDPs for statistical purposes, in certain contexts some individuals will still self-identify as IDPs. In addition, considering that the recommended vulnerability measure has been narrowed in scope to focus on key displacement-related vulnerabilities only (see Chapter 4, paragraph 164), and that there may also be inaccuracies in the implementation of the measure, following those who have recently overcome key displacement-related vulnerabilities may also have value in this regard.

2. Categories of displaced persons not included in the internal displacement statistical framework

82. This section describes other displaced population groups that are not included in the statistical framework on internal displacement and therefore fall outside the scope of the current recommendations. They include:
1. persons who are forcibly displaced across an internationally recognised border;
 2. persons returned from abroad after seeking international protection;
 3. other displaced persons returned from abroad after a period of 12 months.

Those in categories 2 and 3, for different reasons, are understood to have taken up usual residence in another country before their return (see paragraphs 85–89). Figure 3.2 aims to visualise the relationships between these groups.

Figure 3.2 Forcibly displaced persons who cross an internationally recognised border and their relationship to the IDP stock



a. People who are forcibly displaced across an internationally recognised border

83. Displaced persons who cross an internationally recognised border are subject to different frameworks depending on the cause of their displacement. Under the 1951 Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees and the 1967 Protocol Relating to the Status of Refugees, a refugee is someone ‘who owing to a well-founded fear of being persecuted for reasons of race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group, or political opinion is outside the country of his nationality, and is unable or, owing to such a fear, is unwilling to avail himself of the protection of that country’. These people are within the scope of the IRRS, whether or not they have applied for or been granted asylum ⁽⁸⁹⁾.
84. Displaced persons who cross an internationally recognised border for other reasons, such as natural or human-made disasters, are not covered by refugee conventions and are therefore in a different legal position ⁽⁹⁰⁾. This category of displaced persons differs from IDPs, as they have not remained within the country’s border and instead take up residence outside the country. Statistically, this group is captured as a migrant population in the taxonomy of international inflows and outflows of people in the *Recommendations on Statistics of International Migration*, albeit without differentiating between those who

were forcibly displaced and those whose decision to leave their place of usual residence was voluntary in nature (see Box 3.2).

Box 3.2 Statistical definition of migration

According to the UN *Recommendations on Statistics of International Migration, Revision 1*, an international migrant is ‘any person who changes his or her country of usual residence’ (United Nations, 1998). The recommendations make a distinction between short- and long-term international migrants based on a person’s ‘country of usual residence’. Specifically, a long-term migrant is defined as:

‘A person who moves to a country other than that of his or her usual residence for a period of at least a year (12 months), so that the country of destination effectively becomes his or her new country of usual residence. From the perspective of the country of departure the person will be a long-term emigrant and from that of the country of arrival the person will be a long-term immigrant’ (United Nations, 1998, pp. 7–10).

To help in clarifying the UN definition, the UN *Handbook on Measuring International Migration through Population Censuses* provides an operational definition of an international migrant:

‘A person must satisfy the following conditions to be considered as an immigrant of a country:

- *entering the country by crossing the border,*
- *having been a usual resident of another country before entering or not a usual resident of the country when entering, and*
- *staying or intending to stay in the country for at least one year.*

A person must satisfy the following conditions to be considered as an emigrant of a country:

- *leaving the country by crossing the border,*
- *having been a usual resident of the country, and*
- *staying or intending to stay in another country or abroad for at least one year.’*

No reference is made to the reason or cause (forced or voluntary) of the cross-border movement in this definition or supporting guidance.

b. Persons returned from abroad after seeking international protection

85. Persons who, after being forcibly displaced because of a well-founded fear of persecution, disturbed public order or violence, cross a border to seek international protection and take up usual residence in another country are refugees or asylum seekers (see paragraph 83). If they later return to the country from which they were displaced, they are considered to be returning refugees or “persons returned from abroad after seeking international protection” ^(¶1). They may be identified by the UNHCR or other actors as ‘persons of concern’ and are often distinguished from other returnees from abroad by being in receipt of support from humanitarian or government agencies.
86. Returning refugees may have very similar characteristics to IDPs, especially in contexts where their return from seeking international protection does not take place in safety and dignity. They can continue to face displacement-related vulnerabilities or discrimination upon their return; however, they are not automatically counted as IDPs. These people fall within the scope of the IRRS, which recommends that they should be counted on their return to their home country as a flow and, where possible, as a stock ^(¶2). They are not counted as IDPs upon return, regardless of the period of time they were abroad, in order to avoid double counting in official statistics. Further examples of data collection for returning refugees are included in the Compilers’ Manual (see Figure 3.2). Following their return, if they are displaced again as a result of a new causing event they will become IDPs and therefore fall within the scope of these recommendations.
87. Reintegration of returning refugees into their home country is referred to as ‘re-establishment’ (see Chapter 2, paragraph 58). It should be noted that the collection of data about the re-establishment of returning refugees into the community following their displacement abroad is discussed in the Compilers’ Manual and follows a similar assessment to that described in Chapter 4 of the current recommendations.

Decision makers are interested in both groups and many of the same vulnerabilities will often apply. Analysis that enables comparison between IDPs, returned refugees and local non-displaced populations provides strong evidence for comprehensive displacement policies and responses. In contexts where both population groups can be found it is therefore recommended to include both groups when conducting surveys or other vulnerability-focused data collection activities about displacement ⁽⁹³⁾.

c. Other displaced persons returned from abroad after a period of 12 months

88. Persons displaced by a disaster who are temporarily abroad for less than 12 months and who do not establish a new usual country of residence should be included in the scope of the IDP statistics (see paragraph 117). However, those who move abroad and stay for longer than 12 months, and therefore are understood to have established a new country of usual residence, may later return to their country of origin but may be unable to return to their place of habitual residence within that country as a result of the original or another causing event (e.g. town destroyed by an earthquake). As the migration resulted in them taking up a new country of usual residence, they cannot be considered IDPs, on the grounds that they have changed their country of usual residence and have not been displaced since their return to their country of habitual residence.
89. As for refugees, other internationally displaced persons who return from abroad after more than 12 months can be counted as IDPs only if they suffer a new displacement after returning to their habitual country of residence. These population groups, however, may still suffer from similar vulnerabilities to IDPs and live in similar situations, and therefore can be assessed in a coordinated manner with IDP communities and refugee returnee communities, although they are not included statistically in the IDP stock.

C. Defining the stocks and flows of IDPs

90. Population statistics are most commonly produced as stocks and flows. The population stock gives the size of membership of the population at a specified point in time, called a reference date. A flow is a measure of the change in the membership of the population over a defined period of time. As a report by EGRIS to the UNSC noted in 2016: 'The production of statistics on [displaced people] requires a clear distinction between stocks and flows' ⁽⁹⁴⁾. Confusion between stock and flow data is common and can lead to significant errors that result in an inaccurate assessment of the scale of displacement within a country. For example, populations may be displaced more than once and thus summing the various flow statistics derived from one or successive events does not produce the total number of IDPs nor the total flow. It is therefore important to understand the differences between these types of data, and how they can be interpreted and used.

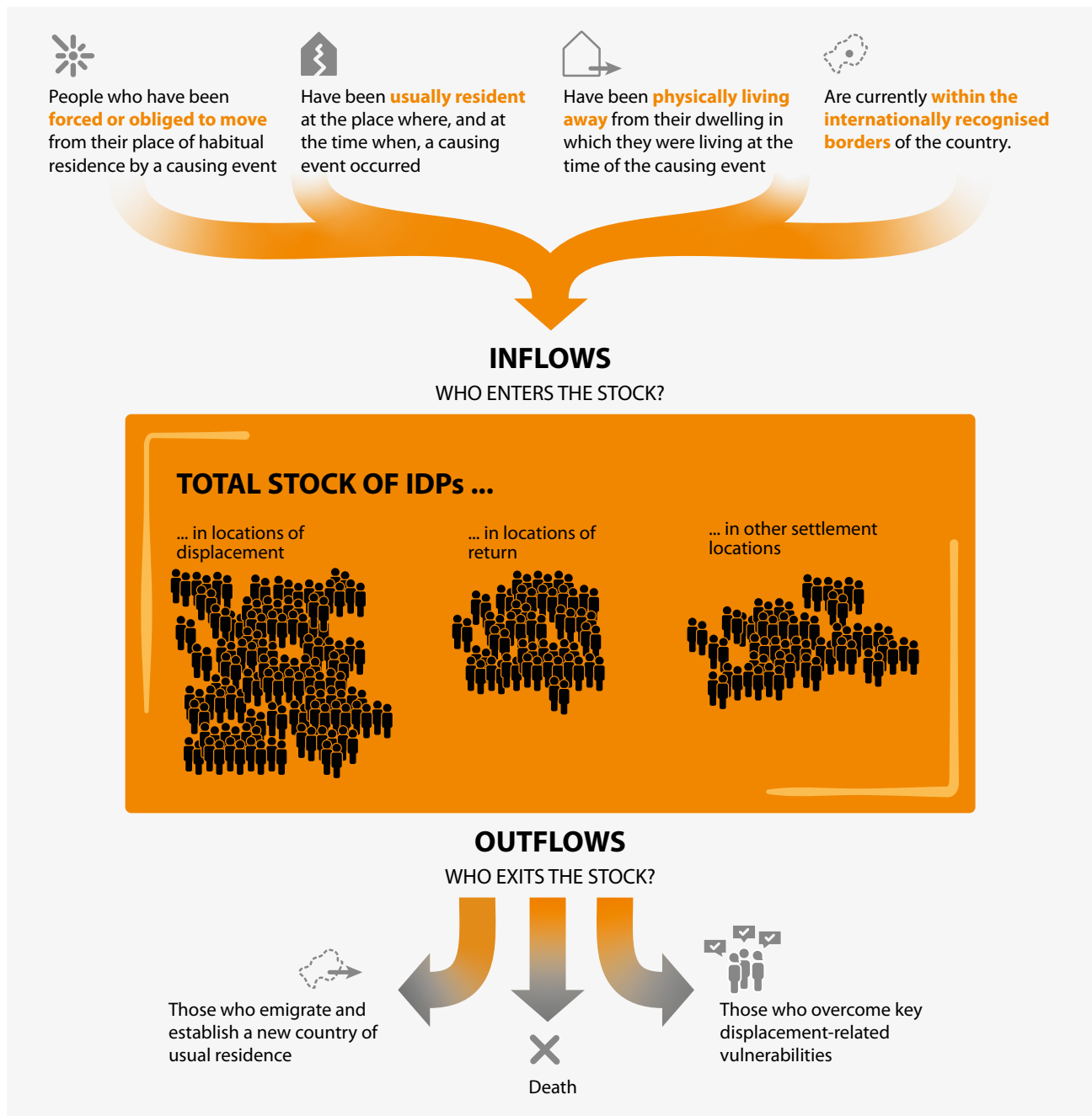
1. Stocks

91. In the context of internal displacement, the stock of persons with displacement-related protection needs and vulnerabilities refers to the total number of IDPs in a specified location, at a defined moment in time. A person belongs to this population when he or she meets the criteria defined earlier (see Box 3.1) at a precise reference date, regardless of when he or she acquired those characteristics or how often he or she has been displaced within the time frame. At the national level, this total stock is divided into three sub-stocks that correspond to different locations where IDPs may reside in a country:
- IDPs who remain in locations of displacement (IDPs in locations of displacement);
 - IDPs who have returned to their place of habitual residence (IDPs in locations of return);
 - IDPs who have settled elsewhere in the country (IDPs in other settlement locations).

This three-part sub-stock classification serves to obtain working/operational figures for internal displacement in situations where it is important to distinguish, for example, between IDPs in locations of displacement and those in locations of return.

This is visualised in Figure 3.3, alongside the associated inflows and outflows described in the following paragraphs.

Figure 3.3 Inflows and outflows of the stock of IDPs



2. Flows

92. In contrast, a population flow is a dynamic measure of how many people acquired (or lost) certain characteristics within a particular time period. The important factor is the time period covered: 1 month or (more often) 1 year is used. Flows have a directional component: they can be counted as inflows (persons entering the population stock of interest) and outflows (persons leaving the population stock of interest). The difference between the inflow and the outflow is called the net flow, and this can have a positive (more inflows than outflows) or negative (less inflows than outflows) value.

93. Therefore, the stock of IDPs will increase or decrease over time based on the net flow obtained by comparing inflows (people who become displaced) and outflows (people whose displacement can be considered to have ended or who have left the population because of death or by emigration).

a. Inflows

94. The inflow of IDPs in a particular time period refers to the number of persons who become IDPs who were not IDPs previously. A flow of new displacements may follow a specific displacement event, but because flows refer to a specific reporting period they can also reflect a number of displacement events that occurred in a country or region within the stated reference period. As described in further detail in Part D of this chapter, the IDP inflow consists of persons who were forced or obliged to move from their place of habitual residence by a causing event, who have been usually resident at the place where the causing event occurred, who are physically located away from their dwelling and who are currently within the internationally recognised borders of the country.
95. The birth of a child to displaced parents is not considered an inflow to the IDP stock. As explained earlier (paragraph 78), a child born to one or more IDP parents should be allocated to the stock of the IDP-related population. The practice of incorporating births into IDP stock registries is not recommended, as it increases the stock number even though new displacements are no longer taking place ⁽⁹⁵⁾.

b. Outflows

96. The outflow from the stock of persons who have displacement-related protection needs and vulnerabilities consists of those who have emigrated, died or overcome key displacement-related vulnerabilities. It should be noted that this definition makes it more complex to measure the outflow of internal displacement than the inflow, which could lead to a bias in reported IDP stock figures (see Chapter 4, paragraph 160). Additional outflow from the sub-stock of IDPs in locations of displacement relates to those IDPs who have returned to their place of habitual residence (IDPs in locations of return) and those who have chosen to settle elsewhere in the country (IDPs in other settlement locations).

Death:

97. The death of a person who has displacement-related protection needs and vulnerabilities or an IDP-related person would lead to a reduction in the stock of the respective population.

Leaving country of displacement:

98. The emigration of a person who has displacement-related protection needs and vulnerabilities or an IDP-related person would also lead to a reduction in the stock of the respective population. Leaving the country of displacement should be aligned with the statistical definition of migration (see Box 3.2).
99. This emigration can take place with the intention of seeking asylum in another country, with these persons forming part of the refugee stock if the reason for migrating was to escape from a 'well-founded fear of persecution' ⁽⁹⁶⁾. Alternatively, IDPs might emigrate to establish a place of usual residence in another country for other reasons, such as economic migration or family reunification, in which case they will be considered to have migrated (see paragraphs 83 and 84).

Overcoming key displacement-related vulnerabilities:

100. When a person who has displacement-related protection needs and vulnerabilities has overcome key displacement-related vulnerabilities, this will also lead to a reduction in the total stock. An assessment must be conducted to determine this and should be applied to persons irrespective of their place of residence (i.e. persons in all three sub-stocks: IDPs in locations of displacement, IDPs in locations of return and IDPs in other settlement locations). For the purposes of official statistics, the assessment is aggregated to the population/group level based on data collected at the individual/household level (see Chapter 4, paragraph 162); only those who have overcome key displacement-related vulnerabilities according to the measurement are taken out of the overall stock of persons who have displacement-related protection needs and vulnerabilities (see Chapter 4). The assessment should also take place for IDP-related persons and similarly would lead to a potential reduction in the total stock of this population group.

D. Defining the inflow: four conditions

101. There must be a clear distinction between the population who has been internally displaced by force and other persons who have moved voluntarily within the borders of a country, in order to produce unambiguous statistics about them. Based on the Guiding Principles' definition and their annotations, there are four conditions that are necessary for a person to become an IDP (see Chapter 2, paragraphs 37–58).
102. Nationality is irrelevant for identifying IDPs. Persons included in IDP statistics can be nationals, stateless persons or foreigners as long as the place they fled from at the time of the displacement was their place of usual residence, and they continue to reside within the internationally recognised boundaries of the country. Their legal citizenship status in the country is irrelevant to their identification as an IDP for the purpose of statistical measurement.
103. The date when the displacement-causing event occurred is also not relevant for the purposes of compiling stocks of IDPs, although it is relevant for calculating flows measured over a defined period of time and for this reason is often captured in operational statistics (see Chapter 2, paragraph 59).
104. The qualifying conditions for being included in the inflow to the stock of persons who have displacement-related protection needs and vulnerabilities (see paragraph 94) are described in detail below. For different reasons, each one requires further elaboration here for statistical purposes:
 1. have been forced or obliged to move from their place of habitual residence by a causing event;
 2. have been usually resident at the place where, and at the time when, a causing event occurred;
 3. have been physically living away from the dwelling in which they were living at the time of the causing event; and
 4. are currently within the internationally recognised borders of the country.

1. Have been forced or obliged to move from their place of habitual residence by a causing event

105. He or she was forced or obliged to leave his or her place of habitual residence as a result of, or in order to avoid the effects of, one or more causing events. The main causing events are listed below, with each one having a list of specific triggers (this is not an exhaustive list and should be read in conjunction with the legal outline in Chapter 2, paragraphs 45–54).
 - i) armed conflict;
 - ii) generalised violence;
 - iii) violations of human rights;
 - iv) natural or human-made disasters; or
 - v) other forced evictions or displacements.
106. A person can be considered an IDP as long as he or she was at direct risk of experiencing the causing event, regardless of whether or not he or she experienced the event itself. Preventative displacements, such as evacuations, also constitute internal displacement (see Chapter 2, paragraph 43).
107. Some causing events are difficult to verify in an objective manner. In order to capture preventative movements (i.e. 'in order to avoid the effects of' an event), or displacement from less easily verifiable causes such as certain human rights violations, the overall recommendation for identifying IDPs for the purpose of official statistics is to use the IDPs' subjective perception of the causing event based on self-declaration. Practically, the part of the Guiding Principles definition referring to 'in order to avoid a displacement causing event' is often not of statistical concern, as the event may have already occurred by the time data are collected and people would have already had to move by that time.

108. Persons who move voluntarily from one place to another solely to improve their economic or domestic circumstances should not be included in IDP statistics. However, in some circumstances it can be difficult to identify the primary cause of displacement, for example in situations of slow-onset disasters such as rising sea levels and drought⁽⁹⁷⁾. For the purposes of official IDP statistics, it is necessary to consider the overarching cause of the displacement; for example, in areas impacted by slow-onset disasters, economic deprivation and associated population movements can be disaster induced, and in these cases the slow-onset disaster is considered to be the primary cause of displacement. Recognising that it can be difficult to identify the primary cause of displacement when multiple factors are at play and that more research into this area is needed, it is advisable for countries to err on the side of caution when identifying displacement caused by slow-onset disasters. In order to minimise uncertainty around defining the overarching causes of displacement, the responsible statistical bodies should identify areas of the country that have been impacted by slow-onset disasters, such as droughts, rising water levels and climate change-induced loss of livelihoods. National mapping authorities (with support from regional statistical authorities if needed) may be able to provide satellite imagery as supporting evidence for slow-onset disasters. These affected areas should be clearly identified and declared as areas impacted by slow-onset disasters in advance of collecting IDP statistics, and should be routinely updated.

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

109. Displaced persons must have been usually resident in the location within the country where the causing event or the threat of the causing event took place, at the time that the causing event occurred. This is referred to in legal terms as their place of habitual residence (see Chapter 2, paragraph 40). People may become displaced during a causing event or in response to it by not being able to return or no longer having access to their place of habitual residence at the time of the displacement (see Chapter 2, paragraph 43). This means that a person can become an IDP as a result of a causing event if he or she tries to return to his or her habitual place of residence but is unable to do so, even if he or she was not physically present at the time when the event occurred.
110. For statistical purposes, the usual place of residence is defined as the place where the person is living at the time of data collection, corresponding to the place where the person has lived or intends to live for at least a 12-month period (see Box 3.3)⁽⁹⁸⁾. Therefore, a person's place of usual residence can change. In situations of internal displacement, this may be difficult to apply, especially when people have been forced or obliged to move repeatedly and/or frequently within a relatively short time frame. The intention to remain where they are located at the time of data collection is the important factor in determining usual residence in statistical terms and this will rely on respondents' subjective answers⁽⁹⁹⁾. Therefore, IDPs living in temporary accommodation or shelters should be allocated to the geographical place where they are living at the time of data collection.
111. The concepts of habitual and usual place of residence are distinct. An IDP may be displaced on multiple occasions and may have had several usual residences over a given time period, but their place of habitual residence is the place where they were usually resident at the time of their initial displacement, which serves as a statistical definition of habitual residence (see Box 3.3). Data should be collected for statistical purposes for both the usual place of residence at the time of data collection and the place of habitual residence.

Box 3.3 Usual residence and habitual residence

'Place of usual residence' and 'place of habitual residence' are distinct terms and they must be clearly distinguished for statistical purposes.

For statistical purposes, the **usual place of residence** in the country is where the person is living at the time of data collection. The definition of usual place of residence as per the UN *Principles and Recommendations for Population and Housing Censuses* should be used, in order to comply with international standards. This definition is generally used for the purpose of distinguishing the usual residents of a household from visitors staying with the household at the time of enumeration.

'In general, usual residence is defined ... as the place at which the person lives... and has been there for some time or intends to stay there for some time. It is recommended that countries apply a threshold of 12 months when considering place of usual residence according to one of the following two criteria:

- (a) *The place at which the person has lived continuously for most of the last 12 months (that is, for at least six months and one day), not including temporary absences for holidays or work assignments, or intends to live for at least six months;*
- (b) *The place at which the person has lived continuously for at least the last 12 months, not including temporary absences for holidays or work assignments, or intends to live for at least 12 months.'*

The definition of the **habitual place of residence** is discussed in Chapter 2 (paragraph 40). According to the international definition, the place of habitual residence is where the person was residing at the time of their initial displacement (i.e. their usual place of residence pre displacement). The place of habitual residence for IDPs is therefore static, whereas the place of usual residence, as for other population groups, is subject to change.

- 112. If a person had been absent from his or her habitual place of residence for more than 1 year prior to the causing event, for statistical purposes he or she will not have been identified as usually resident at that place at the time of the causing event. The person would, therefore, not be considered to be an IDP. However, if a person had been absent from his or her habitual place of residence for less than 1 year prior to the causing event, statistically he or she will be understood to be usually resident in that location at the time of the causing event and therefore is counted as an IDP.
- 113. In the case of pastoralists or nomads the concept of habitual place of residence must be replaced with habitual living space or area from which they gain their livelihood or where they graze their animals. In the case of displacement of a nomadic population, the habitual residence is the traditional lands that can no longer be accessed because of the causing event/phenomenon. Therefore, pastoralists and nomads who can no longer access their traditional lands because of a displacement-causing event are to be considered IDPs.

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

- 114. As a consequence of, or in order to avoid the impact of, the causing event, persons will have been forced or obliged to physically flee or not be able to return to their home or place of habitual residence. Therefore, simply experiencing harm or loss of property alone does not constitute the grounds for a person to be counted as an IDP; they also need to flee from the location. How far a person has to move, however, in order to become an IDP and be included in the IDP inflow is not specified; it is sufficient to simply be forced or obliged to leave one's home.
- 115. Internal migration statistics usually pertain to people who have moved from one administrative area to another, but people can be forcibly displaced from their homes and property and subsequently find shelter in the same local area. They may be housed in evacuation shelters, in tents or with neighbours in the same administrative area. The geographical criterion of the concept of displacement therefore goes beyond that of internal migration to include those displaced and remaining in the same administrative area and even those within very close proximity to their former home. A displaced person would need to have been forced or obliged to move from the dwelling where they lived at the time of the displacement event. The

important distinguishing feature is that the move from the dwelling is caused by a forced displacement rather than a voluntary move. The implications for different data sources are outlined in Chapter 6.

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

116. An IDP is found within the internationally recognised state borders of the country in which the displacement took place, i.e. country of habitual residence. Statistically, this means that the country of usual residence (see Box 3.4) of the IDP continues to be the country concerned.
117. In some circumstances the causing event may result in IDPs crossing an internationally recognised border in search of refuge, but these border crossings may not result in those persons establishing a new country of usual residence. In view of the uncertainty of their circumstances and in line with existing statistical definitions (see Box 3.4), IDPs who cross an internationally recognised border but who subsequently return within a 12-month period without establishing a new usual residence abroad should continue to be considered as IDPs; their country of habitual residence will continue to be their country of usual residence (see also Chapter 2, paragraph 56). Alternatively, IDPs who cross an internationally recognised border, return only after 12 months and/or have established a new country of usual residence should not be automatically considered to be IDPs.
118. Pastoralist or nomadic populations who are displaced across international borders are not considered to have established a new country of usual residence because of the very nature of their way of life, and so the same rule as for nomads and pastoralists within the country of residence applies (paragraph 113), i.e. if they can no longer access their traditional lands because of a displacement-causing event and are forced to cross a border, they should still be considered to be IDPs. Significantly, for pastoralist and nomadic populations the key criterion remains access to their traditional lands/routes, not the length of time for which they cross an internationally recognised border.

Box 3.4 Statistical definition of country of usual residence

According to the UN *Recommendations on Statistics of International Migration, Revision 1*, a person who moves to another country for a period of at least a year (12 months) takes up a new country of usual residence, so that the country of destination effectively becomes their new country of usual residence.

The UN *Handbook on Measuring International Migration through Population Censuses* provides some examples of exceptions to this recommendation and establishes where there has been no change in the country of usual residence or where additional criteria need to be considered in order to effectively determine the usual country of residence. These include:

- people who have resided in a number of countries before the most recent move to a country (paragraph 25);
- people whose country of usual residence cannot be established without ambiguity, e.g. diplomats, armed forces, nomads and border workers (paragraph 33);
- people who maintain two or more residences in different countries in a given year, e.g. students and seasonal workers (paragraph 34), or who spend their time equally between two countries (paragraph 35).

According to the recommendations outlined here, IDPs who temporarily cross a border and do not establish a new country of usual residence also fall within these exceptions.

E. Recommendations summary

119. This chapter has outlined the statistical framework for internal displacement, describing the different categories of persons included. It further presents statistical definitions of IDP inflows, stocks and outflows based on the *Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement* and the *IASC Framework on Durable Solutions for*

Internally Displaced Persons and details more concretely the different elements included in the statistical measurement of the inflow to the IDP population.

120. An important aspect of these recommendations is the relationship between the definitions of the inflows, outflows and stock statistics in the framework. The statistical measurement of IDP inflow follows the Guiding Principles' definition of IDPs strictly; the stock of persons with displacement-related protection needs and vulnerabilities is divided into three location-based sub-stocks (IDPs in locations of displacement, IDPs in locations of return and IDPs in other settlement locations); and determining the outflow (thereby completing the stock measurement) would need to include an assessment of the key displacement-related vulnerabilities faced by the population concerned alongside other more straightforward outflow categories (death and emigration).
121. It is recommended that national and international statistical systems follow the framework and the statistical definitions provided in this chapter for the production of official statistics on internal displacement.

4

Durable solutions and key displacement-related vulnerabilities

A. Introduction

122. In Chapter 3 the conditions for becoming an IDP in statistical terms and in terms of stocks and flows were specified. This chapter presents the criteria and indicators that should be used to measure the progress that IDPs have made towards achieving a durable solution and to determine when key displacement-related vulnerabilities have been overcome. It outlines which criteria need to be in place for all IDPs (those in locations of displacement, those in locations of return and those who have settled elsewhere) to statistically be taken out of the stock of persons who have displacement-related protection needs and vulnerabilities⁽¹⁰⁰⁾. This chapter first outlines the relevant resources that have informed the recommendations, details the different vulnerability criteria (and sub-criteria) related to displacement, and assesses the reasons for and possibilities of carrying out comparative analysis with other population groups (Part B). Part C then outlines how these should be used to measure progress towards durable solutions in IDP contexts, and Part D outlines the scope of and methodology for a composite measure to identify when key displacement-related vulnerabilities have been overcome. Finally, Part E presents a summary of the recommendations.

B. Defining criteria for the two measures

1. Relevant resources

123. The IASC Framework and its eight criteria make up the key guidance document addressing the main aspects of vulnerabilities related to forced displacement. The Durable Solutions Indicator Library⁽¹⁰¹⁾, which operationalises these criteria into measurable indicators (and experience from the process of developing the library), provides further guidance to shape these recommendations. Further, the specification of the proposed disaggregation of SDG indicators also provides preliminary guidance on developing these recommendations.

a. IASC Framework on Durable Solutions for Internally Displaced Persons

124. The starting point for monitoring progress towards durable solutions, and therefore also the key elements of displacement-related vulnerabilities, is the *IASC Framework on Durable Solutions for Internally Displaced Persons*⁽¹⁰²⁾. It provides guidance on the characteristics that determine the extent to which durable solutions for IDPs have been achieved and a definition of a durable solution (Chapter 2, paragraph 68).
125. According to the IASC Framework, displacement ends when IDPs have secured a durable solution to their displacement. This is realised when 'IDPs no longer have any specific assistance and protection needs that are linked to their displacement and can enjoy their human rights without discrimination on account of their displacement'. Furthermore, this can be achieved through:

- a) return to their place of habitual residence and reintegration into the community;
- b) local integration in their new place of usual residence; or
- c) settlement elsewhere in the country in a sustainable manner.

'Reintegration', 'integration' and 'sustainability' entail that IDPs are not discriminated against and are not facing any specific protection or assistance needs in relation to their displacement. They are expected to be able to exercise their rights in the same way as the usually resident population, regardless of the settlement option (i.e. physical location) chosen. When this occurs, they should no longer be considered to be IDPs.

126. The IASC Framework also outlines a set of eight criteria that should be used to determine and measure the progress towards durable solutions (see Figure 4.1). The criteria provide a useful starting point for defining these characteristics in a context-specific way. Yet, in practice, operationalising these eight criteria in statistical terms and concretely measuring if and when a durable solution has been achieved is complex and practice has varied significantly.

b. Durable Solutions Indicator Library and analysis guide

127. In 2015, an interagency process was established to operationalise the IASC Framework. Under the leadership of the Mandate of the Special Rapporteur on the Human Rights of Internally Displaced Persons, a group of development, humanitarian and peacebuilding actors started work on developing and testing indicators and guidance for comprehensive durable solutions analysis in internal displacement situations and to measure progress over time ⁽¹⁰³⁾. The work, coordinated by JIPS, resulted in a library of standardised indicators and guidance for the operationalisation of the eight IASC criteria, which can serve as a unified starting point for statistical analysis of various characteristics of displacement-related vulnerabilities.
128. Each of the eight criteria is broken down into several indicators. For example, access to an adequate standard of living includes indicators on food security, access to water, energy, healthcare, sanitation and education. The approach for indicator selection is illustrated in Figure 4.1 and includes:
1. Selecting the indicators that are aligned with the SDG indicators and are relevant to the IDP population in the context concerned. This reduces the burden on statistical offices and increases the likelihood that the data can be collected.
 2. Ensuring that all eight criteria are considered, even if some elements are additional to the SDGs.
 3. Reflecting upon the national/local context and, where possible, selecting the indicators in consultation with displaced communities, as well as governments and other stakeholders working to support durable solutions.

Figure 4.1 IASC durable solutions criteria: proposed process for identifying context-specific core indicators

c. SDG indicators

129. In the years leading up to 2030, the SDGs will play an important role in policy discussions. During the 2020 comprehensive review of the SDG indicator framework, a specific indicator on refugees was included in the framework but there is no specification for other forcibly displaced populations, including IDPs. However, the issue cuts across many SDGs, and multiple indicators can be disaggregated by migratory status and, more specifically, by displacement status. When SDG indicators are collected as part of statistics on forced displacement it is recommended that countries use the SDG framework and metadata in developing the statistics.
130. The Inter-Agency and Expert Group on SDG Indicators accepted the recommendation of EGRIS members to propose the disaggregation of the 12 priority SDG indicators by forced displacement category, as shown in Table 4.1, as well as to recommend breaking them down by age and sex whenever possible⁽¹⁰⁴⁾. In order to ensure the availability of minimum-quality statistics on refugees and IDPs, it is recommended that national statistics providers include statistics on these priority indicators in the reporting plans for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. However, governments should not feel limited to this priority list, and data collection on additional indicators is encouraged.

Table 4.1 SDG indicators recommended to be disaggregated by forced displacement category according to priority policy area

Policy area 1: basic needs and living conditions	
2.2.1	Prevalence of stunting (height for age ≤ 2 standard deviations from the median of the World Health Organization Child Growth Standards) among children under 5 years of age
3.1.2	Proportion of births attended by skilled health personnel
6.1.1	Proportion of population using safely managed drinking water services
11.1.1	Proportion of urban population living in slums, informal settlements or inadequate housing
Policy area 2: livelihoods and economic self-reliance	
1.2.1	Proportion of population living below the national poverty line, by sex and age
4.1.1	Proportion of children and young people (a) in grades 2/3, (b) at the end of primary and (c) at the end of lower secondary achieving at least a minimum proficiency level in (i) reading and (ii) mathematics, by sex
7.1.1	Proportion of population with access to electricity
8.3.1	Proportion of informal employment in non-agriculture employment, by sex
8.5.2	Unemployment rate, by sex, age and persons with disabilities
Policy area 3: civil, political and legal rights	
1.4.2	Proportion of total adult population with secure tenure rights to land (a) with legally recognised documentation and (b) who perceive their rights to land as secure, by sex and type of tenure
16.1.4	Proportion of population that feels safe walking alone around the area where they live
16.9.1	Proportion of children under 5 years of age whose births have been registered with a civil authority, by age

131. A second initiative, the Expert Group Meeting on Improving Migration Data in the Context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development ⁽¹⁰⁵⁾, has recommended another 12 indicators to be disaggregated by migratory status.
132. Both lists of selected SDG indicators are a useful resource for identifying indicators to measure the characteristics of IDPs within the criteria set out by the IASC Framework.

d. International Recommendations on Refugee Statistics (IRRS) indicators

133. The indicator library presented in the IRRS can also be consulted as a relevant resource for the measurement IDP protection needs and vulnerabilities ⁽¹⁰⁶⁾. These indicators reflect the integration and well-being of refugees and asylum seekers along legal, economic, social and cultural dimensions. Further, they are divided into core, non-core and additional variables and are aligned to the SDGs as far as possible.

2. Displacement-related vulnerability criteria

a. Criteria and sub-criteria

134. For the purpose of statistically measuring displacement-related vulnerabilities, the eight criteria from the IASC Framework were taken as a starting point (see paragraph 126). For each of these, sub-criteria were specified, as shown in Table 4.2. As outlined in the IASC Framework itself, the first four criteria are relevant in all contexts and should therefore always be included in any durable solutions assessment, while the last four should be considered and can be included if deemed relevant for the specific displacement context ⁽¹⁰⁷⁾. Based on this guidance, all eight IASC criteria are included in recommendations for measuring progress towards durable solutions (see paragraph 146). However, regarding the development of the composite measure for overcoming key displacement-related vulnerabilities, a smaller set of criteria has been selected. This includes the first four criteria (deemed to always be relevant in any displacement context) and a fifth criterion on access to personal and other documentation. Given the prevalence of challenges linked to lack of documentation in many displacement settings, this fifth criterion has also been included in the

recommendations for a statistical measure that can result in taking IDPs out of the stock. The composite measure therefore prioritises five of the eight IASC criteria (see paragraph 164).

Table 4.2 IASC durable solutions criteria and identified sub-criteria

Criteria	Sub-criteria
1. Safety and security	1.1 Victims of violence 1.2 Freedom of movement 1.3 Protection mechanisms 1.4 Disaster risk reduction
2. Adequate standard of living	2.1 Food security 2.2 Shelter and housing 2.3 Medical services 2.4 Education
3. Access to livelihoods	3.1 Employment and livelihoods 3.2 Economic security
4. Restoration of housing, land and property	4.1 Property restitution and compensation
5. Access to documentation	5.1 Documentation
6. Family reunification	6.1 Voluntary reunification 6.2 Reunification and tracing services
7. Participation in public affairs	7.1 Public affairs 7.2 Right to vote 7.3 Right to engage in public service
8. Access to effective remedies and justice	8.1 Remedies and justice

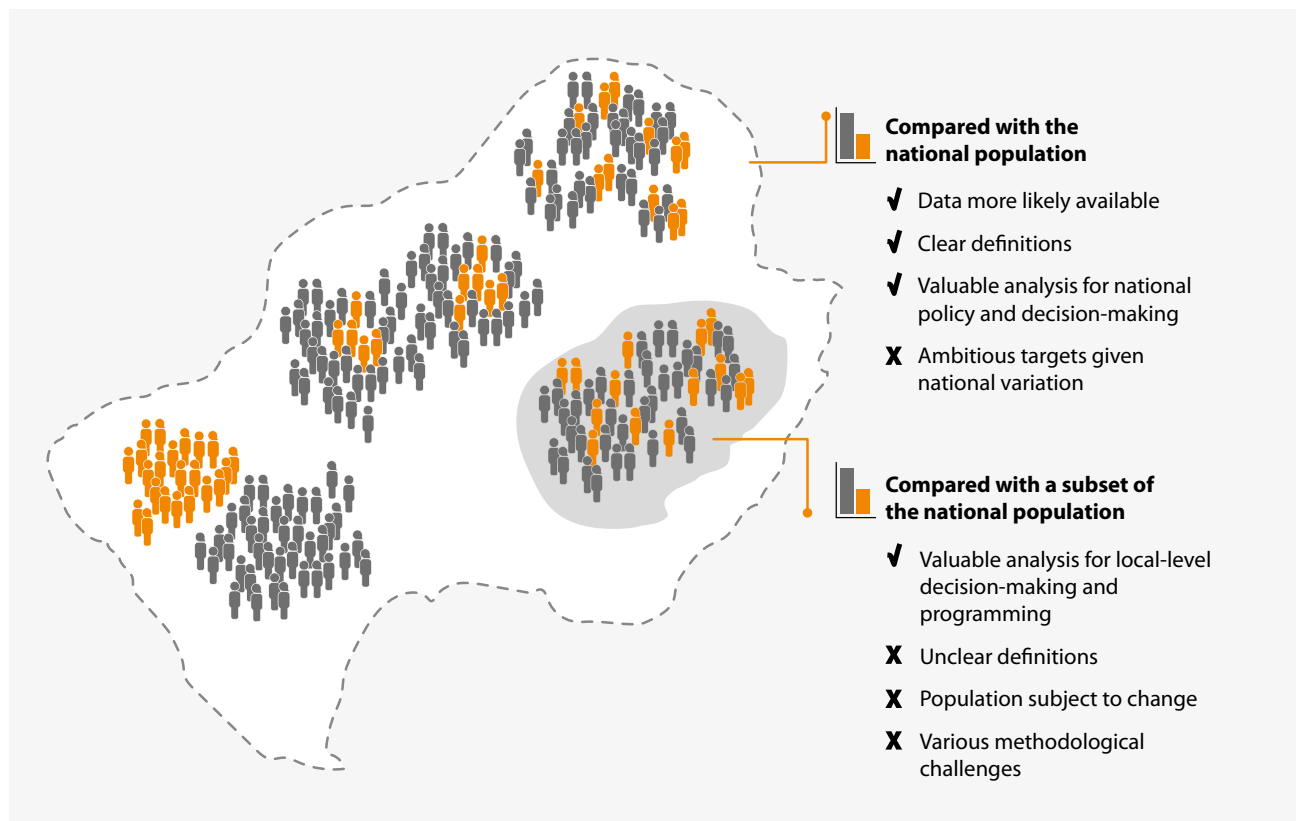
b. Selecting indicators

135. For each sub-criterion there are many different indicators that can be chosen, although a final list has not yet been agreed. The indicators selected in each national context should, as far as possible, be aligned with already tested and standardised indicators. The Durable Solutions Indicator Library referred to earlier provides a thorough overview of potential options (see paragraphs 127 and 128). Where relevant, they should also mirror the SDG indicators that have been recommended to be disaggregated by different categories of displacement. Indicators selected should be carefully chosen to ensure they are relevant to internal displacement and for all three sub-stocks of the displaced population: IDPs in locations of displacement, IDPs in locations of return and IDPs in other settlement locations.
136. For the purposes of statistical measurement and to ensure that the process is as unbiased and cost-efficient as possible, the following aspects should be taken into account when selecting the indicators:
1. *Commonly used.* It is an advantage if the indicator in question is also collected for other purposes, to facilitate population group comparisons and to allow displacement analysis to be incorporated into existing larger data collection processes. SDG indicators are a good example here, as most surveys and censuses will cover a number of these, at least up until 2030.
 2. *Tested and evaluated.* Linked to the previous point, it is also an advantage to select indicators or questions that have been tested and satisfy quality criteria. This is the case for most of the indicators and related questions asked in standard household surveys, for example on education, food security and employment.
 3. *Covering the population in question.* There are several potential indicators that may be relevant in the context but do not cover all of the population in question. For instance, school enrolment is widely recognised as a good indicator for measuring access to education, but it would not give any information on IDP households that do not have children.
137. A preliminary set of indicators for the sub-criteria has been developed by the EGRIS IDP subgroup, taking into consideration the aspects above. The aim of this work was to provide a short, manageable list of one or two indicators per sub-criterion. However, given the limited availability of data, particularly for the sub-criteria that experts determined to be displacement specific, it is not possible to recommend a final list of indicators for each sub-criterion at this stage. Further testing is required to allow further details

to be provided. As this work progresses, information will be added to the Compilers' Manual, including implications for target setting based on different types of indicators (see paragraph 166). Once finalised, an updated version of these recommendations could be considered. In the meantime, countries and international organisations should use the Durable Solutions Indicator Library as a reference and starting point for indicator selection and should as far as possible follow the principles described here (see paragraphs 135–137).

c. Comparative analysis with other population groups

138. Given the focus on 'displacement-related' protection needs and vulnerabilities in the definition of durable solutions, a comparative analysis of other data collections and analysis processes in each displacement context is critical. Theoretically, in order to determine if a specific vulnerability is displacement related, the current situation of IDPs should be compared with their situation before forced displacement impacted their lives. However, in many cases this will be very difficult or even impossible because of the limited availability of data, among other reasons. A rights-based approach was also considered whereby vulnerability levels would be compared with a rights-based standard/target. This approach was not chosen, however, as it does not take into account the situation of other population groups, which is key for sustainable (re)integration of IDPs. A different approach was required.
139. An alternative option, recommended here, is to compare the situation of IDPs with that of other population groups in the country to assess whether or not the vulnerabilities that IDPs suffer from are related to their displacement (through discrimination, for example). This could entail a comparative analysis including the general/national population (see paragraph 140) or a subset thereof (see paragraphs 141–143).
140. In most cases, for official statistical purposes, the specific population group of concern is compared with the general/national population of the country (i.e. data collected are compared with the national average). Assuming that efforts are made to select indicators to facilitate this (see paragraph 137), it can be assumed that data are likely to be available for the general/national population through the national statistical system (NSS). In larger countries, comparison with the regional average could be deemed more appropriate.
141. Often in official statistical practice, the group of concern is compared not only with the national average but also with a subgroup of the general population that has opposite characteristics. For example, unemployed persons are compared with employed persons, and single-parent families are compared with two-parent families. Incorporating this practice into the work on IDP statistics suggests that IDPs should be compared with all those who have not been displaced. By doing this, no assumptions are made about the socio-economic situation pre displacement and the target is simple and easy to understand; however, it might be difficult to disaggregate available national data accordingly.
142. Given the specificities of different displacement contexts, it can also be valuable to compare the vulnerability situation of IDPs with that of a different subset of the general population, commonly referred to as the 'host community' by governments and humanitarian and development organisations responding to internal displacement. This can provide valuable analysis for local-level decision-making and programme design; however, for the purposes of official statistics there are some challenges associated with this method.
143. The first challenge is that the host population has so far not been defined and different approaches are taken in practice. Although some efforts have been made recently to develop a definition of the host population, these have not been orientated for statistical purposes and therefore remain lacking in this regard ⁽¹⁰⁸⁾. Common approaches include identifying non-displaced households that live in close proximity to IDPs or within the geographical area where IDPs reside; identifying non-displaced households within these geographical areas that have similar living conditions to those of IDPs; specifying a more literal meaning of hosting by identifying non-displaced households that physically host IDPs in their own homes; or identifying populations living in the surrounding area of IDP camps and settlements. The definition of host population is further complicated in fluid displacement situations where, because of the population movement itself, the host population is also subject to change. Further challenges concern methodological considerations around sampling, such as sample sizes and selection.

Figure 4.2 Illustrating pros and cons for identifying comparative population groups

144. Overall, for the purpose of official statistics, the general/national population is recommended as a comparison group when analysing the displacement-related vulnerabilities of IDPs. This approach is also recommended for setting targets and thresholds to be incorporated into the implementation of efforts to measure progress towards durable solutions, as well as the composite measure for overcoming key displacement-related vulnerabilities, as outlined below (see paragraphs 146–169). The key reasons for this are that information about the general population is more likely to be available, making data collection and analysis simpler. In specific circumstances, comparison with a different subset of the national population with opposite characteristics (e.g. the non-displaced or ‘host population’ in a given area) may also be considered, although this will require clear and coherent definitions to be developed and shared and a number of other methodological questions to be clarified. The latter approach is often considered to be the most relevant and feasible approach for operational purposes (see Chapter 6, Part C, and Chapter 7, paragraphs 330–347). See Figure 4.2 for an illustration of these options.

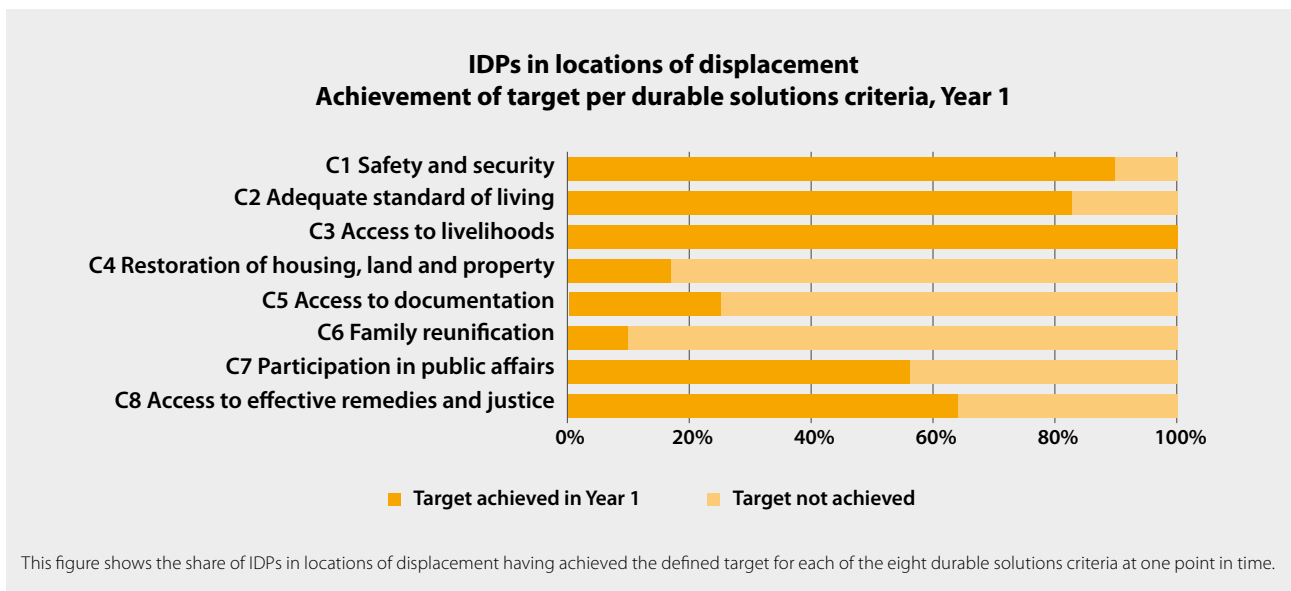
C. Measuring progress towards durable solutions

145. As described in Chapter 2 (paragraphs 65–70), durable solutions to internal displacement are complex and are therefore also challenging to measure⁽¹⁰⁹⁾. There is currently no standardised methodology or practice but there is a clear and growing recognition of the need to establish one. Central to the definition of durable solutions is that achieving them happens through a process that takes time and the engagement of a multitude of stakeholders. Therefore, it is of critical policy relevance to develop a common set of recommendations for countries and international organisations to measure progress made towards durable solutions.

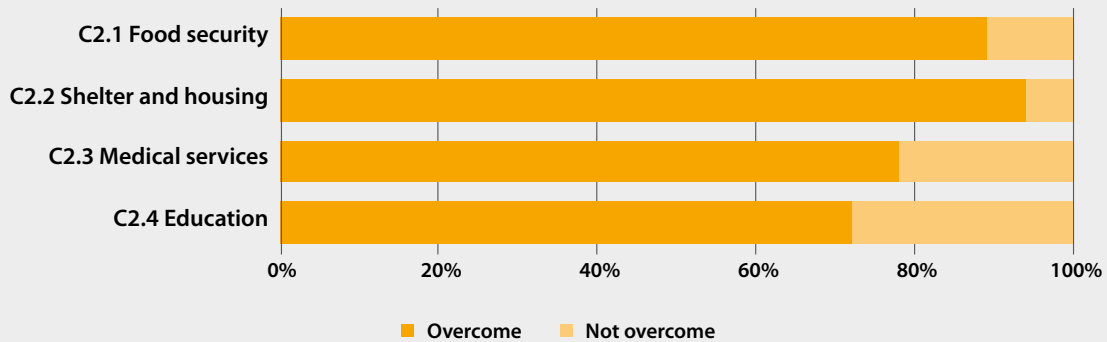
1. Outline of the progress measure

146. The backbone of the progress measure recommended here lies in the eight IASC criteria and 18 sub-criteria outlined in Table 4.2. These can be used to monitor a displacement situation in a country over time and identify progress made towards durable solutions. If deemed relevant in specific displacement contexts, other elements can also be included. As mentioned above, a final indicator list has not yet been agreed; however, it is recommended that the number of indicators per sub-criterion is kept to a minimum, taking into consideration the likely burden on NSSs.
147. In line with the IASC Framework, the measure applies to IDPs in areas of displacement (measuring local integration), IDPs in areas of return (measuring reintegration) and IDPs in other areas (measuring integration in other settlement locations).
148. Progress of the population against each sub-criterion (or associated indicators) should be measured against a target and over time. Based on the analysis described above (see paragraphs 138–144), it is proposed that the target used is the average situation of the general/national population in relation to each sub-criterion (or associated indicators) at the given time. Where the national context determines that an alternative approach be taken, a subset of the general population that lives in the same geographical area as the displaced population can be used instead.
149. After establishing these targets, which will differ by country and by sub-criterion, the measure can be used to assess the share of the IDP population that has overcome the specific vulnerability described by each sub-criterion or demonstrate in which aspects of vulnerability they are better or worse off. This should be implemented using a layered methodology whereby equally weighted indicator values combine to calculate scores for individual sub-criteria, which are in turn combined to calculate a score for each criterion. The overall analytical result is therefore a measure of the progress of the population covered against each of the eight criteria over time.
150. To demonstrate the possible analytical results of this progress measure, a fictitious example is presented in Figure 4.3.

Figure 4.3 Demonstration of the analytical outputs of the measurement of progress towards durable solutions

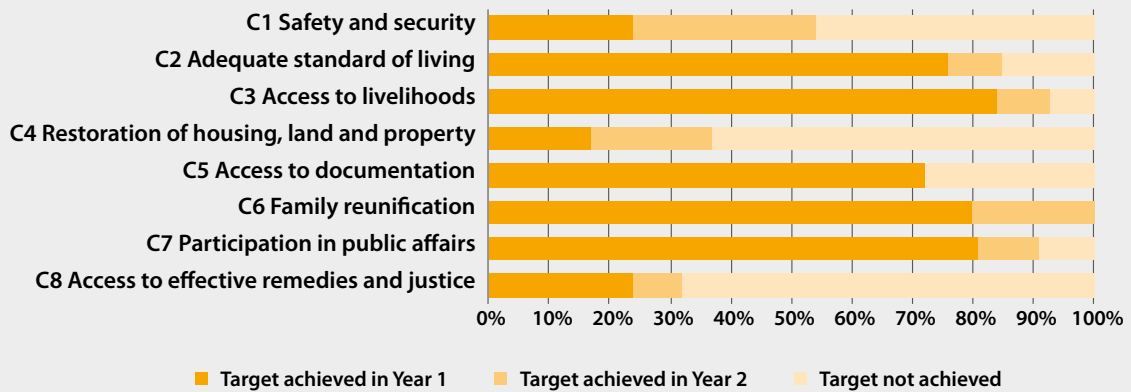


IDPs in locations of displacement Achievement of target per sub-criteria of criteria 2, adequate standard of living, Year 1



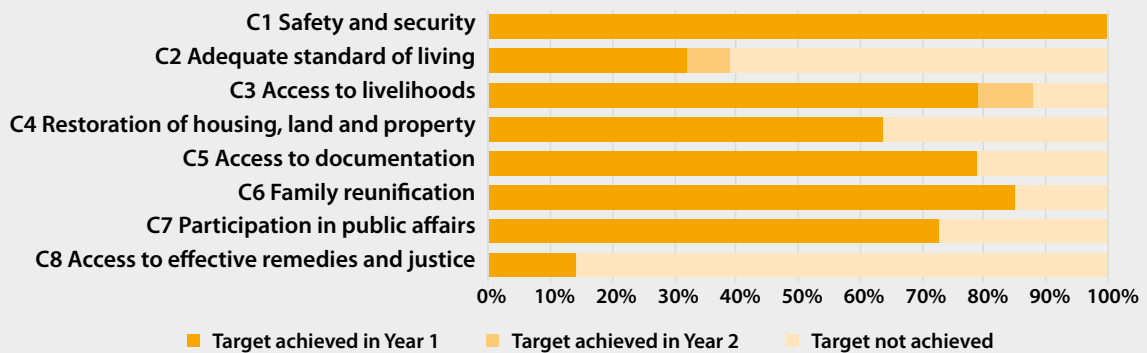
This figure shows calculation of criteria 2, adequate standard of living, from the figure above. It represents the share of IDPs in locations of displacement having achieved the defined target in each of the sub-criteria of criteria 2 in one point in time.

IDPs in locations of return Progress towards durable solutions over time



This figure shows the share of the IDPs in locations of return who have progressed towards achieving the defined target for each of the eight durable solutions criteria between two points in time.

IDPs in other settlement locations Progress towards durable solutions over time



This figure shows the share of the IDPs in other settlement locations having progressed towards achieving the defined target for each of the eight durable solutions criteria between two points in time.

2. Uses of the progress measure

151. As demonstrated in Figure 4.3, the overview provided by these analytical results can provide important evidence for decision makers working on displacement-related policy development and implementation, or displacement-sensitive development planning processes at national or subnational levels. The measure allows users to understand at a glance which aspects of vulnerability IDPs are struggling with compared with others (perhaps revealing evidence of displacement-related discrimination) and in which they are doing relatively well. If this measure is used periodically, over time it will be able to demonstrate progress made and/or where progress is stalled. Based on either output (snapshot or longitudinal analysis), efforts can be made to prioritise investments and target interventions to improve conditions for displaced persons, taking into consideration the broader context/communities within which they are living. In this way, the measure can become a useful tool for monitoring progress towards durable solutions for IDPs.
152. Various efforts have been made in different contexts to implement similar approaches, but the methods used have varied and are usually not integrated into NSSs. By using the more standardised approach proposed here, it is anticipated that the analysis will be improved and the use of results for policy and practice strengthened.
153. When implemented nationally, the results will also help to complement population statistics on IDPs to provide a more nuanced evidence base for policy and international dialogue concerning internal displacement. By showing progress made across a standardised group of displacement-related vulnerabilities over time, even in contexts where the stock figure of IDPs has increased, the results of the progress measure will be valuable to inform both policy processes and action.
154. It is important to underline, however, that as long as the choice of indicators for the sub-criteria remain unaligned and unstandardised, direct comparison of results across countries is not possible or recommended. Interest in developing a recommended list of standardised indicators for each sub-criterion remains high among members of EGRIS; therefore, as mentioned above (see paragraph 137), it is planned to incorporate this into the Compilers' Manual and the future expected revision of these recommendations.

a. Data disaggregation

155. As mentioned above (see paragraph 147), the durable solutions progress measure can be applied to all three IDP sub-stocks/classifications: IDPs in areas of displacement (measuring local integration), IDPs in areas of return (measuring reintegration) and IDPs settled elsewhere in the country (measuring integration in other settlement locations).
156. Depending on the type of data source used, further disaggregation by relevant demographic characteristics is also recommended to enable analysis of the situation of different subgroups to feed into more nuanced and informed decision-making. Disaggregation by sex and age, for instance, may indicate which groups within the broader IDP population are most vulnerable. If feasible, analysing data with respect to other characteristics, such as geographical region, type of area (urban/rural), type of habitation (camp/settlement/own home/rented accommodation/hosted by friends/relatives), ethnicity, religion, disability, education level, cause of displacement and/or length of displacement, might also provide additional valuable information.
157. When data availability allows, comparison between relevant subgroups of the displaced population and their equivalents in the general population can also provide useful information, for example in considering differences between the men and women in the IDP population and the men and women in the general population, respectively. Chapter 5 provides a suggested list of variables and tabulations, which cover some of the disaggregation elements discussed here. As discussed further in Chapter 6 (Table 6.1 and paragraphs 200 and 221–223), population coverage and confidentiality concerns need to be considered, particularly when analysing such disaggregations.

D. Composite measure for overcoming key displacement-related vulnerabilities

158. In addition to the progress measure outlined above, the IASC Framework also provides a basis for determining the ‘achievement of durable solutions’, namely when all displacement-related protection needs and vulnerabilities (detailed in the eight criteria) have been overcome. As described above (paragraph 125), physical movement alone, whether return or settlement elsewhere, does not constitute a durable solution; instead, a vulnerability analysis covering all eight criteria would need to be conducted to make such a determination.
159. Currently, no definitive guidance on identifying the end of displacement exists. Because there is no internationally accepted operational or statistical definition for removing persons reaching a durable solution from the IDP stock, practice is varied. In some cases, returns or camp departures are removed from the stock; in other cases, flow data on returns are published; in yet other cases, extensive vulnerability analysis is utilised; and in many cases the IDP stock is effectively never reduced. The following recommendations assume that the absence of simple and methodologically sound guidance on how to measure the achievement of durable solutions has contributed to different ad hoc approaches being developed and growing confusion on the issue.
160. These recommendations recognise that developing a statistical measure for such a vastly complex phenomenon is complicated. The measure must address the relevant substantive issues, remain globally relevant for a wide range of displacement contexts and be realistic in terms of implementation to minimise the potential bias in reported IDP stock figures resulting from the fact that the inflow is easier to measure than the outflow. In light of this, instead of developing a comprehensive durable solutions measure, these recommendations propose a preliminary composite measure to assess whether or not key displacement-related vulnerabilities have been overcome. This measure should be used for all IDPs (i.e. IDPs in locations of displacement, IDPs in locations of return and IDPs in other settlement locations) in order to remove from the total stock those whose key displacement-related protection needs and vulnerabilities have been overcome. The following paragraphs contain more information about this measure, which will require further testing, analysis and refinement in the coming years.

1. Scope of the composite measure

161. The composite measure aims to assess whether key displacement-related vulnerabilities have been overcome. Based on the resulting analysis the total stock of IDPs may be reduced. The measure can also be used to assess the stock of IDP-related populations.
162. The following aspects have been taken into account in recommending the statistical measure:
- In line with the nature of statistical measures for complex social phenomena, the statistical measure aims to provide a practical assessment that closely relates to the phenomenon it aims to measure by incorporating key features and statistically measurable aspects of that phenomenon. Therefore, the composite measure recommended is intended to capture progress towards durable solutions by measuring the extent to which an IDP population has overcome key displacement-related vulnerabilities, i.e. statistically measuring an important outflow. To limit the scope, and achieve a practical measure, five of the eight IASC criteria were selected for development of the measure.
 - The measure assesses the overall situation of the IDP population and is not intended to assess the ‘displacement status’ of individuals, even though it is based on information provided by individuals and households. This means that results should be presented only at an aggregate level or by major categories, such as by sex, age or geography, while respecting all relevant data protection and confidentiality regulations. This also means that the results should not be used for programming purposes at an individual level; rather, they should be used to inform policymaking and resource allocation at the national and subnational levels. While the results of the measure may lead to shifts in programming and support for IDPs overall, they should not directly affect support for the individuals who provided the information.

- Given the resource and capacity limitations that impact many statistical offices, the measure is simple while still covering the key displacement-related vulnerabilities.
 - As a statistical measure the key source of information is expected to be quantitative information collected through methods that representatively cover the population in question. Qualitative data may be considered in some cases where other options are not available or where there are substantive gains from selecting this option. Data quality aspects need to be considered, however.
 - The objectivity of the measure is key and subjective elements have therefore been minimised as far as possible. This does not mean that subjective measures should not be considered, but that they are more suited to complementary analysis efforts undertaken by operational partners and researchers.
163. Given the lack of data available for testing and refinement, not all aspects of the composite measure in its current form have been adequately tested. Until this is completed, it is not expected that the measure will be comparable across countries. Further testing, consultation, development and analysis will be required to complete and refine the measure; the members of EGRIS decided to present the measure in its preliminary form primarily because development was stalled because of a lack of available data for testing. Following the acceptance of these recommendations by the UNSC and work at national level to implement the recommendations, it is expected that additional data from various displacement contexts will become available, which can feed into the planned refinement of the measure. This in turn will lead to better international comparability of the results. These improvements will be incorporated into future revisions of these recommendations and the associated Compilers' Manual.

2. Outline of the composite measure

a. Prioritised criteria and sub-criteria

164. While the backbone of the progress measure is all eight durable solutions criteria (paragraph 146), the composite measure for assessing key displacement-related vulnerabilities has a narrower scope and is based on a subset of five of these criteria, determined to be relevant in every displacement context. These include the four criteria prioritised by the IASC Framework itself (safety and security, adequate standard of living, access to livelihoods, and restoration of housing land and property) and one additional criterion (access to documentation) (see paragraph 134). A total of 10 sub-criteria were developed to structure the measure (see Table 4.3).

Table 4.3 Criteria and sub-criteria included in the composite measure

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

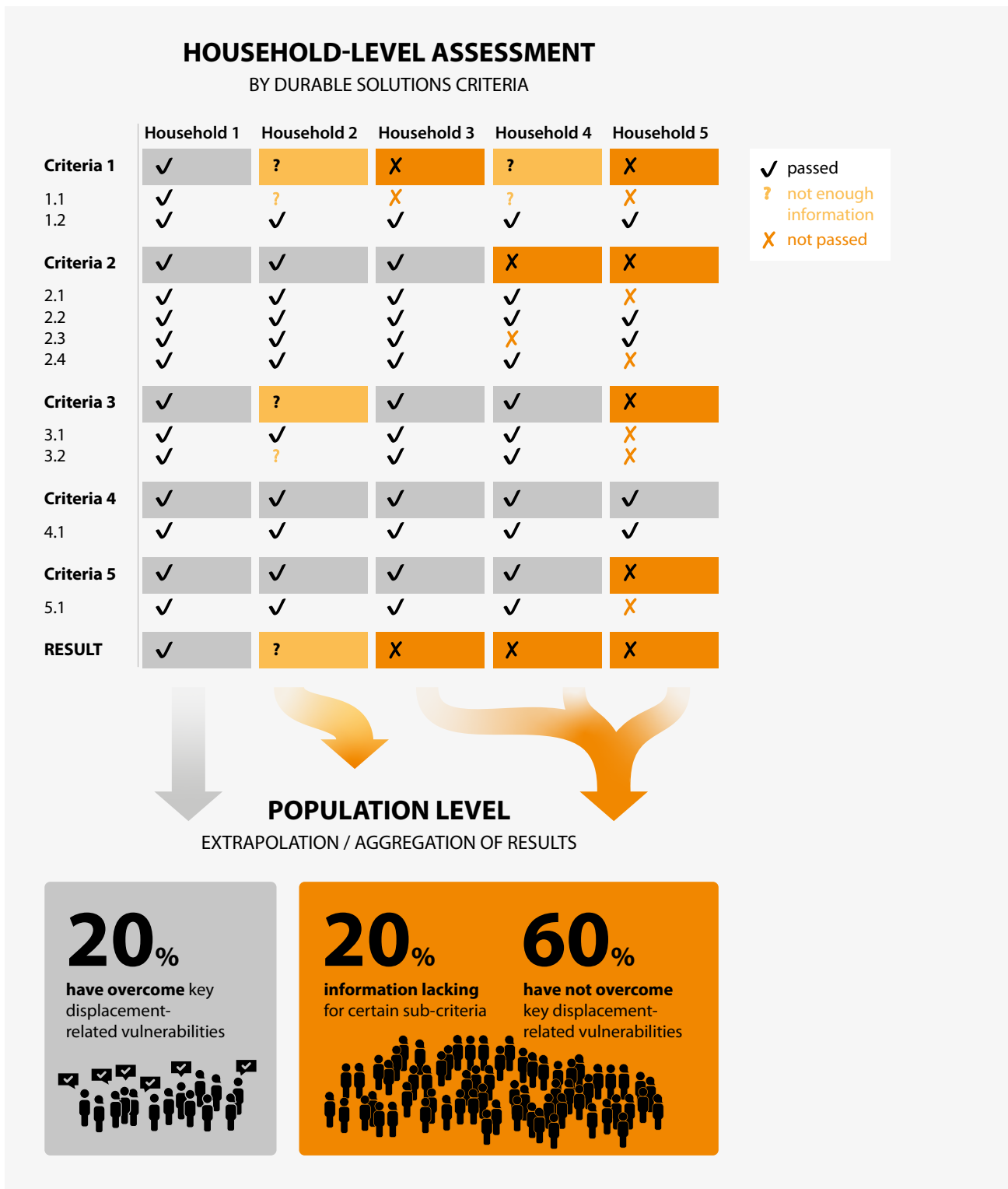
165. Depending on the situation (relevance, context and data availability), the remaining three IASC criteria and eight related sub-criteria ⁽¹⁰⁾ can be included in the measure; however, it is recommended that the scope be restricted to avoid overcomplicating the measure.

b. A simple, layered methodology

166. The methodology used for calculating the composite measure is a simple pass/no pass (or binary) scenario at sub-criteria level, which is then aggregated to produce a score at the criteria level and ultimately an overall score for the measure. This calculation needs to be conducted at the household level to assess the vulnerability situation of a specific household (according to all five vulnerability criteria). To determine if a sub-criterion has been overcome or not, for each household a target needs to be set, which requires the type of indicator used (i.e. binary, continuous or categorical) to be taken into account. Target setting is expected to be more complex for categorical or binary indicators, depending on the different national contexts. If all sub-criteria for a criterion receive a 'pass' mark, then that criterion (or the associated displacement-related vulnerability) has been overcome. All five key displacement-related vulnerabilities (the five criteria) need to achieve a 'pass' mark for the composite measure to be fulfilled.
167. The results at household level are then aggregated or extrapolated, depending on the data source used, to produce population-level results. To properly assess how many persons have met all five (or more) criteria, data across criteria should ideally come from the same data source or be linkable across sources, with a unique identifier to capture the same individuals or households across criteria. While there are probability methods that can help to analyse situations where this is not feasible, these are complicated and in most cases beyond the scope of NSSs. The associated implications for data sources used for assessing when key displacement-related vulnerabilities have been overcome are discussed further in Chapter 6 (see paragraphs 209, 210, 232–237, 255 and 256) and in the Compilers' Manual.
168. There may be situations where data are not available for all criteria or sub-criteria. In this case the composite measure cannot be fully implemented and a complete assessment cannot be made about whether or the population has overcome key-displacement related vulnerabilities. The share of persons in this situation should be specified so that it is clear that there is uncertainty about whether or not they may have overcome the vulnerabilities.

The methodology outlined in paragraphs 166–168 is visualised in Figure 4.4.

Figure 4.4 Methodology for the composite measure



c. Setting targets

169. For the composite measure to be used, targets need to be set to identify when to allocate a 'pass' or 'no pass' mark to a sub-criteria or indicator, as described above (see paragraph 166). Overall, for the purpose of official statistics, and because it is the approach often taken in this context, it is recommended that the general/national population is used as the comparison group when deciding on the targets or thresholds for scoring each sub-criteria and that the average of the general/national population is used as the target. The key reasons for this are that information about the general population is more often available, making data collection and analysis simpler (see paragraphs 138 and 144). In specific circumstances, thresholds can be set through comparison with the average situation of a subset of the general population with opposite characteristics, as this may be considered more relevant and feasible for operational purposes in a particular context, although (as for the progress measure) this will need to be accompanied by a clear and coherent definition of the methodology used.

E. Recommendations summary

170. This chapter has outlined a statistical approach for measuring progress towards durable solutions and whether or not key displacement-related vulnerabilities have been overcome. Two measures have been proposed:
1. The durable solutions progress measure is designed to show the change in the share of IDPs who have overcome vulnerabilities over time, linked to the criteria of the *IASC Framework on Durable Solutions for Internally Displaced Persons*. Therefore, this measure will show whether or not progress is being made in overcoming the different vulnerabilities and, cumulatively, the progress made towards the achievement of durable solutions.
 2. The composite measure is designed to specify if all key displacement-related vulnerabilities have been overcome and therefore whether or not persons with displacement-related protection needs and vulnerabilities can be taken out of the total IDP stock.
171. A critical element of both measures concerns how the targets for each sub-criterion are defined. As outlined above, a comparative approach against the general/national population is recommended. If determined relevant in the national context, a subset of the general/national population can be used for this purpose.
172. In future, it is recommended that these two measures be used for the production of official statistics on internal displacement. Over time, as new data are collected and more testing is conducted in different national contexts, the recommended progress and composite measures can be further refined, including incorporating a list of agreed indicators, methodologies and other relevant guidance.

5

Variables and tabulations

A. Introduction

173. This chapter outlines the recommended variables and tabulations for the different categories of persons that fall within the internal displacement statistical framework that should be adopted in the national context. The lists presented build on the content of Chapters 3 and 4; they are for basic tabulations only and are not exhaustive. The specific variables and tabulations to be produced will depend on the priorities in the national context. The variables and tabulations produced will also depend on the types of information collected and the available data sources, as well as the statistical capacity of the country.
174. Regarding the categories of primary concern, it is recommended that persons with displacement-related protection needs and vulnerabilities (including the three sub-stocks of IDPs in locations of displacement, locations of return and other settlement locations) are distinguished from IDP-related populations (see Chapter 3, paragraphs 78 and 79). IDP-related populations (i.e. children of at least one IDP parent born after displacement) are an important category but, as most tabulations proposed will be the same for this group as for IDPs, separate tabulations will not be shown for this category unless there are differences in the specifications. All recommended tabulations should therefore also be created for this group.
175. Regarding the other categories within the statistical framework, two different approaches are taken, given that they are not of primary concern to the recommendations. For other non-displaced family members of IDPs residing with them, specific tabulations are not included; however, depending on the national context, the tabulations presented for IDPs and IDP-related populations could be applied (see Chapter 3, paragraph 80). For persons who have overcome key displacement-related vulnerabilities, specific mention is made as relevant in the different sections.
176. The remainder of this chapter is divided into four parts: Part B describes the basic classificatory variables; Part C describes the inflows and outflows; Part D describes the stocks; and Part E describes the key indicators.

B. Basic classificatory variables

177. The following variables are recommended as the basis for collecting and compiling IDP statistics. Recommendations on collecting data are provided in Chapter 6.
 - a) age or date of birth (head of household/individual);
 - b) sex (head of household/individual);
 - c) place of birth;
 - d) household size;
 - e) date of first displacement;

- f) date of most recent displacement;
 - g) main reason for initial forced displacement ⁽¹¹⁾:
 - i) armed conflict;
 - ii) generalised violence;
 - iii) violations of human rights;
 - iv) natural or human-made disasters; or
 - v) other forced evictions or displacements;
 - h) main reason for most recent forced displacement:
 - i) armed conflict;
 - ii) generalised violence;
 - iii) violations of human rights;
 - iv) natural or human-made disasters; or
 - v) other forced evictions or displacements;
 - i) number of forced displacements;
 - j) district/administrative area of place of habitual residence;
 - k) district/administrative area of current place of usual residence (i.e. IDPs in locations of displacement, IDPs in locations of return and IDPs in other settlement locations);
 - l) whether or not one or both parents are/were IDPs;
 - m) type of habitation (camp/settlement/own home/rented accommodation/hosted by friends/relatives).
178. For IDP-related populations (children of IDPs born in displacement), variables (a)–(c) and (j)–(l) are most relevant.

C. Flows of IDPs and IDP-related populations

179. The most basic flow statistics relate to movements in and out of stock.

1. Basic inflow statistics

180. For the inflow statistics it is important to distinguish between IDPs and IDP-related populations, as those in the second category will not have been forced or obliged to flee themselves but will add to the IDP population. The basic inflow statistics are as follows.

a. Basic inflow statistics for IDPs

- i) Total number of persons in a country who were forcibly displaced for the first time during a specified period of time, by sex and age.
- ii) Total number of persons in a country who were forcibly displaced for the first time during a specified period of time, by sex and reason for displacement.

- iii) Total number of persons in a country who were forcibly displaced for the first time during a specified period of time, by sex and current place of usual residence (province/district).
- iv) Total number of persons in a country who were forcibly displaced for the first time during a specified period of time, by sex and place of habitual residence (province/district).

b. Basic inflow statistics for IDP-related persons

- i) Total number of children born to at least one IDP parent after the parents' last displacement during a specified period of time, by sex and age.
- ii) Total number of children born to at least one IDP parent after the parents' last displacement during a specified period of time, by sex and parents' place of habitual residence (province/district).
- iii) Total number of children born to at least one IDP parent after the parents' last displacement during a specified period of time, by sex and current place of usual residence (province/district).

2. Basic outflow statistics

181. The basic outflow statistics are as follows:

- i) total number of IDPs who have died or emigrated during a specified period of time, by sex and age;
- ii) total number of IDPs who have overcome all key displacement-related vulnerabilities during a specified period of time, by sex, age and current place of usual residence;
- iii) total number of IDPs who have overcome all key displacement-related vulnerabilities during a specified period of time by habitual place of residence, current place of usual residence and main reason for initial displacement.

182. Similar tabulations will apply for IDP-related persons (i.e. children born to at least one IDP parent after the parents' last displacement), with return meaning return to the parents' place of habitual residence.

3. Basic flow statistics between IDP sub-stocks

- i) Total number of IDPs who have moved from the sub-stock of IDPs in locations of displacement to the sub-stocks of IDPs in locations of return and other settlement locations during a specified period of time.

D. Stocks of IDPs and IDP-related populations

183. The most basic statistics to be derived are the counts of IDPs and IDP-related persons. The corresponding basic statistics are described in the following sections:

1. Basic stock statistics

a. Basic stock statistics for IDPs

- i) Total number of IDPs in a country, by sex, age and current place of usual residence (province/district).
- ii) Total number of IDPs in a country, by sex, place of habitual residence and current place of usual residence (province/district).

- iii) Total number of IDPs in a country by reason for displacement and current place of usual residence (province/district).
- iv) Total number of IDPs in a country by years since initial displacement.
- v) Total number of IDP unaccompanied and separated children aged under 18 years, by sex and age ⁽¹²⁾.

b. Basic stock statistics for IDP-related persons

- vi) Total number of IDP-related persons in a country, by sex and age.
- vii) Total number of IDP-related persons in a country, by sex and current place of usual residence (province/district).
- viii) Total number of IDP-related persons in a country, by sex and parents' place of habitual residence (province/district).

c. Basic stock statistics for persons who have overcome key displacement-related vulnerabilities (see Chapter 4, paragraphs 158–169)

- ix) Total number of persons who have overcome key displacement-related vulnerabilities in a country, by sex and age.
- x) Total number of persons who have overcome key displacement-related vulnerabilities in a country, by sex and current place of usual residence (province/district).

2. Basic progress statistics

a. Basic progress statistics for IDPs

184. The basic statistics for capturing progress towards durable solutions for IDPs (see Chapter 4, paragraph 145–157) are as follows:
- i) total number of IDPs who have achieved the defined target for each of the different durable solutions criteria and related sub-criteria during a specified period of time, by current place of usual residence;
 - ii) total number of IDPs who have achieved the defined target for each of the different durable solutions criteria and related sub-criteria during a specified period of time, by habitual place of residence and current place of usual residence.

b. Basic progress statistics for IDP-related populations and persons who have overcome key displacement-related vulnerabilities

185. The same tabulations will apply to IDP-related persons (i.e. children born to at least one IDP parent after the parents' last displacement), with return meaning return to parents' place of habitual residence. The same tabulations also apply to persons who have overcome key displacement-related vulnerabilities, as it is still relevant to measure their progress across all eight durable solutions criteria.

E. Key indicators of the stock of IDPs and IDP-related populations

186. Basic indicators for the stock of IDPs include the following:
- i) percentage of the total population who are IDPs;
 - ii) proportion of women among all IDPs;
 - iii) proportion of children among all IDPs;
 - iv) proportion of IDPs who were first displaced in the last 5 years;
 - v) proportion of IDPs who were first displaced in the last 10 years;
 - vi) proportion of IDPs who were first displaced over 10 years ago;
 - vii) proportion of IDPs who were displaced more than once whose first displacement was during the last 5 years;
 - viii) proportion of IDPs who have returned to their habitual place of residence and have not yet overcome key displacement-related vulnerabilities (IDPs in locations of return);
 - ix) proportion of IDPs who have settled elsewhere in the country and have not yet overcome key displacement-related vulnerabilities (IDPs in other settlement locations);
 - x) proportion of IDPs in locations of displacement who have not yet overcome key displacement-related vulnerabilities (IDPs in locations of displacement).
187. Similar tabulations will apply for IDP-related persons (i.e. children born to at least one IDP parent after the parents' last displacement), with return meaning return to parents' place of habitual residence. Tabulations i and ii and viii–x apply. Tabulations i and ii also apply to persons who have overcome key displacement-related vulnerabilities.

F. Recommendations summary

188. This chapter has outlined the recommended variables and tabulations for the different categories of persons that fall within the internal displacement statistical framework that should be adopted in the national context. It is recommended that national and international statistical systems follow the framework and the recommended tabulations provided in this chapter for the production of official statistics on internal displacement and integrate this framework in national statistical frameworks as far as possible.

6

Data sources for collecting statistics on IDPs

A. Introduction

189. This chapter discusses sources of IDP data for use in official statistics. Data on IDPs are often collected in challenging circumstances, as the people concerned have been forced or obliged to flee their homes. After a displacement-causing event, the first collectors of displacement data may be the humanitarian agencies that form part of the first response. As the displacement situation becomes more stable, or the displaced persons move into more settled locations, it becomes easier to collect data that meet the standards usually applied to official statistics. This chapter discusses the various data sources available for collecting IDP statistics and makes recommendations for improving the supply of data about IDPs.
190. Part B describes and discusses the various primary data sources that may be available for use in IDP statistics, while Part C describes the operational data collected as part of humanitarian operations and their potential uses for official statistics. Part D covers the integration of data derived from several sources to improve the quality and quantity of IDP statistics. Part E discusses the advantages and disadvantages of the different sources. Finally, Part F draws broad conclusions from the chapter and its recommendations.

B. Overview of IDP data sources

191. Data on IDPs are collected by a variety of agencies – national authorities, international organisations and non-governmental organisations (NGOs) – using administrative sources, surveys, censuses, new data sources and other field-based operational methods. Some of the data are suitable for use as the basis for official IDP statistics, but each source has its own challenges and advantages.
192. Sources of IDP data can vary significantly from one country or context to another. For the purpose of official statistics, the main data sources traditionally include population and housing censuses, sample surveys and administrative sources. Population movement tracking systems, ‘big data’ and qualitative sources are also relevant for capturing IDP data; however, they are used less often for the production of official statistics. These other sources may be used in combination with more traditional quantitative data and result in more extensive data being available. Data from various sources may be integrated to provide better coverage and more extensive information about IDPs; this is discussed in more detail in the IRRS.
193. The IRRS describe extensively the key sources of data on refugees and the advantages and limitations of each source ⁽¹³⁾. Most of what is described in the IRRS also applies to data about IDPs and the general descriptions will therefore be shorter in this report. Where there are specific considerations for IDP populations, these are discussed in this chapter.
194. The concepts and classifications set out in Chapters 3 and 4 are discussed in relation to the sources of data for the identification, numerical estimation and analysis of the characteristics of IDPs and related populations. Because of the complexity of the international definition of IDPs (see Chapter 2), simplification is needed to arrive at a workable sequence of questions in surveys and censuses. As far as possible, it will, however, be important to capture particularly vulnerable groups, for example unaccompanied and

separated children, persons with disabilities and indigenous people. This will be further developed and over time included in the Compilers' Manual.

195. Quality in all elements of the production of official statistics is key to obtaining reliable and trustworthy numbers. A general and short overview of key quality considerations in IDP statistics is presented in Table 6.1. A more general discussion on quality considerations in official statistics is presented in Chapter 7.

Table 6.1 Key quality considerations in IDP statistics

Quality aspect	IDP-specific challenges
Confidentiality	Information on IDPs can be particularly sensitive in countries or regions where displacement is related to conflict or political unrest. If details of identifiable persons or groups are made publicly available, or if treated without thorough safety precautions, sensitive information can expose IDPs to further vulnerabilities or danger. Microdata access can present particular problems for vulnerable groups. See also the IRRS on confidentiality
Coverage	Covering the whole IDP population is important, but can be a challenge, especially in situations where there is limited or no access for data collectors for security or other reasons. The population should be covered as fully as possible (either through a full count or a representative sample), but safety for IDPs and data collectors must also be prioritised. When it has not been possible to collect data from some areas the published data must clearly state the limitations
Representativity	It can often be a challenge to ensure that data are representative of the total IDP population, including certain subgroups such as women and linguistic, ethnic and religious minorities. Gaining access is often the main barrier, but IDPs may also be excluded systematically because of the difficulty of identifying IDPs living among the general population, or because their housing or temporary settlements are not included in sampling frames
Timeliness	In many contexts, the IDP population changes rapidly for a variety of reasons (e.g. new displacement, further movements of IDPs). The data quickly become outdated and therefore a fast, yet quality-assured, dissemination of statistics is particularly important
Periodicity	The usefulness of the data on IDP population flows will depend on how often the data are collected and published compared with the mobility of the population; the more often data are collected, the more useful the data are to users
Comparability	For data to be comparable over contexts and time, the same definitions, questions and survey methodology should be used. International standards have not previously been available; therefore, the different organisations involved in data collection and analysis have not standardised their definitions and concepts
Impartiality	Official statistics should be free from political influence. IDP displacement contexts can be highly political. The entire statistical process should be well documented and include publicly accessible metadata. Quality assurance reports should also be available to users
Transparency	Statistics gain credibility and trust if they are produced using a well-documented process that is accessible to the general public. Improved metadata and accessibility of the results are needed for IDP statistics

1. The population and housing census

a. Introduction

196. A national population and housing census (hereafter census) is a complete enumeration of a country's population that usually follows international and regional standards and recommendations. The *Principles and recommendations for population and housing censuses, revision 3* state that 'The population census should include every person present and/or residing within its scope, depending upon the type of population count required' ⁽¹⁴⁾.
197. Censuses enumerate the entire population, including those who are temporarily in a country, applying either *de jure* (usually resident population) or *de facto* (present at the time of the census) methodology for enumeration. Whereas household sample surveys frequently omit from their coverage those living in camps and informal settlements and those without a permanent home because of limited sample frames, censuses

should cover these population groups. This makes the census the primary source of complete data on the entire population.

198. Furthermore, censuses collect information about the basic socio-economic characteristics of the population, as well as their housing conditions.
199. Censuses are usually conducted every 10 years and therefore provide only a snapshot of the population at a given moment in time.

b. Possibilities for and challenges in utilising the census for estimating IDP numbers

200. The unique benefit of a census, despite its infrequent conduct, is that it 'represents the entire statistical universe, down to the smallest geographical unit, of a country or region'. Censuses are therefore potentially valuable sources of data on displacement and allow for comparisons to be made between IDPs and the general population or a subset of the population.
201. In addition to potentially providing data on the magnitude of internal displacement, as well as basic socio-economic characteristics of IDP populations, censuses can potentially provide a complete sampling frame for further and more in-depth studies. However, there are also several significant limitations to utilising censuses for estimating IDP numbers. This is the case for the measurement of both the inflow and the outflow of IDPs, or in other words identifying those who are considered to have become an IDP and those who have overcome key displacement-related vulnerabilities. These challenges (which are largely an issue of cost and space availability, with access, security concerns and unwillingness to identify as an IDP also playing a role) are significant enough that expectations around the production of data on IDPs using a population and housing census should be carefully managed.
 - i) *Identifying those who have been internally displaced*
202. In the IDP context, it is important to identify all those who at one point have been forced or obliged to flee, as specified in earlier chapters, and those who still have key displacement-related vulnerabilities. This also includes capturing those who have returned to their habitual place of residence or settled elsewhere, but still face key displacement-related vulnerabilities, as well as those who have been forcefully displaced within the boundaries of the smallest administrative area of their habitual place of residence. These points make identifying IDPs more complex than identifying refugees.
203. Some countries have already prioritised the inclusion of questions on internal displacement in population censuses to identify IDPs resident in the country at the time of the census, despite there being limited space in the census for such questions. These examples can inform the development of a standardised set of questions for identifying inflows of IDPs in future censuses; examples are provided in the *Technical Report on Statistics of Internally Displaced Persons* ⁽¹⁵⁾. However, these examples are usually limited to adding responses to existing migration questions, which gives limited opportunity for fully identifying those who have not moved administrative area but who remain in the vicinity of their former home (see Chapter 3, paragraphs 114 and 115). In many cases those who have settled elsewhere or returned are not captured either. These limitations will be discussed further below.
204. Some of the UN regional recommendations on censuses already include guidance on collecting data on IDPs, for example the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe's (UNECE) *Recommendations for the 2020 Census of Population and Housing* ⁽¹⁶⁾. These recommendations emphasise the need to measure the magnitude of displacement and suggest that the date of arrival and the place of previous residence should be included in questions. Furthermore, the identification of IDPs relies on the inclusion of a question about the reason for internal migration, together with an answer option for forcible displacement. However, the UNECE definition restricts IDPs to nationals or citizens and to their dependants, including children born after the displacement. In addition, in order to be classified as an IDP in the UNECE recommendations, people need to have moved administrative area (from the smallest civil division), which will exclude those who have been displaced but stayed within the boundaries of the smallest administrative area of their habitual place of residence. IDPs who have settled elsewhere after their first displacement and those who have returned to their habitual place of residence might also not be covered according to this approach, because only the most recent move will be identified.

205. Although some countries have incorporated questions on internal displacement in their censuses, in most censuses it is currently not possible to identify IDPs as a separate group for the purpose of data analysis. The UN's *Principles and recommendations for population and housing censuses, revision 3* do not include questions for identifying IDPs among the recommended core topics.
206. The recommendations propose the following core topics for identifying geographical and internal migration characteristics:
- (1) place of usual residence (paragraphs 4.52–4.57);
 - (2) place where present at time of census (paragraphs 4.58–4.63);
 - (3) place of birth (paragraphs 4.64–4.71);
 - (4) duration of residence (paragraphs 4.72–4.74);
 - (5) place of previous residence (paragraphs 4.75–4.76);
 - (6) place of residence at a specified date in the past (paragraphs 4.77–4.81).
207. Although not currently specified in the recommendations, the above core questions on place of usual residence, duration of residence and place of previous residence at a specified date in the past may all support the identification of IDPs within the population if they are coupled with a question about the reason for the move, with forced displacement given as an answer option, similar to what is recommended in the UNECE recommendations. This approach will help identify IDPs who report that they have moved within the period specified in the census and that their reason for migration is forced displacement. However, there are limitations to identifying all IDPs using this approach, as it will typically not capture:
- 1) place of habitual residence;
 - 2) those who within the period specified in the census have returned to their habitual place of residence;
 - 3) those who within the period specified in the census have moved one or several times after their initial displacement;
 - 4) those who have moved within the administrative area used in the census specifications.
208. These points show that this approach might result in undercounting of those displaced. An alternative approach can be considered in contexts where it is important to gain complete insight of the number of persons who have become internally displaced, or if it is expected that a large share of IDPs have returned to their habitual place of residence, settled elsewhere or been displaced within the smallest administrative area of their habitual place of residence. Such an approach may involve specifically asking whether or not a person has ever been forcefully displaced.
- ii) *Identifying those who have overcome key displacement-related vulnerabilities*
209. As shown above, it is not straightforward to identify IDPs in censuses. Measuring key displacement-related vulnerabilities can be even more challenging as it requires questions to be included on all 10 sub-criteria identified (see Chapter 4, Table 4.3). Although some of these sub-criteria are included in census questionnaires, others are not, and countries should decide whether or not to include questions on these topics.
210. Questions linked to some aspects of IASC criteria 2 (adequate standard of living), 3 (access to livelihoods) and 5 (access to documentation) are typically included in censuses. It is less common to include questions on criteria 1 (safety and security) and 4 (restoration of housing, land and property). However, there are examples of the latter, for example Kosovo's census includes a set of questions on the restoration of housing, land and property.

c. Recommendation for utilising censuses for measuring IDP numbers in the future

211. The above discussion shows that identifying all aspects of IDP situations is not straightforward, and adding a question on the reason for the move to already existing census questions on internal migration does not necessarily capture the whole picture because the last move of an IDP is not always the most relevant one. If it is important to capture the entire IDP population, for example to create a complete sample frame, it is recommended that a specific set of questions on forced displacement is asked⁽¹⁷⁾. This is particularly the case if (a) IDPs have started to return to their places of habitual residence and it is expected that they still have key displacement-related vulnerabilities; (b) IDPs are expected to have settled elsewhere after their initial displacement, but still have key displacement-related vulnerabilities; (c) there are concerns about multiple forced displacements; (d) displacements are expected to have happened within the smallest administrative area proposed by the census; or (e) displacement might have occurred for a combination of reasons. The following set of questions is suggested:

FORCED DISPLACEMENT

Has *(NAME) ever been forced or obliged to flee? (potentially adding reason)

- If yes, when was this?
- If yes, where did you move from?/where did you reside before you were forcibly displaced?
- If yes, where did you move to? (within country borders/abroad)

212. A question on current residence is usually included in all censuses and can be used in combination with the above questions to identify movements and the current situation.

213. If it is not possible to use this approach, in line with the recommendations provided in the IRRS it is recommended that a question on 'reason for migration' is included as an additional core topic in the *Principles and Recommendations for Population and Housing Censuses* of the UNSD. The question should also be adapted to include internal moves and to include IDPs within the response category of forced displacement in order to identify probable IDPs. The following question and answering options are suggested, but countries should adapt these as relevant with regard to categories and language:

MAIN REASON FOR MIGRATION

What was the main reason* (NAME) came to live in this location?

- employment (including military service);
- education or training;
- marriage, family reunification or family formation;
- forced displacement (IDPs, refugees, asylum seekers, temporary protection, etc.);
- other reason.

214. The topic 'Main reason for migration' should refer to the main reason that drove the respondent to undertake the most recent migratory move. In the IDP context this will often not capture those who have settled elsewhere or those who have returned to their place of habitual residence, but it may add more households to a sampling frame and help to better understand the situation, particularly with regard to more recent forced migration. It is recommended that only one main reason for migration be recorded. In addition, this question should be tested and revised accordingly.
215. Persons living in IDP camps, reception centres, temporary structures and collective accommodation should be covered in all census enumerations. The questionnaires used for both regular dwellings and collective accommodation in which IDPs and IDP-related populations are likely to be accommodated should include all the questions recommended above, which can help to identify IDPs.
216. In order to identify whether all or just some household members have been forcibly displaced, the questions should ideally be asked of all household members. Migration questions are sometimes not asked

of all household members, particularly children, which will limit their usefulness in estimating total stocks and flows of IDP populations.

217. If space allows and the IDP population constitutes a substantial part of the population, it should be considered whether questions linked to all of the key displacement-related vulnerabilities (i.e. the five priority criteria, as shown in Table 4.3) could be included.
218. To ensure the maximum use of available census data, detailed geographically referenced data should be collected and made available, while protecting the security and confidentiality of respondents (see Chapter 7). Geospatial information would enable analysis of the spatial distribution of IDPs and the integration of data with other sources.
219. If the challenges outlined here can be adequately minimised, enabling census data to provide a relatively good overview of the IDP population, then census data can be used to update the sampling frames for household surveys. This updating should include information about the numbers of displaced persons in each locality or enumeration area, in order to support the design of samples that will improve the precision and accuracy of survey-based estimates for IDPs and IDP-related populations. However, these frames should be updated regularly using other sources to include recent population movements.

2. Sample household surveys

a. Introduction

220. Sample surveys are conducted much more frequently than censuses. Most NSSs use national household sample surveys as a major tool for collecting detailed statistical information on persons, households and communities. A large general household survey is usually conducted at least every 3–5 years using a probability sample of the population living in households ⁽¹⁸⁾.
221. Sample surveys allow estimates to be made about the population and about subsets of the population with a known probability of accuracy, and they can provide extensive information about the socio-economic conditions of the respondents.

b. Possibilities for and challenges in utilising sample household surveys for estimating IDP numbers

222. More detailed questions about displacement movement patterns and characteristics of the situations of IDPs can usually be asked in surveys than in censuses, potentially allowing inflows and outflows of IDPs to the stock, as well as flows between the different sub-stocks of those with displacement-related protection needs and vulnerabilities (i.e. those who are still residing in their place of displacement, those who have settled elsewhere and those who have returned to their habitual place of residence), to be specified more accurately.
223. If the general population and IDPs are included in the scope of the survey, then the characteristics of IDPs can also be compared with those of the general population or comparison groups. This may be particularly important in measuring the progress made towards reaching durable solutions and to assess whether or not key displacement-related vulnerabilities have been overcome.
224. For the purpose of official statistics, there are two possibilities for collecting survey data from IDPs. The first is to use an existing national multi-topic household survey to which IDP-specific questions are added; this captures IDPs representatively in the sample design. Adding a module to an existing national household sample survey has several advantages: (a) such surveys are conducted regularly across many countries and often have common core questions to support international comparisons; (b) they are often administered or coordinated by NSOs; (c) they can include relatively large sample sizes, which may yield a sufficient number of IDPs depending on their prevalence in the population and sampling approach taken; (d) they have national coverage and representation; (e) they already collect key data and include contextual questions; and (f) their dissemination mechanisms and access protocols for wider use of the data are already established.

225. The alternative is to design a specialised survey for the IDP population. However, there are several challenges related to utilising household sample surveys, both national and IDP specific, to measure IDP stocks and flows, and the value of a survey as a source of official statistics about IDPs depends on its design. This includes the survey's coverage, the ability to develop a nationally representative sample of IDPs, the expected sampling errors surrounding the estimates, the ease of identification of eligible members of the population and the behaviour and characteristics of the IDP population. The design must also take account of resource constraints and security considerations.
- i) *Identifying those who have been internally displaced*
226. In contrast to the census, where the entire country is included in the coverage, a sample household survey does not, by definition, guarantee the inclusion of IDPs, and in many contexts special care should be taken in shaping the sampling strategy in order to include a sufficient and representative sample of the IDP population for the results to be useful.
227. For surveys to include IDPs in their sample, it is key that the sampling experts know where IDPs reside. Furthermore, an up-to-date sampling frame is necessary when drawing a probability sample, which ensures that every person in the resident population has a known probability of being selected. If IDPs are omitted from the frame, they will be under-represented in any survey-based estimates of the population size. Camps are often omitted from sampling frames and surveys as they are treated as 'institutional buildings' in a similar way to hospitals and boarding schools. They must be included in frames if the IDP population is to be fully represented in the statistics.
228. Furthermore, it is important to take into consideration that, with highly mobile populations, such as IDP and IDP-related populations in some contexts, especially in ongoing crisis situations, distributions of the target population may change rapidly. This impacts on the adequacy of the sampling frames as the numbers of IDP households identified at the time of the design and selection of the sample and the numbers at the time of the interview may differ considerably.
229. In an ideal scenario, an up-to-date sampling frame that identifies all IDPs (and all three subcategories) exists. This could, for instance, be obtained from a census (if complete; see section on census above) or from administrative data. If this does not exist, or if the existing sample frame needs to be updated, data sources could be combined or an exercise could be conducted ahead of sampling where IDPs are identified. A last option, which may create bias and result in under-coverage, is to identify IDPs through the survey itself.
230. With the above discussion in mind, the exercise of including IDP-related questions in a national multi-topic survey is not necessarily simply a matter of adding additional questions to an existing survey, because the number of IDPs in the overall population might be low and because IDPs tend to be clustered in certain locations. This implies that existing sampling schemes for national household surveys may not select a sufficiently large sample or may omit certain groups of IDPs, such as those who are camp-based or those who are residing in temporary settlements. The sampling methodology must therefore be modified to ensure that it represents the IDP population with the required precision and takes IDPs' circumstances into account. Without a displacement-sensitive sampling strategy, it will not be possible to yield the desired results. There is, however, interest from international agencies and countries to do this and a growing number of examples of where displacement-related questions and displacement-sensitive sampling approaches have been included in national household surveys.
231. Where it is not feasible or appropriate to include IDP topics in general surveys, for example if the proportion of IDPs in the population is low, IDP-specific surveys may be a good alternative. A targeted survey design would oversample areas where IDPs are more prevalent, using information drawn from other sources, or through enumeration if the data are not good enough, to develop a sampling frame for IDPs. Care must also be taken to include those IDPs who are living with and among the host population, who may not be easily identifiable.
- ii) *Identifying those who have overcome key displacement-related vulnerabilities*
232. To measure those who have overcome key displacement-related vulnerabilities using a household sample survey, there are two considerations that need to be addressed, given that a sufficient number of IDPs has been secured in the sample to provide estimates of IDPs with the required confidence (see the discussion in paragraphs 226–229). These are (a) the possibility of including questions related to all five criteria on overcoming key displacement-related vulnerabilities and (b) being able to compare the situations of IDPs

with those of the general population to provide a benchmark for when IDPs can be statistically assessed to have overcome the specific criteria (see Chapter 4).

233. Adding questions to already existing household sample surveys to identify IDPs who have overcome key displacement-related vulnerabilities might be cost-effective. Furthermore, in theory, a national survey has the potential to cover other aspects of the IASC Framework, such as described in the discussion around the wider assessment of IDPs' progress towards durable solutions. However, it is likely that the number of IDP-related questions will be constrained by the feasible length of the questionnaire. The detailed design of the module will depend on a country's needs and priorities and the characteristics of the population.
234. A survey with national coverage will enable comparisons between IDPs and the general population, which is required for measuring the progress of IDPs towards durable solutions and assessing who has overcome key displacement-related vulnerabilities (see Chapter 4). In some cases, depending on the sampling approach, comparison with the IDP host communities may also be possible.
235. A survey targeted specifically towards IDPs will often allow the inclusion of more in-depth questions on their situation and living conditions, increasing the possibility of assessing the five key criteria on overcoming displacement-related vulnerabilities, as well as the inclusion of further IASC criteria to measure progress towards durable solutions. Conducting separate surveys is, however, often quite costly and time-consuming, as all preparations, fieldwork and analyses are conducted for this purpose alone. In countries where there are limited financial and human resources available, it may be more feasible to combine such a survey with other surveys.
236. Conducting an IDP-specific sample survey furthermore complicates the task of comparing the situations of IDPs with those of the general population to assess who has overcome key displacement-related vulnerabilities, as well as measure progress towards durable solutions. Maintaining question content that is comparable or aligned to that used in national general surveys may enable comparisons to be made with other groups in the population. Alternatively, a separate non-IDP sample could be included as part of the design for comparative purposes.
237. When measuring change in a group of individuals, as is recommended for the measurement of progress towards durable solutions, a panel approach is often preferred as the estimate of change is free from sampling errors, although non-sampling errors may be increased because of the complexity of the operation, as household members have to be tracked over space and time and panel attrition may introduce bias. Where national priorities, capacity and conditions allow, panel surveys should be considered for collecting information about the integration and absorption of IDPs into communities.

c. Recommendation for utilising sample surveys for measuring IDP numbers in the future

238. In order to enhance the quality of survey data on IDPs, the involvement of NSOs in the design of the survey is highly recommended. NSOs have expertise in conducting household surveys and have a nationwide network of local offices and well-trained staff and fieldworkers. NSOs can help ensure that the survey meets national and international quality standards to enable the results to be published as official statistics and to enhance the quality of the data and their protection under the appropriate statistics laws.
239. Sampling frames for surveys where information on IDPs is needed should include camps, reception centres, informal settlements and collective accommodation (institutions). The coverage of IDP populations in surveys can be improved by oversampling the areas where IDPs are clustered. Specialist sampling advice should be sought, particularly when conducting surveys of IDPs for the first time, to ensure that the resulting sample of IDPs is adequate to produce meaningful results.
240. With highly mobile populations such as IDP and IDP-related populations in some contexts, especially in ongoing crisis situations, distributions of the target population may change rapidly. This impacts on the adequacy of sampling frames as the numbers of IDP households identified at the time of the design and selection of the sample and the number at the time of the interview may differ considerably. Sampling frames can be improved by utilising alternative data sources, displacement tracking tools and satellite imagery to supplement existing frames, and by adding questions to national population censuses to help with identifying areas where IDPs are clustered. It is recommended that the time between updating of household listings and selection and conducting the survey fieldwork be minimised.

241. In order to obtain further general information about displaced persons, and to include them as a population group in survey results, a set of screening questions might be added to national household surveys. Such screening questions can be similar to those recommended for population and housing censuses (see paragraphs 211–219). The IRRS recommends core topics for identifying refugees in household surveys and censuses; IDPs could also be identified by using a similar screening question. This will be developed further in the next 1–2 years and, when ready, made available in the Compilers' Manual.
242. To measure IDPs' living conditions globally, and particularly to assess whether or not they have overcome key displacement-related vulnerabilities, a core module will be developed and proposed as a standard approach for periodic use in existing national multi-topic household surveys, such as the Living Standards Measurement Study (LSMS), Demographic and Health Survey (DHS), Multiple Indicators Cluster Surveys (MICS) and other multipurpose surveys.
243. In order to maximise the quality, utility and comparability of data collected globally, it is recommended that the model questionnaire is used to develop, design and test national survey instruments, particularly in relation to questions on key displacement-related vulnerabilities.
244. Maintaining consistency in questions over time also allows for the creation of time series for IDP statistics.

3. Administrative data and registers

a. Introduction

245. Data produced as a by-product of registration, known as administrative data ⁽¹¹⁹⁾, is usually collected by national authorities and in some contexts by agencies providing support directly to eligible individuals. Sources of administrative data can be divided into (a) civil registers, which are usually separate registers of a persons' vital events, such as birth, marriage, divorce and death; (b) population registers, which typically are a combination of different civil registers and which in some countries also include information about migration patterns; and (c) other registers, in this context referring to IDP-specific registers.

b. Possibilities for and challenges in utilising administrative data and registers for estimating IDP numbers

246. Registers are usually maintained and updated for administrative purposes, but they can also be a good source of data for the compilation of statistics ⁽¹²⁰⁾. Civil and population registers tend to be maintained by national governments, while IDP-specific registers can also be maintained by UN agencies or NGOs. In some countries where establishing the incidence of IDPs is of particular importance, special administrative IDP-specific registers or multiple-source databases, aiming for comprehensive data coverage of IDP populations, have been established. Registration in these systems is often linked to beneficiaries accessing government services and support, with those registered becoming eligible for certain IDP-specific services and benefits. They should not be established for the sole purpose of producing statistics, but once established should include as much information as possible to be useful in understanding the situations in which IDPs find themselves.
247. The potential for utilising administrative data as a source for official statistics on IDPs is great; however, several challenges arise when it comes to both identifying IDPs and recording who has overcome key displacement-related vulnerabilities, as will be addressed below.
- i) *Identifying those who have been internally displaced*
248. Efforts are currently under way to improve the coverage and quality of civil registration in a number of countries, as this is seen as a more cost-effective way of collecting and maintaining population information, and civil registers have important legal functions. However, IDPs are not always included in these registers and, if they are, it is often not possible to identify them as IDPs in the data because movement patterns are typically not captured.
249. In countries where civil registration systems are well functioning, most IDPs would have had their vital events registered before displacement. However, after a displacement it may be difficult to access existing

records and certificates for vital events, as well as to register new vital events. If IDPs are not able to access the registration system after displacement, this affects the quality of the statistics.

250. Whereas civil registers mostly do not track movements and are therefore typically not able to identify IDPs, population registers have the potential to include movements and therefore also a larger potential for identifying IDPs. Well-developed population registers often record places of residence and changes in such, including records of when the changes occurred, which can be useful for identifying IDPs movements following a causing event at a particular place and time. However, in cases where it may be possible to link a person's movements from one area to another, the feasibility of assessing the movements alone to identify a forcefully displaced person will depend on the context, as those not forcibly displaced could have similar patterns of movement as those who have been forcibly displaced.
251. The potential for identifying IDPs based on their registered movements in the population system also depends on a person's or household's place of residence being registered and regularly updated. As with civil registers, it may be difficult to access records and register new places of residence, especially if a new place of usual residence has not been established.
252. Furthermore, currently, very few countries keep advanced population registers that also record places of residence and changes in such. In most countries with IDP populations these types of population registers do not exist.
253. A third possible source of administrative data on IDPs is IDP-specific registers, which are being maintained in some countries. In countries where IDP-specific registers exist, they are typically the main source of information on these populations, especially with regard to measuring the total number of IDPs. Some of these registers can provide data on core demographic characteristics, such as sex and age, and may also provide information on education, health, housing, livelihoods and other variables, depending on the purpose of the register.
254. As IDP registers often depend on the population of IDPs coming forward and registering, self-selection bias exists as an inherent risk. Biases also exist as a result of barriers to registration for certain groups. In some cases, displaced persons may not want to, or may be unable to, register, leading to their under-representation in the system. There are sometimes adverse protection implications for IDPs, who may not be willing to come forward to the authorities. On the other hand, over-coverage may also occur as non-eligible persons may become registered to more easily access the services and benefits associated with being an IDP. Verification is often, but not always, carried out, and is important to ensure that misuse does not occur.

ii) *Identifying those who have overcome key displacement-related vulnerabilities*

255. Identifying who has overcome key displacement-related vulnerabilities will depend on the register and what it covers. Civil and population registers often will not cover such aspects, but an IDP-specific register may cover some if not all of the relevant elements ⁽¹²¹⁾.
256. In IDP-specific registers, whether or not someone is no longer eligible and therefore should no longer be included in the register may be determined by national legislation. A statistical copy of the administrative register can be established and maintained in which those who are identified as having overcome key displacement-related vulnerabilities can be marked as such and removed from the count of IDPs for statistical purposes.

c. Recommendation for utilising administrative data for measuring IDP numbers in the future

257. General population registers and, if possible, civil registers, should be designed or modified to include and identify IDPs. This is in accordance with the *Principles and recommendations for a vital statistics system, revision 3*, which states that, while statistics should refer to the usually resident population, it is legitimate to include in the population register persons who are not usual residents, but care must be taken to identify the correct population of reference ⁽¹²²⁾. To ensure good coverage, registration centres should be easily accessible to these populations. Online registration systems may make it easier to collect documentation on IDPs' legal status and citizenship if internet facilities and access to them can be assured; however, basing a system on online access alone may disadvantage IDPs.

258. The numbers of administrative databases in which IDPs can be identified should be maximised, either by including a specific variable or by authorising the linkage between different databases to a central database identifying IDPs for statistical purposes. However, it should be kept in mind that the more registers are linked, the higher the possibility that the timing of their updates may be a risk factor for the quality of the information. Care should be taken to synchronise the updating of registers across all registers concerned ⁽¹²³⁾.
259. With many different register holders among several national and international actors, the use of common terminology, definitions, classifications and even variable naming conventions is important, to allow for interoperability between statistical producers.
260. Each IDP should be given a personal identification number (PIN), ideally at the national level, to facilitate the exchange of information and avoid duplication. These PINs should be included in all databases to be used for IDP statistics.
261. Persons should be considered as the standard registration unit for statistical purposes in administrative databases, and family ties should be registered in a way that allows each family to be constructed as a statistical unit.
262. Additional socio-economic information on IDP and IDP-related populations should be collected by the responsible authorities, if their quality can be assured within the resources available.
263. There should be an exchange of administrative IDP data between agencies and the statistical bodies responsible. Data-sharing procedures should observe each country's legal constraints and be in accordance with the UNFPOS. Formal agreements on data exchange, such as memoranda of understanding, should be endorsed by the relevant agencies. In the IDP context it is particularly important to ensure confidentiality of data.
264. Data derived from registers of IDPs should therefore be used for statistics in compliance with legislation related to privacy and data protection. This protection should be guaranteed by the responsible national statistical authority in the country, which is usually an NSO or its equivalent. It may be necessary to revise legislation in some countries to enable this access. Revising statistical legislation usually takes several years to accomplish and taking steps to build trust and cooperation between agencies is also required, with or without legislation.

4. Alternative data sources

265. Significant methodological efforts are currently being channelled into the possible use of alternative large-scale data sources (e.g. big data) for statistics in general. Enormous numbers of unstructured data can be found on the web, for example internet traffic data (e.g. from Google, Facebook and other social media), in addition to Global Positioning System (GPS)/mobile phone data. These data can, if legally downloaded and systemised, provide a rich data source that may be used for validation or triangulation with other data sources. They can be used for inferring displacement and producing displacement metrics through indirect inference and proxy indicators, using SIM card data, social media user location data, satellite imagery analysis, statistically modelled data, etc. They have the potential in future applications to provide information or supporting estimations about characteristics, habits, needs, locations and movement trends of groups and individuals. They can also identify trends and correlations that are not immediately obvious from traditional data sources.
266. Many NSOs are now investigating how big data can be accessed and utilised as a source for official statistics. After the legal difficulties of accessing the data, one of the major challenges is to ensure that the data used are representative of the actual target group. Not only are IDPs potentially less likely than the general population to have access to the technology that produces big data, such as credit cards or mobile phones, if one subgroup of IDPs is more likely to have access to technology than another (e.g. women versus men, young versus old or some ethnic/religious minorities), then data coverage can be skewed towards a certain group's experiences.
267. One of the major obstacles is that data are controlled by global commercial operations, which may not allow data access or provide metadata to explain the information collected. In addition, the sources may not be sustainable as they could become inaccessible or be withdrawn with little notice, because of commercial considerations or bankruptcies. However, some electronic data are held by governments, for example if

governments provide bank cards to IDPs in receipt of financial assistance. Information about where this money is withdrawn may prove to be a useful source of data about IDP movements.

268. There are also significant legal concerns regarding how big data are obtained and shared, by and between private companies and between companies and government bodies.
269. It is hoped that big data can improve the cost-efficiency of the production of statistics, reduce the respondent burden and result in the development of new statistical products. Experiments with big data show that the costs incurred can outweigh the benefits. The potential for using big data is developing fast and innovations in this field should be monitored to identify areas that can benefit the development of IDP statistics.
270. How big data can be used depends on the data source and the information available and the quality of the metadata. Some types of big data provide good methodological information and are of sufficient quality to be used in official statistics. For instance, satellite images might be useful to measure migration patterns, to identify new settlements for sampling purposes, while records from phone operators might be used to track movements, provided that all or most households have access to a personal phone. As a third useful form, geotagging can be helpful for identifying whether or not a dwelling is located in an at-risk area or to check its access to public services when examining standards of living.
271. Population movement tracking systems, while often not part of official statistics, are relevant and essential for the provision of inflow figures in some circumstances, providing that quality conditions are met. They can also contribute to sampling frames for IDP populations within a region.

C. Operational data collected for humanitarian purposes

1. Differences between operational data and official statistics

272. Official statistics are produced using scientific and professional methods, based on the UNFPOS (see Box 7.2). The statistics are published by NSOs or by statistical units within government ministries that form part of NSSs. NSSs comprise agencies regulated by national statistics laws and other relevant statistical regulations and standards.
273. Operational data are collected by a range of organisations, including government ministries and humanitarian and development actors, primarily to inform decisions concerning programming, responses and resource allocation associated with humanitarian action. Some, but not all, use professional and scientific methods. Operational data tend to be timelier than official statistics, but they may not be subject to the same rigour and validation. While operational data may not at times meet the highest quality standards, they may be the only type of IDP data available where there has been a recent displacement event or where NSSs are not functioning or lack significant capacity. Operational data are not always released publicly and, if they are, there are likely to be inconsistencies compared with official statistics. They are, however, sometimes used as the basis for international statistics and global estimates where no alternative exists.
274. In situations of human rights violations, it may not be possible to share operational data with government authorities, to protect vulnerable individuals or avoid identifying individuals to the authorities. Similar confidentiality requirements to those in the UNFPOS should be observed (see Box 7.2). This may limit the usefulness of the data as potential official statistics or inputs for data integration projects. There is now also a trend of collaboration between producers of official statistics and producers of operational statistics (see Chapter 7 for more information).

Table 6.2 Differences between operational data and official statistics ⁽¹²⁴⁾

	Official statistics	Operational statistics
Basis	Legislative; enforced compliance; Regulation, convention, technical guidelines	Working arrangement, compliance through added value and common benefit; Handbook, operational definitions, guides, practice
Quality	Harmonisation through standards, revision cycle; Validated, accurate, reliable, Ground truth; Periodicity/timeliness: variable, provision lag	Harmonisation through cooperation and coordination; Actionable, granularity based on need; Periodicity, timeliness
Practice	Working groups, practice on communalities; Non-core business of provider (NSO/NSI for EU); Implemented with delay	Networks, coordination, meetings, online exchange; Provider is key stake holder, their daily business Flexible implementation
Outputs	Statistical reviews/yearbooks/official databases; Evidence basis for policy formulation and evaluation	Situational awareness/snapshots/online portals; Evidence for early warning and preparedness; Actionable insight delivered to stakeholders

2. Description of quantitative operational data sources

275. Operational data, like administrative data, are not primarily collected for the purpose of producing official statistics; rather, they are collected to better inform the targeting of support. They are not available to all users or disseminated under the same conditions as official statistics. Their primary purpose is for use in humanitarian decision-making; however, they can be used in the production of official statistics, depending on the methodology used and other quality considerations (see Chapter 7), such as for augmenting sampling frames and for triangulation with other sources. The most common data collection mechanisms used are population movement tracking systems, surveys and registration/enrolment systems.
276. In the absence of other options, population movement tracking systems are often the main source of operational data in IDP contexts. They are produced in emergency situations, when conditions are unsuitable for the production of official statistics. The methodology used to produce them will vary depending on needs and possibilities, but may include traditional data collection methods described above. If the methodology used is available and the quality standards of official statistics are met, they may be potential sources of official statistics, provided that the data can be shared. A key example of a tracking system is the IOM's Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) ⁽¹²⁵⁾. Other population movement tracking initiatives are deployed by various humanitarian actors, such as the UNHCR. OCHA also plays a role in managing movement tracking systems aimed at building consensus on IDP estimates for humanitarian responses. These systems are designed to capture cases of displacement through physical population movements, and especially when large populations are involved that are easily identifiable. These systems can provide IDP data on the magnitude of major displacements.
277. Surveys are another type of data collection mechanism used by humanitarian agencies as a source of data on IDPs. Surveys, often referred to as 'needs assessments' or undertaken as part of a broader 'profiling exercise', are data collection exercises that are usually conducted at a single point in time to gain an understanding of the IDP population or wider situation, i.e. they provide a 'snapshot'. They can capture data in order to identify the magnitude of displacement and displacement-related needs, vulnerabilities and protection risks, as well as the intentions of the population in relation to options for solutions. In many cases, surveys also capture data on non-displaced populations living in similar locations, allowing for population group comparisons. Depending on their scope, surveys can be sample based and include a baseline assessment or aim for complete coverage. Surveys can be carried out periodically and after substantial changes in the context and are used in both cyclical emergency and protracted crisis situations. Key examples of surveys are those supported by JIPS ⁽¹²⁶⁾. Similar to population movement tracking systems, if the methodology used is available and the quality standards of official statistics are met, they may be potential sources of official statistics, provided that the data can be shared.
278. Registration/enrolment systems are also used as a source of operational data in IDP contexts and are often integrated into aid delivery systems. These systems record basic data on the characteristics and assistance

needs of IDPs to inform programmatic targeting and delivery of humanitarian assistance. A key example of a registration system is the World Food Programme's (WFP) SCOPE platform ⁽¹²⁷⁾, linked to the delivery of food assistance.

3. Description of qualitative operational data sources

279. In IDP contexts, qualitative data typically include key informant interviews and focus group discussions. Rapid assessments or the gathering of community information are sometimes also used. However, responses typically cannot be proven to be representative of the displaced population. The results can be useful in designing data collection methodologies and in framing relevant questionnaire content. They are also often used for operational purposes as they can give a snapshot of a particular situation. They are also a useful approach in areas that cannot be accessed because of security concerns or for other reasons.
280. Qualitative data are not used to compile official statistics because of their non-representative nature, but they can be a valuable source for control and verification. They can provide further endorsement of the results obtained from other official sources. In IDP contexts they can test responses to sensitive issues and supplement quantitative information on security concerns, living conditions and integration. These insights can be used in future questionnaire design and testing. Qualitative data can also explain statistical findings and add value to the analysis of data.

4. Quality considerations for operational data

281. Many sources of operational data can potentially be used as additional inputs to official statistics. For example, quantitative data may supplement or enhance survey information. However, the data may not be accessible to statistical authorities or considered for the production of national official statistics as they are not produced through a body mandated by NSSs for this purpose.
282. In order for operational data to be useful for official statistics, they need to be shared with the national agency responsible for producing official statistics. To be suitable for publication as official statistics they need to be endorsed following a quality assessment by the relevant statistical authorities. The NSO is usually the endorsing government agency. For these data to be assessed they need to be accompanied, among other things, by good metadata showing how the data were collected, the methodologies used, the classifications used and how the results were processed.

D. Data integration

1. Considerations for IDP statistics

283. Data collected in different ways tend to give different parts of the IDP story. Where it is possible to combine data from different sources, integrated data can give a more comprehensive picture. Typically, administrative data can be combined with survey data, or two administrative sources can be combined ⁽¹²⁸⁾.
284. The integration method applied depends on the specific data environment prevailing in a given country. In some countries, IDPs can be identified and matched deterministically in databases through unique PINs to obtain a detailed picture on their socio-economic characteristics. In the absence of an integrated administrative data infrastructure, probabilistic linkage and statistical matching offer alternative solutions.
285. Probabilistic matching can be considered under three conditions. First, the data sets to be integrated should contain records about the same individuals. Second, whether or not probabilistic matching will produce reliable individual-level matches depends on the discriminatory power of the variables available and used for statistical purposes. Third, the legal basis and any privacy concerns should be resolved.
286. For IDP statistics, it may be possible to integrate administrative data on residence status with survey data on socio-economic characteristics, even where data sets share only a small fraction of observations. Statistical

matching is expected to provide a practical solution in the foreseeable future. This is less problematic with respect to confidentiality concerns as only distributional information is transferred, with no attempt made to identify identical units using sensitive information.

287. However, based on the conditional independence assumption, explanatory power with respect to the target variable is crucial and requires careful assessment on a case-by-case basis.

2. Data-matching approaches

288. There are several approaches to data matching based on the level of access and the type of variables involved. The most advanced and accurate method is a direct linkage between individuals or households contained in two or more data sets. By using a common identification variable or variables, persons or households can be linked together one by one. This is most commonly used in administrative registers, as surveys and censuses rarely contain identification variables. In countries where unique PINs exist for the population, and the same number is used in many registers, this type of linkage can be carried out.
289. Identification numbers are sometimes included in surveys ⁽¹²⁹⁾. One should, however, be cautious as this can potentially impact on people's willingness to respond and can undermine confidentiality assurances.
290. Alternatively, when available, the names of individuals and other characteristics can be used to link individuals together. This type of linkage is usually time-consuming and challenging as names are often not properly recorded or spelled in a unified manner. Probabilistic methods can be used to improve the percentage of successful linkage, but this is technically demanding. This approach should be considered only if linkage at the individual level is really needed; an example might be where two registers are to be linked together permanently. Confidentiality agreements must also be observed when using this approach.
291. A less demanding approach, which is not carried out at the individual level, is to compare summaries of the results of analyses of the different data sources available. In this method the types of questioning used to obtain data from respondents must be taken into consideration. When comparing surveys, for example, if different question wording has been used, it is likely that respondents will have understood the questions differently, which will influence the results.
292. When planning an IDP-specific survey, it is helpful to use identical question formats to those used in a recently conducted survey, to enable comparisons to be made. Similarly, if it is intended to track changes over time in the same population, identical question formats for at least some of the content are required.

E. Selecting between different data sources

1. Assessing the advantages and disadvantages of data sources

293. The main displacement-related data sources that can be used for the production and dissemination of official statistics, as well as the movement tracking system, are presented in Table 6.3. For each of the sources, the table indicates whether or not they are able to provide estimates of the stocks or flows of IDP populations and in what circumstances. Other operational data sources, 'big data' and qualitative data are not included in the table, either because they are too diverse in content to properly assess as a whole or because they are rarely used for the production of official statistics.
294. If necessary, triangulation and comparisons between sources should be used when assessing their appropriateness for use; the likely data coverage, timing of the data collection and the estimated sampling and non-sampling errors should be considered when selecting data sources.

Table 6.3 Summary of the main displacement-related data sources

Source	Coverage	Provides inflow figures	Provides outflow figures	Provides stock figures
Census	Complete (the whole population); only every 10 years	Yes, if specified questions are included (time period of inflow needs to be specified)	Not alone; some of the key displacement-related vulnerability criteria will be covered, but usually not all	Not unless linked with other sources
National general household survey	Provides estimates for the national population and for regions and subregions depending on sample size. Camps may be excluded from coverage	Yes, with a representative sample frame and identification questions in the survey	Yes, if all key displacement-related vulnerabilities are included	Yes, possible if the sample design and sample size are adequate to capture IDPs with sufficient precision
IDP-specific survey	Usually area based. Only possible to cover the whole IDP population if the sample size and frame used are adequate	Yes, with a representative sample frame and identification questions in the survey	Yes, if all key displacement-related vulnerabilities are included and there is a reference population to compare with	Yes, possible if the sample design and sample size are adequate to capture IDPs with sufficient precision and IDP questions can be compared with those for the population overall/ hosts
Population register	Complete for the eligible national population in question	Partially, if IDPs are identifiable and internal migration is reliably included with dates	No, will normally not cover outflows	Only if combined with other sources that provide missing information
IDP-specific register	Complete if everyone comes forward to register	Yes, if regularly updated and complete	Potentially yes, if all key displacement-related vulnerabilities are covered	Yes, if complete and if those who have overcome key displacement-related vulnerabilities are flagged
Population movement tracking system ⁽¹³⁰⁾	Area based; good coverage possible for the area monitored	Partially, as it covers movements, but may be inaccurate with regard to numbers and reasons for migration	Usually not as key displacement-related vulnerability questions will not be asked of a representative sample	Generally not, but in some challenging situations can be used to estimate stocks

295. As shown in Table 6.3, several of the sources have the potential to provide insights on the flow and stock of IDPs. The most flexible data source is the household survey, which, if a sufficiently good sampling frame can be established and the needed aspects of displacement are included, can provide a good overview of the IDP population by subcategory and key displacement-related vulnerabilities.

296. Censuses and IDP-specific registers have similar potential, but it is more costly and time-consuming to include all aspects of displacement in these sources. An additional challenge in IDP-specific registers is keeping all information on IDPs updated. The population movement tracking system and other more operational and new data sources also have potential, depending on the methodology and approach used, particularly if integrated with other data sources.

2. Overcoming displacement-related vulnerabilities

297. Table 6.4. provides a more detailed overview of the different key data sources and their coverage of the different elements of key displacement-related vulnerabilities. It also includes the three displacement-related vulnerabilities for measuring progress towards durable solutions. Currently, most data sources do not cover all these aspects. Moving forwards, there is the potential for this information to be collected as part of

general and IDP-specific surveys. For this to happen in a coordinated way, a set of indicators and related questions needs to be developed based on the 10 identified sub-criteria for overcoming key displacement-related vulnerabilities, as well as sub-criteria related to the three remaining criteria for measuring progress towards durable solutions (see Table 4.2).

298. As specified earlier, censuses and IDP registers may cover many aspects of displacement, but other census elements may be more important to collect data on, costs may be too high to include displacement questions, or maintenance may be difficult in the case of IDP-specific registers. A register should not be established for statistical purposes, but if it is established for administrative purposes the information can also be used for statistical assessments.
299. Sources can also be combined, for example to ensure that sampling frame are updated and of sufficient quality or to assess whether or not key displacement-related vulnerabilities have been overcome.

Table 6.4 Data sources and use in analysis of displacement-related vulnerabilities

	Population census	Surveys		Registers		Population movement tracking systems
		General surveys	IDP-specific surveys	Population registration	IDP registration	
Comparative analysis between IDPs and the non-displaced population	✓	✓	~	✓	✗	✗
Basic demographics	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	~
IASC CRITERIA						
1 Safety and security	~	~	✓	✗	~	~
2 Adequate standard of living	✓	✓	✓	✗	~	~
3 Access to livelihoods	✓	✓	✓	~	~	✗
4 Restoration of housing, land and property	~	~	✓	✗	✓	✗
5 Access to documentation	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	~
6 Family reunification	~	~	✓	~	~	✗
7 Participation in public affairs	~	~	✓	✗	✗	✗
8 Access to effective remedies and justice	~	~	✓	✗	✗	✗

✓ Today often fully covered, or expected to be fully covered in the future, using source alone

~ Partially covered today, or expected to be partially covered in the future, using source alone or in combination with other sources

✗ Not covered today, and not expected to be covered in the future

F. Recommendations summary

300. This chapter has shown that several data sources have the potential to be utilised in the production of official statistics on IDPs. Each of the sources has its own advantages and limitations when it comes to identifying IDPs in the data, and identifying who has overcome the key displacement-related vulnerabilities and therefore is no longer part of the stock.
301. This chapter has put forward several recommendations on how the current data collection methods within NSSs can be improved to measure the stocks and flows of IDPs in each of the sources presented. Building on the discussions in Part B, Part E highlights that the most flexible data source in this context is the sample household survey. This can be further improved by including IDP-related questions more frequently in general household surveys.
302. Measures should also be taken to include IDP-related variables in censuses and administrative data sources. Although census and administrative data sources might not be suitable or able to measure the inflow of IDPs to the stock in all contexts, or to capture the end of displacement, these sources have the potential to serve as complete sample frames for sample household surveys on the subject.
303. The potential role of operational data as a source for official statistics was also explored. In the early stages of displacement, operational data might be the only data available, because of the rapidly changing and challenging environments that often prevail in displacement contexts. In some contexts, the lack of a functioning statistical system or the presence of a highly resource- and capacity-constrained statistical system may also result in operational data being the only possible source for IDP statistics. For operational data to be considered as a source for official statistics, quality in all processes and transparency in the production of the data are key, and an assessment of the quality of the data should be carried out by NSOs or other relevant statistical units within NSSs.
304. This chapter has furthermore emphasised the need for and potential of integrating different data sources to provide a complete picture of IDP stocks and flows. Measures should be taken to facilitate integration, such as introducing a national PIN system as part of data collection from individuals, streamlining questions across data collection tools and ensuring that steps are taken to respect the confidentiality of the data.

7

Coordination of IDP statistics

A. Introduction

305. The production of good-quality official statistics requires effective coordination among national, subnational and international actors, to ensure that estimates are coherent and comparable from one source to another, and to maintain trust in data by users and providers, including the public. Without coordination, collection of IDP statistics is likely to be unplanned, ad hoc and less comprehensive and efficient, creating gaps in coverage and results that are less likely to meet the necessary quality standards. There are important benefits to a well-coordinated statistical collection at national and international levels (see Box 7.1).
306. This chapter will focus on the different principles and mechanisms for the coordination of IDP statistics and, in doing so, will discuss quality standards and the role of coordination with regard to operational data, as they relate to official statistics. Part B will outline national coordination approaches, covering both national and international/humanitarian systems as they work at country level and how appropriate links between official statistics and operational data can be made; Part C provides an overview of relevant international coordination actors and processes, as well as the principles that underpin effective international statistical coordination; and Part D consolidates the recommendations on coordination to facilitate the collection of improved IDP official statistics.

Box 7.1 Statistical coordination and quality principles

The coordination of IDP statistics covers several different aspects, which map onto quality concepts. The most significant are as follows:

Meeting data needs and building trust in data. Citizens, civil society, governments and partners all require evidence. Government and partner agency support for IDPs depends on good data for planning and implementation of policies and programmes. Yet different data producers have varying data needs according to their mandates and responsibilities, and they use different methodologies for collecting data. This results in the data being less interoperable and more difficult to use for official purposes. Effective coordination can help identify synergies, improve coherence of data sources, fill data gaps, facilitate consensus on factual issues and support the development of evidence-informed policies.

Timing/timeliness. The value of statistics depends on when they are made available. During and following a displacement crisis, data are required quickly in order to help governments and humanitarian partners respond in a timely way. In a protracted situation, the needs are different. Governments need data and statistics to formulate evidence-based policies aimed at supporting durable solutions. Information and evidence should be timely to support the planning and budgeting cycles of governments and other actors.

Cost-efficiency. Coordination improves efficiency by helping governments and partners to pool resources for data collection, processing, analysis and dissemination.

Comparison. Coordination also enables the identification of relevant groups for comparison with IDPs, such as the entire national population, the host community, the urban population or people living in poverty, in order to create coherent policies and deliver services across different segments of society.

Data sharing and laws. Data sharing is an important element of statistical coordination. It must be carried out lawfully and in line with statistical ethics, to avoid undermining public trust. In addition, where data sharing is carried out lawfully, confidentially and within the spirit of statistical principles it can facilitate more complete coverage and stronger analysis, as well as reducing the burden on surveyed populations and data collectors. Procedures for anonymisation of data must ensure confidentiality and the protection of data providers.

Quality. To maintain trust in statistics, the quality of all statistics needs to be assured by statistical authorities. Quality assurance identifies areas for improvement and drives up standards (see Part B for further details on statistical quality standards).

B. National coordination of IDP statistics

307. National coordination can help facilitate more coherent policy development, guide the investment of resources and the implementation of responses, and strengthen the evaluation of existing policies. By ensuring consistent adherence to definitions, standards and methodologies in line with the requirements for official statistics, the benefits of a well-coordinated system of statistical collection will impact displacement policies and responses over time.
308. At the national level, different processes are required to produce and disseminate official statistics about IDPs. This part begins by outlining the role of NSSs, whose members are responsible for collecting, processing and disseminating official statistics. It then discusses operational data collected by humanitarian agencies as part of their regular activities and the circumstances when these data might be useful as inputs to official statistics about IDPs. It is recognised that not all operational data should be considered as potential official statistics, and that there are many other uses of these data, including planning humanitarian operations and prioritising and designing interventions.
309. The production of official statistics and data on IDPs is not always well coordinated, particularly as official statistics about IDPs are not commonly produced. Further, official statistics can take time to produce and are often not able to meet the immediate planning and response needs of governments and partners at the onset of a displacement crisis. When official statistics about IDPs do not exist, operational data produced by humanitarian agencies can be a useful complement. However, they should not be considered as a long-term substitute for official statistics, although they may provide input to new series.

1. National statistical systems

310. Official statistics are produced by a variety of government bodies, ministries, departments and agencies. These bodies together comprise the NSS. The NSS usually, but not always, has a NSO that has overall responsibility for official statistical standards. Where there is no such body the responsibility for statistical standards usually falls under the auspices of another named national authority. The NSO may be established as an independent agency ⁽¹³¹⁾ or be part of regular government structures. While the NSO can be integral to the strength and functioning of the NSS, this depends on the ability of the NSO to maintain standards and professional independence and on having in place statistics laws and regulations that are able to be implemented and that are enforced ⁽¹³²⁾.
311. The OECD describes an NSS as ‘the ensemble of statistical organisations and units within a country that jointly collect, process and disseminate official statistics on behalf of national government’ ⁽¹³³⁾. This ensemble may include a large number of government ministries, departments and agencies involved in the production of official statistics, including custodians of administrative data sets that contribute to official statistics. In practice, and particularly in contexts where IDP statistics are most needed, many NSOs have insufficient resources and status, undermining their ability to enforce the recommendations of the UNFPOS and statistics laws outside their own organisations, and leaving them unable to fulfil their coordination role with other members of the NSS.
312. In many countries National Strategies for the Development of Statistics (NSDS), or other multi-annual plans for developing the statistical system, play an important role in statistical coordination. They are often aligned to national development plans, which are part of the national policy cycle. Through a NSDS or similar plan, all organisations in the NSS collect, process and disseminate official statistics on behalf of the national government. The NSDS or similar plan also sets the goals for where the NSS should be in 5–10 years and the priorities and processes for getting there. It is developed among relevant stakeholders through a collaborative process, focusing on assessing user needs and finding ways to meet them ⁽¹³⁴⁾.
313. In contexts where displacement is an issue, the inclusion of IDP statistics into the NSDS or similar plan (such as the annual statistical programme) can help mainstream the production of official IDP statistics and improve their quality and availability through resourcing and capacity building, even when the primary focal point for data production is not yet part of the NSS. The NSDS can also be used to develop statistical policy for the development of new series, including technical committees to oversee the development of IDP statistics (although, where possible, existing statistical coordination mechanisms should be used, to facilitate mainstreaming of IDP issues; see paragraph 344).

2. Meeting statistical quality standards

314. For statistics to be useful, estimates about IDPs must meet the needs of their users, as well as minimum quality standards. They must be based on systematically applied definitions, international standards and robust methodologies, and the relevant international standards should be observed. The results must be accessible and interpretable by all users and potential users.
315. All member states of the UN have adopted the UNFPOS (Box 7.2) ⁽¹³⁵⁾. In addition to meeting these requirements, official statistics on IDPs will require a statistical quality assessment to ensure that they are fit for purpose and meet the standards set by national statistical authorities.

Box 7.2 The UNFPOS

Principle 1. Official statistics provide an indispensable element in the information system of a democratic society, serving the Government, the economy and the public with data about the economic, demographic, social and environmental situation. To this end, official statistics that meet the test of practical utility are to be compiled and made available on an impartial basis by official statistical agencies to honour citizens' entitlement to public information.

Principle 2. To retain trust in official statistics, the statistical agencies need to decide according to strictly professional considerations, including scientific principles and professional ethics, on the methods and procedures for the collection, processing, storage and presentation of statistical data.

Principle 3. To facilitate a correct interpretation of the data, the statistical agencies are to present information according to scientific standards on the sources, methods and procedures of the statistics.

Principle 4. The statistical agencies are entitled to comment on erroneous interpretation and misuse of statistics.

Principle 5. Data for statistical purposes may be drawn from all types of sources, be they statistical surveys or administrative records. Statistical agencies are to choose the source with regard to quality, timeliness, costs and the burden on respondents.

Principle 6. Individual data collected by statistical agencies for statistical compilation, whether they refer to natural or legal persons, are to be strictly confidential and used exclusively for statistical purposes.

Principle 7. The laws, regulations and measures under which the statistical systems operate are to be made public.

Principle 8. Coordination among statistical agencies within countries is essential to achieve consistency and efficiency in the statistical system.

Principle 9. The use by statistical agencies in each country of international concepts, classifications and methods promotes the consistency and efficiency of statistical systems at all official levels.

Principle 10. Bilateral and multilateral cooperation in statistics contributes to the improvement of systems of official statistics in all countries.

316. Several groupings of nations, such as the OECD, the African Union, Latin America and the Caribbean and the European Union, have also adopted regional quality frameworks that meet their specific needs based on the UNFPOS⁽¹³⁶⁾. Many countries already have statistical quality assessment frameworks and quality assurance procedures in place in their NSS, which might be used or extended for IDP statistics. Where countries are intending to mainstream IDP statistics, they should be a candidate for assessment under the national quality framework, and the IRIS should also be taken into account⁽¹³⁷⁾.
317. In addition to establishing standards through quality frameworks, statistics laws, regulations and codes of practice are also required for the production of official statistics. National legislation, regulations and codes of practice cover the rights and obligations of the bodies comprising the NSS. These should cover all of the agencies that together produce national official statistics as part of the NSS, and the data sources involved, including surveys, censuses and administrative data.

a. Statistics legislation and regulations to protect official statistics

318. Countries adopt statistics laws to protect official statistics and data providers. These can be combined into an overarching statistics law and can also include specific laws to govern the national census and administrative data systems. A few countries, including those emerging from conflict, do not yet have statistics laws to protect data, and these countries may have large displaced populations. Statistics laws can regulate the NSS by:
1. protecting the confidentiality of individual data;
 2. defining the rights and responsibilities of the producers of official statistics;
 3. protecting the professional independence of statistical agencies (NSOs);

4. establishing professional ethics for the production and organisation of official statistics based on the UNFPOS;
 5. setting user representation mechanisms;
 6. clarifying the mandate for data collection;
 7. mandating the NSO (or relevant authority) to coordinate the statistical system;
 8. standardising statistical programming and coordination (including production, publication and dissemination); and
 9. clarifying relationships with the international statistical community.
319. Laws supporting the collection of data about displaced persons and the release of information about them should be in place to (a) promote public confidence in the arrangements – and to publicise that there are legal constraints that determine what can and cannot be done; (b) ensure mutual understanding between NSOs, ministries and researchers; (c) provide consistency in the way that data and research proposals are treated; and (d) establish a basis for dealing with breaches in the law and to prevent breaches from happening ⁽¹³⁸⁾. While these laws protect official statistics, operational data collection is not protected in the same way; however, it is protected under the ethical policies of the humanitarian agencies involved. It may be advisable for any operational data that are likely to become part of official statistics in the future to be collected under the provisions of the statistics laws in the country concerned, with the consent and protection of the statistical authorities.

b. Protecting the privacy and confidentiality of data

320. Data sharing is essential to the production of IDP statistics, particularly where administrative or operational data are the source. However, a major barrier to sharing IDP data is their extreme sensitivity, especially for particularly vulnerable groups. The sharing or disclosure of data on displaced persons should not jeopardise their safety or lead to violations of their human rights. Therefore, appropriate methods should be applied to reduce the risk of re-identification of the data subjects, as well as having mechanisms in place to allow safe sharing and querying of the data. Finding a balance between openness and privacy should be at the centre of considerations when deciding whether or not to release IDP statistics as open data. This entails, for instance, choosing suitable levels of geographical disaggregation. In this regard, NSSs and national statistics laws and privacy protection frameworks play a crucial role in balancing information access rights and data privacy and confidentiality protection, ensuring coordination across entities with different mandates and data stewardship responsibilities. Regional agreements and other institutions can also help monitor and advocate for both open data and privacy protection, sharing lessons on open data systems and monitoring the status of open data and privacy protection safeguards in the specific context of IDP statistics ⁽¹³⁹⁾.
321. The privacy and confidentiality of data providers and their data are protected by statistics laws in the case of data collected by NSOs and members of NSSs, but may also be protected by the laws that apply to particular government ministries, departments and agencies, as well as regional legal frameworks ⁽¹⁴⁰⁾. 'Privacy' can be described as a data subject's right to decide what information is made available, when it is to be released and to whom it is released. Data 'confidentiality', on the other hand, is a property of the data, usually resulting from legislative measures, that prevents it from unauthorised disclosure. These two terms complement each other, as a breach of data confidentiality can result in an intrusion of the right to privacy of the data subject.
322. Data confidentiality should be preserved by ensuring that the risk of direct or indirect identification of individuals or disclosure is managed by agreed rules, such as de-identification (modifying data by removing any identifiers) or **anonymisation** (removing or altering information, or collapsing detail to ensure that no person or organisation is likely to be identified in the data). However, the applicability of these confidentiality rules can differ from one source to the next and they are specific to each individual or organisational source. In addition to the rules, related parties may also benefit from other methods that preserve confidentiality, such as data reduction (maintaining confidentiality by selecting appropriate aggregations or how the data are presented) and data modification (maintaining confidentiality by slightly altering the identifiable data without significantly affecting the aggregate results).

323. The release of microdata on displaced persons should be consistent with legal and administrative arrangements to protect the confidentiality of the microdata ⁽¹⁴¹⁾. Legal arrangements to protect confidentiality should be in place before any microdata are released, and these arrangements should be complemented by administrative measures to regulate access to microdata and to ensure that the risk of re-identification of individuals is as low as possible while allowing for the querying and extraction of insights and the use of the individual-level data. In situations where there is no suitable law in place to protect data, data should not be released without taking extensive legal advice. In cases of extreme sensitivity, data enclaves are recommended ⁽¹⁴²⁾. In the absence of legislation, some other form of authorisation that legally protects the privacy and confidentiality of the data provider is essential, through a data-sharing agreement or an enforceable memorandum of understanding between the parties concerned. The legislation or authorisation must cover what can and cannot be done with the data and what purposes the data can be used for; the informed consent of data providers; the conditions of release; and the consequences if conditions are breached. To share microdata, international and humanitarian agencies should have a data protection policy that observes the UNFPOS and does not disclose individuals' details ⁽¹⁴³⁾. For UN agencies, the *United Nations Statistics Quality Assurance Framework* (UN-SQAF) clarifies the confidentiality obligations that should be respected at all times and outlines good practice guidance ⁽¹⁴⁴⁾. Overall, there is a reputational risk for all data-sharing agencies and organisations if there is not some form of authority and control in place relating to the release of microdata.

c. Independence

324. It is necessary for a statistical agency to be independent for the official statistics to have credibility. To ensure its independence, a statistical agency, whether it is a line ministry or an NSO, should be separate from the parts of government that carry out policymaking, administrative, regulatory and enforcement activities. It should have the authority to make decisions about the content, methods of production and dissemination of statistics. It should be impartial and avoid the appearance that its collection, analysis and reporting processes might be manipulated for political purposes or to benefit special interests. It should be entitled to comment on the erroneous interpretation or misuse of statistics by governments and others. Given the sensitivities that often surround forced displacement statistics, the independence of NSOs is even more critical.

d. Publication and dissemination of official statistics

325. Dissemination is when the statistical product is released to users and their needs are satisfied, either fully or partially. It represents one of the most important activities of NSSs. Dissemination should be viewed as the link between data availability and the use of statistics for policymaking purposes. Statistical data producers should have consulted widely on users' requirements for displacement statistics in the planning stages.
326. Dissemination should be guided by a number of principles, including those established in the UNFPOS, such as objectivity, impartiality, confidentiality, privacy, timeliness and accessibility. For IDP statistics data protection concerns are particularly important, and in conflict situations this is strongly emphasised.
327. The primary publisher of official statistics within the NSS will depend on the country's statistical governance arrangements and will therefore vary from country to country. NSSs should have a publicly available dissemination policy that includes IDP statistics. The dissemination policy should include information about data access conditions, the range of publications and data available, the support that users can expect and the availability of metadata. Metadata should be available using non-proprietary software, and a contact person should be identified and publicised to support users. IDP-related metadata, such as definitions, classifications and similar, should be included in the general metadata system to enable users to interpret data on IDPs. Where quality assessments have been carried out, quality statements should be publicly available as part of data releases and publications.
328. IDP publications and statistical databases should be placed on national statistics websites and the statistical literacy of users of IDP statistics should be developed. As IDP statistics are not widely available in all countries, new users and the media may need training about the concepts and definitions used. To fully exploit IDP statistics, official statistics should be linked to other data sources within NSSs (see Chapter 6, paragraphs 288–292, on data-matching approaches).

329. All users should have equal access to statistical releases at the same time. Privileged pre-release access to statistics should be limited and controlled. Where the principle of equal access has not been met, information about the early access to the statistics must be publicised ⁽¹⁴⁵⁾. The time lag between data collection and publication should be minimised.

3. Operational data for responding to displacement crises

a. Coordinating operational data on IDPs

330. The *Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement* state that national authorities bear the primary responsibility for providing protection and humanitarian assistance to IDPs within their jurisdiction. Yet in many instances there is a lack of clarity over which institutions are mandated to deal with internal displacement, and how they are to respond comprehensively.
331. *Addressing Internal Displacement: A framework for national responsibility* specifies that a national institution should be designated as a focal point for responding to displacement. The focal point is responsible for 'ensuring sustained attention to the problem and also facilitating coordination within the government and with local and international partners' through all phases of the displacement response, from prevention to durable solutions ⁽¹⁴⁶⁾. Countries that have not adopted a national law or policy on internal displacement are less likely to have appointed such an institution. In addition to national-level coordination, subnational, regional and local authorities can play an essential role in responding to internal displacement. These authorities are often the first point of contact for IDPs and are often the ones that IDPs turn to first for assistance.
332. In addition, national and international organisations are essential partners to governments in responding to displacement situations, including in the development of statistics. In international responses to humanitarian crises, the 'cluster approach' ⁽¹⁴⁷⁾ is often used. Each cluster is chaired by an international or a UN agency at the global level and may also be co-chaired at the national/local levels by NGOs. Their goal is to ensure that all of the relevant organisations working in a specific field (such as protection, health, shelter) coordinate among themselves the delivery of assistance. Clusters are designated by the IASC, which is the primary mechanism for inter-agency coordination of humanitarian assistance and includes UN agencies and NGO networks generally involved in humanitarian responses. Clusters typically generate substantial amounts of operational data to inform humanitarian responses, which can be relevant for the development of official statistics.
333. At the country level, the humanitarian coordinator is responsible for establishing appropriate sectors and sectoral groups, appointing cluster leads and ensuring that humanitarian actors build on local capacities and develop and maintain appropriate links with authorities, institutions, civil society and other stakeholders. When national authorities are in a strong position to lead the humanitarian response, the role of the humanitarian coordinator may be to organise international humanitarian responses in support of the government's efforts, as is typically the case with disasters. In conflict situations, however, coordination and relationships between the authorities and international humanitarian actors may be different.
334. Governments and organisations involved in the response to displacement generate data using different tools such as surveys, key informant interviews, registration, flow monitoring and specialised mapping tools. As operational conditions can be challenging, with rapidly changing environments, limited access to the displaced and fluid population movements, it is not always possible or relevant to follow standards set for official statistics, nor is it always feasible to involve members of NSSs. Compiling and establishing intercluster or intersectoral population data are often coordinated through OCHA via a 'humanitarian profile' ⁽¹⁴⁸⁾. The profile provides intersectoral humanitarian population figures. These include estimates of the number of people affected by a given emergency, as well as the number in need of, targeted by and reached with humanitarian assistance. Within the humanitarian profile different groups affected by a humanitarian crisis are identified, such as the displaced, non-displaced, injured, missing and dead. IDPs are a subset of the displaced group and are further categorised according to the context in which they live (e.g. camp or camp-like settings and private or individual accommodations). Both government and humanitarian organisations contribute to the humanitarian profile, and the responsibility for overseeing these efforts is usually passed on to the government over time.

335. Because of the nature of internal displacement, it might not be possible to involve members of NSSs immediately in data activities. In some cases, not even the government broadly is involved. Just after a major crisis, it is often the clusters, or OCHA, who take on the responsibility of coordinating data activities. For most disasters, and especially for smaller or medium-sized events, governments tend to carry out data collection and coordination (see the previous section for more details).

b. The challenges in collecting operational data on IDPs (149)

336. The phase of a crisis and how the response to a displacement situation is conducted have implications for the coordination of operational data. In displacement situations associated with conflict, and where part or all of the territory of a country may be difficult to access, collecting data can be challenging. Some international or national aid agencies might have access to different parts of a territory, producing estimates for the areas they cover. The compilation of partial figures from various groups can help to produce national or regional estimates. However, it should be recognised that there will be some contexts where this is not possible or timely.
337. The challenges faced in coordinating the production of operational IDP data are numerous and involve accommodating the mandates of different organisations, which often have diverging definitions, different geographical areas of focus and different intended uses of the data collected, making comparability of data difficult in practice. The adequacy of coverage of the displaced population is a particular quality concern for IDP data, for example how governments determine whether or not and why IDPs should be registered.
338. How useful operational data are for statistics can be determined by assessing their quality using a quality assessment framework used by national statistical authorities or other recognised regional or international tool, for example the UN-SQAF (150) (see paragraphs 316 and 317).

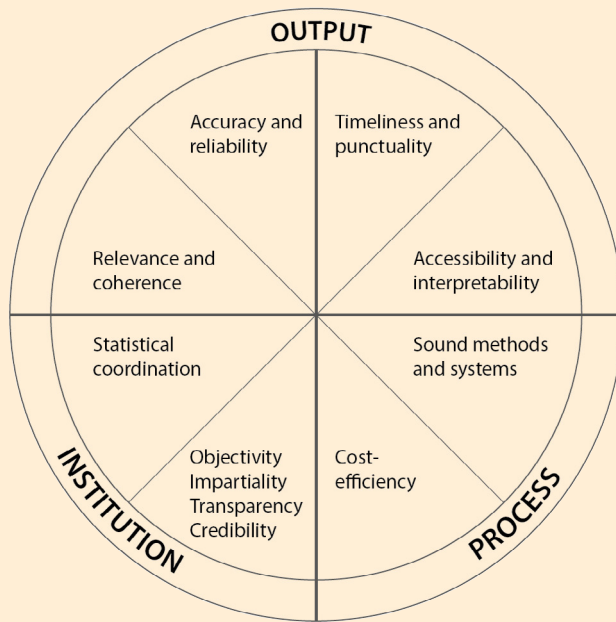
c. Coordinating official statistics and operational data

339. Despite the challenges, in theory, once a response to a crisis is being led by government, some operational data collected by humanitarian partners could potentially inform the development of official statistics. Often these data are derived from operational activities and may not be capable of meeting quality criteria or may be unsuitable or not required for official statistics. Although only some operational data are relevant as potential inputs to official statistics, establishing a coordination process to facilitate consensus on sources and methodologies can support a more coherent approach to producing such data, in line with the current recommendations. IDP data producers involved in operational data that could potentially be used for official statistics should make efforts to adhere to these recommendations in order to be coherent in the definitions, concepts and methods used.
340. It may be expedient to start a new series of official statistics independently from previous operational data sources, although some operational data may be suitable as inputs to official statistics; this decision should be made by the statistical authorities.
341. Currently, many overlapping surveys and other data collection activities are undertaken by different agencies. Pooling resources and conducting joint assessments where possible can lead to improvements in the data and is less burdensome on IDPs. Examples of broad involvement and good cooperation are already available from Azerbaijan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Colombia, Côte d'Ivoire, the Kurdistan Region of Iraq, and Somalia. When survey data are collected in an emergency context, the national or local IDP coordination agreement can determine the topics to be included. Many national displacement mechanisms, such as national commissions on displacement or task forces, outline how data on IDPs should be collected and used, even though data production itself is often not a core competency for these actors. When such bodies are established, they should be led or co-led by a government partner working with humanitarian or development agencies; where a survey is conducted to inform a situation and the response, these bodies should have oversight of the survey in consultation with the statistical authorities.
342. In most countries the NSO has the statutory role of coordinating the production of official statistics across all the areas of responsibility of different ministries and agencies. It has the responsibility for overall statistical standards, and standards for IDP statistics should be included in this responsibility. Other government agencies that have a role in planning and implementing public policy on IDPs might have a better understanding of the situation and may be well placed to compile and produce IDP statistics, but this

will vary according to the situation and statistical governance of individual countries. Ideally, these other agencies should be part of the NSS.

343. Many countries have a statistical governance system that already includes coordination committees, which may be subject matter specific or more generally relate to a broader range of official statistics. These may play a role in quality assurance or in harmonising classifications and standards across the system; they may also have a role in planning and in making capacity improvements. Most countries also have a compendium or database of standard definitions, classifications and concepts to ensure harmonisation of official statistics. Where these committees and compendium exist, they should be expanded or augmented to cover IDP statistics as part of mainstreaming and harmonising IDP statistics.
344. It is recommended that, for the production of IDP statistics, existing statistical coordination mechanisms should be used where possible. Nevertheless, in some contexts it might be relevant to establish IDP-dedicated coordination mechanisms, led by the relevant actor within the NSS. Such coordination mechanisms may be charged with establishing completely new series of official statistics and may consider taking oversight of progress in developing these new series. As far as is feasible, all producers of IDP data should be included in the development of new series, including humanitarian agencies and other relevant stakeholders. In cases where a transitional process from operational data to the publication of official statistics is undertaken, these coordination mechanisms should also oversee the transitional process until the establishment of the regular production of official statistics.
345. Coordination mechanisms for the production of IDP statistics might focus on:
 - i) initiating assessments of needs for IDP statistics among users and potential users;
 - ii) including IDP statistics in NSDS or similar multi-annual or annual statistics plans;
 - iii) developing methodologies for data collection and processing;
 - iv) establishing IDP classifications and definitions in any statistical compendia or other core reference materials for NSSs in accordance with these recommendations;
 - v) developing joint work plans for improving IDP statistics;
 - vi) specifying statistical capacity development needs and taking steps to obtain these from governments and development partners;
 - vii) reporting on progress in establishing IDP statistics;
 - viii) joint data collection activities;
 - ix) agreeing statistical outputs, including indicators and publications; and
 - x) joint data quality assessments, including the development of IDP-specific quality checklists, in addition to using national data quality guidelines.
346. Where it is planned for operational data on IDPs to become official statistics, they should be the subject of a quality assurance plan. This plan should call for periodic reviews, particularly after any re-engineering or major changes to the statistical production processes have taken place. For countries adapting their procedures to meet these recommendations on IDP statistics, it would be ideal to carry out a quality review both prior to and after the adoption of the recommendations. The results of quality assessments should be made available to users, to support interpretation of the results. Corrective actions should be planned with the statistical authorities concerned.
347. The UN-SQAF tool is briefly described in Box 7.3; it can potentially be used by statistical authorities to assess the adequacy of IDP statistics if national quality tools are not already in place.

Box 7.3 UN-SQAF output quality dimensions



- Relevance:* Extent to which output meets the needs of users, both internal and external.
- Accuracy:* Extent to which the data correctly estimate or describe the characteristics they are designed to measure.
- Reliability:* Closeness of the initial estimate to subsequent releases for the same time period.
- Coherence:* Consistency between estimates from the same and different data sources.
- Timeliness:* Time period between the availability of the output and the event described by the output.
- Punctuality:* Adherence to the published output schedule.
- Accessibility:* How readily the outputs and metadata can be discovered, located or accessed and whether or not the media used are appropriate to users' needs.
- Interpretability:* Ease of understanding and using the output, including the adequacy of the metadata, for example definitions of concepts, target populations, indicators and other terminology.

UN Statistics Quality Assurance Framework, 2018, p. 23: <https://unstats.un.org/unsd/unsystem/documents/UNSQAF-2018.pdf>

C. International coordination of IDP statistics

348. Coordination of IDP statistics at the international and national levels feeds into one another. Coordination at the international level requires effective coordination at the national level, as this is where the statistics are produced. An aim of international and regional statistical coordination is to support countries in producing quality official statistics that are comparable across countries and over time. Better coordination of IDP statistics at the international level will help to align the way in which the international community defines and measures internal displacement and to facilitate the identification of broader global or regional trends that can inform public discourse, underpin effective policymaking, planning and responses, and support resource mobilisation. In turn, international coordination can support stronger national coordination by aligning efforts to improve IDP statistics through technical cooperation, peer exchanges, capacity development and building agreement on common standards, classifications and methodologies.

1. Relevant international organisations and processes

349. The UN Statistical Commission is the highest body of the global statistical system and plays the leading role in statistical coordination. It oversees the work of the UN Statistics Division, which itself has oversight of the Committee for the Coordination of Statistical Activities (CCSA), which in 2005 adopted the *Principles Governing International Statistical Activities*. The Committee, which has over 40 members, aims to foster international coordination on statistics, focusing on six main activities ⁽¹⁵¹⁾:
- a) efficient functioning of the statistical system;
 - b) common standards and platforms;
 - c) development of methodologies;
 - d) inter-institutional support;
 - e) outreach;
 - f) advocacy for statistics.
350. For international statistics on internal displacement, there are few national official statistical data available on which to base global estimates. In addition, there is currently no custodian agency for international statistics on IDPs.
351. The UNHCR primarily collects data on refugees, either alone or in collaboration with governments and other partners, but it also collects data on IDPs assisted or protected by the organisation. In its IDP data, the UNHCR includes only conflict-generated IDPs to whom the agency extends its protection and assistance ⁽¹⁵²⁾. Recently, in partnership with the World Bank, the UNHCR established a Joint Data Center on Forced Displacement, which includes IDPs in the scope of its work ⁽¹⁵³⁾.
352. The IOM also collects data on IDPs in various countries, sometimes in collaboration with partners and governments, primarily through its DTM. This approach usually includes people displaced because of both conflict and disaster, and in some countries the DTM has a broad geographical coverage. The DTM uses a modular system, as does the UNHCR, consisting of different tools and methods that can be implemented in various combinations according to the practical requirements of a given context, as opposed to one standardised methodology. As a result, the DTM uses slightly different methodologies and specifications in different country contexts, although it mostly relies on community-level key informant interviews for monitoring flows.
353. Other UN agencies collect data on IDPs in the context of their general operational planning and programming information. For example, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and notably the WFP both collect data that cover IDP populations in the course of delivering their programming for children and for food distribution, respectively. The UN country teams, with their focus on development programming and planning, can also be collectors of data that cover IDPs, particularly in countries with protracted displacement crises. Several international NGOs, such as Impact Initiatives, the Danish Refugee Council (DRC) and the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC), specifically collect data on IDPs at the national level, often on behalf of UN agencies, primarily through needs assessments and protection monitoring systems, while others collect data on IDPs as part of their wider data collection efforts to understand population needs resulting from crises and inform programmatic interventions.
354. JIPS was established by a group of UN and NGO partners in 2009 to support governments and humanitarian and development actors to produce good-quality data and analyse internal displacement at the country level ⁽¹⁵⁴⁾. By investing in the production of guidance and the delivery of direct technical support and capacity building, a large part of JIPS' work focuses on supporting the development/coordination of national data production processes, with the aim of strengthening consensus and improving the coordination of national evidence-based responses. JIPS' work has been recognised and endorsed by several UN General Assembly and Human Rights Council resolutions, which encourage governments and humanitarian and development partners to request their support services as needed ⁽¹⁵⁵⁾. JIPS has no global coordination role; it is solely focused on providing neutral support to in-country partners, building capacity and sharing experiences.

355. The IDMC, established in 1998, collates and analyses data on displacement from multiple sources to produce global estimates on displacement⁽¹⁵⁶⁾. The IDMC aims to monitor the situation of IDPs in all kinds of displacement situations in line with the Guiding Principles and the Kampala Convention definitions. Some countries provide their national figures on internal displacement to the IDMC, but the global estimates produced build on various other data sources at national and international levels. Non-comparable and incomplete data for many countries remain a challenge with regard to providing quality estimates and analysing internal displacement⁽¹⁵⁷⁾. The IDMC's mandate to provide global estimates and analysis, and to create and update a global database, has been recognised and endorsed by several UN General Assembly and Human Rights Council resolutions, which encourage governments and humanitarian and development actors to share data with them⁽¹⁵⁸⁾.
356. Reporting requirements under ongoing international processes also have the potential to generate useful IDP statistics. These processes include the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction and the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change. Work to implement the Global Compacts on Refugees and Migration may also generate useful IDP data. The organisations working on the international coordination of IDP statistics should be cognisant of the data produced under these processes and, where relevant, ensure that they link into coordination mechanisms associated with these processes.
357. At the regional level there are also organisations and processes that could be involved in strengthening the coordination of statistical data collection. Of these, the African Union Kampala Convention, described in Chapter 2, is perhaps the most advanced in the development of IDP policies and responses. In April 2017, a Conference of State Parties in Africa adopted a plan of action for its implementation. One of the elements of the plan covers the establishment of mechanisms for monitoring and reporting on situations of internal displacement⁽¹⁵⁹⁾. The plan is still under development, but more coordination and standardisation of reporting requirements by state parties to the Convention would help to produce better official statistics on internal displacement on the continent.
358. Other regional organisations of states, such as the OECD, European Union, Pacific Community and Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), as well as intergovernmental bodies such as the UN Regional Commissions, also have the potential to strengthen regional-level coordination of statistical data collection, including on IDPs.
359. This is not intended as an exhaustive list of all actors and processes at the international and regional levels that may intersect with or affect the coordination of IDP statistics. But in painting a broad picture of the main stakeholders involved, it becomes clear that the varying levels of coordination among different international actors collecting IDP data at the national level, as well as ad hoc coordination internationally, can result in competing sources of IDP data and therefore challenges in collating and analysing them. Recommendations on improving this situation are outlined below.

2. Principles relevant for compilation of international statistics

360. With so many international agencies involved in collecting, collating and disseminating IDP statistics and data it is important to consider the UN *Principles Governing International Statistical Activities*. Of particular relevance is Principle 4, which states that 'Concepts, definitions, classifications, sources, methods and procedures employed in the production of international statistics are chosen to meet professional scientific standards and are made transparent for the users'. This includes making metadata accessible and documenting how data were collected. Good practices published in these principles include:
- a) adopting a quality assurance framework for the organisation;
 - b) striving continuously to improve the quality and transparency of statistics by introducing methodological and systems innovations;
 - c) enhancing the professional competency of staff by encouraging them to attend training courses, publish scientific papers and participate in seminars and conferences;
 - d) documenting and publishing concepts, definitions, classifications and metadata used by the organisation;

- e) documenting how data are collected, processed and disseminated by the organisation (including information about editing mechanisms applied to country data and aggregation methods to calculate regional and global estimates);
 - f) giving credit, in the dissemination of international statistics, to the original source and using agreed quotation standards when reusing statistics originally collected by others.
361. Many IDP data necessarily originate from non-official data. The CCSA has provided recommendations on the use of non-official sources in international statistics ⁽⁶⁰⁾. The recommendations recognise that official statistics are best but advise that ‘there are instances when international organisations need to use non-official sources to fill gaps or to improve data quality and comparability’. This is particularly relevant for IDP statistics where official data often do not exist or where new series are being introduced. The following practices are the recommended uses of non-official data at the international level:
- a) to provide background or context to data from official sources;
 - b) to assess the plausibility of data received from official sources;
 - c) to apply transformations to national official data in the interests of international comparability or for the purpose of producing new indicators;
 - d) to construct international data series in fields that are not covered by existing official sources;
 - e) to impute national data where national official data do not exist or are of proven poor quality;
 - f) to impute missing values within an official national time series.
362. The *Recommended practices on the use of non-official sources in international statistics* ⁽⁶¹⁾ also emphasise the following good practices:
- a) documenting how data are collected, processed and disseminated, including information about editing mechanisms applied to country data;
 - b) giving credit, in the dissemination of international statistics, to the original source and using agreed quotation standards when reusing statistics originally collected by others.

3. Compiling statistics for international comparisons

363. Official statistics at the international level are statistics produced by a UN agency or other international organisation that have been made available to the relevant national organisations for verification and are considered acceptable by those (national) organisations ⁽⁶²⁾. They utilise official statistics at the national level that have been provided by an NSO or other organisations in the NSS but will modify them to harmonise the data across countries or to correct evidently erroneous values ⁽⁶³⁾. In addition, in the absence of a national source, the UN agency or other international organisation may estimate the data using a model. Therefore, international official statistics are not simply the reproduction of official statistics at the national level.
364. Where they are available, official statistics at the national level should be used by international agencies as the basis for the compilation of official statistics at the international level. Where there are gaps in official statistics, other sources may be used, and in the case of IDP statistics the gaps are many and results based on operational data are often used. Operational data producers should make efforts to implement the relevant recommendations contained in this report in order to improve the coherence and quality of their data as appropriate.

The UN-SQAF provides recommendations on competing estimates produced by international organisations: ‘Within international organisations, or within UN agencies at least, there should be one and only one definitive source of data for any given indicator or statistics. This does not preclude the possibility of an earlier estimate being produced by another agency provided that the estimate is acknowledged as preliminary and not definitive. Nor does it preclude the possibility of an agency republishing data that it has acquired from another organisation, or reconfiguring the data for agency specific classifications, provided it does not change the data and provided it acknowledges the original definitive source.’

365. In some cases, international agencies have been appointed as the official custodians of international statistics on a given topic. At the time of developing these recommendations no custodian agency for international statistics on IDPs exists. Given the nature of IDP statistics, this role would require significant and relevant expertise, capacity and resources. A recommendation on this is made below (see paragraphs 384 and 385).

D. Recommendations summary

366. This chapter has described the coordination mechanisms for the collection of IDP statistics and operational data at national levels and the more limited mechanisms for international and regional coordination. Coordination mechanisms should aim to help different actors collecting data meet international and national statistical standards and improve the quality of official statistics. The process must be transparent in order to build trust among the involved parties. The recommendations below, and indeed the entire EGRIS process, are intended to strengthen coordination on this issue, to produce the most accurate and comprehensive IDP statistics possible.

1. Improving national statistical coordination

367. The NSS should be mandated to produce IDP statistics under the relevant statistics legislation, regulations and quality standards. Entities or agencies within the NSS should be identified to coordinate the development, production and dissemination of official IDP statistics at national and local levels and to liaise with international organisations. Different agencies may be responsible for various parts of the production process, for example the producers and publishers of the results may be different bodies.
368. IDP statistics should be included in NSDS or other multi-annual statistical plans to help mainstream the production of official IDP statistics and improve their quality and availability. Inclusion of IDP statistics in national statistical plans will strengthen links with national governments and their use in national policymaking.
369. Statistics on internal displacement should be mainstreamed into regular statistical publications and integrated into statistics for other sectors, such as those for health, education, employment, social security, protection and gender. This will make it possible to pool resources for data collection and include the collection of displacement statistics in existing data collection systems, such as health management information systems and education management information systems, regular household surveys and population registers.
370. IDP statistics should be included in existing national statistics coordination mechanisms or, if needed and relevant, IDP-specific coordination mechanisms might be established in order to improve the quality of IDP data to meet the UNFPOS and national and/or international quality standards for official statistics and to strengthen IDP statistics. These coordination mechanisms should endeavour to include producers of both official statistics and relevant operational data that may contribute to official statistics.
371. The coordination of IDP statistics may require a memorandum of understanding or other agreement between the statistical authorities and the relevant humanitarian focal points (e.g. information management working groups under clusters, UN country teams or humanitarian country teams) to facilitate processes around data sharing, where this is possible and desirable. This should cover confidentiality, harmonising and joint data production, as well as sharing of capacity and resources.
372. It may be necessary to improve the human resources, business processes and technological capacity of statistical units responsible for producing IDP statistics in both ministries and NSOs. Donors providing capacity-building support to national authorities should consider adding IDP statistics as a priority for modernisation.
373. During a conflict or a major disaster, it may not be possible for the NSO or a member of the NSS to coordinate the collection and production of statistics. In this case humanitarian agencies may be responsible

for collecting or coordinating data and making the results available, until such time as the national government does have capacity.

374. In collecting and processing any operational data intended for dissemination or publication, agencies should adhere, as far as possible, to the recommendations provided in this document and to the UNFPOS, particularly in relation to the openness of data collection and processing, and interoperability across time and geography. However, actors involved in the collection of IDP statistics and data should recognise that operational and official statistics play complementary yet different roles, and therefore should not always aim for convergence, particularly when the data are intended for internal or non-statistical purposes.
375. All agencies involved in the production of official statistics should follow the UNFPOS and relevant national data protection and statistical standards and legislation. UN agencies should be aware of the relevant statistical quality standards applicable to them in the UN-SQAF. National statistical legislation should meet international statistical recommendations. In doing so it should resolve legal barriers to data sharing between agencies and the national statistical authority, while protecting data providers and the confidentiality and privacy of information about individuals. Laws should include provisions for statistical agencies to access data from administrative records, where such provisions do not exist. It should be noted that such laws should not make provisions for statistical authorities to share individual record data with other authorities.
376. Official IDP statistics should be published, disseminated and made accessible to all users on an equal basis. The websites of NSOs should include IDP statistics. IDP publications and statistical databases should be placed on national statistics websites. National databases should always contain the latest version of the most recently published statistics available. Organisations responsible for disseminating IDP statistics should publish a release calendar that establishes the dates for public release of data and publications.
377. Support should be provided to users and a variety of formats should be used on the dissemination platform. Efforts should be made to increase the accessibility of the results by promoting innovative visualisation techniques for presenting statistical information in a user-friendly manner. This is particularly important where new statistical series are being introduced for the first time, such as those about IDPs. Further recommendations relating to dissemination policy can be found in paragraphs 333–342.
378. The confidentiality of the data provided by IDPs should be given very high priority and individual data should not be released to any user without having undergone very thorough anonymisation and other forms of data protection, with additional consideration given to protecting vulnerable groups in conflict situations. Users may be able to download individual data sets by extracting data directly from databases, but this should be balanced by the need to adhere to legislation and ethics relating to the protection of the privacy and confidentiality of data providers. In some situations, special data protection measures may be needed and data enclaves may be considered. Context-specific provisions for data protection and sharing are usually included in the microdata dissemination policy of the NSO/NSS.

2. Improving international and regional statistical coordination

379. Giving priority to IDP statistics in NSSs should be highlighted by regional and international statistics authorities, in order to support the mainstreaming of IDP statistics into national work programmes and national statistical development strategies. Efforts should be made to engage ministers and senior officials at the international and regional levels to help elevate IDP statistics as a priority.
380. International agencies collecting operational IDP data should work to better coordinate their activities (with government where relevant, with other local actors and among themselves) at the field level, including to avoid duplication and overburdening respondents. In coordinating at the international level, actors should aim for better interoperability of data, alignment of methodologies and information sharing (including of metadata), and work to implement agreed standards, as outlined in these recommendations. The coherence of international estimates relating to IDPs published by international agencies could be improved by the publication of clear metadata along with estimates, and adherence to relevant recommendations in the IRIS. The production of IDP statistics at the international level should be based on the UN *Principles Governing International Statistical Activities*.
381. As part of the public dissemination of IDP statistics, governments should make IDP statistics, including metadata, available to the relevant international partners, but must also ensure that individual data collected

about people and legal entities that are subject to national confidentiality rules are used exclusively for statistical purposes or for purposes mandated by legislation (see paragraphs 320–323).

382. At both national and international levels, international actors should aim to coordinate on the provision of technical support and capacity-building activities. This should include helping NSSs manage and meet public demands for data, for example through the creation of accessible online databases or websites. It should also include providing training on effective ways to present technical analyses of statistics, to facilitate engagement and demand for these types of data.
383. A custodian of international statistics on IDPs should be identified as more countries implement these recommendations in the production of statistics on IDPs. The allocation of this responsibility should be carried out using a timely, consultative and transparent process.
384. When a custodian of international statistics on IDPs is appointed, it should commit to the following roles and responsibilities:
- Be the custodian of the standards outlined in these recommendations and further elaborated in the associated Compilers' Manual. This includes adhering to the recommendations linked to the custodian role, as well as advocating for and supporting others to adhere to the standards, and promoting methodological developments that meet emerging needs and take into account general improvements in relevant data collection and processing methods.
 - Collect and publish national official IDP statistics (agreed-upon indicators with detailed accompanying metadata) on an online platform at regular intervals.
 - When possible, make non-confidential microdata available, including through global publication on an online platform at regular intervals.
 - Provide capacity building as needed and be the custodian of capacity-building materials related to the implementation of these recommendations.
385. Given the nature of statistics on IDPs and the demanding role outlined above, a formalised support group of agencies or organisations could be established to share expertise and provide support to the lead custodian agency.
386. As a follow-up to the adoption and publication of these recommendations, members of EGRIS should brief relevant stakeholders to raise awareness of the IRIS and help create demand for more and better-quality official IDP statistics. This should include senior government officials, the CCSA, regional bodies, UN agencies and international NGOs that collect operational data but are not directly focused on collecting IDP statistics. It should also include actors involved in implementing other international processes, such as the Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Global Compacts on Refugees and Migration.

Endnotes

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- (⁷²) Law of the Republic of Azerbaijan on Status of Refugees and Forcibly Displaced Persons (Persons Displaced within the Country), 1999, Article 1.
- (⁷³) Law on Refugees from Bosnia and Herzegovina and Displaced Persons in Bosnia and Herzegovina, 1999, Article 4 (available at <https://goo.gl/rPiJpe>).
- (⁷⁴) National Legislative Bodies/National Authorities, *Nepal: National policies on internally displaced persons, 2063 (2007)*, National Legislative Bodies/National Authorities, 2007, Article 3(a) (available at <https://www.refworld.org/docid/5a7adfa4.html>).
- (⁷⁵) United Nations General Assembly, *Convention and protocol relating to the status of refugees*, 1951 (available at <https://www.unhcr.org/en-us/3b66c2aa10>).
- (⁷⁶) United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, *The Cessation Clauses: Guidelines on their application*, UNHCR, Geneva, 26 April 1999, paragraph 21 (available at <http://www.refworld.org/docid/3c06138c4.html>).
- (⁷⁷) *National policy of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan on internal displacement*, 2013, Article 3(1) (available at <https://www.humanitarianresponse.info/en/operations/afghanistan/document/afghanistan-national-policy-internally-displaced-persons>).
- (⁷⁸) Law on Refugees from Bosnia and Herzegovina and Displaced Persons in Bosnia and Herzegovina, 1999, Article 4 (available at <https://goo.gl/rPiJpe>).
- (⁷⁹) Law of Georgia on Internally Displaced Persons – Persecuted from the Occupied Territories of Georgia, 2014, Article 6(2) (available at <http://mra.gov.ge/res/docs/20140617144442634.pdf>). ‘An underage person is entitled to an IDP status if one or both of the parents have and/or had IDP status, only based on the consent from parent(s) or his/her other legal representative’.
- (⁸⁰) Inter-Agency Standing Committee, *IASC Framework on Durable Solutions for Internally Displaced Persons*, Brookings Institution Press, Washington, D.C., April 2010 (available at <https://goo.gl/BydBcF>).
- (⁸¹) Inter-Agency Standing Committee, *IASC Framework on Durable Solutions for Internally Displaced Persons*, Brookings Institution Press, Washington, D.C., April 2010, p. 5 (available at <https://goo.gl/BydBcF>).
- (⁸²) Government of Sri Lanka, *National policy on durable solutions for conflict-affected displacement* (available at <https://reliefweb.int/report/sri-lanka/national-policy-durable-solutions-conflict-affected-displacement>).
- (⁸³) The Government of Zimbabwe’s *Framework for the Resettlement of Internally Displaced Persons*, for example, is based on the *IASC Framework on Durable Solutions*, in addition to incorporating the three Guiding Principles on internal displacement related to solutions (available at <https://www.refworld.org/pdfid/5aabe1cd4.pdf>).
- (⁸⁴) Kenya’s Prevention, Protection and Assistance to Internally Displaced Persons and Affected Communities Act, 2012 (available at http://www.parliament.go.ke/sites/default/files/2017-05/PreventionProtectionandAssistancetoInternallyDisplacedPersonsandAffectedCommunities_No56of2012_.pdf).
- (⁸⁵) Efforts have been made by a multi-stakeholder group of humanitarian and development partners to develop indicators to measure progress towards durable solutions. See <http://www.jips.org/en/profiling/durable-solutions> for further details about this process and <http://inform-durablesolutions-idp.org/> for the results of this work.

- ⁽⁸⁶⁾ *Statistical Measurement of Overcoming Internal Displacement-related Vulnerabilities*, report prepared by Lauren Herby for the EGRIS IDP subgroup Solutions Working Group, 21 August 2019.
- ⁽⁸⁷⁾ When generally referring to ‘the international definition’ of internal displacement, this report is referring to the UN Guiding Principles’ definition of internal displacement as the most commonly used and overarching definition.
- ⁽⁸⁸⁾ Using the recommended basic classificatory variables on ‘Main reason for displacement’ (see Chapter 5), allowing for disaggregation by cause of displacement according to the classification in the Guiding Principles, countries and practitioners may decide to categorise IDPs by reason of displacement differently by grouping the different categories depending on analytical and contextual needs.
- ⁽⁸⁹⁾ See paragraphs 73–79 of the IRRS.
- ⁽⁹⁰⁾ See the PDD for more information on this population (www.disasterdisplacement.org/). The PDD is a state-led initiative addressing the protection needs of people who have been displaced across borders in the context of disasters and climate change.
- ⁽⁹¹⁾ See paragraph 75 of the IRRS.
- ⁽⁹²⁾ See paragraphs 109 and 121–125 of the IRRS.
- ⁽⁹³⁾ See example from Hargeisa, Somalia: UN High Commissioner for Refugees, *Internal Displacement Profiling in Hargeisa*, 2015 (available at <https://www.jips.org/uploads/2018/10/Profiling-Report-Somalia-Hargeisa-2015.pdf>).
- ⁽⁹⁴⁾ United Nations Economic and Social Council, *Report of Statistics Norway, the Turkish Statistical Institute, Eurostat and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees on progress in the work on statistics on refugees and internally displaced persons*, E/CN.3/2016/14, 2016, paragraph 13 (available at <https://digitallibrary.un.org/record/816864>).
- ⁽⁹⁵⁾ Colombia has recently mitigated this issue by counting the cumulative stock of IDPs and disaggregating stock numbers into years so that, when disseminated, it is possible to see how flow counts have decreased over time.
- ⁽⁹⁶⁾ See paragraph 28 of the IRRS.
- ⁽⁹⁷⁾ See the UN General Assembly report recognising that slow-onset disasters, as well as sudden-onset disasters, are a cause of displacement affecting millions of people: UN General Assembly, *Promotion and Protection of Human Rights: Human rights questions, including alternative approaches for improving the effective enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms*, A/74/399/Add.2, November 2019. This builds upon earlier decisions from the UN Climate Change Conference in Cancun, Mexico, 2010 (see <http://unfccc.int/resource/docs/2010/cop16/eng/07a01.pdf>) and guidance developed by the UNHCR and partners, *Planned Relocation, Disasters and Climate Change: Consolidation of good practice and preparing for the future*, 2014 (available at <https://www.unhcr.org/54082cc69.pdf>).
- ⁽⁹⁸⁾ See United Nations Statistics Division, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, *Recommendations on Statistics of International Migration, Revision 1*, United Nations, New York, 1998, p. 9, paragraph 33 (available at https://unstats.un.org/unsd/publication/seriesm/seriesm_58rev1e.pdf).
- ⁽⁹⁹⁾ This is analogous to homeless persons in a population census – they are usually allocated to the place where they are found at the time of data collection.
- ⁽¹⁰⁰⁾ These recommendations are based on the work of a dedicated subgroup, including results from an expert consultant who tested the draft measure on three available data sets to provide guidance for these recommendations and the relevant sections of the Compilers’ Manual. However, because of a lack of available data, the measure proposed should not be considered final at present. Further testing is needed on future data sets produced through implementation of these recommendations to inform future refinement of the measure.
- ⁽¹⁰¹⁾ Inter-Agency Durable Solutions Indicator Library (available at <http://inform-durablesolutions-idp.org/indicators/>)

- (102) Inter-Agency Standing Committee, *IASC Framework on Durable Solutions for Internally Displaced Persons*, Brookings Institution Press, Washington, D.C., April 2010 (available at <https://goo.gl/BydBcF>).
- (103) See <https://www.jips.org/tools-and-guidance/durable-solutions-indicators-guide/> for more information on this process and <http://inform-durablesolutions-idp.org/> for the results of this work.
- (104) Inter-Agency and Expert Group on the Sustainable Development Goal Indicators (IAEG-SDGs), *Data Disaggregation for the SDG Indicators* (<https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/iaeg-sdgs/disaggregation/>).
- (105) See <https://unstats.un.org/unsd/demographic-social/meetings/2017/new-york--egm-migration-data> for more information.
- (106) See Chapter 5, paragraph 320–445, of the IRRS.
- (107) Inter-Agency Standing Committee, *IASC Framework on Durable Solutions for Internally Displaced Persons*, Brookings Institution Press, Washington, D.C., April 2010, p. 38 (available at <https://goo.gl/BydBcF>).
- (108) United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, *Global Compact on Refugees: Defining the Boundaries of a Host Community for the Purposes of Needs Assessment, Targeting and Programme Monitoring*, 2019.
- (109) Similar debates have developed around measuring the integration of migrants and refugees. See Council of Europe (CoE), *Measurement and Indicators of Integration*, CoE, Paris, 1997 (available at https://www.coe.int/t/dg3/migration/archives/documentation/Series_Community_Relations/Measurement_indicators_integration_en.pdf).
- (110) Note that two of the additional sub-criteria are part of the core criterion ‘Safety and security’, as illustrated in Table 4.2.
- (111) Classification as outlined in the Guiding Principles (see Chapter 2). Based on this recommended disaggregation, countries and practitioners may decide to categorise IDPs by reason of displacement differently by grouping the different categories depending on analytical and contextual needs.
- (112) For more information and guidance on unaccompanied and separated children, see International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), *Inter-agency Guiding Principles on Unaccompanied and Separated Children*, ICRC, Geneva, January 2004 (available at https://www.unicef.org/protection/IAG_UASCs.pdf) and Inter-agency Working Group on Unaccompanied and Separated Children, *Field Handbook on Unaccompanied and Separated Children*, May 2017 (available at <https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/handbook-web-2017-0322.pdf>). However, many states have specific guidance on unaccompanied and separated children; therefore, in certain contexts relevant national guidance and definitions might be applicable.
- (113) See Chapter 4 of the IRRS.
- (114) United Nations, *Principles and recommendations for population and housing censuses, revision 3*, United Nations, New York, 2015, p. 3, paragraph 1.10 (available at https://unstats.un.org/unsd/publication/seriesM/Series_M67Rev3en.pdf).
- (115) See the European Union and the United Nations, *Technical report on statistics of internally displaced persons: Current practice and recommendations for improvement*, Publications Office of the European Union, Luxembourg, 2018, p. 38, Table 4.2 (available at <https://unstats.un.org/unsd/demographic-social/Standards-and-Methods/files/Technical-Report/national-reporting/Technical-report-on-statistics-of-IDPs-E.pdf>).
- (116) United Nations Economic Commission for Europe, *Conference of European Statisticians. Recommendations for the 2020 censuses of population and housing*, United Nations, New York, 2015 (available at https://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/stats/publications/2015/ECECES41_EN.pdf).
- (117) Country reviewers of this text have noted the opportunity of the 2020 census round to provide guidance and template questions and to enhance cooperation between statistical offices on this matter. Similar comments were shared in relation to surveys.
- (118) See also Chapter 4, section C.2, of the IRRS.

- (119) See also Chapter 4, section C.3, paragraphs 196–216, and sections D.1–D.3. paragraphs 217–260, of the IRRS.
- (120) A register has been defined in the Reference And Management Of Nomenclatures (RAMON) as a ‘database which is updated continuously (often for administrative purposes, such as population registers or building registers) and from which statistics can be extracted/aggregated/computed’ (see http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/ramon/nomenclatures/index.cfm?TargetUrl=DSP_GLOSSARY_NOM_DTL_VIEW&StrNom=CODED2&StrLanguageCode=EN&IntKey=16702785&RdoSearch=BEGIN&TxtSearch=register&CboTheme=&IsTer=&IntCurrentPage=1&ter_valid=0).
- (121) In several countries the government maintains IDP-specific registers for the purposes of providing services, etc. These include Bosnia and Herzegovina, Colombia and Ukraine. Colombia is probably the country that has most actively used these records for statistical purposes, and particularly to assess whether or not displacement-related vulnerabilities have been overcome. For further information see European Union and the United Nations, *Technical report on statistics of internally displaced persons: Current practice and recommendations for improvement*, Publications Office of the European Union, Luxembourg, 2018 (available at <https://unstats.un.org/unsd/demographic-social/Standards-and-Methods/files/Technical-Report-national-reporting/Technical-report-on-statistics-of-IDPs-E.pdf>).
- (122) United Nations, *Principles and recommendations for a vital statistics system, revision 3*, 2014 (available at https://unstats.un.org/unsd/demographic-social/Standards-and-Methods/files/Principles_and_Recommendations/CRVS/M19Rev3-E.pdf).
- (123) United Nations, *Principles and recommendations for a vital statistics system, revision 3*, 2014 (available at https://unstats.un.org/unsd/demographic-social/Standards-and-Methods/files/Principles_and_Recommendations/CRVS/M19Rev3-E.pdf).
- (124) European Asylum Support Office, *Rationale for the Group for the Provision of Statistics (GPS)*, International Refugee Conference, 7–9 October 2015 (available at https://www.efta.int/sites/default/files/documents/statistics/training/EASO_RationaleForGPS.pdf).
- (125) <https://displacement.iom.int/>
- (126) <https://www.jips.org/profiling/about-profiling/>
- (127) <https://docs.wfp.org/api/documents/7e86e5a6a70447aba713e3cd4e759d8d/download/>
- (128) This is discussed in the IRRS in more detail (paragraph 229 onwards) and shows how interoperable data on IDPs and refugees can be used to add to statistics on displaced persons, both at national and international levels.
- (129) An example of this can be seen in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq, where the identification number from the Public Distribution System can be used to link data on IDP households from different data sources, such as registers and surveys.
- (130) See also the DTM (<https://displacement.iom.int/>) for specific information about this tool.
- (131) Independent agencies are established to ensure professional independence from governments. They usually have an independent governing board and reporting arrangements, which differ from those of government departments. Funding is provided by governments and in some cases is augmented by development partners.
- (132) A generic law for official statistics has been developed by the UN for reference (available at https://www.unecce.org/fileadmin/DAM/stats/publications/2016/ECECESSTAT20163_E.pdf).
- (133) Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, *Recommendation of the Council on Good Statistical Practice*, 2015 (available at <https://legalinstruments.oecd.org/en/instruments/OECD-LEGAL-0417>).
- (134) Paris 21, *2019 NSDS Progress Report*, 2019 (available at <https://paris21.org/sites/default/files/2019-05/NSDS%20Status%20Report%20May%202019.pdf>).
- (135) The UNFPOS were last endorsed in 2014; see also the resolution adopted by the Economic and Social Council on the recommendation of the Statistical Commission at the 46th plenary meeting on 24 July 2013 (available at <https://unstats.un.org/unsd/dnss/gp/fundprinciples.aspx>).

- (136) For example, see the *European Statistics Code of Practice* (adopted in 2011; available at <http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/quality/european-statistics-code-of-practice>); the *African Charter on Statistics* (adopted in 2009; available at <https://www.au.int/web/en/treaties/african-charter-statistics>); the *Code of good practice in statistics for Latin America and the Caribbean* (adopted in 2011; available at <http://repositorio.cepal.org/handle/11362/16423>); and the *ASEAN Community Statistical System (ACSS) Code of Practice* (adopted in 2012; available at <http://www.asean.org/wp-content/uploads/images/resources/Statistics/2014/Code%20of%20Practice-ADOPTED-CLEAN.pdf>).
- (137) See the detailed discussion on alternative quality frameworks for refugee statistics in Chapter 6, paragraphs 592–608, of the IRRS.
- (138) See the detailed discussion in Chapter 6, paragraphs 527–534, of the IRRS.
- (139) See United Nations, *Report of the Working Group on Open Data*, E/CN.3/2020/26, 2020 (available at <https://unstats.un.org/unsd/statcom/51st-session/documents/2020-26-OpenData-E.pdf>).
- (140) See International Statistical Institute, *Declaration on Professional Ethics*, 2010 (<https://www.isi-web.org/images/about/Declaration-EN2010.pdf>) and Eurostat, *European Statistics Code of Practice*, 2011, for examples of key guiding principles.
- (141) See Principle 3 in United Nations Economic Commission for Europe, *Managing statistical confidentiality and microdata access – principles and guidelines of good practice*, United Nations, New York, 2007.
- (142) See the discussion in paragraphs 584 and 585 of the IRRS.
- (143) For example, see the UNHCR's *Policy on the protection of personal data of persons of concern to UNHCR* (available at <https://data2.unhcr.org/en/documents/download/44570>).
- (144) Committee of the Chief Statisticians of the United Nations System (CCS-UNS), *UN Statistical Quality Assurance Framework: Including a generic statistical quality assurance framework for a UN agency*, 2016 (available at <https://unstats.un.org/unsd/unsystem/Documents-March2017/UNSystem-2017-3-QAF.pdf>).
- (145) See paragraphs 544–563 of the IRRS for more information.
- (146) Brookings Institution, *Addressing Internal Displacement: A framework for national responsibility*, Brookings Institution Press, Washington, D.C., 2005, Benchmark 7, p. 18. Designating a national institutional focal point to coordinate and facilitate the provision of protection and assistance for IDPs is a legal obligation for states that have ratified the Great Lakes Protocol on IDPs and the Kampala Convention.
- (147) See the IASC guidance note on use of the cluster approach (available at [https://www.humanitarianresponse.info/system/files/documents/files/IASC%20Guidance%20Note%20on%20using%20the%20Cluster%20Approach%20to%20strengthen%20Humanitarian%20Response%20\(November%202006\).pdf](https://www.humanitarianresponse.info/system/files/documents/files/IASC%20Guidance%20Note%20on%20using%20the%20Cluster%20Approach%20to%20strengthen%20Humanitarian%20Response%20(November%202006).pdf)).
- (148) <https://www.humanitarianresponse.info/en/programme-cycle/space/document/humanitarian-profile-support-guidance>
- (149) A useful overview of the challenges involved in obtaining representative data on IDPs can be found in Baal, N. and Ronkainen, L., 'Obtaining representative data on IDPs: Challenges and opportunities', UNHCR Statistics Technical Series: 2017/1 (available at <https://www.unhcr.org/statistics/unhcrstats/598088104/obtaining-representative-data-idps-challenges-recommendations.html>).
- (150) Committee of the Chief Statisticians of the United Nations System (CCS-UNS), *UN Statistical Quality Assurance Framework: Including a generic statistical quality assurance framework for a UN agency*, 2016 (available at <https://unstats.un.org/unsd/unsystem/Documents-March2017/UNSystem-2017-3-QAF.pdf>).
- (151) https://unstats.un.org/unsd/acsub-public/workpartner_ccsa.htm
- (152) This includes people in 'IDP-like situations', a descriptive term for groups remaining in their country of nationality or habitual residence and facing protection risks similar to those of IDPs, but who for practical or other reasons cannot be referred to as such.

- (¹⁵³) <https://www.worldbank.org/en/programs/forceddisplacement/brief/unhcr-world-bank-group-joint-data-center-on-forced-displacement-fact-sheet>
- (¹⁵⁴) See www.jips.org for more information. JIPS is governed by an Executive Committee that includes the UNHCR, OCHA, the UNDP, the DRC, the NRC, the IDMC and the UN Special Rapporteur on the human rights of IDPs.
- (¹⁵⁵) UN General Assembly Resolutions A/C.3/68/L.63/Rev.1 of November 2013, A/RES/70/165 of December 2015 and A/C.3/72/L.46/REV.1 of November 2017 on the protection and assistance of IDPs, as well as UN Human Rights Council Resolutions A/HRC/2-/L.14 of June 2012 and A/HRC/RES/32/11 of July 2016 on the human rights of IDPs.
- (¹⁵⁶) See <http://www.internal-displacement.org/> for more information.
- (¹⁵⁷) See, for example, the 2018 *Global Report on Internal Displacement. Part 3: Inside the GRID* for an explanation of major data gaps and challenges (available at <http://www.internal-displacement.org/global-report>).
- (¹⁵⁸) UN General Assembly, Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 19 December 2017, A/RES/72/182 (available at: <https://undocs.org/pdf?symbol=en/A/RES/72/182>), and UN General Assembly, Human Rights Council, *Resolution adopted by the Human Rights Council on 1 July 2016. 32/11. Mandate of the Special Rapporteur on the human rights of internally displaced persons*, A/HRC/RES/32/11, 2016 (available at http://ap.ohchr.org/documents/dpage_e.aspx?si=A/HRC/RES/32/11). By the time the IRIS is presented there will also be a new UN General Assembly resolution, so this footnote will be updated in November 2020.
- (¹⁵⁹) First session of conference of state parties for the African Union Convention for the Protection and Assistance of Internally Displaced Persons in Africa (Kampala Convention), 3–5 April 2017 (available at https://www.au.int/web/sites/default/files/newsevents/conceptnotes/32304-cn-concept_note_-_cosp_meeting_2017.pdf).
- (¹⁶⁰) Committee for the Coordination of Statistical Activities, *Recommended practices on the use of non-official sources in international statistics*, 2013 (available at <https://unstats.un.org/unsd/ccsa/documents/practices.pdf>).
- (¹⁶¹) Committee for the Coordination of Statistical Activities, *Recommended practices on the use of non-official sources in international statistics*, 2013 (available at <https://unstats.un.org/unsd/ccsa/documents/practices.pdf>).
- (¹⁶²) ‘The absence of a comment by the relevant national organisation when given ample opportunity to do so is interpreted as the statistics being acceptable to that organisation. A data value that is disputed by a national organisation is not considered official but can be disseminated along with official values provided it is accompanied by appropriate metadata to inform users of the dispute.’ Where ‘data were acquired from other sources or estimated by the international agency, the national agency to whose activities the statistics are relevant’ should be asked for approval of the estimate. (UN Statistics Quality Assurance Framework, 2018, available at: <https://unstats.un.org/unsd/unsystem/documents/UNSQAF-2018.pdf>).
- (¹⁶³) Committee of the Chief Statisticians of the United Nations System (CCS-UNS), *UN Statistical Quality Assurance Framework: Including a generic statistical quality assurance framework for a UN agency*, 2016, p. 8 (available at <https://unstats.un.org/unsd/unsystem/Documents-March2017/UNSystem-2017-3-QAF.pdf>).

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International Recommendations on Internally Displaced Persons Statistics (IRIS)

Expert Group on Refugee and Internally Displaced Persons Statistics (EGRIS)

The International Recommendations on Internally Displaced Persons Statistics (IRIS) provide a set of specific recommendations that countries and international organizations can use to improve the production, overall quality, coordination, and dissemination of statistics on internally displaced persons (IDPs).

Until now no universally recognized international statistical framework on compiling official statistics on IDPs existed. A range of national and international practices have developed over time but these vary greatly in theory and practice due to a range of practical, technical and policy realities across different displacement contexts.

Better quality statistics on forced displacement are needed to underpin national and international policy and action. They are also required to implement and monitor several international agreements, including the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration, the Global Compact on Refugees, and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030. Credible and comprehensive statistics on internal displacement are also needed to monitor progress towards the UN Secretary General's ambitious call to reduce new and protracted internal displacement by at least 50 per cent by 2030.

The IRIS were produced as part of the mandate of the Expert Group on Refugee and Internally Displaced Persons Statistics (EGRIS), established by the UN Statistical Commission (UNSC) at its 47th session in 2016. The Recommendations have been developed as a joint and consolidated effort of experts from the National Statistical System and international organizations, all members of EGRIS. Concerning IDP statistics, the group first invested in a technical review and stock-take of current practice, consolidated in the Technical Report on Statistics on Internally Displaced Persons: Current Practice and Recommendations for Improvement (2018) and later built upon this to develop the Recommendations contained in this publication. The recommendations were adopted by UNSC in March 2020.

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