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The regular reporting of precise and up-to-date resettlement statistics and relevant additional data is a crucial component of UNHCR's reporting to the Executive Committee (EXCOM) and to other governmental and non-governmental bodies. Statistics assist the work of resettlement fora such as the Working Group on Resettlement and the Annual Tripartite Consultation on Resettlement, and may also inspire deliberations within the *Convention Plus* initiative¹

Resettlement statistics assist UNHCR and all concerned parties in:

- assessing resettlement needs and priorities²;
- planning and developing policy directions for UNHCR;
- helping in planning and developing policy for Governments, including:
 - setting quotas/resettlement admission targets of resettlement places;
 - analysing quotas used by UNHCR and Governments; and
 - projecting resettlement needs and monitoring progress and problems;
- programming and budgeting of resettlement projects;
- resettlement pledging and negotiations for required places,
- fund raising; and
- public information (improving awareness and understanding).

Resettlement issues generate much public interest as well as critical examination, especially among the donor governments and non-governmental organizations (NGOs).

¹ *Convention Plus* and its relevance to resettlement is delineated above in Chapter XX1.

² In Goal 5, Objective 6, Action 3 of the *Agenda for Protection*, States and UNHCR are encouraged “to examine how to carry out earlier analysis of data deriving from refugee registration, to anticipate the needs for resettlement of individuals or specific groups and to process more rapidly resettlement applications, particularly in emergency situations.”

The important role of resettlement, both as an instrument of protection, as a durable solution, and as a mechanism for international responsibility and burden-sharing is reaffirmed in the *Agenda for Protection* and in the *Convention Plus* initiative. As a consequence, UNHCR must continue to strengthen its overall implementation of resettlement activities through on-going dialogue with interested governments and NGOs, and must provide regular reports to EXCOM.

In order to provide more reliable, comprehensive and credible information on resettlement activities, the reporting format of the resettlement statistics for completion by Field Offices was revised effective 01 January 2003. The new format is called Resettlement Statistical Report (RSR; see Annex 4) and it incorporates recommendations from Headquarters and from Field Offices, as well as suggestions from governments and NGOs.

The revision is designed to improve the quality, comprehensiveness and usefulness of the data collected and simplify the work of collecting and completing resettlement figures while trying to respond to the most essential needs of various users and still maintain the consistency with the Annual Statistic Reports (ASR) forms³ (which cover general statistics on overall populations, some of whom are in need of resettlement assistance). The RSR will help to greatly improve monitoring of resettlement progress and performance.

The RSR is the main statistical report on resettlement and UNHCR Country Offices must ensure their accurate and timely compilation. There may be instances in which UNHCR Country Offices need to develop internal statistical reports for local use or for reporting on particular resettlement programmes which benefit from earmarked funding. In this case, it is essential that consistency exists among the various statistical reporting and between these and the RSR.

Frequency and Submission of the RSR Forms

Field Offices are requested to forward the completed RSR forms directly to the Resettlement Section at Headquarters (attention: Senior Resettlement Officer covering the region and copy to the focal point) by E-Mail. The Resettlement Section will correct and clear the reports and provide a copy to the relevant Desk and to the Population Data Unit (PDU) of the Division of Operational Support (DOS). The following deadlines apply:

<u>Quarter ending</u>	<u>Due at RS HQs</u>
31 March	15 April
30 June	15 July
30 September	15 October
31 December	15 January

The RSR forms are included as Annex 4, and are provided to Offices in the Field in Excel file.

³ See Annex 4

Guidelines for Completion of the RSR Forms.

In order to facilitate the completion of the RSR form, the Excel file which contains the form also includes explanatory notes related to each field of the form, guiding the user in the exercise. Should further clarification be needed for the accurate completion of the RSR, Field Offices are encouraged to contact the Resettlement Section at HQs.

Procedures at Headquarters

Within Headquarters, the Resettlement Section is responsible for the provision of correct and consistent statistics on populations of concern to UNHCR. Upon receipt of the RSR forms from the field, the Resettlement Section analyze and correct the data in consultation with the field, if needed, in order to ensure that data are accurate and updated. When the RSR are cleared, they are forwarded to the PDU-DOS which is responsible for producing the global quarterly and annual consolidated resettlement statistical reports. Desks are therefore expected to:

- Ensure that Offices in the Field comply with the deadlines for submission of the relevant forms.
- ensure that the forms are filled in correctly and in full; and
- Cross-check the information reported on the forms with monthly SITREPs, previous statistical forms, and other sources of information.

Project PROFILE and statistics.⁴

As part of UNHCR's role to assist States in fulfilling their responsibility for registering refugees, the Office has initiated "Project PROFILE". The aim of PROFILE is to strengthen UNHCR's field capacity to establish the size of the refugee population more accurately, as well as to collect, analyse and use population information effectively for protection, planning, implementation and monitoring purposes. PROFILE is a strategy incorporating a number of practical activities including:

- Strengthening of core registration and population management procedures;
- Development and systematic introduction of counting and survey methods;
- Development of global population data management software;
- Introduction of an Automated Fingerprint Information System (AFIS) or similar biometric capability, and
- Introduction of fraud proof identity documentation.

⁴ See *Practical Aspects of Physical and Legal Protection with regard to Registration*, Global Consultations on International Protection, UN DOC. EC/GC/01/6, 19 February 2001, section III.

As mentioned, registration is an essential tool for effective protection, planning, timely delivery of adequate assistance, as well as the pursuit of appropriate durable solutions. Since registration consists of a number of interrelated activities, including identification, recording of date, documentation, verification, case processing, as well as data management and exchange, the collection, storage, update and management of refugee data is a continuing process. Any operational system must be structured as an integrated population information management tool, covering the full “refugee cycle”, from initial displacement to durable solutions. This is one of the aims of PROFILE.

Registration and the issuance of appropriate documentation to refugees in large-scale influx situations must be recognised as essential requirements in providing legal and physical protection. It ensures that refugees have access to their rights, including protection against *refoulement*, personal safety, adequate assistance, tracing and family reunification. PROFILE also would make such documentation possible.

When PROFILE has been implemented in all UNHCR operations, it is expected that refugee statistics, including those relating to resettlement, will be automatically processed. This will vastly improve the management of data also with regard to resettlement.