

Data Gaps and Solutions

How to protect children on the move from current and emerging global challenges

Summary Report of the Inaugural Conference of the International Data Alliance for Children on the Move (IDAC)

Santiago, Chile; January 2023



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Why Including Children in Migration Data Matters: IDAC at the 3rd IFMS

Quality, timely and comparable data play a key role in upholding the rights of migrants and displaced persons. They are vital to realizing the vision for a better world set forth by key frameworks like the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, Global Compact for Migration, Global Compact on Refugees and the Secretary-General’s Action Agenda on Internal Displacement. Yet concerning gaps in migration data persist – and when it comes to capturing the experiences of children who are on the move, these gaps are even greater.

From a data and policy perspective, migrant and displaced children have their own set of needs that differ from those of adults. But to date, most dialogues that aim to improve migration statistics as a whole have largely left children out of the conversation.

The [3rd International Forum on Migration Statistics \(IFMS\)](#), a key global process that convenes producers and users and migration statistics from around the world, provided an opportune moment for the International Data Alliance for Children on the Move (IDAC) to ensure that children were firmly rooted in the agenda.

IDAC hosted its first [annual conference](#) to further drive momentum for better data during the IFMS week, convening policymakers, national statistical authorities, international organizations, youth and other stakeholders working at the nexus of migration, displacement and child-specific data work. The conference addressed data gaps and solutions pertaining to children specifically, and also asked how children in crisis in particular can be better supported by stronger data collection, analysis and use. Presenters were drawn from IDAC’s broad and wide-reaching members and partners and included government representatives from national statistical offices, including Chile, Egypt, Greece, Morocco, South Africa and Uganda, youth, UN organizations and NGOs.

To amplify the annual conference messages, IDAC’s further interventions at the IFMS included:



A [parallel session](#) to address the data gaps on children on the move – this was the only event to specifically focus on children at the IFMS.



Launch of a Global Pledge, [From Promises to Action: Towards Better Data for Migrant and Displaced Children](#), with IDAC’s newest partner [Migration Youth and Children Platform \(MYCP\)](#). The pledge calls on Member States to commit to a number of investments needed to protect the rights of children on the move, renewing the call for action



Launch/co-launch of two publications that highlight the need for investments in national statistical systems to better protect children on the move:

- [IDAC Annual Report](#)
- UNICEF report, [Included, Every Step of the Way: Upholding the rights of migrant and displaced children with](#)



Engagement with youth advocates throughout the IFMS week to ensure the perspectives and ideas of youth themselves played a role in IFMS discussions on closing the data gaps.



IDAC's importance as a unique platform for multiple stakeholders to convene and address the data challenges was also reaffirmed and discussed, with partners encouraged to make further investments in the alliance and work together to set a course of action for better data for children on the move.

This report provides a detailed account of the important IDAC-led discussions in Santiago that addressed the specific data needs of children on the move. It summarizes the key take-aways of IDAC's conference and parallel session, while also mapping out how IDAC can best serve the data needs of children as the alliance evolves. The many firsthand experiences and insights shared during IDAC's events demonstrate that many countries are taking important steps towards improving migration data for children (see summary p. 6), and that around the world, data producers and users are facing many of the same questions and challenges when seeking to strengthen data and statistics on children on the move. This reiterates the importance of the IDAC partnership in fostering sustainable solutions with wide applicability to these shared data concerns. Full recordings of the events and additional materials can be found at [IDAC's website](#).

As record numbers of children leave home, often forced to do so by extreme situations, there is no doubt that the time is now to take action for better data for children on the move. Sustainable change takes time – and the challenges faced by statistical systems will not evaporate overnight. But if concerted, committed efforts to improve child-sensitive data and research are not taken today, these data gaps will never disappear. And migrant and displaced children will continue to see their right to well-being violated. Investing in the data on these children today is an investment in the future – for every child and for society as a whole.

WHAT IS IDAC?

The **International Data Alliance for Children on the Move (IDAC)** is a cross-sectoral global coalition that 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. The alliance's main objective is to improve data and statistics on migrant and displaced children and support evidence-based policymaking that protects and empowers them.

Contact us at IDAC@unicef.org

Twitter: @IdacM

Country-level initiatives for better migration and displacement data*

- ✓ **Uganda** is working to strengthen existing processes to collect routine data on IDPs and host communities, including children, in coordination with the Parish Development Model – a national initiative seeking to increase multi-stakeholder engagement at the local level.
- ✓ **Egypt** is rolling out a 2023 International Migration Survey, with questions related to migrant and refugee children, including a specific section on unaccompanied minors. They are also conducting a study that includes question on irregular migration of children and risks they face during their migration journeys.
- ✓ **Spain** has passed a reform to simplify and speed up the documentation process for unaccompanied minors, increasing the availability of administrative data on this group while regularizing their status.
- ✓ **Chile's** National Statistical Office is partnering with the UNICEF Chile country office to generate statistics on migrant children and their families by analyzing existing data sources and integrating new data sources, such as administrative records, to enhance analysis on this group.
- ✓ In **Kenya**, the Refugee Affairs secretariat is participating in the technical working group of Kenya's annual economic survey – a good example of multi-stakeholder engagement across sectors.
- ✓ **Armenia's** National Statistical Office has partnered with UNHCR to facilitate a roundtable bringing together experts in forced displacement to elicit feedback on Armenia's upcoming census.
- ✓ **Mexico** has developed a survey on internal displacement at the subnational level, which

The IDAC Inaugural Conference: 'Data Gaps and Solutions: How to protect children on the move from current and ongoing challenges'



IDAC's inaugural conference kicked off in **Santiago** as the IFMS concluded, ensuring that the overlooked **data needs** of **migrant** and **displaced children** were given the focus and attention they demand.

Conference attendance:

- **115** online participants
- **65** in-person participants, including panellists

"Let us leverage today's conference as an opportunity to **learn from one another**, build on one another's work and **pave the way forward** for stronger data systems that capture evidence on children on the move"

-Glayson Ferrari Dos Santos, UNICEF Chile, welcome remarks

Date: 27 January 2023

Format: Half-day hybrid event, with participants and panellists participating in person at ECLAC headquarters or online. Interpretation was provided in Spanish, English and French.

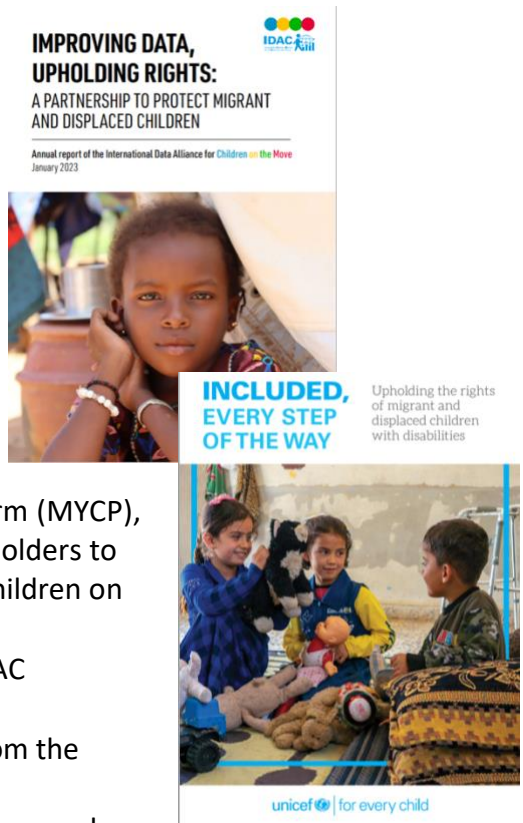
The conference convened policymakers, national statistical authorities, international organizations, youth and other stakeholders involved in migration, displacement and child-specific data work.

Conference Objectives

- ✓ Take stock of national-, regional- and global level-progress in terms of **collecting, analysing, sharing** and **using data** for the well-being, protection and empowerment of children on the move
- ✓ Consider and reaffirm the existing data gaps
- ✓ Identify and **address challenges** that stand in the way of quality data on migrant and displaced children
- ✓ Highlight **data-driven, child-sensitive responses** to current and emerging global crises that leverage the generation and sharing of data and evidence in order to protect children
- ✓ Foster the **exchange of ideas**, knowledge and methodologies on improving child-specific data in migration and displacement context
- ✓ Reflect on IDAC's progress and way forward
 - Present and discuss the outputs and public goods developed by **IDAC's working groups**, which include a manual on data system and capacity strengthening and guidelines on producing child-specific indicators and data
 - Solicit ideas and suggestions for IDAC's **future work plan**
- ✓ Provide a platform for **networking** and **peer-learning** between and among data producers and users from governments, international organizations, academics, think tanks, civil

Key resources

- [IDAC Annual Report](#): Published in conjunction with the IDAC conference, the report highlights IDAC's key achievements and maps the way forward, reiterating the continued challenges in generating, analysing, using and sharing data for and about children on the move
- [Included, Every Step of the Way: Upholding the rights of migrant and displaced children with disabilities](#): Released during the IDAC conference, this UNICEF report examines how migration and displacement shape the lives of children with disabilities.
- [IDAC Global Pledge](#): Launched during the IDAC conference in partnership with the Migration Youth and Children Platform (MYCP), IDAC's Global Pledge calls on Member States and key stakeholders to renew their commitment to improving data for and about children on the move through a proposed menu of concrete actions.
- [IDAC Annual Conference Recording](#): Full recording of the IDAC conference
- [Presentations](#): File contains all PowerPoint presentations from the event
- [Speaker biographies](#): Biographies and headshots of all speakers and panellists



Session I. The Road from Morocco to Chile – Progress and Prospects towards Better Data for Children on the Move

Moderator	⇒ Marina Manke, Chief, Global Migration Data Analysis, IOM
Presenters	⇒ Mohamed Mghari , Regional Director, High Commission for Planning, Kingdom of Morocco ⇒ Danzhen You , Chief of Demographics and Senior Adviser Statistics and Monitoring at UNICEF ⇒ Jean-Christophe Dumont , Head of the International Migration Division, OECD ⇒ Alicja Lewlic-Ojeda , Migration Youth and Children Platform (MYCP)

Since the idea for a broad-based platform to address the data gaps on children on the move was born at a 2019 workshop in Rabat, Morocco, the International Data Alliance for Children on the Move (IDAC) has come a long way. IDAC has now grown to a partnership that brings together nearly 50 members, united by the common mission to improve data and statistics on migrant and displaced children. During the conference's introductory 50-minute session, panellists reflected on the state of data on children on the move since the alliance was formed in 2020. They examined initiatives that have successfully improved data for migrant and displaced children over the past few years, discussed the ongoing challenges to improving these data, and proposed strategies to overcome those challenges. IDAC's [Annual Report](#) and [Global Pledge](#) were also introduced during this session.

“The reason why we engage with IDAC, why data is so important for young people is obvious to us – better data means better policies targeting children and youth”

-Alicja Lewlic-Ojeda, MYCP

IDAC, together with its partner MYCP, called on Member States to sign a [global pledge](#) and commit to improving data and statistics for children on the move

Session I: Key takeaways

- ✓ Despite record numbers of children on the move, data gaps persist
- ✓ Collective efforts are needed to enhance data availability and generate solutions that close the gaps and overcome the challenges
- ✓ Countries have much to learn from one another – good practices can and should be replicated
- ✓ Youth involvement in data collection and policy decisions is critical to improving data about children and youth
- ✓ Efforts are urgently needed to disaggregate data by age and increase availability of data on the numbers of children, along with a focus on the specific needs of some groups of children on the move: e.g., those with disabilities, and across sectors and areas, such as employment and unemployment among youth
- ✓ Decision and policy-makers must make better use of these data

Summary of presentations

1. **Mohamed Mghari** Regional Director, High Commission for Planning, Kingdom of Morocco

Mghari stressed the fundamental need to collect and disaggregate migration data by age, sex and other key characteristics, such as education, employment, social inclusion, country of origin, and whether or not children are accompanied by a parent. He also highlighted the need to carry out international migration surveys, including surveys specific to migrant children, every three to five years.

Country efforts to improve migration data: Since Morocco adopted the National Strategy for Immigration and Asylum to align with regional and global commitments, the country has been encouraging the **development of migration statistics across areas**: education and culture, youth and leisure, health, housing, social and humanitarian assistance, vocational training, employment, management of flows and trafficking. Efforts are being monitored by an inter-ministerial steering committee. From 2018–2019, Morocco carried out its first representative national-level migration survey on emigrants, return migrants, forced migrants and the non-migrant population. It has since executed several thematic surveys on various groups of vulnerable migrant and displaced populations, which included collection of age- and sex-disaggregated data.



Left to right: Mohamed Mghari (HCP), Jean-Christophe Dumont (OECD), Marina Manke (IOM), Glayson Ferrari Dos Santos (UNICEF), Alicja Lelwic-Ojeda (MYCP)

Morocco's recommendations for next steps are relevant to many national contexts around the world:

- ⇒ Develop administrative statistics, particularly population registers, on international migration that complement survey and census data
- ⇒ Facilitate access to survey, census and administrative statistics data, especially on vulnerable migrant populations such as unaccompanied minors
- ⇒ Explore the use of big data methodologies to support migration statistics
- ⇒ Strengthen cooperation between data production and research units on migration and organize capacity building, training and awareness workshops, as well as study visits between countries

2. **Danzhen You**, Chief of Demographics and Senior Adviser Statistics and Monitoring at UNICEF, and **Jean-Christophe Dumont**, Head of the International Migration Division, OECD

In this joint presentation, IDAC Secretariat members UNICEF and OECD presented IDAC's first annual report and reflected on progress in the three years since the alliance was launched. They identified opportunities for action moving forward and called on Member States to invest in their national statistical systems and commit to working with IDAC.

Record numbers of children have been driven from their homes in the past several years, but when we look at the data, You said, troubling data gaps remain. She summarized the many political, technical, substantive and systematic challenges that must be overcome to improve these data.

As a unique collective alliance of nearly 50 members, IDAC is bringing attention to these gaps and challenges across multiple

platforms and through a robust collection of outreach materials. You described how the IDAC's four working groups, each with a set of concrete goals and outputs, are advancing the overall mission to improve data for children on the move.

Dumont shared key IDAC upcoming initiatives, including two forthcoming publications on terminologies and data sources relevant for children on the move. He also spoke about efforts to broaden IDAC's advocacy efforts and build on relevant global and regional processes, for example, by ensuring that children are represented in the follow up to paragraph 70 of the IMRF Progress Declaration. Dumont concluded his remarks with the launch of IDAC's [Global Pledge](#), which expands upon the five key action points issued by IDAC's founding members five years ago. He reminded the audience, **"There has never been a more important time to improve the data and evidence on migrant and displaced children. We hope that today's conference will move this important conversation forward and lead to a safer world for every child."**

3. **Alicja Lelwic-Ojeda**, Migration Youth and Children Platform (MYCP)

Lelwic-Ojeda told the audience about MYCP's history and activities, a youth-led organization that began at the GCM Summit in 2018, where more than 150 young people from over 72 countries came together to discuss migration issues. She shared the results of a recent MYCP survey conducted in the lead up to the IDAC conference, which engaged their constituency of

Record numbers of children are on the move

35.5

million international migrant children at the end of 2020

36.5

million children displaced by conflict & violence at the end of 2021

25.5

million children internally displaced at the end of 2021

2 of 3

children fled Ukraine since February of 2022

1 in 3

of the world's stateless people are children

1 in 2

of the world's children live in 33 countries classified as high risk of climate change impacts

young migrants from around the world. A key finding was that **90 per cent of respondents said they believed it necessary for young people and children to participate in data processes.**

Lelwic-Ojeda proposed **four concrete steps** that governments should take to enhance youth **participation** and encourage youth-led solutions to improving data:

1. Sign the IDAC **Global Pledge**
2. Create opportunities for **youth engagement**, ensuring that these opportunities are open to all groups, including marginalized communities
3. Reach out to local youth groups, listen to the needs and priorities, and agree on a scope of cooperation
4. Allocate **adequate human and financial resources** to youth engagement, particularly to groups of children and youth on the move who may not have the time or resources to engage through volunteering

Session II. Data Gaps and Solutions: How to protect children on the move from current and emerging global challenges

Moderator	⇒ Tarek Chabake , Chief Statistician of Global Data Service, UNHCR
Presenters	⇒ Rifat Houssain , Technical Lead, Information, Policy and Governance, Programme for Health and Migration, Office of DDG at World Health Organization (WHO) ⇒ Artur Krzysztof Borkowski , Data Specialist, Education in Emergencies (EiE) at UNESCO ⇒ Athanasios C. Thanopoulos , President of ELSTAT and Chairman of the Partnership Group of the European Statistical System (ESS) ⇒ Julibeth Rodriguez León , Technical advisor on migrant statistics, National Statistics Institute (INE) of Chile ⇒ Nviiri Helen Laetitia Namirembe , Director of Population and Social Statistics of the Uganda Bureau of Statistics (online)

Recent crises like the COVID-19 pandemic, war in Ukraine and floods in Pakistan have made clear, yet again, that when crisis hits, children are often hit with disproportionate force. Migration or displacement is a common survival strategy, oftentimes followed by interruptions to health care, education, food and clean water, etc. From a programmatic and policy perspective, unless quality data on these experiences are collected, appropriate measures cannot be taken to address the pronounced deprivations of children in crisis contexts. The data that are being collected today are not robust nor detailed enough to protect these children.

In this 90-minute session, key IDAC partners shared their experiences in responding to current and emerging global challenges faced by children on the move. First, partners working at the global level discussed the role of data in tackling two critical components to children's well-being – health and education – in the migration context. Representatives from three national statistical offices followed, sharing their perspectives on the current state of data production, analysis and dissemination efforts related to children on the move in their respective jurisdictions and proposed recommendations to address data gaps that harm migrant and displaced children.

Session II: Key takeaways

- ✓ A child's migratory status can heavily impact their access to health care or to a quality education. Quality, sector-specific data that can be disaggregated by age, sex, migratory status and other factors, like a geographic location within a country, are vital to ensuring no child is left behind
- ✓ Standardization, coordination, and systems strengthening and capacity building are needed at national and regional levels
- ✓ Data integration offers great potential to improve migration data
- ✓ Efforts to count children on the move must include the many subgroups that constitute this population: e.g., migrants, refugees, internally displaced children, unaccompanied and separated children, missing children

“There are two major buckets of challenges: the data itself and the systems around the data.”

- Artur Krzysztof Borkowski, UNESCO

“I hear standardization, I hear regionalization, I hear coordination, I hear good vibes and positive spirit.”

-Tarek Chabake, UNHCR

Summary of presentations:

1. **Rifat Houssain**, Technical Lead, Information, Policy and Governance, Programme for Health and Migration, Office of DDG at World Health Organization (WHO)

Houssain began by sharing key findings from WHO's First [World Report on the Health Of Refugees and Migrants](#), published in July 2022. The report revealed that in addition to other well-established determinants of health (age and sex), migration status itself is also a determinant of health. The report found that both direct and indirect health costs were major barriers to accessing health care for refugees and migrants in all WHO regions. Even when countries had successfully integrated migrants and refugees, including children, into their social protection strategies, these policies were often not implemented in practice.

In relation to data collection, Houssain noted several significant challenges, including lack of standardization and comparability of data, inability to disaggregate data by migratory status, and lack of epidemiological data were. He stressed the need to work with key international and national partners; to this end, he looked forward to collaborating more closely with IDAC for the next WHO health and migration report, which is already in the pipeline.



During the Q&A, Houssain highlighted an upcoming report reflecting the results of a survey on COVID-19 vaccination rates among migrants and refugees. He also noted the Universal Health Coverage (UHC) partnership, which looks into access to health services and financial protection among irregular migrants and their families.



2. **Artur Krzysztof Borkowski**, Data Specialist, Education in Emergencies (EiE) at UNESCO

Borkowski highlighted two major buckets of challenges related to data availability on education in emergency contexts: limitations in the data and weaknesses in the systems around the data. The first category includes limited availability of age-disaggregated data, geographic data and data disaggregated by migratory status. He observed that in the education sector, there is often an overemphasis on access to education and not enough data available on the quality of learning for migrant and displaced children. In the second bucket, weaknesses in the systems around the data, he pointed lack of standardization, lack of coordination and the need for systems strengthening and capacity building at the national level.

Concrete initiatives UNESCO has undertaken to respond to address the data gaps on education and children on the move:

- ✓ The UNESCO-led IDP Education Data Working Group is producing standardized education-related data guidelines, leaving some room for country-level flexibility
- ✓ The UNESCO Quality Learning Lab assessment aims to incorporate children on the move into its next iteration in 2025
- ✓ The UNESCO-Education Cannot Wait initiative in South Sudan seeks to build technical capacity and improve the coordination of education data across government ministries and humanitarian agencies
- ✓ The UNESCO-UNHCR initiative is documenting best practices through six case studies that look specifically at successful examples of data inclusion for refugees




During the Q&A, Borkowski also flagged privacy and protections concerning data on children, noting that during the COVID-19 pandemic many private online learning platform providers collected personal data on children – including those considered most vulnerable – yet there was little review of how these data were being used. In preparation for future emergencies, he urged, more caution should be taken when engaging with online learning platforms.

3. **Athanasios C. Thanopoulos**, President of ELSTAT and Chairman of the Partnership Group of the European Statistical System (ESS)

Thanopoulos described what he called the “paradox” of the European Statistical System (ESS): The system itself is coherent, standardized, harmonized and integrated, but there are major gaps in the data produced on children on the move. This is in part because the system was originally designed to tackle economic policy issues and also because issues impacting children on the move were not seen as a political concern to Europeans, until the recent Ukraine war. The crisis has been a wakeup call for the ESS community. Thanopoulos stressed the **technical need for the ESS to adjust its statistical products and ensure that more information is collected on children and young people on the move**, especially the most vulnerable ones. He

later described inconsistencies in data collected in EU country censuses and proposed a harmonized EU-wide common identifier to better track mobility within the continent.


 During the Q&A, Thanopoulous highlighted that the COVID-19 pandemic was an opportunity to take advantage of digital technologies, such as electronic surveys, for data collection. A challenge, however, is that vulnerable populations, including migrant and displaced populations, do not always have access to these digital platforms. Thanopoulous said that despite the difficulties, they were able to complete the 2021 Census in Greece.

4. **Julibeth Rodriguez León**, Technical advisor on migrant statistics, National Statistics Institute (INE) of Chile

Rodriguez's presentation focused on an initiative undertaken by the National Statistical Institute (INE) in Chile to fill the data gaps on the migrant population in the country. The project used several **administrative data sources** to estimate the total foreign resident population every year since the census, disaggregated by age, sex, country of origin and geographic location. Based on these data, INE estimate that **in 2021 there were 1.5 million foreigners living in Chile**.

Useful insights from Chile's experience:

- ✓ To estimate the country's migrant population, INE **coordinated across at least four administrative institutions** to access different types of administrative records, including registers of visas, consular records, border control records and the civil registry.
- ✓ One of the limitations of the data was the age-disaggregation in five-year age increments, so data were only available for the under-20 child and youth population, as opposed to under 18 (age ranges 0–4, 5–9, 10–14, 15–19)
- ✓ Importance of data integration: By analysing existing data sources and integrating new data sources, such as administrative records, UNICEF Chile and INE are partnering to generate additional statistics on girls, boys and adolescents in migratory situations and their families .

 During the Q&A, Rodriguez highlighted a regional initiative by CEPAL, which carried out a regional diagnostic on the statistical capacity of countries in producing migration statistics.

5. **Nviiri Helen Laetitia Namirembe**, Director of Population and Social Statistics of the Uganda Bureau of Statistics (online)

Namirembe focused on internal displacement in Uganda, most of which is being caused by environmental factors, including floods and landslides. She described the systems in place for

collecting data on this population, the challenges specific to collecting data on internally displaced children and possible solutions. Limited infrastructure in the country to support routine data collection on the IDP population has resulted in major data gaps and limitations of available data, such as lack of age-disaggregated data, lack of administrative data, lack of data on family separation and children left behind, and lack of data collected for disaster preparedness. She also mentioned that data producers often operate in silos. In addition, she noted that the same efforts being made to produce data for refugee and migrant populations are not being matched when it comes to collecting data on IDPs.

Namirembe highlighted several possible solutions and next steps for Uganda, which may also be relevant to other countries facing similar obstacles when collecting data on IDPs:

- ✓ Reviewing and updating the country's current IDP policy framework (dates to 2004) to ensure that children and young people are represented
- ✓ Strengthening national coordination mechanisms to prioritize data on internally displaced children
- ✓ Strengthening coordination with international agencies and the office of the Prime Minister
- ✓ Strengthening existing processes to collect routine data on IDPs and host communities by engaging multiple stakeholders at the local level

Session III. Conversations with the IDAC Working Groups: Accomplishments and actions to follow

Moderator	⇒ Petra Nahmias, UNESCAP, and Advisory Board chair of IDAC
Presenters	⇒ Apostolos Kasapis , Director, President's Office at Hellenic Statistics Authority (ELSTAT), Chair of IDAC Working Group 1 ⇒ Diego Iturralde , Chief Director of Demography and Population at Statistics South Africa, Chair of IDAC Working Group 2 ⇒ Christelle Cazabat , Head of Programmes, Internal Displacement and Monitoring Centre, Chair of Working Group 3 ⇒ William Low , Innovation Project Lead, Migration and Displacement Initiative Save the Children, Chair of Working Group 4

This 70-minute afternoon session highlighted IDAC's four working groups, which play a pivotal role in translating IDAC's mission of better data for children on the move. Set up in 2021, each of the four working groups has distinct leadership and thematic focus. They are translating IDAC objectives into concrete outputs to improve the lives of children on the move.

During their presentations, chairs of each working group discussed the focus of their work, activities to date and plans for the future. These cross-sectoral collaborations offer opportunities for IDAC members to exchange ideas, share best practices and co-create sustainable solutions with broad applicability. All IDAC members are invited and encouraged to participate in the working groups.

"In terms of **solutions**, I firmly believe that the more there are of us working on these particular challenges the **wider the variety of resolutions** we will be able to find."
-Diego Iturralde, Statistics South Africa

"All these intense efforts go into data but **is the message getting out to the external audience in the right way?** I think we need to get the messaging clear on why data and analysis is important."
-Q&A session, Ann Singleton, University of Bristol

Session III: Key takeaways

- ✓ The active participation of statistical offices in solutions to the data gaps is critical
- ✓ Countries should aim to collect data to report on a number of recommended child-specific core and priority indicators
- ✓ Greater investments are needed to collect data on internally displaced children and youth
- ✓ More stakeholders are needed to come the table to address the challenges migration data
- ✓ Work between the IDAC working groups must be further integrated to enhance IDAC's collaborative approach

Summary of presentations:

1. **Apostolos Kasapis**, Director, President's Office at Hellenic Statistics Authority (ELSTAT), Chair of IDAC Working Group 1

The goal of Working Group 1 is to strengthen the capacities of national statistical institutions to collect, analyse, store and make available high-quality, disaggregated and reliable data on children on the move. To that end, Kasapis presented the working group's new manual on data capacity strengthening for migrant and displaced children. He highlighted that these data are currently fragmented and incomparable between countries and that they need special attention. The Working Group 1 manual seeks to address these inconsistencies by helping countries produce and process data on children on the move. **Kasapis urged country statistical offices to share their experiences collecting data on migrant and displaced children with Working Group 1, so that they can incorporate more country experiences into the manual.**



During the Q&A, Kasapis underscored that many statistical offices do not have the resources – neither human nor financial to carry out this work. This is one reason statistical literacy is so important, particularly among various government entities.

Kasapis reflected that thanks to working with IDAC, their statistical office has come to understand the importance of prioritizing data for children on the move and it has become easier to communicate this need to others within the “statistical family”.

2. **Diego Iturralde**, Chief Director of Demography and Population at Statistics South Africa, Chair of IDAC Working Group 2

The objective of Working Group 2 is to identify and develop indicators and metadata that are most relevant for children on the move, building on key global frameworks, such as the 2030 SDGs, the Expert Group on Migration Statistics, and the Expert Group on Refugees, IDPs and Statelessness Statistics (EGRISS).

Iturralde described the process involved in producing Working Group 2's guidelines on child-specific indicators. First, a mapping exercise was conducted that asked countries if they already collect or plan to collect data on particular indicators relevant to children on the move, and the level of disaggregation of that data. Using the results of the exercise, Working Group 2 drafted a guideline that identifies and recommends the use of child-specific core and priority indicators that countries should aim to collect on children on the move, plus additional suggested indicators. Iturralde walked through the **recommended indicators: 9 stock and flow indicators; 16 core indicators on health, education, child protection and poverty; and 6 additional indicators.**

➔ Iturralde added during the Q&A that one obstacle is the **great variability between statistical systems** around the world, as well as variability in national priorities from country to country and region to region. He commented that a key solution is bringing more stakeholders to the table to work on these particular challenges.

He went to highlight three concluding **recommendations for the working groups moving forward:**

1. Continue to integrate the work between the IDAC working groups and avoid a siloed approach
2. Consolidate small wins of the working groups to date and build on these achievements
3. Continue to learn from country experiences, acknowledging the challenges they face but also their successes and innovations.

3. **Christelle Cazabat**, Head of Programmes, Internal Displacement and Monitoring Centre, Chair of Working Group 3

Noting that children living in internal displacement are one of the least documented groups of children on the move, Cazabat explained that Working Group 3 has two main objectives: (1) to improve estimates on the number of internally displaced persons at the global, regional and national level and ensure that data are disaggregated by age, sex, and disability status, and (2) to improve knowledge of the impact of internal displacement on children's lives. These information are crucial to informing better planning, programming and resourcing to support internally displaced children.

Cazabat called for greater investments in data collection on IDPs and urged national statistical offices to join Working Group 3, which are currently not represented in the group. Cazabat highlighted some key achievements of the working group, including a collaboration with IDAC secretariat members on the publication of the most recent Global Report on Internal Displacement (GRID) 2022, which focused for the first time on children and youth, and the co-launch of a report with IDAC and the Geneva Hub for Education in Emergencies on informing better access to education for internally displaced children through better data.



Left to right: Diego Iturralde (Stats SA), Apostolos Kaspis (ELSTAT)



During the Q&A, she noted that given the vast range of data being collected by various entities – from NSOs to humanitarian agencies to various ministries within a government – it can be difficult to map out these actors and connect them at a national level so they can collaborate. This is something that IDAC could help with in the future, potentially in partnership with EGRISS.

She also highlighted that engaging with a variety of different stakeholders – academia, national statistical offices, global stakeholders – and learning from their unique perspectives and expertise has been useful for the working groups.

4. **William Low**, Innovation Project Lead, Migration and Displacement Initiative Save the Children, Chair of Working Group 4

The focus of Working Group 4 is to promote collaboration on innovative methods on child-specific data work. Low explained that the group seeks to carry out a pilot initiative that will **apply innovative strategies for capturing disaggregated data on migrant and refugee children at the country level** – a project that is awaiting partial funding. The project has three parts: In Part 1, the working group will evaluate current and new approaches to capturing data on children on the move. Part 2 will see development of a prototype for a standardized framework to improve data collection, which will include a proposed set of research instruments, data sets, templates and good practices, combining existing tools with new methodologies and approaches. Finally, in Part 3, the framework will be piloted in selected countries to determine which elements are most and least effective and iterate and refine the tool. Low noted that the ultimate goal will be for governments and civil society to take ownership of the tool that comes out of this project.

Session IV. On the Horizon – Strengthening the IDAC Approach to Close the Data and Knowledge Gaps on Children on the Move

Moderator	⇒ Estrella Lajom, IDAC Coordinator
Presenters	⇒ Lamiaa Elgebaly , Specialist, Central Agency for Public Mobilization and Statistics (CAPMAS), Egypt ⇒ Natalia Baal , Coordinator of the Expert Group on Refugees, Internally Displaced Persons and Statelessness Statistics (EGRISS) ⇒ Maria Isabel Cobos , UN Statistics Division, Coordinator of the Expert Group on Migration Statistics ⇒ Marina Manke , IOM, Chief of Global Migration Data Analysis Centre (GMDAC)

In this concluding 40-minute session, panellists reflected on how IDAC can position itself to facilitate lasting improvements in the production, analysis, sharing, use and communication of data to protect and empower migrant and displaced children. Panellists shared ideas on ways to leverage existing processes to advance IDAC's work, including the Global Pledge, and proposed tangible steps that IDAC can take after Santiago to overcome child-specific and multi-faceted data challenges.

“Lets reflect on how we can best **position IDAC** to facilitate concrete, lasting improvements in the **collection, analysis, sharing, use and communication of the data** we produce to protect and empower migrant and displaced children.”

-Estrella Lajom, IDAC Coordinator

“**Countries inspire countries to initiate processes. Countries inspire countries to find solutions to common challenges.**”

- Natalia Baal, EGRISS

Session IV: Key takeaways

- ✓ Further country-level inputs – experiences, best practices, lessons learned, etc. – are needed to improve data on children on the move
- ✓ Work must build on existing initiatives and frameworks relevant for migrant and displaced populations and incorporate a child lens
- ✓ Partnerships that bring together different actors and perspectives, including government ministries and international organizations, are important in improving coordination and data collection on displaced populations
- ✓ Clear, consistent messaging and communication to garner support for data work on children on the move are vital



Left to right: Estrella Lajom (UNICEF), Maria Isabel Cobos (UNSD), Lamiaa Elgebaly (CAPMAS), Marina Manke (IOM)

1. **Lamiaa Elgebaly**, Specialist, Central Agency for Public Mobilization and Statistics (CAPMAS), Egypt

In her opening comments, Elgebaly said that after hosting the IFMS in January 2020, Egypt carried out several studies focused on the monitoring of the migration indicators in the context of the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals. One study focused on the characteristics of migrants and non-migrants living in Egypt and another examined internal migration from rural to urban areas within the country. She highlighted that while progress has been made in incorporating migrants into data collection efforts, certain groups of migrant populations – particularly children on the move – still need greater attention.

Elgebaly also cited two important follow-up initiatives to incorporate the child perspective into their work. The first is to add new questions to the **2023 international migration survey** to include an updated questionnaire for refugees in Egypt and to add a section on unaccompanied migrant children and reasons for family separation. The National Statistical Office is also carrying out a **study on irregular migration with a chapter on children**, their reasons for irregular migration and risks they face during their journey.

2. **Natalia Baal**, Coordinator of the Expert Group on Refugees, Internally Displaced Persons and Statelessness Statistics (EGRISS)

Baal began by highlighting the importance of EGRISS's statistical recommendations, not only for facilitating common definitions to describe displaced populations, but also to provide guidance

to national statistical offices on a range of topics that are important for improving data on this group, such as guidance on disaggregating indicators, using various data sources and improving coordination.

Baal also stressed the importance of separating challenges related to inclusion from those related to disaggregation. She pointed out that in some contexts it is necessary to adapt data collection tools to ensure that they are inclusive of displaced populations, while in other contexts data on displaced populations may exist but may not be disaggregated by age, for instance. In other situations, disaggregated data may exist, but not end up in the final analysis, reporting or dissemination of the findings. She underlined the need to follow data disaggregation throughout the data collection cycle.

Baal also highlighted the critical importance of **partnerships** when undertaking this work, citing several examples of innovative partnerships between government ministries and with international organizations that have allowed for improved coordination and data collection on displaced populations (see country-level examples on p.5). She also spoke about the importance of **regional collaboration** and cooperation and how taking a regional approach can help galvanize not only technical but also political will to undertake this work.

Next steps and opportunities for collaboration between EGRISS and IDAC:

1. Review the EGRISS Compilers Manual through a child-sensitive lens
2. Engage with the EGRISS subgroup on capacity development, which is now expanding its collaboration with StatAfric, Statistics Sweden and other regional economic commissions in Africa
3. Ensure that a child-sensitive lens is represented in the implementation process of the International Recommendations on Statelessness Statistics
4. If the EGRISS mandate is extended beyond 2024, consider ways to formalize synergies between EGRISS and IDAC and the Expert Group on Migration Statistics. IDAC could help consolidate country experiences with the current Recommendations, for example, to improve the guidelines moving forward.

3. Maria Isabel Cobos, UN Statistics Division, Coordinator of the Expert Group on Migration Statistics

In her opening comments, Cobos addressed the added value of IDAC's work. She noted that IDAC has a convening power to bring together different actors and different perspectives, shine light on data gaps on children on the move and galvanize efforts to address these gaps. She also highlighted that the briefs IDAC has produced are helping to bring visibility to key messages in an accessible way that can reach a variety of audiences.

As the Secretariat of the UN Expert Group on Migration Statistics, Cobos emphasized the critical importance of having a common language to advance the availability and comparability of

migration data at global and national level. She also noted that in the past, UNSD has partnered with UNICEF on projects at the country level, such as the IDEAS project in Thailand; working on similar collaborations with IDAC at the country level would be a great opportunity for future partnership.

4. Marina Manke, IOM, Chief of Global Migration Data Analysis Centre (GMDAC)

Reflecting on ways that IDAC can add value, Manke spoke about the importance of “zooming in”: identifying concrete examples of promising practices at the country level and working more closely in the country context. She pointed out that IOM is working in almost all countries in the world and more can be done to connect with field-based colleagues. Another concrete action will be to collaborate on the follow up to Paragraph 70 of the Progress Declaration of the International Migration Review Forum (IMRF) and bring Working Group 2’s proposed list of child-specific indicators into this process. She also mentioned that it is important for IOM to consider opportunities to integrate the age perspective into their work, for example, when assisting field colleagues set up data systems, and share those examples back with IDAC.

Concluding Remarks

UNICEF's You concluded the conference by thanking all of the panellists, moderators and participants for the excellent discussions. She particularly thanked participants for the excellent suggestions and feedback for IDAC to consider moving forward. She concluded by urging new members to join IDAC and sign the Global Pledge.

“Today we have heard a lot about data gaps and the need to fill data gaps but **most importantly good practices and solutions**. How can we build on existing projects, initiatives and platforms and join forces to generate better data, analyse more data and sufficiently use and share existing data? **That is a task for us to do all together**. And substantial amount of work still lies ahead as we work toward **our ultimate goal to uphold children's rights to survive and thrive and leave no child behind.**”

-Danzhen You, UNICEF



IDAC Parallel Session: Advocating for child-specific data at the IFMS

‘How to Effectively Bridge Data Gaps on Children on the Move: Multistakeholder perspectives and solutions’



Left to right: Alicja Lelwic-Ojeda (MYCP), Estrella Lajom (UNICEF), Amparo Ferrer (CSIC), Andrea Pellandra (UNHCR), William Low (Save the Children), Apostolos Kasapis (ELSTAT), Alankrita Daval (MYCP), Marina Manke

In total, 30 sessions were held during the IFMS on a range of important topics to address effective means to improve migration data—but only one, IDAC’s ‘How to Effectively Bridge Data Gaps on Children on the Move: Multistakeholder perspectives and solutions’, specifically focused on children. The event brought together a diverse group of stakeholders to discuss the challenges and solutions to strengthening data for migrant and displaced children.

Panelists reported a **range of challenges** to collecting reliable, timely, disaggregated data on this group, including:

- ✓ Lack of common standards and definitions for collecting data on children on the move
- ✓ Gaps in age-disaggregated data reported by governments
- ✓ Limited inclusion of migrant youth voices in data collection cycles
- ✓ Lack of coordination and collaboration between government entities, such as line ministries and national statistical systems
- ✓ Gaps in statistical literacy



Left to right: Amparo Ferrer (CSIC), Apostolos Kasapis (ELSTAT), Alankrita Dayal (MYCP), Marina Manke (IOM)

Three key messages and solutions emerged from IDAC's parallel session:

1

Innovative methodologies, such as big data and predictive analytics, can be used to fill the data gaps on children on the move and inform policies and programmes. However, these sources have limitations and are not a replacement for official statistics – thus, alongside exploration of innovative approaches, investments in national statistical systems must continue.

2

To **improve coordination**, sharing and comparability of data on children on the move, more robust collaboration across contexts is needed and a broader group of actors must be included in global forums. This means:

- ✓ Ensuring that not only statistical offices, but **also administrative units** are present at global forums like the IFMS;
- ✓ Expanding the **representation of child, youth and migrant voices** from diverse backgrounds in data collection processes, programme and policy design, and global forums; and
- ✓ Establishing **networks and platforms for data sharing** specific to children on the move, complying with the data protection principles.

3

Effectively communicating the importance of data for children on the move is just as important as the technical work itself. Making concerted efforts to clearly communicate the importance of data work to wider audiences is critical for driving investments in this area, improving statistical literacy among policy and decision makers, and facilitating a coordinated, standardized approach to data collection and sharing.

Towards Better Data for Children on the Move: IDAC beyond the IFMS

As IDAC's conference and parallel session at the 3rd IFMS have shown, important efforts are taking place at national, regional and global levels to improve data for migrant and displaced children. But this work has only just begun. IDAC's partnership in action must continue to leverage the existing frameworks and scale up good practices, while also accommodating the lessons learned and new approaches. Better data for a brighter future for children on the move rely on continued commitment from IDAC's wide network of humanitarian and development partners – and further commitment from Member States themselves. By working together, we can ensure IDAC's next steps are strategic, resource-efficient and effective.

5 KEY MESSAGES AND RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Prioritize political will

Strong political will to prioritize data and evidence for migrant and displaced children is crucial for strengthening national data systems and carrying out initiatives to close data gaps on children on the move. More political support from Member States is needed – first, by **joining IDAC**, and secondly, by **signing the Global Pledge**. Countries that are already championing the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, the GCM, the GCR and the Secretary-General's Action Agenda are particularly well-positioned to support IDAC's work.

2. Strengthen the foundation of national data systems

IDAC's advocacy for stronger data at the national level must incorporate the following essential elements to produce quality, timely, accurate and disaggregated data for children on the move:

- a) **Coordination:** A strong data system requires active coordination between government agencies, including national statistical offices and administrative bodies, as well as between countries, regions and international organizations. Coordination efforts are crucial for enhancing the quality and comparability of data, avoiding duplication efforts and maximizing the use and impact of data for children on the move.
- b) **Standardization:** An effective data system harmonizes disparate sources of information and utilizes standardized definitions, methodologies and indicators for collecting data on children on the move, including for sector-specific data (e.g., health, education), which align with regional and global standards and recommendations where possible.
- c) **Integration:** A robust data system has the infrastructure to integrate various data sources (e.g., combining data on children on the move from different administrative bodies), which can be used to better understand the numbers and experiences of children on the move.
- d) **Protection:** Quality data systems are built with special protections to ensure that child-sensitive data collection standards and principles are upheld. These protections should be guided by robust frameworks relevant for children on the move, such as the [Responsible Data for Children \(RD4C\) framework](#) and the guidelines on [Data Responsibility in Humanitarian Action](#).

3. Partnership with governments and non-state data actors is vital

Given the many actors involved in producing, analysing, sharing and disseminating data on migrant and displaced children, partnership is fundamental to lasting change. This means working with a diverse range of stakeholders, including civil society, youth, government ministries, academics and humanitarian agencies, to share information, learn from one another, coordinate efforts and co-create solutions to data challenges impacting children on the move. As a global alliance, IDAC can play a pivotal role in convening these stakeholders.

a) **Close cooperation with countries:** IDAC must continue to enhance its approach at the country level in three key ways:

1. **Partnering with countries** to identify and document best practices and lessons learned from country-level initiatives already taking place
2. **Liaising with field-based colleagues** from the IDAC Secretariat agencies
3. Working on **targeted data-capacity strengthening** projects with governments, such as the IDEAS project

4. Leverage relevant regional and global processes

Countries within a region are well positioned to inspire and learn from one another, both from technical and political perspectives. To this end, it makes sense to leverage established regional economic communities, regional consultative processes and other frameworks that monitor the implementation of global commitments at regional level. Given the many existing frameworks, tools and initiatives already out there, IDAC will aim **to further build upon existing initiatives and frameworks** relevant for migrant and displaced populations to ensure that a child lens is incorporated. Strategic upcoming opportunities include the follow up to **paragraph 70 of the IMRF Progress Declaration**, the implementation of EGRISS's International Recommendation on Statelessness Statistics (IRSS), and the [Global Refugee Forum 2023](#).

5. Communication is key

In addition to supporting countries build their capacity to produce data for children on the move, it is critical for IDAC to continue to communicate, reinforce and refine its message around the importance of data for children on the move to key stakeholders. This is crucial for building support for IDAC's mission, increasing membership and engagement, and driving investments in data systems and research on behalf of children on the move. Similarly, well-functioning national data systems must have a comprehensive process for **disseminating and communicating** key findings from the data to relevant stakeholders – including to youth themselves. This is crucial for ensuring that the data are used to inform policymaking and programming on behalf of migrant and displaced children, and to hold policy- and decision makers accountable.

IDAC will incorporate the fruitful discussions, ideas and feedback generated during the annual conference into its future work plan. It will take into account critical regional and global frameworks, goals, commitments and partnerships to shape its agenda, and continue to revisit its priorities in light of the key issues and emerging trends that are shaping the lives of migrant and displaced children. **And crucially, IDAC will build on the momentum it is generating as a partnership to expand and accelerate national, regional and global efforts to improve data on behalf of the millions of children on the move today and those of tomorrow.**

Annex 1: Concept note and final agenda



“Data Gaps and Solutions:

How to protect children on the move from current and emerging global challenges?”

IDAC Annual Conference

Friday, 27 January 2023

Santiago, Chile

Why data on children on the move matters

As of end 2020, there were an estimated 35.5 million international child migrants globally – or 1 in 8 international migrants, the largest number ever recorded. Around one in 66 children worldwide living outside the country of her or his birth was considered a migrant. At the end of 2021, some 36.5 million children accounted for more than 40% of the world’s forcibly displaced people. In 2021 alone, there were an estimated 14.1 million new internal displacements of children globally – more than half driven by disasters. The number of internally displaced children is likely to dramatically increase over the next 25 years, with climate change estimated to place 1.2 billion people at risk of internal and cross-border displacement by 2050.

Children on the move face a unique range of deprivations, challenges and risks that require targeted intervention, through policies and programs that take their age, gender and other key demographic characteristics into account. However, migrant and displaced children are often missed in data collection efforts, and the limited data available are further hindered by large gaps that obscure the most basic information about them: their age, sex, precise location, condition and needs, and other critical details to ensure they receive the appropriate support and assistance. Data gaps are particularly glaring with regard to highly insecure subpopulations of migrant and displaced children such as those with disabilities.

As the world braces for the compounding challenges caused by conflicts, climate displacement, food insecurity, health and other threats, timely, accurate and disaggregated data are urgently needed to ensure child-specific considerations in policy and program design. While addressing existing data gaps, new approaches and data partnerships will be needed to strengthen the capacity of national data actors and policymakers to ensure that vulnerable and hard-to-reach populations like children on the move will not be left behind in recovery and sustainable development efforts, and in pursuit of durable solutions to forced displacement.

IDAC Annual Conference in January 2023 – A global step towards closing the data gaps on COM

In this context, the International Data Alliance for Children on the Move ([IDAC](#)) will organize an annual conference in January 2023 to gather representatives from governments and other concerned stakeholders working at the nexus of migration, displacement and child-specific data work. IDAC is a cross-sectoral global coalition that seeks to address the troubling gaps in data collection, analysis, sharing and use at local, national and regional levels to protect and empower migrant and displaced children. In so doing, IDAC aims to support the implementation of child-related commitments under the Global Compact for Migration, the Global Compact for Refugees, the UN Secretary General’s Action Agenda on Internal Displacement, and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Below are the **salient elements** of the conference:

1. Objectives

- ✓ To **take-stock of the progress** made at national, regional and global levels in terms of collecting, analyzing, sharing and using data for the well-being, protection and empowerment of children on the move;
- ✓ To **address continuing challenges and solutions** in generating and sharing data and evidence that can guarantee the protection and sustainable development of migrant and displaced children vis-à-vis emerging global crises;
- ✓ To promote the **exchange of ideas, knowledge and methodologies** on improving child-specific data in migration and displacement context;
- ✓ To present and discuss the **outputs and public goods** developed by the **IDAC Working Groups**, including a **manual** on data system and capacity strengthening and **guidelines** on producing child-specific indicators and data;
- ✓ To **solicit ideas and suggestions** on how to improve IDAC's future work plan; and
- ✓ To provide a platform for **networking and peer-learning** between and among data producers and users from governments, international organizations, academics, think tanks, civil society, private sector and the youth.

2. Date and venue

The **IDAC annual conference** will be held on **Friday, 27 January 2023** at the headquarters of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) in Santiago. It will take place back-to-back with the 3rd International Forum on Migration Statistics (IFMS) on January 24 to 26.

- Note: The conference will be preceded by an **IFMS parallel session**, "*How to effectively bridge the data gaps on children on the move? - Multi-stakeholder perspectives and solutions*" taking place on **Wednesday, 25 January**.

the IDAC conference will wishes to leverage the participation of some 200 migration and statistics experts from governments, international organizations, the academe and civil society.

3. Target Participants

The conference is expected to gather some 100 participants, comprised of current IDAC members, IFMS participants and other interested actors who may be representing:

- ✓ National Statistical Offices;
- ✓ Line ministries working in data, policymaking and programming at the nexus of migration, displacement and children's issues;
- ✓ Other producers and users of data and statistics on children on the move from national statistical systems and non-state stakeholders such as non-governmental organizations (NGOs), civil society, research institutions and academia;
- ✓ Sub-regional, regional and international organisations; and
- ✓ Youth representatives.

4. Format

The IDAC day-long conference will be conducted in plenary in a hybrid (i.e., face-to-face and online) format. Below are the important elements of the conference:

- ✓ a **networking session** with a soft launch of UNICEF's new report about migrant and displaced children with disabilities
- ✓ a **keynote address** to set the scene and highlight the outcomes of the 3rd IFMS that are most relevant for children on the move;
- ✓ an **introspective session** to reflect on progress made and prospects towards better migration and displacement data since the idea of establishing a data alliance for children on the move was agreed at a workshop in Morocco in 2019;
- ✓ a **panel dialogue** to consider how better data and evidence can help address current and emerging global challenges that impact the health and well-being of migrant and displaced children;

- ✓ a **conversation with the IDAC Working Groups** to take stock of the concrete outcomes of the working groups and to encourage sharing of country or regional experiences;
- ✓ a **focused session on improving health outcomes** for children on the move, including those with disabilities; and
- ✓ a **forward-looking session** to discuss how to improve IDAC's working methods, partnerships and collaboration with relevant processes and mechanisms.

5. *Expected outcomes*

- ✓ Global multi-stakeholder **pledge/ call to action** to improve migration and displacement data for the protection of children on the move, and to support the work of IDAC
- ✓ New capacity-building/enhancing **public goods** (guidance materials, data tools and methodologies, etc.) aimed at improving child-specific data collection, analysis, sharing and use.
- ✓ Increased **visibility and awareness** by the international community about persistent child-specific data gaps in migration and displacement context;
- ✓ **Shared knowledge** about recent and emerging data methodologies, tools and solutions to fill in existing data gaps on children on the move; and
- ✓ **Networking for peer-learning and partnerships** to improve data systems concerning migrant and displaced children.

Final Agenda	
Overall coordination: Estrella Lajom, IDAC Coordinator at UNICEF	
Morning Session	
08.30 – 09.00	Registration / Networking Soft Launch of UNICEF's report, "Included, Every Step of the Way" - Upholding the rights of migrant and displaced children with disabilities
9.00 – 09.10	Welcome remarks - Glayson Dos Santos, Deputy Representative, UNICEF Country Office in Chile
09.10 – 10.00	Session I. The Road from Morocco to Chile – Progress and Prospects towards Better Data for Children on the Move" Moderator: Marina Manke, Chief, Global Migration Data Analysis Center (GMDAC) at IOM Panellists: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Mohamed Mghari, Regional Director, High Commission for Planning, Kingdom of Morocco 2. Danzhen You, Chief of Demographics and Senior Adviser Statistics and Monitoring at UNICEF 3. Jean-Christophe Dumont, Head of the International Migration Division, OECD 4. Alicja Lelwic-Ojeda, Migration Youth and Children Platform (MYCP)

	Open Discussion
10.00 – 11.30	<p>Session II. Data Gaps and Solutions: How to protect children on the move from current and emerging global challenges</p> <p>Moderator: Tarek Abou Chabake, Chief Statistician, Global Data Service at UNHCR</p> <p>Input Speakers:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Rifat Houssain, Technical lead, Information, policy and governance, Prog for health and migration, Office of DDG at World Health Organization (WHO) 2. Artur Krzysztof Borkowski, Data Specialist, Education in Emergencies (EiE) at UNESCO <p>Panellists:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Athanasios C. Thanopoulos, President of ELSTAT and Chairman of the Partnership Group of the European Statistical System 2. Julibeth Rodriguez León, Technical advisor on migrant statistics, National Statistics Institute (INE) of Chile 3. Nviiri Helen Laetitia Namirembe, Director of Population and Social Statistics of the Uganda Bureau of Statistics (<i>online</i>)
	Open Discussion
11.30 – 12.30	Brunch / networking
Afternoon Session	
12.30 – 13.40	<p>Session III. Conversations with the IDAC Working Groups: Accomplishments and Actions to follow</p> <p>Moderator: Petra Nahmias, UN ESCAP and IDAC Advisory Board Chair (<i>online</i>)</p> <p>Panellists:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Apostolos Kasapis, Director – President’s Office at Hellenic Statistics Authority (ELSTAT) 2. Diego Iturralde, Chief Director of Demography and Population at Statistics South Africa 3. Christelle Cazabat, Head of Programmes, Internal Displacement and Monitoring Center (<i>online</i>) 4. William Low, Innovation Project Lead, Migration and Displacement Initiative Save the Children
	Open Discussion

13.40 – 14.20	<p>Session IV. On the Horizon – Strengthening the IDAC Approach to Close the Data and Knowledge Gaps on children on the Move</p> <p>Moderator: Estrella Lajom, IDAC Coordinator, UNICEF</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Lamiaa Elgebaly, Specialist, Central Agency for Public Mobilization and Statistics (CAPMAS), Egypt 2. Natalia Baal, Coordinator of the Expert Group on Refugees, Internally Displaced Persons and Statelessness Statistis (EGRISS) 3. Maria Isabel Cobos, UN Statistics Division, Coordinator of the Expert Group on Migration Statistics
14.20 – 14.30	<p>Concluding session and closing remarks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - IDAC Secretariat
14.30	<p>Family Photo and Goodbye!</p>

Annex 2: From Promises to Action: Towards Better Data for Migrant and Displaced Children



There are more children on the move around the world than ever before, with a record 35.5 million international child migrants and 36.5 million forcibly displaced children by the end of 2021. These children face many serious risks and challenges, but are often missed in data collection efforts. To address these challenges, the International Data Alliance for Children on the Move (IDAC) was established in 2020. IDAC is a global coalition of experts representing national statistical offices, migration-relevant line ministries, international and regional organizations, NGOs, academia and civil society organizations. Its mission is to improve statistics and data on migrant and displaced children to support evidence-based policymaking that protects and empowers them.

IDAC is renewing and expanding the 2018 call to action [Protecting children on the move starts with better data](#) issued by UNICEF, UNHCR, IOM, Eurostat and OECD, and urgently calls on United Nations

Member States and other key stakeholders to commit to the following declaration:

GLOBAL PLEDGE

Considering the persistent gaps in timely, accurate and disaggregated data for migrant and displaced children despite the heightened risks and vulnerabilities that we know they face;

Considering current and emerging global threats, such as conflict, climate change, food insecurity and health emergencies, that are expected to dramatically increase migration and displacement in the coming decades and exacerbate challenges for vulnerable populations, including children on the move;

Recalling the commitment made in Objective 1 of the Global Compact for Migration (GCM) to collect accurate and disaggregated data as a basis for evidence-based migration policies, as well as in Article 3.3 of the Global Compact on Refugees (GCR) to generate reliable, timely and comparable data to support evidence-based policies, investments and programmes for refugees, in addition to the promise made by United

Nations Member States to leave no one behind in achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

Welcoming Paragraph 70 of the Progress Declaration of the International Migration Review Forum (IMRF), which calls on Member States to “develop a comprehensive strategy for improving disaggregated migration data”;

Reiterating the 2018 call to action, Protecting children on the move starts with better data, issued by IDAC’s founding members – UNICEF, UNHCR, IOM, Eurostat and OECD;

Recalling Article 12 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child and Committee on the Rights of the Child (2002) General Comment 12, which address the rights of children and young people to participate in all matters that affect them, and to have their views given due weight;

Acknowledging the vital role of children and youth in co-creating and leading solutions that improve data and statistics on migration and support evidence-based policymaking.

We call on Member States to COMMIT to:

1. Disaggregate data by age, sex and migratory status, specifically by:

- Making efforts to collect exact-age data on migrant and displaced populations to maximize potential use and comparability of data on children on the move;
- Collecting data on key indicators of migratory status, including place of birth, place of citizenship, legal status (regular or irregular) and displacement status (e.g., refugee, asylum-seeker or internally displaced person);
- Operationalizing the established standards and frameworks for improving data and statistics in migration and displacement contexts (e.g., Expert Group on Refugee, Internally Displaced Persons and Statelessness Statistics (EGRISS), Expert Group on Migration Statistics (EGMS));
- Developing a comprehensive strategy for improving disaggregated migration data at local, national, regional and global levels, as highlighted in Paragraph 70 of the IMRF Progress Declaration.

2. Collect data on key issues related to children on the move, including by:

- Collecting data on the social and economic integration of children on the move (e.g., through surveys on labour force, quality of life);
- Collecting data on children’s access to essential services, including health; education; nutrition; water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) and child protection;
- Expanding quantitative and qualitative research on underexplored issues relevant to children on the move, including mixed migration movements, unaccompanied and

separated children, missing migrant children, children displaced due to climate change, internally displaced children, children 'left behind' by migrating parents and children on the move with disabilities.

3. Make better use of existing data, and share it, specifically by:

- Supporting concerted efforts to develop new norms and practices for sharing data and data integration across sectors and agencies (including administrative data);
- Sharing data between local, national, regional and global levels, while taking special measures to protect children's privacy and interests;
- Exploring and utilizing alternative data sources (e.g., big data, operational data) to better understand and respond to the needs of migrant and displaced children, especially in emergency contexts.

4. Coordinate data collection efforts within and across borders, including by:

- Implementing the Integrated Data Ecosystem Assessment and Strengthening (IDEAS) tool to improve national-level data coordination and data systems;
- Fostering dialogue and collaboration between and among national statistical authorities and concerned line ministries, as well as humanitarian and development partners, to identify data gaps and propose joint solutions;
- Promoting the exchange of good practices and lessons learned in strengthening national data capacities for children on the move at regional, continental and global levels;
- Becoming a member and/or collaborating with the International Data Alliance for Children on the Move (IDAC), a platform for multi-stakeholder sharing of experiences, peer-learning and co-creating solutions to address the pervasive data gaps that harm migrant and displaced children.

5. Make special efforts to collect and analyse data on children on the move, especially by:

- Developing research agendas that address data gaps to better respond to current and emerging issues faced by children on the move;
- Enhancing the meaningful participation of children and youth, including from marginalized groups, and ensuring their voices are heard in improving national data systems and the data collection process (planning, data collection, analysis, etc.);
- Ensuring that all data collection efforts are guided by robust frameworks and child-sensitive data collection standards and principles (e.g., the Responsible Data for Children (RD4C) framework)

-Make systematic financial and technical investments towards efforts to transform data and statistical systems to address child-specific needs.

Sign the Global Pledge [here!](#)



Annex 3: IDAC Quick facts

The International Data Alliance for Children on the Move (IDAC): Profile and key activities

QUICK FACTS

Mission: To improve data and statistics on migrant and displaced children in support of evidence-based policymaking and programming that can protect and empower them

How IDAC works: A global alliance

- ✓ **Membership: 47**
 - 22 Member States
 - 13 United Nations agencies and other international organizations
 - 12 NGOs, think tanks and academic experts
 - Cross-sectoral, multidimensional, represents national, regional and global perspectives
- ✓ **Partners with Member States** so they can deliver better outcomes for children in general, and for vulnerable migrant and displaced children in particular
- ✓ **Organized into four working groups**, each with distinct leadership and thematic technical focus related to improving data for children in migration and displacement contexts
- ✓ **Guided by the principle** that we can achieve more if resources and expertise are pooled and shared **to drive both agenda and action**

Why join IDAC?

- ✓ Broad-based platform serves as an **amplifier**, facilitating wider outreach and broader impact for individual member initiatives
- ✓ Offers a space to **build on existing initiatives** (e.g., [EGRISS](#), [EGMS](#)) and create added value in generating data for children in migration and displacement contexts
- ✓ Provides an opportunity to share **best practices** and **lessons learned** in an inclusive, peer-learning environment, fostering greater efficiency and use of resources for members



- ✓ Enables opportunities for members to **co-create public goods** and resources that advance better data for children
- ✓ Facilitates progress toward meeting **international commitments**, including the 2030 Agenda, the GCM and the GCR

IDAC Action Plan (2021–2023)



Objective 1. Strengthen national data systems and capacities to protect migrant and forcibly displaced children, through the provision of sustainable capacity-building support



Objective 2. Promote and establish collaborative, innovative methods for child-specific data work (e.g., [the annual conference](#), collaborative events, thematic reports, working groups)



Objective 3. Improve data visibility, availability, accessibility and usability by developing a global database and dashboard on children on the move, as well as a dedicated online IDAC hub

IDAC ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE

MEMBERS:

Member States

- **Europe (9):** Greece, Italy, Netherlands, Norway, Serbia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, United Kingdom
- **Latin America and the Caribbean (4):** Colombia, El Salvador, Mexico, Peru
- **Middle East and North Africa (3):** Egypt, Jordan, Morocco
- **Southeast Asia (2):** Nepal, Thailand
- **Sub-Saharan Africa (4):** Cameroon, South Africa, Nigeria, Uganda

UN and other international organizations

- African Union Commission
- Eurostat
- IOM
- OECD
- UNDP
- UNESCAP
- UNESCO
- UNFPA
- UNHCR
- UNICEF
- UNPD
- UNSD
- WHO

NGOs, think tanks, academia

- AidData
- Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre (IDMC)
- International Security and Development Centre (ISDC)
- IMPACT – REACH initiative
- Joint IDP Profiling Service (JIPS)
- Joint Research Centre – Knowledge Centre on Migration and Demography
- Mixed Migration Centre (MMC)
- Migration Policy Institute (MPI)
- Save the Children
- WorldPop
- Australian National University
- Georgetown University

LEADERSHIP AND GUIDANCE:

Secretariat

- Eurostat
- IOM
- OECD
- UNHCR
- UNICEF (Chair)

Advisory Board

- African Union Commission
- Department of Statistics in Jordan
- Statistics Netherlands
- Statistics Norway
- Statistics South Africa
- UNESCAP (Petra Nahmias, Chair)
- UN Population Division
- UN Statistics Division