

ON THE MOVE, IN THE KNOW

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For better lives for children on the move



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NUMBER OF CHILDREN DISPLACED BY CONFLICT AND VIOLENCE NEARS 50M

- The number of displaced children reached **48.8 million** in 2024. That's **nearly triple** the number recorded in 2010.
- Today, children account for **two in five** of the world's displaced people.
- At the end of 2024, more than **16 million** children in Africa have been internally displaced by conflict and violence. Nearly **one in three** of them lives in Sudan. **Half** of the Democratic Republic of the Congo's 3.3 million IDPs are children.
- In 2024, there were approximately **23.3 million** new internal displacements of children worldwide: **8.8 million** due to conflict and violence and **14.5 million** due to disasters, primarily storms and floods.

As conflict, violence and disasters destabilize communities around the globe, millions of children are grappling with the hard truth that their homes are no longer safe. But despite their increasing mobility, the data landscape for migrant and displaced children has remained troublingly limited.

Timely, accurate and disaggregated data that capture their circumstances are missing at country, regional and global levels. IDAC's approach – working together across sectors and disciplines towards a shared vision – is vital to advancing data work on behalf of children on the move and ensuring their rights are upheld.

IDAC's NEW ONLINE HUB

IDAC has a new place to call home! Visit dataforchildrenonthemove.org to take advantage of IDAC's growing range of [resources](#) – like the newly issued [indicators for children on the move](#) and our investigation into [climate mobility and childhood](#). The site also provides access to IDAC's full library of [events](#), such as the [inaugural session](#) of a newly launched webinar series on innovation.

Watch this space for updates on IDAC's interactive dashboard, online glossary, member engagement features and other useful resources to come that will arm countries with the tools they need to improve data collection, analysis and use on children on the move.

IDAC'S GLOBAL CONFERENCE: STANDING UP FOR CHILDREN ON THE MOVE



- How can we generate better data on the most vulnerable groups of children on the move?
- What challenges does the statistical community face in collecting data on internally displaced populations?
- How can innovative technologies be leveraged to close the data gaps on migrant and displaced children?
- How do we build trust with youth when producing migration statistics?

These questions were among the many critical points of inquiry that guided IDAC's [Second Annual Conference](#), which was held in Rabat, Morocco, in December 2024. Co-hosted by the Government of Morocco, the three-day event brought together more than 90 participants representing IDAC's cross-sectoral member base.

With an agenda packed with thought-provoking panels, coalition-building workshops and engaging brainstorming sessions, the global event took an in-depth look at migration and displacement data for children at national, regional and global levels, leveraging the knowhow of a broad range of key stakeholders – including national statistical offices from around the world – to co-create solutions to the data gaps. The firsthand experiences and insights shared during the conference not only reiterated the need for partnerships and collaboration in strengthening data and statistics, but also served as

an important reminder that many countries are facing the same challenges when collecting, analysing and disseminating quality data on children on the move.

“The work of IDAC and this conference represent an important step forward in our collective efforts to develop better evidence on the many aspects of child mobility. This evidence is crucial to help design policies that ensure that all children on the move in the world can aspire to a better life.”

- Ayache Khellaf, Secretary General of the High Commission for Planning (HCP), Government of Morocco

Several **key take-aways** emerged from the IDAC gathering, including:

1. A whole-of-society and whole-of-government approach that builds on regional and global legal and statistical frameworks is key to strengthening capacities and producing better data;
2. Available and recognized best practices and methodologies should be shared, linked and reproduced at scale;
3. Emerging and innovative technologies can help close the data gaps but must work in tandem with traditional data sources; and
4. The perspectives of those directly affected by migration and displacement – including youth – are critical in efforts to reach marginalized populations on the move.

Access additional conference materials, including links to session recordings, photographs and media materials, [here](#).

YOUTH IN FOCUS



“Behind each statistic there is a story. A story of a child. A laughter of a child. A dream of a child. An inspiration of a child.”

- Motaz Amer, youth activist

Motaz Amer shared his journey from young Yemeni refugee to human rights activist at the conference, highlighting the need for quality data to uphold the rights and dreams of children. Check out his powerful conference testimonial [here](#).



SPOTLIGHTING THE NEEDS OF CHILDREN AT THE



This week sees statisticians from around the world gather in Malmö, Sweden, for the [4th International Forum on Migration Statistics](#) (IFMS). IDAC is leading and participating in a number of events that will highlight the need to invest in statistical systems to protect children on the move:

- **Panel event, 17 June:** Best practices, success stories and partnerships in measuring the well-being of children on the move will be highlighted, featuring the perspectives of academia, national statistical offices, international organizations and civil society.

- **Data challenge, 18 June:** IDAC Secretariat members OECD and UNHCR conducted a [datathon](#) this spring that challenged the public to use UNHCR datasets to generate insights and solutions to the data gaps on children on the move. The two winning teams will present their projects to close out the IFMS's important discussions.
- **Focus on internal displacement, 18 June:** IDAC's new Coordinator (see Member Spotlight, p. 9), will moderate a [session](#) that examines case studies for understanding IDP statistics, ensuring the need to include children in these efforts is addressed.

NEW WEBINAR SERIES: INNOVATIVE TECH AND CHILD-SENSITIVE MIGRATION AND DISPLACEMENT DATA

In April, UNICEF's Frontier Data Network and Save the Children's Migration & Displacement Initiative (co-chairs of [IDAC's Working Group 4](#)) kicked off an IDAC webinar series that will explore how new technologies can address pressing issues affecting displaced children. The first session, 'AI and New Data Technologies to Assess Conflict-Induced Child Displacement' examined how advanced AI and data solutions can enhance humanitarian efforts and strengthen protection mechanisms for children displaced by conflicts.

"Children leave fewer digital traces behind. And this is one of the challenges that we're trying to find answers to because some of the advancements we're making with adult populations are a bit more difficult to use for quantifying child populations."

- Douglas Leasure, University of Oxford

Using practical experiences in Ukraine and Gaza, Douglas Leasure of the University of Oxford demonstrated approaches for tracking displaced populations in real-time through the integration of multiple data sources. Save the Children's William Low described recent advances in forecasting displacement patterns and highlighted the challenges in accurately identifying children within broader migration movements.

Key takeaways from the webinar included the need for: 1) data triangulation and data integration across sources, 2) special methods to address the digital invisibility of children, 3) nuanced demographic analysis to capture complex family structures, and 4) methodological work and advancements before emergencies occur.

Watch the webinar recording [here](#).

Please contact frontierdata@unicef.org to share suggestions for future topics or speakers to contribute to the *Innovation Technologies for Children on the Move* webinar series.

NEW PUBLICATION: INDICATORS FOR CHILDREN ON THE MOVE



IDAC has produced a standardized set of 10 core statistics to measure the number and movements of migrant and displaced children, along with 21 additional indicators across four critical areas – health, education, child protection and poverty. Detailed in the newly published [Indicators for Children on the Move: A guideline](#), the indicators will help improve national capacities to produce such statistics.

This new IDAC resource paves the way towards a globally comparable picture of migrant and displaced children's conditions and enables national data systems to be more responsive to the needs of children on the move. The publication is the result of a collaborative effort among IDAC Secretariat members and partners, including over 15 national statistical offices and multiple international organizations.

FROM THE FIELD: STRENGTHENING CHILD-SPECIFIC DATA IN KENYA

Host to more than [750,000](#) refugees, asylum-seekers and stateless people at the end of 2024, Kenya has opened its borders to people fleeing civil war, drought and other calamities from neighbouring countries. Estimates suggest that children account for more than half of refugees and asylum-seekers in the country, along with an unknown number of stateless children and children on the move along mixed migration routes.

To better meet these children's protection needs, IDAC is collaborating with the UNICEF Kenya Country Office and the UNICEF Regional Office for Eastern and Southern Africa (ESARO) to ensure Kenya's child protection data systems include migrant and displaced children. Led by the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection's Department

of Child Services and supported by UNICEF, a review of cases in the national Child Protection Information Management System (CPIMS) is ongoing to improve the disaggregation of data by migratory status. These efforts build on ESARO's strategic, evidence-based interventions to protect the region's children on the move.

Training workshops on child-specific data are also planned for key stakeholders, including CPIMS administrators, to strengthen capacity and coordination, as well as methodological harmonization with IOM's Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM). Watch this space and the IDAC website for progress on this exciting capacity-building initiative.

CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS: PRACTITIONERS' COMPENDIUM

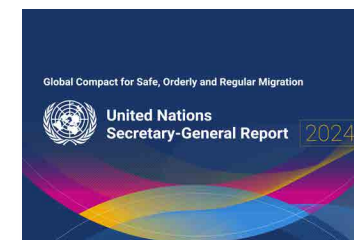
Are you involved in analysing, documenting or promoting cutting-edge, data-driven approaches to help the global community understand the day-to-day realities of children on the move? If yes, IDAC wants to hear from you!

This year will see the publication of an IDAC compendium on innovative data solutions in support of migrant and displaced children. This practical, evidence-based resource will explore how tools like AI, satellite imagery and participatory data collection methods can complement traditional methods and reshape the way mobility data are collected and analysed.

The compendium's goal is to empower data practitioners involved in designing, implementing, funding and supporting systems to address data gaps affecting children on the move and their families.

Please write us at idac@unicef.org to share your experiences with the use of innovative technologies to gather and analyse data on children on the move. Your contributions will not only demonstrate practical applications of innovative technologies for children on the move, but also inspire and inform others seeking resources to improve the evidence base on migrant and displaced children.

UNITED NATIONS SECRETARY-GENERAL CALLS FOR DATA DISAGGREGATION IN GCM EFFORTS



The [2024 report](#) by the United Nations Secretary-General on the implementation of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (GCM) urges States to

strengthen the evidence base on migration, including by improving data collection. The report proposes a voluntary set of indicators to measure progress in

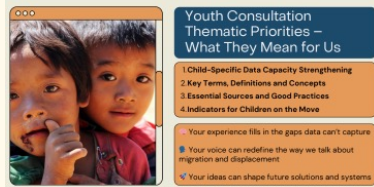
collecting and utilizing accurate and disaggregated data, highlighting IDAC's role in enhancing data, international cooperation and partnerships.

In addition, the report spotlights migrant deaths and disappearances and calls on States to collect and report data on these casualties to IOM's Missing Migrants Project.

Read the full report [here](#).

RECENT EVENTS: BUILDING CAPACITIES, SHARING KNOWLEDGE AND ADVANCING DATA WORK FOR CHILDREN ON THE MOVE

- Youth-led seminar: 'Migration and Displacement Data: With and for children and youth'**
 Youth Committee on Migration and Displacement Data
 April 2025



In April, the Youth Committee on Migrant and Displacement Data, an initiative

launched by IDAC and youth partner Migration Youth and Child Platform last year (see [On the Move, In the Know, #3](#)), kicked off the first of a two-part series on improving statistics on children and youth for evidence-based policymaking. More than 138 participants from all over the world, including children and youth on the move, representatives of UN agencies, national statistical offices, civil society and academia,

joined the capacity-building session. The event introduced key terms, definitions, data sources and legal frameworks relevant to the production, analysis and use of migration and displacement data, while also highlighting the need for youth on the move to participate in these processes in order to fill the statistical gaps. It also engaged participants in an interactive gameplay, whereby teams were asked to uncover hidden narratives, challenges and opportunities in migration and displacement data. The seminar will be followed by a youth consultation that aims to gather lived experiences of young migrants and refugees in the areas in the context of education, health and climate change.

- Technical session: 'Mainstreaming Children's Issues in Migration Statistics'**
 6th IGAD Migration Data Technical Working Group Workshop
 Mombasa, Kenya
 February 2025



The critical needs of children on the move in Africa were highlighted at a recent Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) capacity-building event thanks to an IDAC intervention. In order to improve the availability and quality of migration and displacement statistics in the IGAD region (Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan and Uganda), IDAC guided participants through its new [indicators for children on the move](#) and explored future collaborations with IGAD members, many of whom have substantial populations of children on the move. Bolstered by presentations on the International Recommendations on Refugee Statistics (IRRS), Internally Displaced Persons Statistics (IRIS) and Statelessness Statistics (IROSS), the

"Kenya is committed to improving migration governance. Optimizing production, harmonizing concepts and methods, and enhancing coordination at national, regional, and continental levels are critical to increasing the availability and awareness of migration and displacement statistics."

- **Awes Abdulkadir**, Kenya National Bureau of Statistics (KNBS) Government of Morocco

event promoted the critical importance of age disaggregation in official statistics.

More details can be found [here](#).

- Workshop: 'Workshop on the International Recommendations on Refugee, Internally Displaced Persons, and Statelessness Statistics'**
 Cairo, Egypt
 November 2024



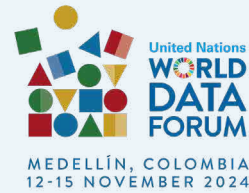
Statistical inclusion of refugee, internally displaced and stateless people is key to protecting the rights of vulnerable groups on the move – yet data on these populations are limited across contexts. This concerning data gap and the need for investments in national statistical systems were spotlighted at a November workshop in Cairo organized by the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA), the Expert Group on Refugee, IDP, and Statelessness Statistics (EGRIS) and the Arab Institute for Training and Research in Statistics (AITRS). Hosted by the League of Arab States in collaboration with several regional and global partners and attended by representatives from national statistical agencies and relevant ministries from 14 countries, the event highlighted strategic implementation of IRRS, IRIS and IROSS. The need for age disaggregation to ensure that children on the move are accurately represented in national statistical systems was also a priority topic.

The workshop resulted in a set of seven **recommendations** for Arab countries:

1. Strengthen coordination among national statistical offices and key agencies to align data needs and streamline data collection on refugees, internally displaced persons and stateless persons
2. Evaluate existing data on these populations to identify quality gaps and align with EGRIS statistical frameworks
3. Plan data inclusion in upcoming censuses and surveys by using tools like booster samples and tailored questions
4. Combine traditional and innovative data sources (e.g., big data) for a more comprehensive understanding
5. Integrate displacement statistics into national statistical development strategies
6. Promote the IRRS, IRIS and IROSS through advocacy, training and capacity building
7. Share best practices and encourage membership in EGRIS to foster collaboration and learning

Check out the full workshop report [here](#).

- Panel Discussion: 'Children on the move: Exploring the gaps, needs and solutions for better quality data'**
 World Data Forum
 Medellín, Colombia
 November 2024



IDAC leveraged the World Data Forum's global stage to call on countries to improve data for children on the move by co-hosting a panel discussion with IMPACT Initiatives. With representatives from international organizations, NGOs and youth, the session touched upon coordination between national and international data producers, specific hurdles and good practices related to producing evidence on children affected by climate-related mobility, and effective and safe inclusion of children, including

internally displaced children, in data practices.

The panel made the case for stronger investment in child-focused data efforts at all levels of government, emphasizing the need for a whole-of-society and whole-of-government approach to including children on the move in data collection, analysis and use.

Access more details [here](#).

- Webinar: 'Improving Data on Climate-Related Child and Family Mobility'**
 September 2024

Children on the move due to climate change were the topic of a September webinar, 'Improving Data on Climate-Related Child and Family Mobility', part 2 of a thematic IDAC-UNICEF Innocenti webinar series that [kicked off](#) in 2023. The most recent event convened a core group of knowledge partners to map available data and resources, identify data gaps and facilitate knowledge-sharing, including experts from IOM, the University of Oxford, the University of Virginia and IGAD.

Discussions addressed the use of innovative approaches to data collection, involvement and sustainable engagement of youth in data processes, and methods to counting children affected by slow-onset disasters and those who remain or are not able to move during disasters.

Key take-aways included:

- Dialogue between academics, data practitioners and frontline workers must be fostered to ensure data reflect real-world conditions and challenges, enriching both insights and practical application.
- Adaptation capacity, access to technology, and cultural ties to land deeply influence mobility decisions and must be reflected in data.
- Understanding the differences between family migration and movements involving unaccompanied children is critical. These distinct pathways involve different risks, resilience factors and data needs.
- Better data are needed to reflect how people perceive different migration routes and associated risks, as these perceptions significantly shape mobility choices.

Access the recording [here](#).

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT: Marzia Rango, IDAC Coordinator



IDAC is pleased to welcome its new Coordinator, Marzia Rango. In her previous roles at IOM and the UN Secretariat, Marzia supported countries in their efforts to improve the collection and analysis of migration and displacement data, built cross-sectoral partnerships to promote the responsible use of novel data sources and new technologies for migration analysis, and developed analytical products for senior UN leadership. Marzia has authored several publications on migration, including the recent volume, [Measuring Global Migration: Towards better data for all](#).

What do you find most exciting about IDAC's work?

Oh, so many things. I'm excited to mobilize existing expertise towards a common and noble mission by forging alliances and nurturing partnerships with inspiring professionals from an array of sectors – national governments, international and non-governmental organizations, academia and civil society. Working with young migrants and refugees and ensuring their perspectives shape our advocacy efforts and activities is also a highlight of this work. On a more fundamental level, the idea of doing my part for children on the move around the world at such a critical time in history is deeply motivating.

often face limitations in terms of available skills and expertise, financial resources, outdated technologies to conduct complex data collection exercises and limited political will to prioritize migration. Even where data are available, they may not be utilized to inform appropriate policy measures.

IDAC can address at least some of these challenges in a number of ways, by: 1) leveraging its global network of experts to support national statistical offices, 2) investing in the enhancement of data systems in countries where resources are poor, 3) making data and evidence from a variety of sources easily accessible, and 4) helping to identify innovations in the data and analytics space that can be scaled up and replicated across countries to fill the gaps. At the same time, we must ensure that the unique and critical needs of children on the move guide these efforts.

What are the greatest challenges facing statistical systems in the production of child-sensitive migration and displacement data and how can we address them?

In many low- and middle-income countries, statistical systems – that is, *people* working in national statistical offices, sectoral ministries, and relevant local and national governmental entities, and the *processes and technologies* that they rely on to carry out their functions – have been facing growing demands for data and analysis, often in increasingly volatile socio-economic or political contexts. At the same time, these systems

What would you like the IDAC community to know about you?

Before embarking on an international development career, I was a professional volleyball player in Italy. One of my life goals is to be able to communicate in 10 different languages – I am at 5ish so far. And in my next life, I'd like to be a cello or piano player.

IDAC PLEDGES TO...



STRENGTHEN
data systems and capacities



PROMOTE
and establish collaboration and innovation



IMPROVE
data visibility, availability, accessibility and usability



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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 2018 Call to Action, *Protecting children on the move starts with better data*.

Sign the IDAC-MYCP Global Pledge today.

ON THE MOVE, IN THE KNOW 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. Production is co-funded by the European Union. Its contents are the sole responsibility of IDAC and do not necessarily reflect the views of the European Union.

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!

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