

Improving the coordination and integration of systems for collecting data and producing official statistics on refugees

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What is an national statistics system?

- The ensemble of statistical organisations and units within a country that jointly collect, process and disseminate official statistics on behalf of national government
- Purpose: to serve the needs of “the economy and the public with data about the economic, demographic, social and environmental situation”

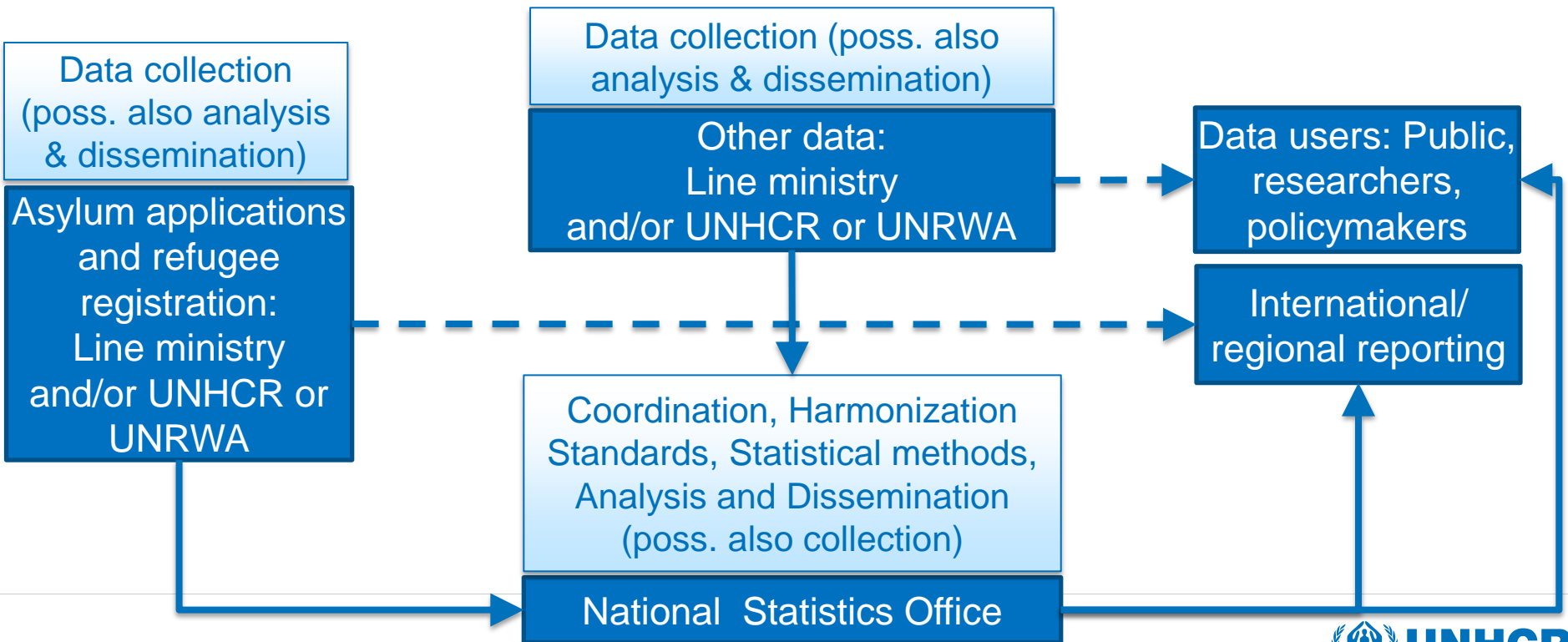
Challenges

- Lack of demand for data on refugees, limited political support – also for dissemination
- Pressure of existing budgets for national statistical priorities
- Ineffective coordination and management, refugee data often in line ministries, not reaching NSOs

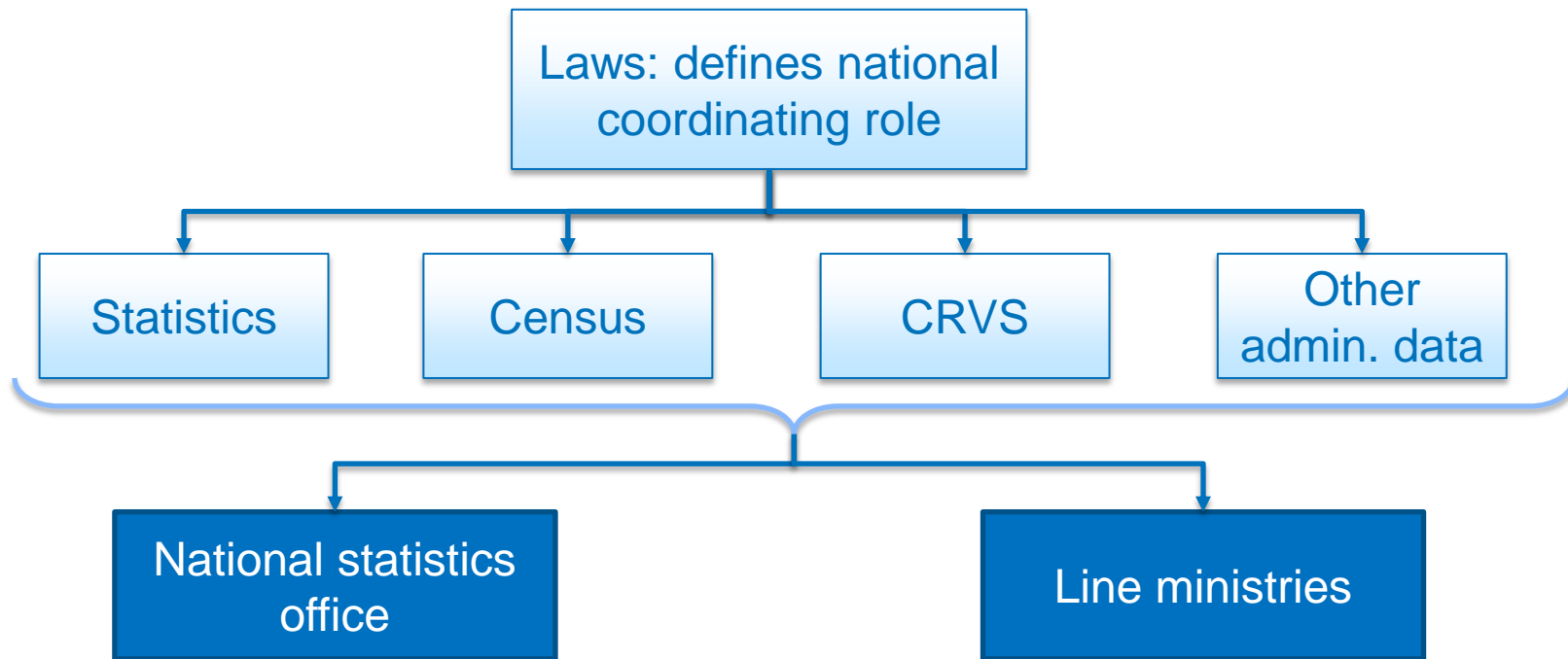
Key principles of official statistics

1. Relevance, impartiality and equal access
2. Professional standards and ethics
3. Accountability and transparency
4. Prevention of misuse
5. Sources of official statistics
6. Legislation
7. National coordination
8. Use of international standards
9. International cooperation

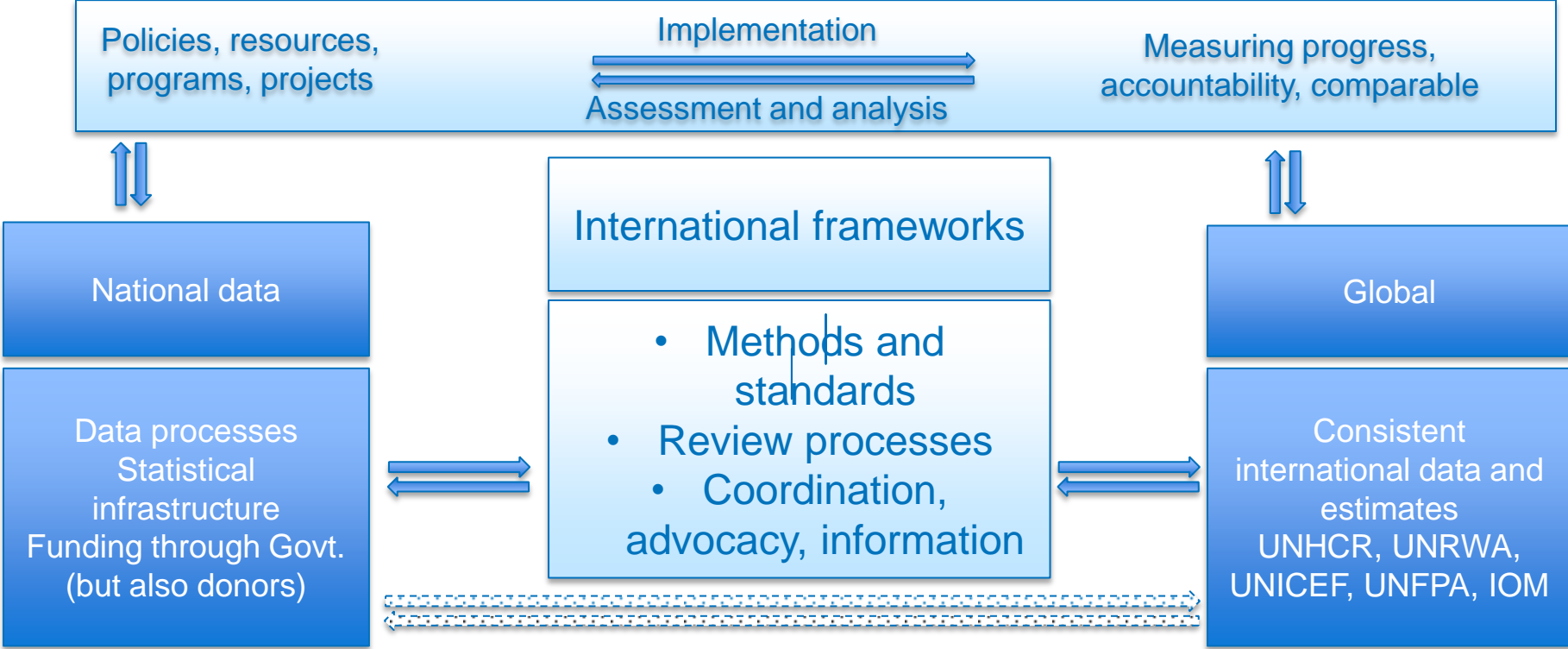
Refugee statistics within the NSS



Legal basis for coordination



Integration between national and global



The role of the global statistical system

- Coordinated by UN Statistical Commission
- Agencies responsible for sectoral statistics within their mandate: UNHCR for refugees
- Role in standardising and modelling global data to fill in gaps, make estimates comparable and provide global statistics

Regional statistical bodies

- Involved in regional standards for statistics, recommendations on priorities, and analysis and dissemination
- Europe most integrated with Eurostat and EASO, also including some non EU countries
- Also UN regional commissions, OECD, ASEAN etc

Coordination in global system

- Based on “Principles Governing International Statistical Activities”
- Reduce duplication and inconsistency, reconcile differences from different national systems
- Model on “Inter-Agency Group for Child Mortality Estimation”

Way forward: recommendations (1)

- High level political engagement, including regional
- Inclusion of refugees in SDG indicator frameworks
- Inclusion of refugees in national plans incl. NSDS
- Technical working groups at national level
- Capacity strengthening of statistical units
- Review statistical legislation if needed

Way forward: recommendations (2)

- Interoperability of data platforms between agencies
- Improve communication channels between relevant stakeholders for exchanging data
- Ensure country ownership
- Bridge gap between development and humanitarian data needs and responses