

Virtual Stakeholder Meeting on Refugee Resettlement in the United States: The Role of Migration Research in Promoting Migrant Well-being During the COVID-19 Pandemic

Session 1: Concepts, Definitions and Data on Refugees and Forced Migrants and Migrant Populations

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**BECAUSE
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COUNTS**

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COMMITTEE ON POPULATION

Challenge: Most Refugees hosted in countries where National Statistical Systems need considerable strengthening

Top Source and Host Countries for Refugees

Source Country	Number of refugees	Primarily hosted in...
Syria	6,500,000	Turkey (3.6 m), Lebanon (968,000), Jordan (667,200), Germany (514,000), Iraq (251,200), Egypt (129,700), Sweden (104,900)
Afghanistan	2,700,000	Pakistan (1.4m), Islamic Republic of Iran (951,100), Germany (116,700)
South Sudan	2,200,000	Uganda (784,500), Sudan (768,100), Ethiopia (445,000), Kenya (114,000), DRC (93,100)
Myanmar	1,200,000	Bangladesh (943,200), Malaysia (106,400), Thailand (97,400)
Somalia	954,700	Ethiopia (256,400), Yemen (256,400), Kenya (251,400)

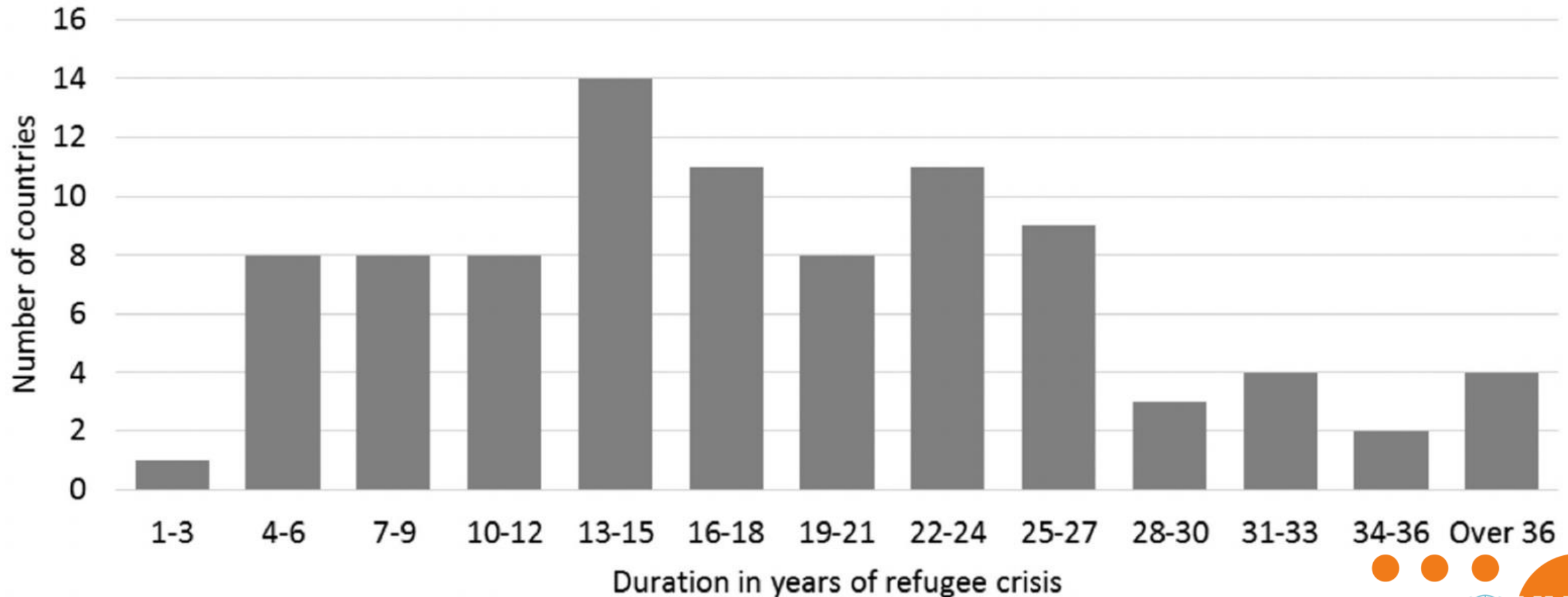
NOTE: High-income countries are in boldface.

SOURCE: UNHCR (2019b).

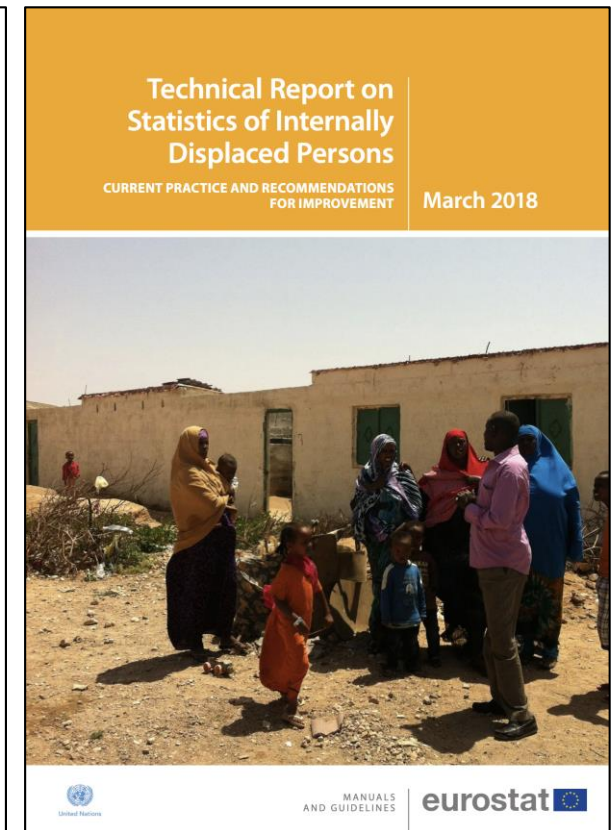
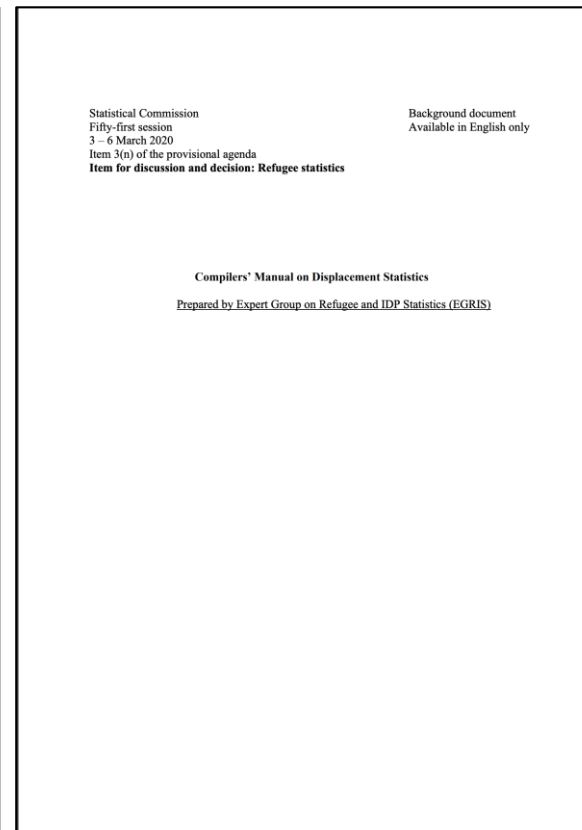
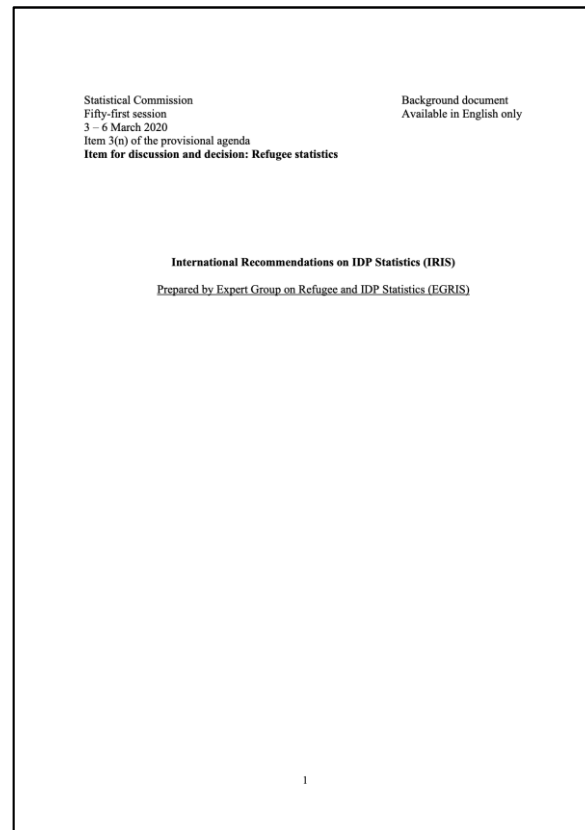
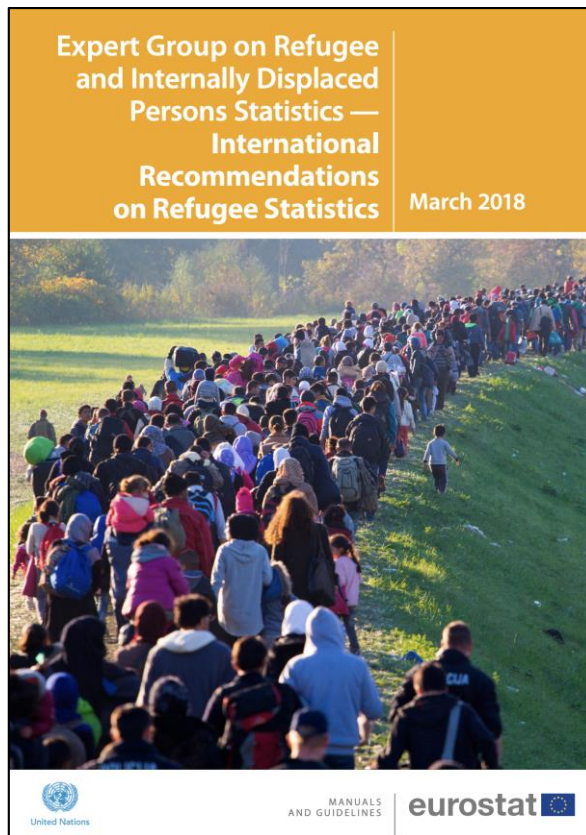


Challenge:

Displacement is often a protracted experience



New Norm: Refugee and IDP Statistics as Official Statistics



Available for download at:
<https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/expert-group-on-refugee-statistics/documents-presentations>



A strategic pivot: from operational to official statistics

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

Source: International Recommendations on Refugee Statistics, United Nations, 2018

Concepts, definitions, and data on refugee and forced migrants and migrant populations

- *The demography of refugee migration and settlement is constrained by official definitions of who is a refugee or an immigrant.*
- *Data collection is needed to support analysis that is comparative among refugee and immigrant groups over time and different regions and places in the United States, and that recognizes the changing and emerging drivers of migration.*

Panelists

- **Sebastian Steinmuller**

United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

- **Bouchta Bouziani**

High Commission for Planning, Morocco

- **Vebjørn Aalandslid**

Statistics Norway