

ON THE MOVE, IN THE KNOW

September 2024 • Issue #3

For better lives for children on the move



Co-funded by
the European Union



© UNICEF/JUN0486735/Fernando León

MOVING IN NUMBERS: THE RISING TIDE OF CHILDREN ON THE MOVE

- Over the last 10 years or so, the number of children forcibly displaced, internally and internationally, has more than doubled from an estimated 18.8 million in 2010 to **47.2 million** in 2023.
- In 2023, there were approximately **18.1 million** new internal displacements of children worldwide. Conflict and violence were associated with **9.2 million** of them and more than **8.8 million** displacements were due to disasters.
- Children account for **two in five** of the world's forcibly displaced people, according to the latest data.

Many children who have migrated or been displaced face serious threats to their well-being and safety. Often forced to be on the move because of crisis, their numbers continue to surge in many places around the globe.

Yet quality data on these children remain scarce. Given the rising tide of children on the move, it is more important than ever to close the data gaps and improve the availability of reliable, timely and accessible data and statistics to help uphold their rights.

EU SUPPORT MARKS AN IMPORTANT TURNING POINT IN PROMOTING AND UPHOLDING THE RIGHTS OF MIGRANT AND DISPLACED CHILDREN

Last November, IDAC's efforts to improve the data ecosystem for children on the move took an important step forward with the awarding of a €3.5 million grant from the European Union (EU).

With this support, IDAC is partnering with the EU to further strengthen national data systems, promote innovative methods of data collection, and improve availability of data on children on the move.

To realize these goals, IDAC is engaging national statistical authorities and other relevant stakeholders around the world to ensure children on the move are captured in data collection efforts and thus support evidence-based policymaking.

The contribution to IDAC reflects the EU's sustained efforts to promote the well-being and protection of children everywhere in the world, including children on the move, regardless of their origin.



© UNICEF/UN0614717/UNICEF/YPN

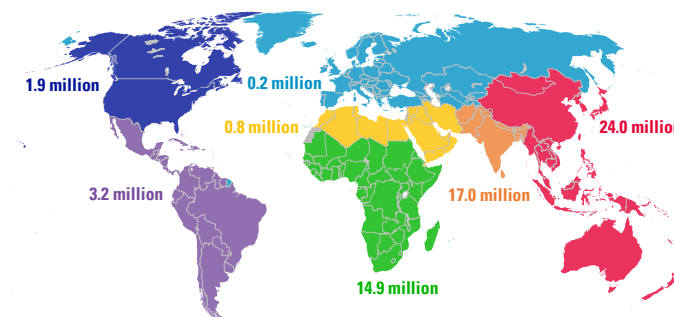
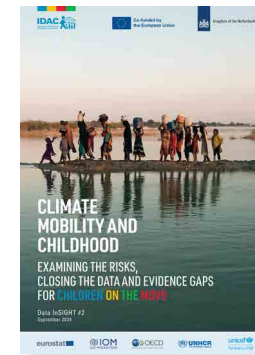
Sign our Global Pledge! Towards Better Data for Migrant and Displaced Children

[From Promises to Action: Towards Better Data for Migrant and Displaced Children](#) – the global pledge co-launched by IDAC and the Migration, Youth and Children Platform (MYCP) – calls on the global community to commit to sustainable, systemic changes to improve data and statistics for migrant and displaced children. IDAC's recommended activities are organized around five strategic action points and describe relevant measures that countries and key stakeholders can execute to strengthen the data ecosystem. The IDAC-MYCP pledge renews and builds upon the Call to Action, [Protecting children on the move starts with better data](#), which was issued by Eurostat, the International Organization for Migration (IOM), the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) in 2018.

Sign the IDAC-MYCP Global Pledge [today](#).

NEW PUBLICATIONS

- [Climate Mobility and Childhood: Examining the risks, closing the data and evidence gaps for children on the move](#)

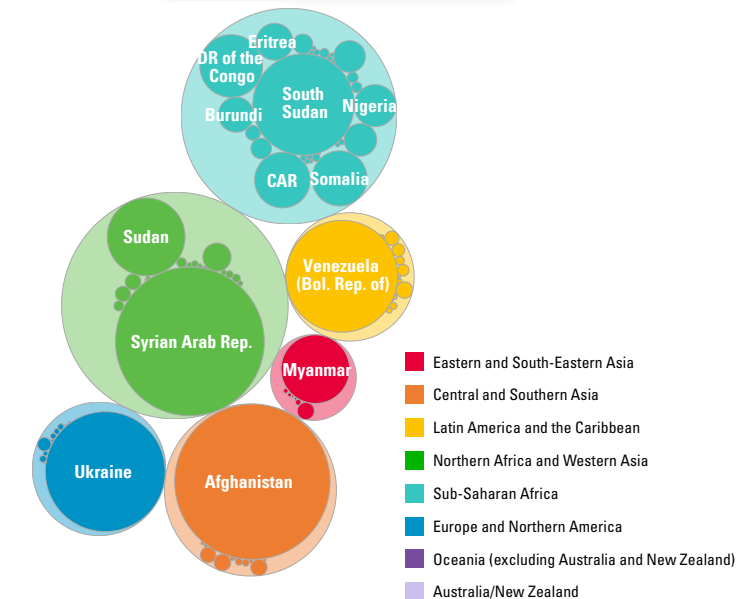


INTERNAL CHILD DISPLACEMENTS, ALL HAZARDS, BY WORLD BANK REGION, 2016–2023

According to UNICEF, nearly one in two children reside in a country classified as “extremely high risk” to the impacts of climate change. As the places where children live become unliveable, many children and their families will choose to leave home or be forced to do so in order to protect their well-being. IDAC's [newly released Data InSIGHT #2 report](#) explores how children might be affected when climate change and human mobility intersect during their formative years, addressing what policymakers and practitioners need to know to ensure that children in this context are not left behind.

The publication brings together the available evidence, research and perspectives from key actors – including youth themselves – involved in upholding the rights of children on the move in a changing climate, while also highlighting the many areas for which further data and research are urgently needed in order to protect this population of children.

- [9 Facts about Children on the Move: 2024 update](#)



NUMBER OF REFUGEE CHILDREN BY COUNTRY AND SDG REGION OF ORIGIN, 2023

Did you know that in 2023, 70 per cent of the world's refugee children came from only five countries? Or that the number of children who were forcibly displaced in 2023 is two times what it was a decade or so ago? A recent IDAC publication, [9 Facts about Children on the Move: 2024 update](#), provides the answers to these questions and more.

Offering a critical set of data visualizations, succinct analyses and top-line messages about migrant and displaced children, the document provides important insights into their numbers, locations, reasons for leaving home, and other key characteristics. The easy-to-use IDAC resource provides decision-makers an essential snapshot of the latest statistics relevant to the world's children on the move, evidence that can be used to guide advocacy work and policymaking.

PRIORITY ISSUE: ALONE AND ON THE MOVE AS A CHILD

The number of children travelling unaccompanied or who have been separated from their parents or caregivers is largely unknown – but available data suggest a concerning number are in this often dangerous situation. Many unaccompanied and separated children (UASC) encounter violations of their rights before, during and after their migration and displacement journeys, while also exhibiting tremendous resilience in the face of immense hardship.

Despite the known vulnerabilities of these

children, data that capture the realities of their circumstances are limited – leaving many UASC at risk of being missed by protective policies and programming. To reduce the invisibility of UASC and act on their behalf, policymakers must have quality data on this group that can be disaggregated by age and sex.

Prioritizing the needs of UASC and closing the related data gaps is a critical child-rights issue that must be addressed.



CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS

In light of the urgent need for better data on UASC in countries around the world, a forthcoming IDAC issue brief will spotlight children who are on the move and on their own. The brief will map out and visualize the available data; bring attention to the risks, vulnerabilities and resilience of UASC; and identify key actions to protect this population through evidence-based policies and programming.

IDAC is now seeking examples of new and noteworthy research, case studies, best practices and possible solutions to improve data on UASC to feature in the brief. To contribute, please fill out this [questionnaire](#) by 25 September to share and showcase your work!

PUTTING CRVS SYSTEMS TO WORK FOR CHILDREN ON THE MOVE



According to UNHCR, the Asia-Pacific region was home to 15.7 million forcibly displaced, stateless, returnees and others of concern to UNHCR at the end of 2023. Nearly one in two (49 per cent) of them were under the age of 18. When it comes to the well-being of these children, civil registration and vital statistics (CRVS) systems play a key role, providing legal identity and associated documentation like birth and death certificates that are needed to access rights and services such as education, health care, and legal protection for forcibly displaced and stateless persons.

But in many countries, CRVS systems must do a better job of including these vulnerable groups. To strengthen the inclusivity of CRVS systems across Asia-Pacific, IDAC, along with the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP); the Expert Group on Refugee, IDP and Statelessness Statistics (EGRISS); UNHCR and UNICEF, organized a regional workshop, 'Implementing Guidance on Inclusive CRVS Systems with a Focus on Forced

Displacement, Statelessness and Children on the Move', from 18 to 21 March 2024.

Engaging 35 participants from national statistical offices and line ministries from 11 Asia-Pacific countries, the Bangkok event provided a platform for data producers and users to learn from one another and share examples of successful, innovative initiatives designed to close the data gaps – such as mobile registration units that travel to remote areas and community-based campaigns designed to reach those left out of the system.

By leveraging key EGRISS, IDAC and ESCAP resources; exchanging best practices and lessons learned; and facilitating a discussion of the technical support needed to boost data availability on these children, the event has helped build important momentum to produce and use child-inclusive statistics on forced displacement and statelessness.

More details and documents related to the workshop can be found [here](#).



ON THE HORIZON

- **Webinar: 'Improving Data on Climate-Related Child and Family Mobility'**

18 September 2024
9:00–10:30 EST

Last November, IDAC and UNICEF Innocenti – Global Office of Research and Foresight hosted the thematic workshop, 'Climate-Related Child Mobility Data', which brought together some 30 cross-sectoral data and thematic experts working on issues relevant to mobility, climate, and child rights. Building on the success of this event, IDAC is once again teaming up with UNICEF Innocenti to further the discussion on the need to prepare data systems to include children on the move in a changing climate.

IDAC; UNICEF Innocenti; UNICEF's Division of Data, Analytics, Planning and Monitoring; the University of Virginia and the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) will host a 90-minute webinar, 'Improving Data on Climate-Related Child and Family Mobility', on 18 September. The virtual event will take stock of the current data landscape regarding children and families in contexts of climate-related migration and displacement, seeking collaborative solutions to improve these data while also exploring opportunities for knowledge-sharing and collaboration between stakeholders.

Register for the webinar [here](#).

- **Event: ESCWA/EGRISS workshop on inclusive statistics**

Cairo, Egypt
26–28 November 2024

This workshop will focus on enhancing statistical inclusion, with a particular emphasis on advancing the understanding and production of refugee, internally displaced persons and statelessness statistics. Hosted by the League of Arab States, it is being organized by the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) in collaboration with the Arab Institute for Training and Research in Statistics and EGRISS, with support from UNHCR, IOM, the Joint IDP Profiling Service (JIPS), the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA).

The 2.5-day event for staff from national statistical offices and relevant line ministries across the Arab region will highlight strategic implementation of the International Recommendations on Refugee Statistics (IRRS), Internally Displaced Persons Statistics (IRIS) and Statelessness Statistics (IROSS). It will also spotlight the importance of age disaggregation, which ensures that all population groups – including children on the move – are accurately represented in statistical systems.

- **Event: 2nd Annual Conference of the International Data Alliance for Children on the Move**

Rabat, Morocco
December 2024

IDAC is pleased to announce that it will hold its second annual conference in early December, co-hosted by the High Commission for Planning, Government of Morocco. Set to take place in Rabat, Morocco, the event will gather representatives from governments, international organizations, academics, civil society, youth and other concerned stakeholders working at the nexus of migration, displacement and child-specific data to unpack the challenges and map the way forward.

Follow IDAC's social media pages ([Twitter](#) and [LinkedIn](#)) for registration details and information closer to the event.



RAISING THE VOICES OF YOUTH IN DATA WORK

In 2024, humanitarian crises have gained troubling momentum across the globe, whether in Gaza, Sudan or Myanmar. Though these situations have driven many children to be on the move, these groups of children are often left out of the discussions that aim to protect the human rights of affected populations. Similarly, quantitative and qualitative data that reflect the numbers, situations and experiences of these children – particularly as told by children on the move themselves – remain concerning scarce.

In response to this need, IDAC is partnering with the [Migration, Youth and Children Platform](#) (MYCP) to advance the meaningful and critical participation

of children and youth in migration and displacement data processes. This September marks an important milestone in the IDAC-MYCP partnership, with the launch of the Youth Committee on Migration and Displacement Data. With members including young migrants and refugees from countries around the world, the committee will help ensure the perspectives, needs and solutions of youth on the move are acknowledged and recognized in the advancement of data for children on the move.

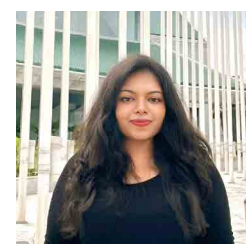
Meet the Youth Committee members who are already onboard and eager to kick off this exciting initiative.



Denys Yeromenko is a young Ukrainian professional based in Poland who specializes in migration and humanitarian assistance in the Eastern European context and beyond, including the refugee response in several Ukraine-neighbouring countries. Denys has worked for IOM, the Danish Refugee Council and other organizations, focusing on operational data management, research and humanitarian cash assistance. With academic training in development economics, he combines strong analytical skills with a deep commitment to addressing global migration and displacement challenges.



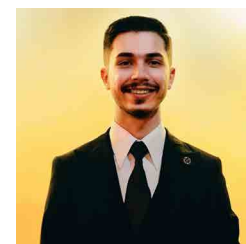
Hailing from Malawi, Kisha German is a passionate practicing data scientist and an avid STEM advocate. She serves as a Youth Advisor to the European Union Delegation of Malawi. Kisha also works as a Youth Mobilizer for Restless Development and for the World Health Organization, channelling her passion for science and social justice into meaningful action. Her ultimate goal is to contribute to positive sustainable change in Malawi and globally by utilizing the power of data, research, informatics and statistics.



Salsabila Rashid is excited to join the Youth Committee on Migration and Displacement Data and continue her work at the intersection of migration and data from her home in Islamabad, Pakistan. As a Junior Advisor for Migration at GIZ, she supports individuals in Pakistan seeking migration opportunities by providing advisory services and facilitating legal documentation. Salsabila believes that migration transcends mere movement and embodies the collective aspiration for a world defined by equity, inclusion and opportunity.



Sri Hari Govind is an Indian medical doctor by training, currently based in Paris while pursuing a double master's degree in public health, specializing in environment and occupational health, as an Erasmus Mundus Excellence Scholar. He serves as the Climate and Youth advisor to the Asia Pacific Regional Network on Early Childhood and co-leads the United Nations Network on Migration's workstream on Future Health Emergencies as the Migration and Health Lead at MYCP.



Abdulrahman Al Bo Ragheef is a youth activist from Iraq who focuses on environmental security and democratic engagement in the Middle East and North Africa. He works as an International Youth Advisor for the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs and co-founded the Sasa Institute for the Promotion of Democracy in Baghdad, where he leads programmes to enhance civic participation. Abdulrahman is newly involved with MYCP as a member of the Youth Committee, a role that he will leverage to integrate youth perspectives into migration and displacement discussions. A background in law and experience in policymaking drive his commitment to creating inclusive and effective solutions.

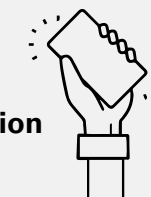
IDAC PLEDGES TO...



STRENGTHEN
data systems and capacities



PROMOTE
and establish collaboration and innovation



IMPROVE
data visibility, availability, accessibility and usability



© UNICEF/UN0250131/We&la

ON THE MOVE, IN THE KNOW provides regular updates on efforts to improve data and statistics on children on the move. It highlights the important work of the International Data Alliance for Children on the Move (IDAC) and its cross-sectoral membership to strengthen data systems to protect child migrants, refugees, asylum-seekers and internally displaced children.

About IDAC

The [International Data Alliance for Children on the Move \(IDAC\)](#) is a cross-sectoral global coalition that aims to improve data and statistics and support evidence-based policymaking for migrant and displaced children. With the European Union as its main donor and jointly led by Eurostat, IOM, OECD, UNHCR and UNICEF, IDAC brings together governments (including experts from national statistical offices and migration- and displacement-related ministries), international and regional organizations, NGOs, think tanks, academics, civil society and youth.

Write us at IDAC@unicef.org to support our work!

Follow us on [Twitter](#) and [LinkedIn](#)



Co-funded by
the European Union