

ON THE MOVE, IN THE KNOW

December 2025 • Issue #5

Building better data.
Building brighter futures for **migrant and displaced children**.



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MILLIONS OF CHILDREN AROUND THE WORLD CONTINUE TO BE UPROOTED BY CONFLICT, VIOLENCE AND THE GROWING IMPACTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE

- There are at least **37 million** child migrants globally.
- Children account for **40 per cent** of the world's displaced people.
- **16.3 million** children in Africa are internally displaced by conflict and violence.
- In 2024, the number of African children internally displaced by disasters **doubled** from the previous year.
- **Crisis** significantly and rapidly **increases** the number of unaccompanied and separated children.
- Children travelling alone account for a **concerning share** of all children on the move.

↳ [10 Facts about Children on the Move: 2025 update](#)

↳ [Data Snapshot of Migrant and Displaced Children in Africa](#)

↳ [Alone, On the Move and Unseen](#)

Often invisible in data and statistics and frequently overlooked by decision makers, children on the move are among the most marginalized members of society. At a time when political will is increasingly fragmented

and public resources are under pressure, the IDAC partnership plays a critical role in co-creating solutions and driving investment in better data to deliver long-term, systemic change for migrant and displaced children.

ON THE HORIZON: IDAC'S WEBSITE GOES INTERACTIVE

In early 2026, IDAC will launch a new interactive visualization on its [website](#), a powerful advocacy and knowledge-sharing tool that gives users the ability to dive into key migration and displacement

trends. The Data Gateway, an interactive dashboard that will capture country- and regional-level data on migration and displacement across core child-specific indicators, will follow later in the year.

IDAC KICKS OFF REGIONAL WORKSHOP SERIES



In November, IDAC launched a new series of regional capacity-strengthening workshops to support countries in implementing its [Indicators for Children on the Move](#). The guidelines provide a shared technical foundation that helps countries apply common definitions and concepts and generate comparable, consistent and child-sensitive migration and displacement data and report on key SDG indicators.

Designed to be highly interactive, practical and scalable, the regional workshops prioritize open dialogue and peer-to-peer learning. By supporting countries to apply the indicator guidelines in real-world contexts, IDAC aims to strengthen regional communities of practice and improve the availability, quality and use of data on children on the move.

The inaugural workshop in Panama City convened 19 representatives from national statistical offices

and line ministries across six countries – Chile, Colombia, El Salvador, Honduras, Mexico and Panama. They were joined by regional partners from ECLAC, IOM, UNHCR and UNICEF Latin America and the Caribbean to foster alignment between national and regional data efforts.

Participants highlighted the value of the three-day event in supporting cross-country learning and enabling the exchange of concrete technical materials, including survey instruments and analytical tools.

Thank you to all participants and partners for laying a strong foundation for this next phase of regional collaboration – we look forward to building on this momentum with IDAC members and partners through upcoming workshops in Africa and Asia in 2026!

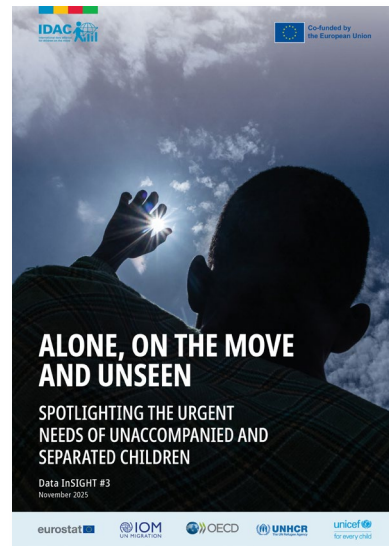
FROM THE FIELD: BUILDING COUNTRY CAPACITIES



IDAC's country-focused efforts to strengthen data and statistics for children on the move in Indonesia, Kenya and Nigeria are well underway. Recent achievements and upcoming activities include:

- Indonesia:** Badan Pusat Statistik (BPS) (Statistics Indonesia) and UNHCR formally launched their new partnership in November, with a hybrid inception meeting at BPS headquarters in Jakarta (pictured above). With the participation of relevant ministries, and keeping in mind IDAC's core priority – better data for children on the move – the event was a valuable opportunity to reaffirm the country's commitment to strengthening data collaboration and evidence-based action for children on the move. Next steps include mapping existing data and identifying gaps using the Integrated Data Ecosystem Assessment and Strengthening (IDEAS) tool, which will result in recommendations to improve the collection and use of high-quality, timely and disaggregated data on migrant and displaced children in Indonesia.
- In **Kenya**, IDAC (represented by UNICEF) is supporting improvements to the national Child Protection Information Management System to include migrant children, enhance data by migratory status and train administrators for better coordination. An overall assessment of existing data collection and information management systems in the country that relate to child protection, migration and displacement is ongoing. Its aim is to produce recommendations that can pave the way for greater interoperability across these systems and strengthen the generation of child-specific information on migrant and displaced children, including their protection needs. A capacity-strengthening session involving relevant government counterparts and IDAC Secretariat members and partners will be organized in early 2026.
- Working closely with **Nigeria's** Bureau of Statistics, IOM is building on its Displacement Tracking Matrix to strengthen data collection on children on the move through the upcoming Migrants' Presence Survey. To advance data-driven solutions that respond to the needs of migrant children and vulnerable populations across Nigeria, a dedicated module that covers migration, displacement, child protection, poverty, health, nutrition and education has been developed. In parallel, an October participatory workshop in Abuja with the Migration Data Management Working Group and key stakeholders explored data gaps and priorities, with a focus on child-specific modules of the IDEAS assessment. Next steps include analysing information from the workshop and key-informant interviews, along with desk-based research, to draft an IDEAS assessment report.

NEW PUBLICATION AND WEBINAR CALL FOR BETTER DATA ON UASC



Over the past decade, the growing number of children travelling alone or becoming separated from their families has become a pressing concern for both humanitarian actors and governments. While some progress has been made to protect these children and reunite them

with their families, unaccompanied and separated children still endure serious violations of their rights, often lacking access to even the most basic services. At the same time, many children on the move without a parent or caregiver are absent from official statistics and neglected in policy and programming.

IDAC's new Data InSIGHT report – *Alone, On the Move and Unseen: Spotlighting the urgent needs of unaccompanied and separated children* – underscores the critical need to close these data gaps as a means to fortify the protection response. Drawing on more than 200 sources, the report highlights key facts – such as the high proportion of older adolescents among unaccompanied and separated children – and emphasizes the ongoing risks to their well-being, both during their journeys and after arrival, which are also illustrated by youth testimonials.

The report calls for accurate, timely and disaggregated data on age, gender, migration status and routes to understand the situation of unaccompanied and separated children, protect their rights and inform effective policy and humanitarian action. It also highlights good practices and opportunities for stronger, child-sensitive data systems that can better support and safeguard this vulnerable population.

Read the [report](#).



In December, IDAC convened a panel of cross-sectoral experts to share the report's findings and discuss the critical role of data and statistics in order for decision makers to effectively respond to the needs of this marginalized group of children.

Nawar Arouk, (see also, 'Youth in Focus', below) who travelled unaccompanied as an adolescent refugee from Syria, highlighted the intrinsic need for transparency and trust when collecting data on children. "Every data set begins with a conversation with a child who must feel safe enough to speak or even identify themselves," he said.

Eurostat's Piotr Juchno shared the EU experience, where policymakers recognized that actions to protect unaccompanied and separated children demanded parallel improvements and investments in statistics – including the production of disaggregated data by age, sex and migratory status. Though statistical knowledge in the region is now relatively strong, Juchno stressed, there are still issues to resolve. "Data gaps still exist at

the national level – often linked to administrative systems," he said. "And while certain policy areas in the EU are well harmonized by law, this is not the case with migration policy – which has led to varying administrative practices that hinder data comparability."

Laurent Chapuis, who leads UNICEF's case management work on unaccompanied and separated children, captured the humanitarian community's longstanding recognition that children on their own in displacement contexts face distinct and severe risks – risks that must be understood through quality evidence in order to effectively respond to them. Data are central to these efforts, he explained. "They help shape the response and contribute to system-strengthening – not only in terms of data systems, but also to broader child protection and asylum systems. We also know how powerful data are when it comes to raising resources and advocating for adequate policy and legal reform."

The 60-minute session closed with remarks by Jennifer Podkul of NGO Kids in Need of Defense (KIND), who reminded the audience of the need to ensure data work for, not against, children. "Doing a better job of collecting the disaggregated data on unaccompanied and separated children is not an end in itself," she said. "What's important is that the data collection is undertaken with the purpose and intent of ensuring safety and well-being of children."

Watch the [webinar](#).



YOUTH IN FOCUS



"No child should ever be put in a position where being unseen feels safer than being seen."

– **Nawar Arouk**, youth activist

The Syrian civil war left 15-year-old Nawar Arouk and his family little choice but to leave their home behind and begin anew. Along his journey from crisis to safety, Nawar found himself alone and on the move multiple times.

Read about Nawar's experience as an unaccompanied child in IDAC's [report](#) and listen to his powerful testimony from our recent [webinar](#).

FRONTIER TECH + CLIMATE MOBILITY: INNOVATIONS FOR CHILDREN

IDAC WEBINAR SERIES
INNOVATIVE TECHNOLOGIES FOR
CHILDREN ON THE MOVE

AI and Geospatial Innovation: Bridging Data Gaps on Climate, Displacement, and Children

Organised by:
FRONTIER DATA NETWORK | UNICEF | Save the Children

Quantifying and Estimating Weather-Related Child Displacement at Global Scale

Maria Teresa Miranda
IDMC Information Management Adviser

Laura Healy
UNICEF Expert on Climate Change, Migration, and Displacement

Mapping Refugee Settlement Boundaries for AI-Enabled Climate Risk Assessment

Dr. Jamon Van Den Hoek
Oregon State University Associate Professor

The role of AI and advanced geospatial technologies in improving the evidence on children displaced by climate-related impacts was the focus of an IDAC Innovation Working Group webinar in October, which convened data scientists, child protection and migration specialists, and academics.

UNICEF's Laura Healy and Maria Teresa Miranda Espinosa of the Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre (IDMC) described how their organizations teamed up to develop a [ground-breaking methodology](#) to estimate weather-related child displacements.

At Oregon State University, Dr. Jamon Van Den Hoek is developing a global, fully attributed dataset of settlement boundaries to better assess climate-related risks among refugee populations. Slated for release in spring 2026, the open database aims to create analysis-ready boundaries enriched with environmental, climatic, and socioeconomic data.

Several challenges in leveraging frontier technologies to close data gaps were also highlighted, including the need to:

- Collect subnational, disaggregated data to better anticipate and prepare for the impacts of climate change
- Improve transparency around how data are collected, including their limitations and potential biases
- Develop robust risk models to identify areas where exposure is high and coping capacity is low
- Translate innovation into systematic, scalable solutions that together provide a comprehensive global picture of displacement

Read a [detailed summary](#) of the webinar.

[Watch](#) the full recording.

Explore [IDAC's report](#) on children and climate mobility.



CALL FOR INPUTS!

Oregon State University needs your help! To offer insights or provide inputs to Dr. Van Den Hoek's refugee settlement mapping project, [contact the team](#).

To share suggestions for future topics or speakers to contribute to the Innovation Technologies for Children on the Move webinar series, write [IDAC's Innovation Working Group](#).





AMPLIFYING THE VOICES OF CHILDREN ON THE MOVE ACROSS FORUMS



In Malmö, Sweden, IDAC joined the 4th International Forum on Migration Statistics (IFMS) – a critical platform for the global community to assess how well we are upholding our data commitments to the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (GCM). [Highlights of the week](#) included the announcement of winners of the IDAC Datathon, pictured above with representatives of the IDAC Secretariat and the European Union’s Directorate General for International Partnerships (DG INTPA).



Photo: ©EGRISS, [Summary Report](#), 2025

At the 2025 All Members’ Meeting of the Expert Group on Refugee, IDP and Statelessness Statistics (EGRISS) in Warsaw, Poland, IDAC joined colleagues from 43 countries to review progress and strengthen collaboration to improve official statistics on refugee, IDP and stateless populations – ensuring the needs of children are included in these efforts.

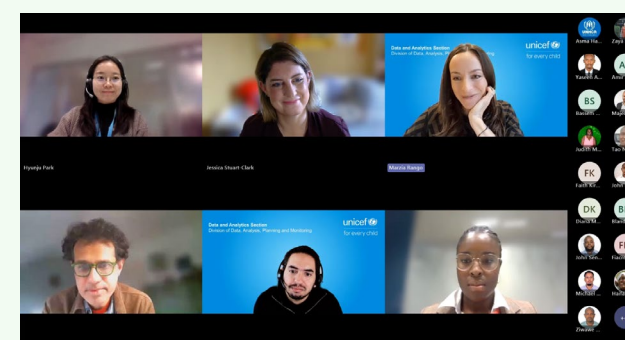


Photo: ©United Nations Economic Commission for Europe

IDAC headed to the Palais des Nations in Geneva to [present its Indicators for Children on the Move](#) and upcoming guidelines on Communicating about Migration Statistics at the UNECE Group of Experts on Statistics on Population and Migration Meeting. Participants included 90 representatives from UNECE Member States’ national statistical offices, along with representatives of international and non-governmental organizations and the private sector. National efforts to prepare for the 2030 round of population and housing censuses were at the core of these discussions, with a dedicated session on child-specific statistics.



In New York, IDAC connected with one of its key partners, the Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre – which co-chairs IDAC’s working group on internally displaced children – to advance efforts to capture these highly vulnerable children in data and statistics.



At the UNHCR Data Community Hub meeting, IDAC shared its mission to improve data and statistics for children on the move and highlighted how its work can support efforts for the world’s displaced children with more than 200 UNHCR data colleagues.



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Photo credit

NEW PUBLICATIONS



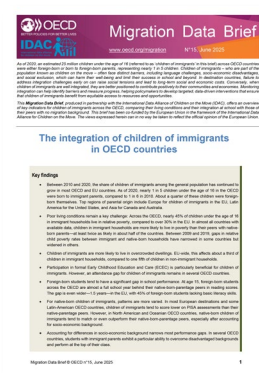
Using the latest available statistics, [10 Facts about Children on the Move](#) shares a critical set of data visualizations, succinct analyses and top-line messages about migrant and displaced children today. It highlights key characteristics of this population of children, including estimates of their numbers, the drivers of their movement – such as forced displacement – and patterns of origin and residence, while also drawing attention to the data gaps that leave many of these children invisible and at risk.



Millions of African children are on the move – within their own countries and across borders – due to ongoing and emerging crises. Many are highly vulnerable and need urgent protection. This [snapshot](#) highlights key trends and underscores the urgent need to invest in stronger data and statistical systems to ensure these children are seen, supported and protected.



Produced by IMPACT Initiatives for IDAC, this [guidance document](#) provides an overview of Multi-Sectoral Needs Assessments (MSNAs) as a tool to collect child-specific data in displacement settings. Tailored for MSNA implementers and child protection actors, it offers practical recommendations for data collection and analysis to support programming and advocacy, addressing gaps left by broader surveys like the Multi-Indicator Cluster Surveys and Demographic and Health Surveys.



This OECD [Migration Data Brief](#), produced under the IDAC umbrella, offers an overview of key indicators for children of immigrants across the OECD, comparing their living conditions and their integration at school with those of their peers with no migration background.



IDAC's Working Group 1, which is led by the Hellenic Statistical Authority, has produced a [pocket guide](#) and [Spanish-language version](#) of its [Manual on Child-Specific Data Capacity Strengthening on Children on the Move](#), a technical manual for policymakers and producers of national statistics that supports the generation of child- and migrant-sensitive data.

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT: ARYAN SANGHRAJKA, MIGRATION YOUTH AND CHILDREN PLATFORM (MYCP)



What first drew you to work at the intersection of migration, youth and children?

My family are refugees from Uganda, who came to the United Kingdom in 1972. Migration and displacement are deeply rooted in my heritage, with my dad fleeing persecution when he was just six months old. I started working with migrants and refugees when I was 14, and I saw the difference children and young people like me can make to supporting those in search of safety.

What do you find inspiring or motivating about your role at MYCP?

The people! Working with passionate young people from every corner of the world makes me want to continue to do this work more and more, and collaborate to see their visions, drive and energy realized.

How does the IDAC platform add value to MYCP's efforts to ensure that children and young migrants have a voice and meaningfully engage in international migration policy and related decision-making processes?

IDAC's support to our work and the Youth Committee on Migration & Displacement Data is invaluable. It makes sure that children and youth are not just reduced to statistics or an age range, but seen for their stories, solutions and contributions to society. Through the blend of data and human stories, the Youth Committee works to see the person behind the number.

In October, IDAC welcomed the new Global Coordinator of the Migration Youth and Children Platform, Aryan Sanghrajka. We are thankful to Florencio Venté and Milena Franke, MYCP's former global coordinators, for their great contribution and collaboration over the past two years and look forward to working closely with Aryan and the new cohort of the [Youth Committee on Migration & Displacement Data](#).

Aryan is an award-winning leader bringing experience in shaping public and development policy and programming, partnership-building and strategic leadership. He has worked with governments, the private sector and civil society to drive meaningful change on a domestic and global scale. Alongside his role at MYCP, he is also a UNHCR Young Champion for Refugees and an Associate Fellow at the British Foreign Policy Group.

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

About IDAC

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

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

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