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HIGHLIGHTS OF IDAC WORK

SPOTLIGHTING THE DATA NEEDS OF CHILDREN ON THE MOVE: IDAC ACTIVITIES, 2020–2024

By leveraging the expertise and experiences of its cross-sectoral membership, IDAC is ensuring the data needs of migrant and displaced children are receiving the urgent attention they need.




IDAC’s origins date to early 2018, when UNICEF, Eurostat, IOM, OECD and UNHCR issued a global [call to action](#) to address the data and evidence gaps that render many migrant and displaced children invisible to policy- and decision makers. To fulfil the 2030 Agenda promise of leaving no one behind, they urged Member States to prioritize actions and include child-specific considerations in the then forthcoming Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (GCM) and the Global Compact on Refugees (GCR).

Making special efforts to improve and invest in the collection, analysis and dissemination of accurate, reliable and comparable data for migrant and displaced people was underscored in both compacts. The critical need for quality data to protect the rights of children on the move was further echoed by the United Nations Secretary-General’s Action Agenda on Internal Displacement, issued in 2022.

A 2019 workshop in Rabat, Morocco, attended by experts from UN agencies, academics and practitioners, furthered the discussion on the data gaps concerning children. The best solution, participants decided, was to create a broad-based platform to enable further collaboration towards generating better data on children on the move. The International Data Alliance for Children on the Move (IDAC) was formally launched one year later, under the joint leadership of UNICEF (Secretariat Chair), Eurostat, IOM, OECD and UNHCR.

Since the Rabat meeting, the scale of child migration and displacement has only increased, driven by crises including conflict and violence around the world, the growing threats of climate change and health emergencies. Yet data and statistics that capture the vulnerabilities, risks and deprivations faced by children on the move under these circumstances remain scarce.

In its work today and plans for tomorrow, IDAC will continue to spotlight the urgent needs of children on the move – and why addressing the data concerns related to these children must be top priority in the child rights agenda.

- February 2018** ● UNICEF, Eurostat, IOM, OECD and UNHCR release a global call to action, [Protecting children on the move starts with better data](#).
- March 2019** ● An [international expert workshop](#), jointly organized by UNICEF, IOM and the governments of Denmark and Morocco, recommends the formation of a cooperative platform to improve the data on children on the move.
- March 2020** ● IDAC is formally launched in New York at an event jointly organized by the governments of the Netherlands and Sweden, together with UNICEF, IOM, OECD and UNHCR, on the margins of the 51st session of the UN Statistical Commission.
- April to December 2020** ● The IDAC Secretariat sets up the operational framework, including finalization of the Terms of Reference (TOR), outreach to new members, formation of the Advisory Board and working groups, and fundraising efforts.
- April 2021** ● Publication of IDAC's first [issue brief](#) about the disproportionate impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on migrant and displaced children, using gender as an investigative lens.
- IDAC [presents](#) at the 3rd Africa Migration Data Network Webinar Series, organized by the African Union Commission, IOM-GMDAC and Statistics Sweden.
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- May 2021** ● A [webinar](#) is held to underscore the devastating impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on children on the move and highlight the need for better data on these children.
- IDAC holds a consultation meeting with Member States to exchange ideas and elicit feedback on its vision, strategy and workplan.
- October 2021** ● An IDAC [blog post](#) published ahead of the United Nations World Data Forum highlights the urgent need to address data gaps pertaining to migrant and displaced children.
- At a webinar organized by the Global Research Forum on Diaspora and Transnationalism focusing on [GCM Objective 1](#), IDAC calls for a child-sensitive approach to data collection and use.
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- November 2021** ● IDAC launches its inaugural [Data InSIGHT](#) publication to spur the international community to take specific actions to enhance data systems on migrant and displaced children, in conjunction with a [High-Level Dialogue](#) on closing the data gaps on children on the move.
- IDAC co-hosts a webinar with UN Women and IOM-GMDAC to highlight the need for and guide the production of gender-sensitive migration data.
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IDAC's [Year in Review](#) reports on key activities and achievements in its first full year of operation.



December 2021

A [blog](#) on how data can transform education for internally displaced children is published to mark the fourth International Day of Education.



January 2022

A [side event](#) is held at the 53rd session of the UN Statistical Commission, emphasizing the need for better data to improve outcomes for children on the move.



February 2022

IDAC holds a [webinar](#) to examine the critical role of data to meet the needs of Ukrainian migrant and refugee children.



April 2022

IDAC presents at the African Union Commission's [Expert Group Meeting on Development of Methodologies on Migration and Mobility Statistics](#) in Marrakech, Morocco.

At the first International Migration Review Forum (IMRF), IDAC highlights the lack of progress in improving child-specific migration statistics and renews the call for stronger data to protect migrant children via a report, [Stronger Data, Brighter Futures: Protecting migrant children with data and evidence: A continued call to action](#).



May 2022

IDAC presents at the [Asia-Pacific Stats Café Series](#) and at the [ASEAN workshops](#) on migrant women and children.

[On the Move, In the Know](#), IDAC's newsletter, is launched to provide regular updates on efforts to improve data on children on the move.



July 2022

A pair of blog posts urges countries to remember children on the move in their global commitments: one focusing on the [IMRF and efforts to improve data](#), and a second that addresses [inequitable access to education](#) among children on the move.



September 2022



IDAC and IDMC host a [hybrid event](#) to address persistent obstacles to education for internally displaced children.



November 2022

At the [2022 Meeting of the Expert Group on Refugee, Internally Displaced Persons and Statelessness Statistics \(EGRISS\)](#), IDAC presents the guidelines on child-specific indicators produced by IDAC Working Group 2 and based on EGRISS recommendations.



December 2022

January 2023



IDAC's first [annual conference](#) takes place in Santiago, Chile, to reflect on progress made in improving migration and displacement data and consider IDAC's future workplan, alongside publication of its first annual report. Together with the Migration Youth and Children Platform, IDAC calls on Member States to further partner with the alliance and commit to a [global pledge](#).



The conference immediately follows the [International Forum on Migration Statistics \(IFMS\)](#), in Santiago, where IDAC hosts a [parallel session](#), 'How to effectively bridge the data gaps on children on the move? Multi-stakeholder perspectives and solutions'.

March 2023



IDAC's [side event](#) at the 54th Session of the United Nations Statistical Commission focuses the attention of policymakers, data collectors and data users on the need for a child-sensitive lens in data collection.



April 2023



The situation of children on the move is spotlighted at the World Data Forum thanks to IDAC's [side event](#), 'Data and Children: Gaps, opportunities and responsibilities', co-organized with partners the GovLab and NORRAG.



August 2023



Two seminal IDAC briefs are issued to address data gaps on children on the move, drive data quality and comparability between countries and data sets, and inform data investments on children on the move: [Children on the Move: Key terms, definitions and concepts](#) and [Data and Statistics for Children on the Move: Essential sources and good practices](#).



Issue #2 of [On the Move, In The Know](#), is published.

November 2023



IDAC and UNICEF-Innocenti organize a thematic workshop on improving data on climate-related child and family mobility.



Through its working group streams, a new IDAC resource, the [Manual on Child-Specific Data Capacity Strengthening on Children on the Move](#), is released. A product of IDAC's Working Group 1, which is led by the Hellenic Statistical Authority, the guidance document is launched during a two-day high-level event.



Marking a milestone in efforts to uphold the rights of children on the move through improved data, the European Union grants 3.5 million euros to IDAC to advance the availability, analysis and distribution of child-specific data in the context of migration and displacement.



IDAC joins the multi-stakeholder pledge, '[Inclusion of Forcibly Displaced and Stateless Persons in National Statistical Systems and Surveys](#)', at the Global Refugee Forum.



December 2023

IDAC launches the user-friendly [9 Facts about Children on the Move](#), a data-driven brochure that offers policymakers and advocates a high-level snapshot of the numbers, locations and key trends relevant to migrant and displaced children today.



February 2024

An [Asia-Pacific regional workshop](#) that focuses on inclusive CRVS systems and improvements to data on forced displacement, statelessness and children on the move is hosted by IDAC and partners ESCAP, EGRIS and UNHCR.



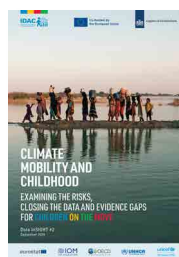
March 2024

An updated [9 Facts about Children on the Move](#) is released based on the latest available numbers.



August 2024

The critical issue of climate change and its impacts on migration and displacement among children is spotlighted in a new report, [Climate Mobility and Childhood: Examining the risks, closing the data and evidence gaps for children on the move](#). IDAC calls on Member States to take action by making child-sensitive investments in data and statistical systems.



September 2024

A webinar organized with UNICEF Innocenti, University of Virginia and the Intergovernmental Authority on Development further advances the discussion on data-driven solutions to climate-related child and family mobility.

Ensuring the voices of youth are included in improvements to data and statistical systems, IDAC and youth partner the Migration Youth and Children Platform launch the Youth Committee on Migration and Displacement Data. Members including young migrants and refugees from countries around the world.



Issue #3 of *On the Move, In the Know* is released.

A panel discussion at the United Nations World Data Forum organized by IDAC and IMPACT Initiatives spotlights the state of inclusion of children on the move in data practices and makes the case for more investment in child-focused data efforts.



November 2024

IDAC returns to Rabat to host its second annual conference. The three-day event brings together Member States and key players working at the nexus of migration, displacement and child-specific data in order to foster collective, decisive action in closing the data gaps on children on the move. Critical discussion topics include internal displacement, climate mobility and innovative methodological work on migration and displacement data.



December 2024