

Information Management and Inclusion Group (IMIG)

Terms of Reference

Background

In March 2022, UNHCR and partners launched the Regional Refugee Response Plan (RRP) to promote and implement a comprehensive response to support efforts by neighbouring countries to protect and assist refugees coming from Ukraine. UNHCR leads and coordinates the implementation of the RRP, in line with the Refugee Coordination Model (RCM), in close collaboration and consultation with relevant government counterparts, and with the support of Inter-Agency partners and other stakeholders.

The Regional Information Management Working Group (IMWG) has been established in 2022 to resume important regional IM discussions after the discontinuation of the Information Management Analysis Cell (IMAC), which was established and co-chaired by UNOCHA and UNHCR at the start of the refugee crisis. Between 2022 and 2024, the IMWG, which was led by UNHCR, focused on coordinating IM activities of main RRP partners, and on developing and improving RRP data and information tools. These included the development of a harmonized appeal system; regional indicators to monitor the RRP¹ achievements and outcomes, and a partner activity reporting system at country and regional level. The IMWG also rolled out a common funding tracking system² linked to UNHCR's Refugee Funding Tracker³. In addition, the IMWG focused on coordinating the regional Multi-Sector Needs Assessments (MSNAs) which evolved in 2024 into the Socio-Economic Insights Survey (SEIS) placing greater focus on supporting the refugees' socio-economic inclusion agenda.

The Regional Socio-Economic Inclusion Working Group (RIWG) was established in 2022 under the Regional Refugee Coordination Forum to promote inclusion of

¹ 2023: <https://data.unhcr.org/en/documents/details/98694>

2024: <https://data.unhcr.org/en/documents/details/104720>

2025/2026: <https://data.unhcr.org/en/documents/details/111429>

² Refugee Funding Tracking SOP <https://data.unhcr.org/en/documents/details/107123>

³ UNHCR's Refugee Funding Tracker: <http://refugee-funding-tracker.org>

refugees in national systems from the onset and help address the de facto inclusion barriers that exist across the region albeit the enabling legal framework through temporary protection and similar instruments in non-EU countries. Between 2022 and 2024, the RIWG, co-chaired by UNHCR and UNDP, focused on promoting evidence-based approaches to socio-economic inclusion by developing and contributing to technical guidance for integrating refugees into national systems (market, social protection, education, health, housing market), organizing and supporting events to enable knowledge exchange on good practices and lessons learnt, strengthen multi-stakeholder coordination, fostering a gender-responsive approach; and supporting social cohesion efforts. A strong focus was put on enhancing socio-economic data and promoting the use of internationally recognized data and indicators, including by contributing to the Multi-Sector Needs Assessment (MSNA) and the Socio-Economic Insights Survey (SEIS), to drive inclusive policies and practices and help build the business case for inclusion at regional and national levels.

The recommendation to merge the Information Management Working Group (IMWG) and the Regional Inclusion Working Group (RIWG) emerged from the Regional Coordinator's stakeholder workshop in Warsaw in September 2024 and was jointly agreed between the co-chairs and the members of both working groups. This decision aimed at streamlining regional working groups, reduce overlaps, and minimize the number of meetings. The merger reflects the recognition of complementary goals and the increasing alignment of activities between the IMWG and RIWG. Reasons for the merger include:

- **Maturity of IM Systems:** Existing systems such as the Financial Tracking System (FTS) and activity/output reporting tools and frameworks are now stable, requiring only minor updates for 2025.
- **Focus on refugees' statistical inclusion:** Aligning the Socio-Economic Inclusion Survey (SEIS) to European standards surveys such as EU-SILC and EU_LFS and fostering partnerships with national statistical institutions; to promote the statistical inclusion of refugees which is critical to ensure sustainability in measuring and guiding socio-economic inclusion. Collaborative efforts between IMWG and RIWG will advance such objective, while ensuring data and analysis produced in the framework of the RRP can better support the socio-economic inclusion agenda.
- **Data-Driven Socio-economic Inclusion:** Effective advocacy for socio-economic inclusion relies on robust data and evidence-based insights. The IMWG's technical expertise will enhance data-driven advocacy, while RIWG's understanding of socio-economic inclusion barriers, opportunities and key

stakeholders can inform targeted messaging, priority setting, and advocacy efforts.

Objectives

The IMIG will focus on the following overarching goals:

1. Strengthen Evidence-Based Advocacy for Socio-economic Inclusion

- Utilize comprehensive data and analysis to advocate for socio-economic inclusion, ensuring stakeholder dialogues are informed and impactful.
- Organize (virtual) events to present findings of the SEIS and other socio-economic data, to guide inclusive policies, facilitate exchange across countries and stakeholders and promote impactful practices.
- Enhance the quality and representativeness of surveys like SEIS, aligning with inclusion priorities.

2. Enhance Coordination of Data and Socio-economic Inclusion Activities

- Consolidate events, activities, and thematic meetings to harmonize efforts across data and inclusion domains.
- Ensure regular, targeted sessions on priority topics, fostering collaboration and innovation.
- Harmonise regional data/IM initiatives to minimize the risk of duplication and ensure a consistent and accurate refugee narrative.
- Jointly identify persistent socio-economic data gaps and make recommendations on how to address them, linked with the objective of promoting statistical inclusion.
- Sharing best practices and case studies from member organizations.

3. Promote Refugee Socio-economic Inclusion into National Statistical Systems

- Mainstream statistical inclusion agenda into any joint data collection and analysis initiative, reports and events produced or organized by the group.
- Contribute to promote the International Recommendations on Refugee Statistics in the region, including by supporting and raising awareness of the activities that the EGRISS regional working-group for Europe would embark in the future.

Structure

The Regional IMIG will be chaired by UNHCR's Regional Bureau for Europe (RBE) based in Geneva with two UNHCR leads, one with focus on Statistics and Information Management and the other on Socio-economic Inclusion. The two leads will facilitate the coordination with the other working groups and ensure timely follow-up on RCM related processes. In addition, two co-leads from RRP Partner Organizations will support the working group, one focused on Statistics/IM (IOM) and one focused on Inclusion (UNDP). Both chairs and co-leads are jointly responsible for setting up meetings, proposing thematic priorities, drafting and sharing minutes, organizing eventual sub-working groups and engaging potential new members in their respective thematic areas.

Membership

Core participants include UNHCR, IOM, UNICEF, UNWOMEN, UNFPA, WHO, REACH, UNDP, ILO, WFP, NRC, ICVA

Membership is open to other organizations contributing to refugees' socio-economic inclusion and data-related discussions. Core participants should have a regional role.

If IMIG members believe there is the need to have a separate forum for a particular topic, which could involve the participation of a larger number of organisations, then this can be requested by members, and can be held on an ad-hoc basis.

Scope

The Regional IMIG will focus specifically on:

1. Ukraine Situation

- **Countries neighbouring Ukraine** which are also featured in the Ukraine Situation Regional Response Plan.
- It will also discuss **IM and Socio-economic Inclusion activities in other onward destination European countries** which also host significant refugee numbers.
- **Linkage Between Inside and Outside Ukraine:** Strengthen connections between efforts inside Ukraine and host countries to support durable solutions, including return when conditions allow and reintegration.

2. Refugees and Asylum Seekers in Europe

- While the focus of the RRP is on refugees from Ukraine, any advocacy initiatives should aim at promoting the socio-economic inclusion of all refugees, independent of their legal status, gender or nationality and raise awareness on the topic among host communities.

Linkages with other Groups

The IMIG will work closely with other groups to align goals, avoid duplication, and maximize impact. Key linkages include:

Regional Coordination Forum (RCF):

- The IMIG will provide regular updates and report back to the RCF on its activities, progress, and key findings.

Expert Group on Refugee and Internally Displaced Persons Statistics (EGRISS):

- The IMIG will align with EGRISS standards and methodologies, particularly for improving quality and harmonization of data on refugee socio-economic inclusion.
- The IMIG will promote and contribute to the activities that the EGRISS working group for Europe will embark in the future to support the adoption of internationally recognized statistical practices.

Ukraine Situation country IMWG: This group includes the chairs of the country level IMWGs.

- The IMIG will regularly update and keep the Ukraine Situation IMWGs and socio-economic inclusion WGs informed of regional discussions and decision.
- The IMIG will coordinate national level events that promote statistical inclusion with the countries' IMWGs.

ACCOUNTABILITY

The IMIG Working Group is accountable for:

- Ensuring that the needs of refugees are addressed through timely and coordinated actions that integrate data-driven insights and socio-economic inclusion efforts.
- Maintaining effective coordination mechanisms among members, government counterparts, and donors to support planning, implementation, and reporting of activities.
- Ensuring that data on the situation and the needs of the affected population is gathered (disaggregated according to age, gender and diversity) and the analysis of information regularly is updated;
- Ensuring that all IMIG Working Group members are accountable to affected populations through consultative and feedback mechanisms; and
- Advocating for sufficient funding and resources to support inclusion and data-related initiatives.

Meeting Frequency

- Full group meetings will occur every two months in 2025. [schedule to be included]
- Sub-groups focusing on specific projects (e.g., SEIS) may meet more frequently based on their workplan.

Activities

The table below outlines tentative activities to be discussed and approved during the initial meeting of the newly formed IMIG:

Activity	Lead / co-lead
<p>SEIS Enhancement and Advocacy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strengthen SEIS methodology, data collection, and analysis to inform socio-economic inclusion efforts. • Use SEIS findings to drive regional and national advocacy campaigns. • Strategically use the SEIS to showcase the added value refugees' statistical inclusion. • Publish reports and analysis to inform and influence policy. 	
<p>Stakeholder Mapping:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify key actors and initiatives to facilitate better coordination and alignment. 	
<p>Regional Data and Inclusion Events:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Organize events in collaboration with entities such as OECD, EUROSTAT, private sector, NSOs and municipalities to showcase progress on inclusion, flag remaining gaps and promote collaboration. 	
<p>Knowledge Sharing and Capacity Building:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conduct thematic sessions and develop best practice guidelines to support members' activities. • Provide technical guidance and capacity building on socio-economic inclusion related topics, to enhance refugees' inclusion prospects for all refugees. 	