

# ON THE MOVE, IN THE KNOW

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For better lives for children on the move



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**Around the globe, children are leaving home in record numbers.**

**36.5 million children** were displaced by conflict, violence and other crises at the end of 2021

**13.7 million** were child refugees and asylum-seekers

**22.8 million** were internally displaced

The **global refugee population** has more than **doubled** in the last decade; **today, children account for 2 in 5 refugees worldwide.**

In 2021, **natural disasters** led to **7.3 million** new internal displacements of children.

## Upholding the GCM's Commitment to Improved Migration Data

It's been four years since the international community adopted the Global Compact for Migration (GCM), a landmark agreement to ensure the rights of all migrants – including children – are protected. The GCM recognizes data as critical to upholding these rights (see GCM Objective 1). *But are we delivering on this promise to produce better data and evidence that reflect the realities of the millions of children on the move today?*

May's inaugural International Migration Review Forum (IMRF), an event to be held every four years to measure progress towards implementing the GCM, provided an opportune moment to tackle this question. An IDAC side event brought together over 200 partners and participants not only to address **the foundational role of data** in upholding the rights of children on the move, but also to drive efforts to produce **accurate, timely and disaggregated data**. These data are crucial to **evidence-based decision- and policymaking** that ensure the well-being of migrant children is protected.

Though the global community has committed to improving migration statistics, progress remains slow and limited. **Political, technical and financial**

**investments in producing better data for children on the move are urgently needed.**

IDAC leveraged the event to renew the 2018 call to action for better migration data, simultaneously releasing the publication, *Stronger Data, Brighter Futures: Protecting children on the move with data and evidence*. IDAC urges Member States to commit to 5 strategic action points:

### Key actions for better data for migrant and displaced children

- 1 Disaggregate data by age, sex and migratory status
- 2 Collect data on key issues related to children on the move
- 3 Make better use of existing data, and share it
- 4 Coordinate data collection efforts within countries and across borders
- 5 Make special efforts to collect and analyse data on children

IDAC will continue to partner with the international community to advance the GCM's data goals, working closely with **countries** and **non-state stakeholders** to collect both child-sensitive data and data on migrant populations.

## YOUTH INNOVATOR: ALANKRITA DAYAL



Leaving her native India at the tender age of 10 months for the United States, Alankrita Dayal intimately understands both the challenges migrant youth face and their great potential. She also understands the power of data as a positive force for social change as founder of [Program yoUr Future](#), an organization she established at age 17 to support and empower youth in acquiring STEM skills. A panelist at IDAC's IMRF event, she reminded the audience of data's great power to uphold children's rights: **"Data-driven technology has the potential to bridge barriers experienced by migrant youth and serve as a mechanism for social integration for education to empower youth,"** she said. To learn more about her data-driven sustainable solutions, connect with Alankrita on [Twitter](#).

## DATA AND CRISIS: WAR IN UKRAINE



The events in Ukraine have carried horrific repercussions for the country's children. Millions have seen their rights broadly violated across dimensions. **UNICEF estimates that as many as two in three of the nation's 7.5 million children have been displaced by fighting.** The crisis provides a stark reminder of the often precarious circumstances faced by the many children on the move around the globe.

Methods and strategies to collect the data to protect these children took centre stage at an IDAC event in April, the first global discussion on the numbers and situations of Ukrainian children affected by the war. A panel of key humanitarian agencies (UNICEF, UNHCR and IOM), countries directly impacted by the war (Ukraine, Poland and Moldova) and the European Union (EU) examined the critical role of data in responding to the crisis, identifying the essential information required to meet the protection and development needs of Ukrainian refugee and displaced children.

The EU announced a new **centralized database** for Ukrainian refugees, including children, to enable all Ukrainian citizens affected by the war to access **temporary protection** services offered by the EU.

### KEY RESOURCES

- [Recording](#) of IDAC's webinar on Ukrainian children on the move
- UNHCR's [database](#) tracking Ukrainian refugee flows
- IOM's [Migration Portal](#) on the Ukraine conflict

## FROM THE FIELD

### IDEAS for Child Migrants in Thailand

**Thailand hosts approximately 3.6 million international migrants, including an estimated 500,000 children**, per UNPD figures. To ensure these children are not being left behind, the National Statistical Office piloted UNICEF's Integrated Data Ecosystem Assessment and Strengthening (IDEAS) project. By mapping existing data sources and identifying gaps, the exercise has strengthened the ability of Thailand's data systems to uphold the rights of vulnerable migrant and refugee children.

**The IDEAS project has helped Thailand establish a centralized government data catalogue and official statistics sharing hub, improve interagency coordination and standardize indicators.**

### Streamlining Statistics to Protect Unaccompanied Children on the Move in Norway

In Norway, a robust evidence base on the integration experiences of over **10,000 unaccompanied minors**, including information related to sex, age, education, income, health care access, and employment, is now available thanks to innovation on the part of IDAC member **Statistics Norway**. The national statistical institute has merged disparate government data sources on unaccompanied minors to better meet their needs and improve integration experiences, using personal pin codes to link data from immigration authorities with data from administrative registers.

**Learn more about the findings from this initiative [here](#).**

#### IDAC PLEDGES TO...



#### STRENGTHEN

**data systems and capacities**



#### PROMOTE

**and establish collaboration and innovation**



#### IMPROVE

**data visibility, availability, accessibility and usability**

### Driving Data Investments in Asia and the Pacific

As of 2020, there were almost **8 million children living outside their country of birth across Asia and the Pacific**, while 6.7 million children had been displaced as a result of conflict and violence either within their own country (as internally displaced persons) or across borders (as refugees and asylum-seekers). In ASEAN alone, there were nearly 1.3 million migrant children, in addition to 318,000 children displaced as a result of conflict and violence, and an estimated 148,000 children displaced by disasters. IDAC is engaged at multiple levels to support this large vulnerable child population, as seen in two events in May:

- At the Asia-Pacific Stats Café Series, a monthly event that brings countries in the region together to strengthen national statistical systems, an IDAC-led discussion examined the data gaps on children on the move in ESCAP countries. Speakers from the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP), IDAC and an officer of Thailand's NSO highlighted exciting country-level projects and policies to build and strengthen child- and migrant-sensitive data systems, along with strategies to overcome data gaps and challenges in the region.
- At the 'Women and Children in the Context of Migration' workshop led by the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), countries exchanged knowledge on women and children migrating between and within countries in Southeast Asia, as well as those left behind when their families migrate. IDAC put forth a call to action for countries to commit to IDAC's five strategic action points and invited ASEAN countries and other stakeholders to join the alliance.

## ENGAGING WITH PARTNERS

'Better Data, Better Lives', the title of the 53rd United Nations Statistical Commission session, left little doubt of the vital need of statistics and evidence in sustainable development. It also provided an ideal platform to raise awareness of the need for better migration data for children.

The IDAC side event, "Better Data to Improve Outcomes for Children on the Move," convened an expert panel of stakeholders and professionals from the Netherlands, South Africa, Spain and Thailand to exchange knowledge and ideas on ways to better support children on the move, exploring issues like the role of national statistical offices in improved data, the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on data collection efforts, and how alternative data sources can be leveraged to learn more about migrant and displaced children. Check out the [recording](#) to learn more.

## UPHOLDING THE RIGHT TO EDUCATION FOR INTERNALLY DISPLACED CHILDREN

Children around the world have seen their right to education affected by the **COVID-19 pandemic** -- but those who have been internally displaced face even more acute risks of missing out on the chance to learn.

On the Fourth International Day of Education, an IDAC [blog post](#) raised awareness of these children's intense vulnerabilities when it comes to accessing the classroom. IDAC stressed the urgent need for better data to track the educational needs of internally displaced children and noted key initiatives aimed at improving relevant education data, such as the [Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre's \(IDMC\)](#) work collecting standardized, disaggregated data on internally displaced children's access to education and [UNESCO's Global Data Portal on education in emergencies](#).

### ON THE MOVE, IN THE KNOW

provides regular updates on efforts to improve data 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.





## SUPPORT IMPROVED DATA ON CHILDREN ON THE MOVE!

Join us! IDAC invites Member States and relevant stakeholders to contribute their technical know-how and experiences by supporting two ongoing initiatives:

1. Chaired by the **Hellenic Statistical Authority**, IDAC Working Group 1 is producing a guidance document to offer governments and the statistical community strategies and solutions for improved data on children on the move. Share your experiences, good practices and challenges to enrich this work!
2. Chaired by **Statistics South Africa**, IDAC Working Group 2 is mapping indicators relevant to migrant and displaced children. These indicators can be used to measure progress toward the Global Compact for Migration (GCM), the Global Compact on Refugees (GCR) and Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) targets related to children on the move. Member States from all regions are particularly encouraged to join this exercise!

## WHO 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-relevant ministries), international and regional organizations, NGOs, think tanks, academics and civil society. The organization's main objective is to improve statistics and data on migrant and displaced children and support evidence-based policymaking that protects and empowers them.

Write us at [IDAC@unicef.org](mailto:IDAC@unicef.org) to support our work

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