



# The Joint Data Center's Strategic Advisory Council

## Read-out from the third meeting

**The third Strategic Advisory Council of the World Bank-UNHCR Joint Data Center on Forced Displacement was held virtually on September 1, 2021. Some 120 participants signed up for the event, including representatives from governments, humanitarian and development organizations, academic institutions, civil society organizations and the private sector<sup>1</sup>. The primary objective of the meeting was to seek the Council's feedback and advice on the JDC's third strategic objective: Enhancing Safe and Responsible Data Access<sup>2</sup>.**

The chair of the Joint Data Center Management Committee, Dominique Hyde, opened the day and introduced the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, Filippo Grandi. In his opening statement, the High Commission reiterated his and his organization's support for the safe and responsible microdata access agenda, placing it in the wider context of the global challenge of forced displacement. The Head of the Center, Björn Gillsäter, outlined the origins of this work (including through a video; link forthcoming) and proposed a common vision across the stakeholder community for safe and responsible microdata access to stimulate a joined-up cross-institutional effort. He outlined some suggestions of how the Joint Data Center could support this<sup>3</sup>.

The introductions were followed by an expert panel who shared experiences and insights from their respective organizations: Olivier Dupriez, World Bank; Yusuf Murangwa, National Institute of Statistics of Rwanda; Jean-Martin Bauer, WFP; Mark Hereward, UNICEF; Kathrine Starup, DRC; Stuart Campo, OCHA Center for Humanitarian Data. The Panel-discussion offered food-for-thought for subsequent break-out groups to stimulate ideas on (1) how the forced displacement data collectors and holders could work together as a community to enhance safe and responsible microdata access, and (2) how the Joint Data Center could facilitate and stimulate such work. The Head of the Center, Björn Gillsäter, shared a summary of the discussions with the Chair of the Management Committee, who closed the day. The proceedings were moderated by Rolf Parta from the World Bank.

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<sup>1</sup> The list of registered participants may be seen in Annex 1.

<sup>2</sup> The annotated agenda may be seen in Annex 2.

<sup>3</sup> The Head of the Center's opening remarks may be seen in Annex 3.




## Main take-aways:

**First, there was broad support for the Responsible Data Access agenda** among members of the Council. The High Commissioner emphasized the importance of safe and responsible microdata access to UNHCR, as did the members of the panel to their respective organizations. There was emergent recognition and agreement across the Council that the opportunity cost of not making fast enough progress on safe and responsible access to microdata on forced displacement is unacceptably high. A national statistical office perspective was provided by the National Institute of Statistics of Rwanda, who have experienced increasing demand for microdata from other government departments and international organizations.

**Second, the forced displacement data community has made significant progress** on safe and responsible data access. The World Bank has led the way on microdata access. The collation, curation, anonymization and sharing of forced displacement microdata on the UNHCR and World Bank microdata libraries represents concrete progress and demonstrates what can be achieved. The High Commissioner described how UNHCR has pro-actively engaged with the challenges of safe and responsible data access, in part through support from the JDC. The panel shared insights and progress from their organizations, for example, WFP's approach to transforming internal data sharing architecture, and the protocols developing in response to lessons learnt from working with National Statistical Offices as part of the OCHA-CHD Humanitarian Data Exchange. The panel discussion covered cross-institutional initiatives on data responsibility, including: the IASC Operational Guidance on Data Responsibility in Humanitarian Data Action, which is coordinated and monitored by the Data Responsibility Working Group, of which UNHCR is a co-chair; the UNICEF Responsible Data for Children initiative (RD4C); the DRC Protection Information Management Initiative; and the Humanitarian Data and Trust Initiative, which is co-convened by OCHA-CHD, ICRC and the government of Switzerland.

**Third, there is community commitment to action on safe and responsible microdata access.** Progress has been made but more is needed and challenges remain. On tools, as a community or organizations working on forced displacement, we need to do more towards interoperability and standardization of anonymization practice and reporting, co-developing and sharing protocols. There was a call for technical discussions and tools to be opened to a wider audience and the panel discussion raised complementary approaches to microdata libraries, such as using encryption to allow data analysis without access. On lessons, the High Commissioner committed to sharing the lessons UNHCR has learned on safe and responsible microdata access. There was agreement that the community needs to support its members to become more data savvy, otherwise we risk having data and not using it. Although the data capability of organizations has increased and data work within them has matured and professionalized during the last few years, it has done so unevenly, often with headquarters and country operations out-of-step; an imbalance that should be addressed.



**Forth**, the Council noted the valuable **coordination and convening role the Joint Data Center plays** and encouraged the Joint Data Center to maintain and **strengthen its network on safe and responsible microdata access**, particularly as a convener between diverse stakeholders, e.g. between government and international organizations, or between vertical projects and horizontal initiatives. There was a call for wider and more frequent communication to keep members in the loop. There were varied views on the appropriate level of coordination. Responsible data access shared-interest groups may be more effective at the regional level, where roles and what the agenda means to different actors can be more precisely defined. Case studies and evidence of the positive impact of responsible data access on the country-level could help build trust. But collaboration on standardization (e.g. of curation and anonymization protocols) needs to be strengthened across organizations, as does the ability to use data effectively to improve outcomes. Working towards a consistent approach to the language used to describe responsible data access could help bridge the gap.

The head of the Center, Björn Gillsäter, summed up by setting out the Joint Data Center offer to the safe and responsible microdata access agenda, to: **coordinate sharing between organizations; convene external actors** to stimulate debate, spark innovation and share tools as well as methods (e.g. experts from other sectors such as finance, health, IT and criminology); **engage researchers**, both academic and in international organizations, on their needs and the impact that safe and responsible microdata access can deliver; **provide technical stewardship**, by plugging technical teams into fruitful and mutually beneficial collaborative work, e.g. microdata library teams with organizations starting their safe and responsible microdata access journey; **facilitate engagement** between the World Bank, UNHCR and other organizations to help drive progress on safe and responsible microdata access; and **support the collation of guidance and resources** under a common framework for interested stakeholders to draw on.

The Joint Data Center committed to be in touch with the participants and colleagues to jointly devise a way forward, and to coordinate with other related processes.

# Annex 1

## Strategic Advisory Council, Registered Participants, September 1, 2021

### Council Members

Academia	Abdul Latif Jameel Poverty Action Lab (J-PAL)	Theresa Stienen	Policy Manager
	Geneva Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies	Augusta Nannerini	PhD student
	Georgetown University	Elizabeth Jacobs	Postdoctoral Fellow
	International Security and Development Center (ISDC)	Tilman Brück	Director
	John Carroll University	Tina Facca-Miess	Associate Professor
	Oxford University	Alice Philip	Forced Migration Review Co-editor
	Université libre de Bruxelles	Philip Verwimp	Professor of Development Economics
	University College London (UCL)	Alexandra Hartman	Associate Professor
	University of California - Berkeley	Sarah Stillman	Research Coordinator
	University of Edinburgh (GOFCoE)	Mia Dowman	Social Impact Lead
	University of Essex	GS Gilbert	Professor of International Human Rights & Humanitarian Law
Other	Zivanai Munemo	Researcher	
Civil Society	Danish Refugee Council DRC	Alexander Kjaerum	Senior Analyst
	Danish Refugee Council DRC	Kathrine Starup	Head of Protection Unit – Global Protection Advisor

	Danish Refugee Council DRC	Malthe Mulvad	Head of Division
	Defend Digital Me	Jen Persson	Director
	Good Neighbors International	Ha Eun Marcellino SEONG	Representative
	Good Neighbors International	Martina Piras	Program Officer
	Innovations for Poverty Action (IPA)	Nessa Kenny	Program Manager, Peace & Recovery
	Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre (IDMC)	Vicente Anzellini	Manager, Global Monitoring and Reporting Hub
	International Council of Voluntary Agencies (ICVA)	Jerome Elie	Head - Forced Migration
	International Council of Voluntary Agencies (ICVA)	Loise Rocheteau	Policy Officer
	International Rescue Committee (IRC)	Farida Bena	Director of Policy and Advocacy and Head of the IRC Geneva Office
	International Rescue Committee (IRC)	Najmah Ali	Policy, Advocacy and Comms Officer
	Save the Children International	William Low	Project Lead, Predictive Displacement
	Women's Refugee Commission	Janna Metzler	Associate Director, Research
Government	Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics	Md. Alamgir Hossen	Deputy Director
	Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO), UK	Ciara Silke	Adviser
	Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO), UK	Nick Leader	Humanitarian Research Team Lead
	Former Chairman and a Member of the Board of Trustees at the National Social Security Fund (NSSF) in Kenya	Mohamed Adan Daud	Education Officer
	German Federal Foreign Office	Friedrich Schluck	Desk Officer
	German Federal Foreign Office	Lydia Sasnovskis	Assistant Desk Officer

German Federal Foreign Office	Marian Weimann	Desk Officer Early Warning
German Federal Foreign Office	Nicole Manger	Senior Policy Officer / Specialist
Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA)	Asanuma Takuro	Assistant director
Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA)	Nozomu Yamashita	Director
Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA)	Tomoko Yasunaga	Special Advisor
Kenya National Bureau of Statistics	Abdulkadir Amin Awes	Director, Population and Social Statistics
Kenya National Bureau of Statistics	Renice Bunde	Statistician
Kenya National Bureau of Statistics	Stanley Wambua	Head, Gender statistics
Kenya National Bureau of Statistics	Winnie Kemunto	Statistician
Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Denmark	Thomas Thomsen	Head of Cooperation
National Bureau of Statistics, Nigeria	Biyi Fafunmi	Director
National Institute of Statistics Rwanda (NISR)	Yusuf Murangwa	Director General
Permanent Mission of Egypt to the United Nations Office in Geneva	Jasmine Moussa	Counsellor
Permanent Mission of Kenya to the United Nations Office in Geneva	Anne Keah	Counsellor I
Swedish International Development Cooperation (SIDA)	Ingela Norberg	Senior Policy Specialist Migration
U.S. Department of State	Anna Nicol	Policy Officer
U.S. Department of State	Daryn Yoder	Policy Analyst
U.S. Department of State	Kristen Engle	Humanitarian Affairs Coordinator
U.S. Department of State	Paula Lynch	U.S. Dept of State PRM/PRP Director
United States Mission to the UN in Geneva	Adam Smith	Humanitarian Affairs Officer
United States Mission to the UN in Geneva	Martha Marrazza	Humanitarian Affairs Attaché

International Organization	Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP)	Petra Nahmias	Section Chief, Population and Social Statistics
	International Labour Organization (ILO)	Elisa Benes	Senior Statistician
	International Labour Organization (ILO)	Louis-Pierre Michaud	M&E Officer
	International Labour Organization (ILO)	Mahanam Mithun	Junior Professional Officer on Crisis Migration
	International Labour Organization (ILO)	Meredith Byrne	Technical Officer
	International Organization for Migration (IOM)	Elisa Mosler Vidal	Data & Policy Officer
	Joint IDP Profiling Service (JIPS)	Wilhelmina Welsch	JIPS Coordinator a.i.
	OECD/PARIS21	Philippe Gafishi	Inter-regional adviser
	UNICEF	Danzhen You	Senior Adviser
	UNICEF	Mark Hereward	Associate Director for Data and Analytics
	UNICEF	Tatjana Karaulac	Statistician
	Union for the Mediterranean	Francesc Carbonell	Programme Manager
	United Nation Human Rights Office	Cecilia Jimenez-Damary	UN Special Rapporteur on the Human Rights of IDPs
	United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)	Jason Pronyk	Senior Partnerships Advisor
	United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs	Jos Berens	Data Policy Officer
	United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UN OCHA)	JAVIER TERAN	Statistician
	United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UN OCHA)	Javier Teran	Statistician
	United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UN OCHA)	Monica Tse Candido	Advisor on Internal Displacement

	United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UN OCHA)	Sarah Telford	Lead, Centre for Humanitarian Data
	United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UN OCHA)	Stuart Campo	Team Lead, Data Responsibility
	World Food Programme (WFP)	Jean-Martin Bauer	Senior Advisor, Digital
	World Health Organization (WHO)	Rifat Hossain	Technical lead, Normative Research and Evidence Gathering
Private Sector	Cybernetica A/S	Dan Bogdanov	Director
	Gemehaam Bees ltd	Myom Tsenzughul	MD
	Integrity Research and Consulting Ltd	Ada Sonnenfeld	Senior Expert, MEL
	Cybernetica A/S	Dan Bogdanov	Director
Other	European Commission Directorate-General for International Partnerships (DG INTPA)	Delphine Drapeau	Policy Officer and Programme Manager
	European Commission Directorate-General for International Partnerships (DG INTPA)	Viciani Iacopo	Policy Officer
	Forced Migration Review (FMR)	Alice Philip	Forced Migration Review Co-editor
	German Institute for International and Security Affairs (SWP)	Anne Koch	Associate
	Nordic Consulting Group	Niels V.S. Harild	Policy expert - Forced Displacement and Development

## Observers to the Council

UNHCR

Aina Saetre

Egris coordinator



UNHCR	Andrea Pellandra	Snr Data Scientist
UNHCR	Anna Rudycheva	asst data protection officer
UNHCR	Carlos Santiago Guzmán	Associate Economist
UNHCR	Catherine Hamon	Senior Advisor
UNHCR	Catherine Schneider	Associate Innovation Officer
UNHCR	Grainne O'Hara	Director
UNHCR	Hovig Etyemezian	Head of Innovation Service
UNHCR	Irina Conovali	Chief of Norms and Standards Section
UNHCR	Lauren Herby	Regional Data Curator
UNHCR	Lucy Gerula	Senior Executive Support Assistant
UNHCR	Melanie Khanna	Chief of Statelessness Section
UNHCR	Oleksandr Yaroshenko	IMO
UNHCR	Ran Xu	Intern
UNHCR	Rebeca Moreno Jimenez	Lead Data Scientist
UNHCR	Sajjad Malik	Director
UNHCR	Sara Ali	Development Partnerships Associate
UNHCR	Tarek Abou Chabake	Chief Statistician
UNHCR	Theresa Beltramo	Senior Economist/ Head of Research Analytics
UNHCR	Trisha Pacis	Senior Administrative Assistance
UNHCR	Veton Orana	Head of Sub Office
World Bank	Ben Reese	Senior Operations Officer


World Bank	Benjamin Reese	Senior Operations Officer - Forced Displacement
World Bank	Emi Suzuki	Demographer
World Bank	Iona Lee	Nordic Desk Communications
World Bank	Miriam Golan	Advisor to German Executive Director at the World Bank
World Bank	Nalia Ahmed	Senior Social Development Specialist
World Bank	Olivier Dupriez	Senior Adviser on Data Management and Analytics
Joint Data Center	Agnes Gaga	Digital Communications Consultant
Joint Data Center	Arthur Alik-Lagrange	Sr. Economist
Joint Data Center	Björn Gillsäter	Head of JDC
Joint Data Center	Charlotte Persson	Management Support Consultant
Joint Data Center	Domenico Tabasso	Sr. Economist
Joint Data Center	Felix Schmieding	Sr. Statistician
Joint Data Center	Harriet Kasidi Mugeru	Sr. Data Scientist
Joint Data Center	Irina Galimova	Operations Analyst
Joint Data Center	Jeffery Tanner	Sr. Economist
Joint Data Center	Katherine Perkins	Administrative Associate
Joint Data Center	Maja Lazic	Deputy Head of Center
Joint Data Center	M Abul Kalam Azad	Sr. Economist
Joint Data Center	Marie Schlundt	Administrative Associate
Joint Data Center	Paddy Brock	Sr. Data Scientist

# Annex 2

## Strategic Advisory Council, Annotated Agenda, September 1, 2021

*Time: 13:00-17:00 CEST*  
*Place: Virtual, via Webex*  
*Moderator: Rolf Parta, World Bank*

<b>Time CEST</b>	<b>Session and speaker</b>	<b>Description</b>
<b>13:00- 13:30</b>	<b>Opening Statements</b>  Dominique Hyde, Director of External Relations, UNHCR and Chair of the JDC Management Committee  Filippo Grandi, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees	<i>Dominique Hyde welcomes the members and sets the stage for the day</i>  - Overall purpose of the SAC - The year that has passed, with focus on the Strategy - A brief outline of the agenda - Introduces the High Commissioner  <i>The High Commissioner for Refugees Filippo Grandi provides an opening statement</i>  - UNHCR's initiatives on strengthening socioeconomic data and analysis internally - Why do we need to have responsible and access to microdata from UNHCR and others? - UNHCR's corporate commitment - How far UNHCR has progressed - The way forward – invitation to other stakeholders



Björn Gillsäter - Head of Center

*Björn Gillsäter speaks to a common vision and the JDC's commitment*

- A common vision for Safe and Responsible Data Access
- JDC's role and contribution
- Screening of short video

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**13:30-  
15:00**

**Panel Discussion**

Olivier Dupriez, Lead Statistician, Development Data Group, World Bank

Yusuf Murangwa, Director General of the National Institute of Statistics of Rwanda (NISR)

Jean-Martin Bauer, Senior Advisor, Data, Digital Transformation and Innovation, World Food Programme

Mark Hereward, Chief Data Officer & Associate Director of Data and Analytics, UNICEF

Kathrine Starup, Head of Protection Unit – Global Protection Advisor, Danish Refugee Council

Stuart Campo, Team Lead, Data Responsibility – UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, Centre for Humanitarian Data

*Panelists representing six different data producers and custodians present the learnings from their respective organization on enhancing data access*

*Statements are followed by a moderated panel discussion in discussing a potential way forward and responding to questions from the audience*

**Guiding questions:**

1. Why do you believe making data accessible is important particularly for the organization and context you work in?  
- provide examples
2. In what ways has your organization/institution been working towards making data more accessible to other stakeholders?  
- also highlight challenges
3. What more (concretely) can, or will your organization do to make data more accessible while guaranteeing the safety of the subjects?

15:00-  
15:15

**Break**

15:15-  
16:40

**Break-out session**

Annalisa Brusati, Senior Technical Advisor, Violence Prevention and Response Unit, IRC

Ingela Winter-Norberg  
Senior Policy Specialist Migration and Development  
INTEM/TEMA, SIDA

Meredith Byrne, Technical Officer, ILO

Ada Sonnenfeld, Integrity Research and Consulting  
Ltd

Geoff Gilbert, Professor of International Human Rights  
& Humanitarian Law, University of Essex

Anna Rudycheva, Data Protection Officer, UNHCR

*Working groups discuss ideas for what the community can do to enhance safe and responsible data access and how the JDC can play a role to support these efforts*

*Working groups present selected suggestions in plenary - more detailed comments are left in the shared document*

**Questions for the groups to discuss:**

1. What can the community (different data producers/custodians) do to enhance data access?
2. What could a cross-institutional effort to enhance Safe and Responsible Data Access look like?
3. How can the JDC play a role to support this effort?

16:40-  
17:00

**Summary and closing**


Björn Gillsäter, Head of Center

Dominique Hyde, Director of External Relations,  
UNHCR and Chair of the JDC Management  
Committee

*Björn Gillsäter summarizes the discussion and reports back to the Chair*

- Main points/highlights from the High Commissioner
- Main points/highlights from the Panel
- Main points/highlights from the Working Groups
- Suggested next steps for the broader agenda and for the JDC/JDC's contribution

*Dominique Hyde provides reactions on behalf of the Management Committee and concludes the meeting*

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- Reactions/acknowledgement to the take-aways presented by Björn
  - How these will be incorporated in the work of the Management Committee
  - Thank the members for their valuable input and encouragement to stay in touch.



# Annex 3

## Opening Remarks at the third JDC Strategic Advisory Council

*Björn Gillsäter*

*Head of the Joint Data Center on Forced Displacement*

*September 1, 2021*

Thank you, Dominique, for setting the stage so well.


Thank you, High Commissioner, for sharing your organization's experience as well as your personal and UNHCR's commitment to the responsible data access agenda.

Thank you, SAC-participants. It is true stakeholder community, with representatives from hosting countries, development partners, international organizations working both in the humanitarian and development space, academics, and civil society. I believe we have most of the data-producers, -holders and -owners on forcibly displaced represented in the room, as well as some of the financiers.

Two and a half years ago, as this job was becoming a reality for me, I started asking some of the most prominent development economists in the world why the academic community was not offering more evidence and solutions to the challenge of forced displacement. After all, it is one of the major global challenges, affecting some of the most vulnerable people in the world. The clear answer was: there is so little data. We don't have anything to work with, they said.

Certainly, there are aggregate macro figures on how many people are displaced and where they reside, but not much on the socioeconomic situation, they told me. Data on health status, education attainment, skills levels, income, wealth, employment, etc. Yet, they all had a sense that the information existed, but it was either not of the necessary quality, or it was simply not shared.

What we have come to call *Responsible data access* is at the core of the terms-of-reference for the Joint Data Center. And it is one of four priorities in the Joint Data



Center's *Strategy for 2021-2023*. It is an agenda with huge potential upsides, but which also involves protection risks. Risks that need to be managed responsibly.

At the JDC, we are keen to see a dramatic increase in the available number of high-quality data-sets on the socioeconomic situation of forcibly displaced and their hosts. We are looking for transformative and sustainable change. In our Strategy, we say: “The Center’s aim is that, by the end of 2023, there will have been a step-change in the quantity, quality, availability, and use of socioeconomic data and evidence on those affected by forced displacement.” This ambition is based on the premise that, with more and better socioeconomic data and evidence, prioritization will be clearer and development policies and programs will become better-targeted. We have come some way on this road, but it is still a long way to go.

We have put together a four-minute video which tries to summarize the reasons why we are putting such an emphasis on *Responsible Data Access*, and that outlines the journey we want to embark on with you.


VIDEO (link forthcoming)

When we at the JDC started working on this *Responsible Data Access*, we quickly concluded that we need to take the “bull by the horns” and work with the most important data producer, owner and holder. Which also has PROTECTION at the very core of its mandate. UNHCR.

It is impressive to see how far the organization has taken this work over the past two years. Today, UNHCR has a recently launched state-of-the-art microdata library and they have been upload some 280 datasets. There is now a solid team of statisticians and data experts in the *Global Data Service* driving UNHCR's *Data Transformation Strategy*. And the organization is also building the capacity to deal with statistical issues and opportunities at the country-level.

It is a truly transformative accomplishment. It is an achievement that required both political commitment – at the highest level, as you heard the High Commissioner say – and that sufficient resources were devoted to the cause, which requires an even wider buy-in, including the governing body. So while this does not come easy or





cheap, the benefits are very considerable, and critically important. The easy option is always not to share, but it is not the right option. Or paraphrasing the Director for Protection, Grainne O'Hara: sharing data (if done wrongly) comes with risks, but not sharing data also comes with risks - namely the risk of not delivering the full potential the data holds for improving the lives of forcibly displaced people.

We want to learn from the example of UNHCR and take this effort to the next level, ie to the full stakeholder community working on the betterment of the situation for those affected by forced displacement. We want to stimulate and support similar transformative processes elsewhere, or in some cases uphold or reinforce existing momentum. Among producers, holders and financiers of relevant microdata, be they host countries, civil society organizations, other international organizations, and in some cases academic institutions.

The Joint Data Center's *offer* in this effort is to use our convening "power", our technical "stewardship", access to technical expertise, our network and facilitation services. We want to stimulate a wider effort, a "movement", if you want. Sure, we may have to start with a smaller set of actors with either the most pressing needs or the highest ambitions, or we may want to move on a wide front. You advise us, please!

We stand ready to support any safe and responsible path suggested, as long as it leads to dramatically improved availability and accessibility of (socioeconomic) data on those affected by forced displacement.

Thank you.

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*Björn Gillsäter*  
*Head of the Joint Data Center on Forced Displacement*  
*September 1, 2021*