

MID-YEAR STATISTICAL REPORT (MYSR)

1. Introduction

- 1.1 Accurate and up-to-date statistics on the population of concern to UNHCR are required first and foremost for planning, monitoring and evaluation purposes, and for official reporting to UNHCR's Executive Committee, to ECOSOC, in the context of the Global Report, etc. Statistics are also required to satisfy general information needs from the UN common system (for instance the Common Country Assessments), donors, NGOs, for public information purposes, fund raising/appeals, speeches, research, maps, etc¹. This section provides information on the type of population data to be reported to Headquarters and the procedures, guidelines and formats to be followed.
- 1.2 The "population of concern" to UNHCR is the central focus of all programme planning. It is therefore important that population trends and patterns, major changes, and significant discrepancies between different reporting parties are reported through the appropriate statistical formats (see below). More importantly, this information should be analysed and, where possible, explained in the appropriate narrative format (cover e-mail etc.). For instance, an analysis by sex and age may reveal a disproportionate presence of older female refugees requiring an adjustment of the programme.

2. Accuracy and consistency

- 2.1 Statistics represent an important tool for planning, monitoring and evaluation, at both the field and Headquarters levels. When consistently recorded and developed over time, they provide an important and practical yardstick for tracking progress against objectives and for identifying trends and changes in numbers and habits (for example, school attendance rising/falling etc.). The statistics reported to Headquarters are also crucial to the compilation of many reports that are carefully read and utilized both by UNHCR and by donors. Donors use the statistics in their efforts to build and maintain their own domestic support for continued funding and advocacy. Therefore, all efforts should be made to gather the information and complete the Mid-Year Statistical Report (MYSR) as carefully and accurately as possible as this is used for numerous internal and external publications, databases, reports and external information requests. Where possible, verified registration data, for example data contained in *proGres*, should be the starting point for calculation of the MYSR for each country operation.
- 2.2 All statistics provided for internal or external use should be based on statistics reported through the Annual Statistical Report (ASR) and Mid-Year Statistical Report. This includes all figures used in ExCom reports, Operations Plans, and Country Reports, implementing instruments, documentation for funding appeals, public information activities, maps, etc. Emergencies are an exception because reporting frequency is usually much higher. *The ASR and MYSR are the only official sources for statistical reporting within UNHCR.* By adhering to the use of the ASR and MYSR as the **only** official sources for statistics, the necessary consistency can be maintained in documentation issued by the various Headquarters Units and the Field.
- 2.3 Statistics cover both protection and assistance activities, and they have a significant external relations function. It is therefore imperative that the statistics are compiled in

¹ Consult the UNHCR website at www.unhcr.org for additional information.

close consultation with the various sections of the Country Office, and that any inconsistencies are resolved, *before* they are submitted to Headquarters.

3. The use of standard terminology in narrative reporting

3.1 One of the main challenges facing the Office in the area of statistics is the use of non-standard concepts and terminology to describe the population of concern to UNHCR. When drafting texts concerning refugees and others of concern to UNHCR, special attention should, therefore, be paid to the *proper use of the standard terminology*, as provided in this Section. The concepts and terminology used in the MYSR should also be applied in all narrative reporting on statistics.

3.2 Particular attention should be paid to the following subjects and the specific terminology mentioned:

a) Population of concern. Each statistical narrative should be clear about the type of population of concern to UNHCR. Seven main types are distinguished:

- **Refugees**, i.e. refers to persons recognized by the Government and/or UNHCR, including (a) persons recognized as refugees by Governments having ratified the *1951 United Nations Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees*, and/or its *1967 Protocol*; (b) persons recognized as refugees under the *1969 Organization of African Unity (OAU) Convention Governing the Specific Aspects of Refugee Problems in Africa*; (c) those recognized in accordance with the principles enshrined in the *Cartagena Declaration*; (d) persons recognized by UNHCR as refugees in accordance with its Statute (otherwise referred to as “mandate” refugees); (e) those who have been granted a complementary form of protection (i.e. non-Convention); and (f) persons who have been granted temporary protection on a group basis.

Since 2007, the refugee population category includes *persons in a refugee-like situation*. This sub-category is descriptive in nature and includes persons or groups of persons who are outside their country or territory of origin and who face protection risks similar to those of refugees, but who, for practical or other reasons, have not been formally recognized or issued documentation to that effect.

The total refugee population is derived by adding up the categories “refugees” and “people in refugee-like situations”.

- **Asylum-seekers**, i.e. persons who have applied for asylum or refugee status, but who have not yet received a final decision on their application;
- **Returned refugees**, i.e. are former refugees who have returned to their country of origin spontaneously or in an organized fashion but are yet to be fully integrated. Such return would normally only take place in conditions of safety and dignity. For purposes of the MYSR, a maximum cut-off period of six months within one calendar year is applied, i.e. all returns occurring between 1 January and 30 June;
- **Internally displaced persons (IDPs) protected/assisted by UNHCR**, i.e. persons who are displaced within their own country and who benefit from UNHCR’s protection or assistance activities, either directly or as part of a United Nations Country Team (UNCT) collaborative response in which UNHCR participates.

Since 2007, the IDP population category includes *people in IDP-like situations*. This sub-category is descriptive in nature and includes groups of

persons who are inside their country of nationality or habitual residence and who face protection risks similar to those of IDPs but who, for practical or other reasons, could not be reported as such.

The total IDP population protected/assisted by UNHCR is derived by adding up the categories “IDPs protected/assisted by UNHCR” and “people in IDP-like situations”.

- **Returned IDPs**, i.e. are former IDPs who have returned to their place of origin spontaneously or in an organized fashion but are yet to be fully integrated. Such return would normally only take place in conditions of safety and dignity. For purposes of the MYSR, a maximum cut-off period of six months within one calendar year is applied, i.e. all returns occurring between 1 January and 30 June;
 - **Persons of concern under UNHCR’s statelessness mandate**, i.e. refers to (a) persons who are not considered as nationals by any State under the operation of its law as per Article 1 of the *1954 Convention Relating to the Status of Stateless Persons*, (b) *de facto* stateless persons as well as (c) persons with undetermined nationality (see page 11 for detailed guidance). UNHCR offices should conduct a desk review of all available statistical information on the populations in the country mentioned above. Many States do not have mechanisms in place to efficiently identify stateless individuals. When such procedures exist, UNHCR should quote State sources but the Office should also indicate whether they reflect other findings of the desk review. If such mechanisms do not exist, UNHCR should be pro-active in identifying all possible sources which can provide reliable estimates; and
 - **Other persons of concern**, i.e. refers to individuals who do not necessarily fall directly into any of the groups above but to whom UNHCR has been given a mandate to provide protection and/or assistance (e.g. based on regional documents, peace agreements, General Assembly resolutions). Persons with whom UNHCR is engaged purely on a good offices basis, such as, for instance, rejected asylum-seekers, should not be included.
- b) Women, children², including adolescents, youth³, older persons⁴, etc. Statements such as “x per cent of the population are women and children” should be avoided. First, there is no reason to combine these two different population groups (not all women and children have specific needs). Second, providing a percentage on women or children refugees is very confusing if the age groups are not specified. Thus, when a text quantifies the number of refugee “women”, “children”, including “adolescents”, “youth” or “older persons”, the precise age groups must be specified as they influence programme content.
- c) Reconciliation of voluntary repatriation and returnee statistics. One major source of discrepancies is the lack of reconciliation of voluntary repatriation statistics between UNHCR Offices in countries of asylum and the returnee statistics as reported by Offices in the country of origin (return). Every effort should be made to reconcile these statistics *before* these statistics are reported to Headquarters.

² A child means every person under the age of 18 years, “unless, under the law applicable to the child, majority is attained earlier.” (article 1, Convention on the Rights of the Child).

³ Youth has been defined as persons between the ages of 15-24 years (as per the definition used by UNICEF, UNFPA and WHO).

⁴ The definition of an older person adopted by WHO is a person over 60 years of age. However, in the application of UNHCR’s policy on older refugees, factors such as life expectancy and cultural norms that differ from region to region are taken into account.

- d) The use of defined and standard reporting periods. The use of clearly defined and standardized reporting periods is important for developing coherent time-sequenced series of data and in the narrative reporting of statistics. For instance, there is little use in reporting on refugee returns if the reporting period is not clearly indicated. Reporting by calendar month and/or quarter of year is strongly encouraged.
- e) UNHCR-assisted. The term “assistance” comprises a wide range of support activities which UNHCR provides to its people of concern. It can, for instance, take the form of direct vs. indirect assistance (i.e. through partners). In general, a three-level approach of assistance can be identified. That is, (i) assistance to individuals/families (refugee status determination, medical, food, shelter), (ii) to communities through community-based interventions (e.g. building an access road to a school) (iii) or through capacity building of others than persons of concern and advocacy-type of activities to local and national authorities (e.g. commenting on national refugee legislation, training of officials on refugee status determination).

For the purpose of statistical reporting, UNHCR-assisted shall refer to persons of concern who are beneficiaries of UNHCR programmes. Persons who directly or indirectly benefit from individual/family assistance or community-based interventions should be reported in the MYSR as UNHCR-assisted.

Persons only benefiting from the results of capacity-building with governments and other authorities as well advocacy-type of activities should not be included within the UNHCR-assisted figures, even though these types of activities might have an impact on all persons of concern in a country. In the MYSR the reporting of UNHCR-assisted refers to the number of individuals and not interventions. For instance, a refugee might receive food assistance multiple times during the reporting period, however, s/he should be counted only once in the MYSR.

Recognizing that the nature of assistance may differ depending on population type, below is a non-exhaustive list of assistance activities which may serve as guidance for completing the MYSR. The first table provides a general overview of types of assistance, likely applicable to refugees, asylum-seekers, and returnees. The subsequent two tables are linked to IDPs and stateless persons. Note that only populations benefiting from activities included in the first two columns shall be included in the MYSR.

Assistance to persons of concern
(excluding IDPs and persons under UNHCR’s statelessness mandate)

Assistance to individuals/ families/ households	Assistance to communities	Activities enhancing the protection environment in general. <u>Not to be reported in the MYSR</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provision of material assistance (e.g. food, shelter materials, core relief items) • Provision of financial assistance through cash or vouchers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Construction of community infrastructure (schools, medical points, access roads, etc.) • Awareness, training and empowerment session with communities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Training of officials and NGOs. • Capacity building activities with authorities or NGOs Public advocacy and public information activities. Comments on

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provision of services such as education, medical care, and social and psychosocial counselling. • Individual registration • Refugee Status Determination by UNHCR • Provision of legal counselling and advice. • Assistance to obtain or provision of documents. • Individual support to access education, vocational training, and livelihood activities. • Persons visited in detention • Persons benefiting from repatriation assistance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participatory and other needs assessments activities. • Camp management and camp coordination activities • Community mobilization activities • Information sessions held with communities on the conditions in areas of return 	<p>legislation. Amicus curiae submissions to courts.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lobbying with Government authorities. • Negotiating access to affected populations. • Information Management activities
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Assistance to Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs)

Assistance to individuals/families/ households	Assistance to communities	Activities enhancing the protection and humanitarian environment in general. <u>Not to be reported in the MYSR</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protection monitoring at the individual and household level, i.e. incidents reported. • Provision of material assistance (e.g. food, shelter materials, core relief items) • Provision of financial assistance through cash or vouchers. • Provision of services such as education, medical care, and social and psychosocial counselling. • Individual, family or household registration and/or profiling • Provision of legal counselling, advice or assistance. • Assistance to obtain civil 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protection monitoring at the community level. • Construction of community infrastructure (schools, medical points, access roads, etc.) • Awareness, training, capacity building and empowerment session with communities. • Participatory and other needs assessments activities. • Community mobilization activities. • Information sessions held with IDP communities on the conditions in areas of return. • Camp management and camp coordination activities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Training of officials and NGOs. • Capacity building activities with authorities or NGOs • Public advocacy on the protection situation of IDPs and public information activities. • Assistance with the development of national laws and policies on IDPs (for instance through comments on draft legislation or lobbying activities). • Advocacy with authorities for IDPs to have equal access to individual civil documentation. • Cluster coordination

<p>and identity documents.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Individual support to access education, vocational training, and livelihood activities. • Persons visited in detention and provided with assistance. • Persons benefiting from assistance in return 		<p>activities or other similar coordination mechanisms such as sectors or other, less formal mechanisms.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lobbying with Government authorities. • Negotiating access to affected populations.
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Assistance to persons under UNHCR’s statelessness mandate

Assistance to individuals/ families/ households	Assistance to communities	Activities enhancing the protection environment in general. <u>Not to be reported in the MYSR</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provision of material assistance (e.g. food, shelter materials, non-food items) • Provision of financial assistance, including accommodation paid for by UNHCR. • Provision of services such as education, medical care, and social and psychosocial counselling. • Individual registration • Statelessness Status Determination by UNHCR • Provision of legal counselling and advice. • Assistance to obtain or provision of civil and identity documents, including building capacity of authorities which leads directly to documentation of individuals. • Individual support to access education, vocational training, and income-generating activities. • Persons visited in detention 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Construction of community infrastructure (schools, medical points, access roads, etc.) • Awareness, training and empowerment session with communities. • Participatory and other needs assessments activities. • Community mobilization activities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Training of officials and NGOs. • Capacity building activities with authorities or NGOs • Public advocacy and public information activities. • Amicus curiae submissions to courts. • Technical advice on legislation. • Advocacy with Government. • Undertaking mapping studies/analysis of nationality law • Negotiating access to affected populations.

4. Upload of MYSR data into the online application

- 4.1 UNHCR Country Offices should populate one Mid-Year Statistical Report per calendar year. The MYSR should cover the period 1 January to 30 June (6 months). There is no need to submit a second MYSR (ie. 1 July to 31 December) since the ASR covers the entire period for January to December (12 months). The MYSR data should be uploaded no later than 15 days after the end of the reporting period (ie. 15 July).

5. Guidelines for the completion of the MYSR

- 5.1 The MYSR application cannot be changed in any way, except to add rows in case there are more nationalities to report on than will fit in the space provided. Please note the following points, in particular:
- a) When reporting on origin, please select from the appropriate drop-down menu provided in the application. If this breakdown is not available, those persons should be reported in the table as ‘various’ origins.
 - b) In principle, all statistics should refer to the number of persons. In case the number of persons is not available, the number of cases should be stated.
 - c) The information reported at the beginning of the reporting period should always be consistent with the information reported at the end of the previous reporting period. In the MYSR, this applies to Table A (“Population 1 January”), Tables D, E, F, G, and H (“Total as at 1 January”), Table B (“Pending applications 1 January”).
 - d) The term “UNHCR-assisted” refers to persons of concern who are beneficiaries of UNHCR programmes. See 3.2.e for more details.
 - e) Statistics on the size of the refugee population are not available in many industrialized countries. The UNHCR refugee population estimates for these countries are based on the cumulative number of recognized asylum-seekers over the past 10 years. Particularly in the industrialized countries, an effort should be made to adhere as closely as possible to statistics published or made available by the relevant national authorities.

6. Table A. Refugee population and changes

- 6.1 Table A should include all refugees in the country as defined in paragraph 3.2 of this Section and cover both registered and unregistered/estimated refugee populations. Please note that asylum-seekers, i.e. persons who have applied for individual asylum, but whose refugee claims have not yet been adjudicated, should **not** be listed in Table A, but in Table B.
- a) Population 1 Jan. State here the number of refugees at the start of the year. *The population at the start of the year should, in principle, always equal the population reported at the end of the previous year (see the ASR covering the previous year).* Discrepancies between the population as it was reported at the end of the previous year and the population at the start of the current year should be listed under “Other

increases” or “Other decreases,” as appropriate, and explained (for instance: verification, repatriation, new estimate etc.).

- b) Spontaneous arrivals. Three options are available: group recognition, temporary protection, or individually recognized. List spontaneous refugee arrivals, indicating whether they were recognized on a group basis or following individual refugee status determination. Only those refugees who were recognized without an individual interview should be reported under ‘group recognition’. Those refugees who were recognized on a *prima facie* basis following a summary individual interview to verify nationality and/or the applicability of exclusion clauses should be reported under ‘Indiv. Recogn.’. Please note that the column “Indiv. Recogn.” in Table A should be identical with the column “Recognized” in Table B. Use the ‘Temporary Protection’ column to record refugees who were granted a form of temporary protection or stay by the host country.
- c) Other increases (explain). State here increases in the refugee population including resettlement or births during the first half of the year (1 January – 30 June). This may also include (a) persons who already resided in the country and who became refugees as a result of changed conditions in the country of origin (refugees “*sur place*”); and (b) population increases as a result of a registration, census, survey or revised estimate. A brief explanation of these increases should be provided in (Table I. Comments).
- d) Voluntary repatriation. Indicate under “Total” the total number of refugees who are estimated to have repatriated voluntarily during the first half of the year (1 January – 30 June). This includes refugees who have spontaneously departed in addition to those whose return has been assisted by UNHCR. Table A is to be completed by countries of asylum and should report repatriation departures. Table F is to be completed by countries of origin and should report numbers of returning refugees/people in refugee-like situations. Every effort should be made to ensure that the figures reported on this form, by country of asylum and country of origin, are consistent. In case of discrepancies, the country of origin reporting will generally supersede the country of asylum reporting. Population decreases due to a new registration, census, survey or revised estimate should be reported here if it can be assumed that the population decrease is due to unregistered returns. Indicate under “UNHCR-assisted” the number of refugees who have repatriated with UNHCR-assistance, including persons who were provided with a repatriation grant, a repatriation package and/or transportation which was provided by or through UNHCR.
- e) Resettlement. State under “Total” the total number of refugees who departed the country of asylum for a resettlement country, including refugees who departed under UNHCR auspices as well as those who departed without UNHCR assistance (e.g. refugees who departed under migration programmes without UNHCR facilitation). Under “UNHCR-assisted” list only those refugees who departed under UNHCR auspices (including, for example, refugees who were submitted for resettlement by UNHCR and those who departed for a resettlement country with the assistance of UNHCR in terms of securing the issuance of travel documents, exit clearance etc.).
- f) Other decreases (explain). State here decreases in the refugee population other than through repatriation and resettlement. This includes (a) persons who have been *refouled*, (b) population decreases as a result of a registration, census, survey or

revised estimate, (c) decreases as a result of cancellation or (d) revocation of refugee status. A brief explanation of these decreases should be provided in (Table I. Comments). This column should also include cessation (the number of refugees whose refugee status ended as a result of cessation as per Article 1, section C (1), (2), (4)-(6) of the 1951 Convention), naturalization (the number of refugees whose refugee status ended as a result of acquisition of new nationality as per Article 1, section C (3) of the 1951 Convention) and deaths (the number of deaths recorded in the refugee population) during the first half of the year (1 January – 30 June).

- g) Population 30 June. State here the refugee population as at 30 June. Note that the “Population 30 June, Total” should, in principle, equal the “Population start year, Total” plus the total of “Increases between 1 January-30 June” minus the total of “Decreases between 1 January-30 June”.

7. Table B. Individual asylum applications and refugee status determination

7.1 This table should be used for asylum applications registered and refugee status determination (RSD) conducted in UNHCR (U), Government (G), or Joint (J) RSD procedures. Please fill out all boxes at the top of the form, using the drop-down menus, as applicable. In countries where UNHCR (U), Government (G), or Joint (J) RSD procedures are implemented in parallel, separate tables should be completed for each type of procedure. In addition, where a breakdown of data by first instance, appeal/administrative review and/or judicial review is available, separate tables should be filled out for each level of procedure.

- a) Type of procedure.
- “G” (Government procedure). The State has enacted refugee legislation and/or established procedures under which its national authorities are responsible for the entirety of the RSD process, from registration of asylum-seekers to the determination of their claims, and pursuant to which asylum-seekers may be recognized as refugees under the 1951 Convention/1967 Protocol or a regional refugee instrument, or granted a complementary form of protection. UNHCR may have a monitoring role, and/or provide technical and/or financial advice and/or support, or participate in the eligibility body (with or without voting right).
 - “U” (UNHCR procedure). UNHCR conducts RSD under its mandate, from registration of asylum-seekers to the determination of their claims, and pursuant to which asylum-seekers may be recognized as “mandate” refugees under the refugee definition in the 1951 Convention/1967 Protocol or UNHCR’s broader (extended) refugee definition. UNHCR mandate RSD may be invoked in States that are/are not Parties to the 1951 Convention/1967 Protocol and/or the 1969 OAU Convention and that have/have not enacted refugee legislation and/or established RSD procedures, including States where (a) the national RSD procedure is not fully functioning (including States that have made reservations related to RSD); (b) the national RSD procedure does not meet international standards for fairness and efficiency; and/or (c) UNHCR conducts mandate RSD for a residual population of asylum-seekers after a formal handover of RSD from UNHCR to the State.
 - “J” (Joint procedure). The State has established a national RSD procedure and is responsible for granting refugee status or a complementary form of protection, but UNHCR has formal responsibility, either alone or with some degree of Government involvement, for one or several steps in the national RSD procedure (for example, registration, interviews, recommendations in first or second instance). Please note

that, where UNHCR conducts mandate RSD in parallel to the Government's RSD procedure, this should be reported as "U" and "G" procedures, and not as "J" procedures, using separate tables for each type of procedure.

- b) Pending applications 1 Jan. The number of persons whose asylum claim was pending (registered, but not yet decided) at the start of the year. This should, in principle, equal the number of pending claims as reported at the end of the previous year (see previous ASR).
- c) Applied since 1 Jan. State the number of persons who registered a new application between 1 January and 30 June.
- d) Recognized. State the number of persons whose application for asylum/refugee status was recognized between 1 January and 30 June. The column "other" should only be used for status determination in those countries where a complementary form of protection (i.e. non-Convention) is granted on an individual basis. By definition, this column can only be used for "J" or "G" RSD procedures (see above).
- e) Rejected. State the number of persons whose asylum application was rejected on substantive grounds.
- f) Otherwise closed. List the number of persons whose asylum application was closed without a substantive decision (thus, neither recognized nor rejected). Such reasons may include inadmissibility, withdrawal, abandonment, death, Dublin II procedure (Europe only), etc.
- g) Total decided. This must equal the total of the columns Recognized, Rejected and Otherwise closed.
- h) Pending applications 30 June. State here the number of persons whose applications were pending (registered, but not yet decided) as at 30 June. Note that "Pending applications 30 June" should, in principle, equal "Applications pending 1 January" plus "Applications submitted between 1 January and 30 June" minus "Total decisions between 1 January and 30 June".

8. Tables C, D, and E. Internally displaced persons (IDPs)

8.1 When filling this table, please take note of the following.

- C) Internally displaced persons protected/assisted by UNHCR. This category refers to people or groups of individuals 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 generalized violence or violations of human rights, or natural or human-made disasters and who have not crossed an internationally recognized State border. For the purpose of the MYSR, and to be aligned to the Annual Statistical Report, the IDP population shall exclude natural-disaster related IDP populations and refer only to people who benefit from UNHCR's protection or assistance activities, either directly or as part of a United Nations Country Team (UNCT) collaborative response in which UNHCR participates.

- D) People in IDP-like situations. This category is descriptive in nature and includes groups of persons who are inside their country of nationality or habitual residence and who face protection risks similar to those of IDPs but who, for practical or other reasons, could not be reported as such.
- E) Internally displaced persons (country-wide; conflict-induced only). The IDP population in this table should reflect the total number of conflict-induced IDPs as agreed on by the United Nations Country Team (UNCT).

The following sections are all applicable to Tables C, D, and E.

- a) Returned since 1 January. Persons who were displaced within their own country and have returned to their place of origin during the year. Similar to refugees, IDPs remain of concern to UNHCR for a limited period after their return. For statistical purposes, a maximum cut-off period of the first six months within one calendar year (1 January through 30 June) is applied, i.e. IDP returnees who have returned between 1 January and 30 June.
- b) Displaced since 1 January. State the number of IDPs who were displaced in their country between 1 January and 30 June.

9. Tables F, G, and H. Returnees, stateless persons and Other persons of concern to UNHCR

9.1 When filling these tables, please take note of the following.

- F) Returnees (Refugees/People in refugee-like situations). Persons who were refugees/people in refugee-like situations outside their country of origin and who remain of concern to UNHCR for a limited period after their return. For the purpose of the MYSR, a maximum cut-off period of the first six months within one calendar year (1 January through 30 June) is applied, i.e. persons who have returned between 1 January and 30 June. Operations may provide assistance for a shorter or longer period, however.
- G) Persons of concern under UNHCR's statelessness mandate.

This refers to the following categories of persons:

(i) stateless persons, defined as persons who are not considered as nationals by any State under the operation of its law, as set out in Article 1 of the *1954 Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons*. For additional information, please consult *UNHCR Guidelines on Statelessness No. 1: The definition of "Stateless Person" in Article 1(1) of the 1954 Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons*, 20 February 2012, HCR/GS/12/01, available at: <http://www.unhcr.org/refworld/docid/4f4371b82.html>

(ii) de facto stateless persons, defined as persons outside the country of their nationality who are unable or, for valid reasons, are unwilling to avail themselves of the protection of that country. Protection in this sense refers to the right of diplomatic protection exercised by a State of nationality in order to remedy an internationally wrongful act against one of its nationals, as well as diplomatic and

consular protection and assistance generally, including in relation to return to the State of nationality.

In practice, this situation is evidenced by (i) the refusal of the country of nationality to allow a person to return, even though that country still formally recognizes the individual as a national or (ii) the refusal of a diplomatic mission to issue a passport to one of its nationals where there are no reasonable grounds for the refusal (reasonable grounds would include, for example, existence of an outstanding detention order related to a criminal investigation).

For additional information, please consult UNHCR, *Expert Meeting - The Concept of Stateless Persons under International Law*, May 2010, available at: <http://www.unhcr.org/refworld/docid/4ca1ae002.html>

(iii) persons with undetermined nationality, where a preliminary review has shown that it is not yet known whether they possess a nationality or are stateless. Statistics on this category of persons were requested by UNHCR's Executive Committee. Such cases arise in a wide range of contexts and in most instances can be resolved through existing State procedures for confirmation of nationality and provision of related identity documentation. UNHCR will only report those persons who, following a review, clearly fall within UNHCR's statelessness mandate because the persons concerned:

- lack proof of possession of any nationality; and
- have links to more than one State on the basis of birth, descent, marriage or habitual residence; or
- are perceived and treated by authorities in the State of residence as possessing links which give rise to a claim of nationality of another State on the basis of such elements as historic ties, race, ethnicity, language or religion.

This category does not include individuals who are not cooperating with efforts to establish their identity or nationality. Offices which report such populations are requested to provide an explanation of how they meet these criteria.

- a) Type of population. A pre-populated drop-down menu provides three choices, depending on the type of persons of concern under UNHCR's statelessness mandate. In some cases, one category (e.g. persons with undetermined nationality) may be listed more than once.
 - b) Population (Total as at 1 January). State here the population reported under UNHCR's statelessness mandate at the beginning of the year. *The population at the beginning of the year should, in principle, always equal the population reported at the end of the previous year.* Stateless refugees or asylum-seekers should **not** be included in Table G but be reflected in Table A (refugees) or Table B (asylum-seekers).
 - c) Population (Total as at 30 June). State here the population falling under UNHCR's statelessness mandate as at 30 June.
- H) Other persons of concern. This category refers to individuals who do not necessarily fall directly into any of the groups above but to whom UNHCR has been given a mandate to provide protection and/or assistance (e.g. based on regional documents, peace agreements, General Assembly resolutions). Persons with whom UNHCR is

engaged purely on a good offices basis, such as, for instance, rejected asylum-seekers, should not be included. A brief explanation describing the nature of this group should be provided.

10. Table I. Comments

This category is used mainly to provide relevant and appropriate comments, which explain figures provided. For instance, footnotes required for a particular figure or figures are to be clearly provided in this table. Footnote comments should be clearly annotated with the appropriate references.