ANNUAL REPORT 2021



Joint Data Center on Forced Displacement





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Foreword

In 2021, the number of people forced to flee their homes continued to rise to a new record. The three main factors impacting displacement were the COVID-19 pandemic, conflict and climate change.

The COVID-19 pandemic affected health, lives and livelihoods, and exacerbated inequalities. The political upheaval of the last few years triggered new waves of displacement and limited opportunities for people to return home. In addition, climate change disproportionately impacted people in vulnerable situations, and few are more vulnerable than those forcibly displaced.

Understanding and responding to these three interconnected factors requires timely and accurate data. Understanding where, when and why people flee, where they flee to, and the socioeconomic consequences of broader trends are critical to sound policy making and smart operational response.

We are making good progress on the quality, quantity and availability of socioeconomic data and evidence on the more than 84 million forcibly displaced, and their host communities. The statistical systems governing data production are being strengthened and systematized; important data gaps are being filled, increasingly in collaboration with national statistics offices; existing data is being made available through microdata libraries; and the research community is generating more knowledge and evidence on what works in forced displacement settings.

The World Bank-UNHCR Joint Data Center (JDC) on Forced Displacement is at the forefront of these changes, and this second Annual Report shines a spotlight on some of the efforts, and on what we have learned. It showcases examples of where data has made a real difference to forcibly displaced populations. These changes have been catalyzed by data-driven operational and policy improvements, from Chad to Burkina Faso, the Central African Republic, Colombia, and in the Mashreg region.

Our two institutions, the World Bank and UNHCR, are increasingly able to design and integrate responses and interventions that protect and support forcibly displaced people and their hosts. Our collaboration is helping us rethink how we approach protection, assistance, and development in situations of forced displacement, and how we support governments to move towards stronger and more inclusive policies, in line with the Global Compact on Refugees and the commitments made as part of the World Bank's recent International Development Association replenishment.

We encourage all partners and stakeholders to engage with the JDC team and become part of this ambitious effort to close data and evidence gaps of some of the most vulnerable people in the world. Much more remains to be done.

Dominique Hyde Chair of the Joint Data Center Management Committee Director of External Relations UNHCR, the UN Refugee Agency

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Soukeyna Kane Co-chair of the Joint Data Center Management Committee Director of the Fragility, Conflict and Violence Group The World Bank

The Joint Data Center is an excellent example of how we have partnered with UNHCR and others to make a strong contribution to high quality, policy-relevant research. For example, a study conducted with UNHCR found that the average annual cost of educating all refugee children is less than four percent of public education expenditure on average in developing countries, which host 85 percent of the world's refugees. Research like this will help us better integrate refugees into public policies.

Mari Elka Pangestu, World Bank Managing Director of Development Policy and Partnerships, on the importance of the JDC partnership at the 2nd Research Conference on Forced Displacement

Introduction

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Since its creation in 2019, the JDC has been operating as a catalyst to transform the data landscape on forced displacement. In 2020, the Center developed its Strategy 2021–2023 and started filling in the data and evidence gaps on forced displacement with a growing portfolio of activities. This annual report reflects on a year of intense implementation and efforts that are gradually bearing fruit while the work program continues to expand. The JDC is becoming a credible actor in the forced displacement space by delivering on the Strategy and growing its partnerships with government institutions, development and humanitarian actors, academia, the private sector, and foundations based on concrete contributions and engagments.

Significant amounts of energy and attention are currently directed to data generally, and to those affected by forced displacement specifically. The JDC seeks to make the most of this momentum to create a step-change in the amount, quality, and coherence of data and evidence that is available. In doing so, it has become clear that one of the most important undertakings for the JDC is to help take the forcibly displaced out of the statistical shadows. To achieve statistical inclusion - and hence invoke a lasting and sustainable change - the JDC is increasing its work with national statistical offices and building their capacity through dedicated technical assistance. The Center's activities support the inclusion of the forcibly displaced in national surveys where possible and help enable the implementation of evidence-informed and integrated humanitarian and development actions as well as inclusive policies for the forcibly displaced.

Several significant opportunities in 2021 allowed the JDC to demonstrate its added value by leveraging the results from its activities and contributing to the discussion of policymakers and practitioners. Such opportunities included the development of recommendations of the UN Secretary-General's High-Level Panel on Internal Displacement, deliberations during the High-Level Officials Meeting (HLOM) mandated by the General Assembly through the Global Compact on Refugees, and discussions at the United Nations World Data Forum. Through continuous curation of socioeconomic research on forced displacement and by convening the 2nd Research Conference on Forced Displacement, the Center is gradually becoming a go-to knowledge house on global forced displacement.

This report describes the JDC's efforts to address the gaps in socioeconomic evidence of forced displacement. The

first part elaborates how to bring the forcibly displaced out of the statistical shadows, focusing on statistical inclusion as well as methods and innovations that support those efforts. The report continues to reflect on what happened in practice by reviewing key achievements from JDC's 55 activities and highlighting a selection of 10 activities to illustrate the breadth and depth of results so far. The last section of the report picks up from the analysis in last year's Annual Report of what the Center believes are the most important existing data and evidence gaps, and highlights lessons learned and insights about the efforts to date.

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of discussions.

Sajjad Malik, UNHCR Director, Division of Resilience and Solutions, on the JDC at the 2nd Research Conference on Forced Displacement



[...] with the introduction of the Joint Data Center, the work with the World Bank is a real game changer in forced displacement in the sense that research is now becoming very much the central piece

1. Bringing the forcibly displaced out of the statistical shadows

A new statistical approach for a new era of forced displacement response

The importance of national leadership and national policies and programs in achieving a comprehensive and sustainable response to forced displacement is undisputed. What is true in refugee and IDP response overall should be reflected in official statistics, which constitutes a key enabling factor for governments to address forced displacement. In its discussion of data and evidence, the Global Compact on Refugees explicitly emphasizes the need to provide support "for the inclusion of refugees [...] within national data and statistical collection processes; and to strengthen national data collection systems on the situation of refugees [...]." Similarly, the UN Secretary-General's High-Level Panel on Internal Displacement stresses the importance of "more systematic inclusion of IDPs in the routine datacollection efforts of Governments, in particular in nationwide surveys and censuses."

Beyond refugee and IDP-specific global frameworks, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development emphasizes an urgent need to enable National Statistical Offices (NSOs) the primarily responsible actors for monitoring the progress of the SDG indicators — to produce data on forcibly displaced persons. The Leave No One Behind principle is the central promise of the 2030 Agenda, and it has been made clear that refugees, IDPs, and stateless persons are among the most vulnerable and marginalized populations that this principle is aimed at.1

Inclusion in national surveys is at a nascent stage and requires targeted support

In stark contrast with the calls for action in these global frameworks, coverage of refugees and IDPs in NSOs' surveys is still at a nascent stage. While some efforts by NSOs to collect data on the forcibly displaced exist, most of these exercises are ad-hoc and one-off activities, or stand-alone surveys of forcibly displaced populations that are not integrated into or aligned with wider national surveys. Hence, the estimates that they produce on forcibly displaced populations are often not directly comparable with national official statistics. Recently, however, a small number of NSOs

1 https://unsceb.org/sites/default/files/imported_files/CEB%20equality%20framework-A4-web-rev3.pdf

have modeled surveys of forcibly displaced populations onto broader national surveys, providing some degree of comparability with national-level statistics. For example, in 2018 in Niger, Chad, and Uganda, the respective NSOs, with support from the World Bank, administered surveys to refugees, which were based on their national poverty surveys.

Nevertheless, the gold standard of statistical inclusion of the forcibly displaced is achieved when they are fully included in NSOs' national surveys through dedicated and appropriately sized samples, with relevant identification questions and field logistics and timelines that are integrated across the survey exercise. For example, in 2018, the NSO of Georgia, with UNICEF's support, included IDPs in its Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey. Unfortunately, and often due to capacity constraints, only a very small number of NSOs have achieved this gold standard to date.

In most countries affected by forced displacement, forcibly displaced persons are systematically excluded or not picked up in sufficient numbers when following the regular sampling procedures applied on national surveys. This implies that shifting to the inclusion of the forcibly displaced is a conscious step that NSOs need to take and that this poses an added technical and financial challenge to their usual survey practices. Therefore, targeted support and capacity building are required to affect this shift and to enable NSOs in these countries to include forcibly displaced populations in national surveys.

Capacity building to ensure sustainable results

The importance of achieving such a shift in alignment with the global frameworks, attaining statistical inclusion and building the capacity of NSOs of countries affected by forced displacement are core principles of the JDC's work and essential threads that run across the JDC Strategy 2021-2023.

Most importantly, the JDC is providing on-the-job technical assistance and capacity building to support the inclusion of the forcibly displaced in specific national surveys. Working closely with the World Bank, the JDC is currently supporting the inclusion of the forcibly displaced in ongoing national poverty surveys in the Central African Republic and Ethiopia. Similarly, NSOs in several countries - with support from the World Bank and the JDC - have included refugees in their national

COVID-19 impact surveys. The Center is also actively building partnerships with the other global custodians of major NSO-implemented surveys.² In other words, we strive to facilitate a range of precedents that could facilitate the inclusion of forcibly displaced persons becoming the "new normal" in these survey programs.

To complement the efforts for the inclusion of the forcibly advocating at country level for the inclusion of the forcibly displaced in specific national surveys, JDC also enables displaced in NSO surveys. initiatives that build general awareness among NSOs' staff of the importance of forcibly displaced persons' inclusion Finally, the JDC is supporting efforts to secure long-term in national data production. Through these initiatives, NSOs commitments to include the forcibly displaced in national are informed of the available tools, standards, and support surveys through National Strategies for the Development of mechanisms. For example, the JDC is partnering with the Statistics (NSDS) or simlar comprehensive mid-term action Expert Group on Refugee, IDP and Statelessness Statistics plans on official statistics. National statistical strategies (EGRISS), which implements global and regional-level constitute an important multi-year planning tool for workshops and training sessions. As an example of governments and NSOs, as they articulate a five to a ten-year awareness raising, the JDC in collaboration with EGRISS vision for official statistics and set milestones for getting hosted a webinar Making the most vulnerable there. Furthermore, they offer a comprehensive and unified visible: Data gaps and official statistics on forced framework for building capacity to meet specific priorities displacement at the UN World Data Forum in 2021. The and mobilize resources. A commitment to these strategies would be a sustainable and robust signal for NSOs and their webinar engaged in a discussion with representatives of NSOs from Colombia, Somalia and Ukraine and the international supporters, beyond a single survey or year, and ensure that assistance needs are addressed proactively and 2 UNICEF for the Multiple Indicator Cluster Surveys (MICS), USAID/ICF for the Demographic with a long-term view.

and Health Surveys (DHS), World Bank for most national poverty/integrated surveys, ILO for some Labour Force Surveys (LFS).

Why it's time to bring refugees out of the statistical shadows

Blog for the World Economic Forum by Björn Gillsäter. Head of the JDC

In 2016, Daniel and his family fled the civil war in South Sudan and arrived in Uganda. Four years later, their precarious existence as refugees was worsened by the COVID-19 pandemic. In addition to fearing for their health, the country's response to the outbreak led to closure of schools and large-scale job losses.

From employment to food security, health, education and equality, we know the pandemic has compounded the challenges faced by the world's refugees, internally displaced (IDPs) and stateless people. It has often had more consequences for these people than for the communities that host them. Tired of fruitless job-hunting, Daniel eventually returned to Juba to seek work, despite anxiety over his family's well-being.

But there is a vast amount that we do not know about Daniel or the 82.4 million forcibly displaced people across the world - including detailed information about the impact of COVID-19 on them and their communities. Our understanding of how they are faring is incomplete because most often they are not included in the official statistics.

World Bank on data gaps in the area of forced displacement and the importance of official statistics for informed policymaking, development planning, and programming.

In addition, the JDC is working to further sensitize UNHCR and World Bank country teams on the importance of



Read the full story on the JDC website



Methods and innovation: dynamic partnerships are key to finding new ways to fill information gaps on forced displacement

After a year marked by COVID-19, conflicts, and climate change, the number of forcibly displaced people worldwide continues to grow. It is acknowledged that humanitarian and development partners must work together more closely to improve well-being and create lasting solutions for those who have been forcibly displaced and their hosts. However, what is less recognized is the need for these collaborations to go beyond the straightforward business-as-usual approach.

When it comes to data, humanitarian and development organizations should integrate their expertise, networks, and resources. These actors need to find new and innovative ways to fill gaps, improve data guality, share data, and generate insight to inform operations, policy, and research. But such initiatives do not come naturally; they require investment in the formation and maintenance of partnerships that are proactive, adaptable to different contexts, robust in

We implemented a global effort using phone surveys to understand how the crisis was affecting households. We are very proud that with the support from the Center [JDC] we were able to include refugees and displaced populations in those efforts in several countries and that data and evidence was critical in informing how we supported governments as they thought about the right policies that were needed to deal with the crisis.

Carolina Sánchez-Páramo, Global Director of the Poverty and Equity Global Practice (GP), World Bank, on support received from the JDC

The high frequency phone surveys represent the majority of quality data on forced migrants during COVID-19. The analysis goes beyond the negative effects of COVID-19 and the vulnerability of forced migrants, providing nuance and specifics that are directly relevant to policy decisions. Overall, the JDC synthesis is more than the sum of its parts. The efforts to coordinate and harmonize across contexts provide opportunities to identify general trends and make valuable comparisons.

Thomas Ginn, Research Fellow at the Center for Global Development

the face of barriers, and focused on the people they intend to serve. As a catalyst and support function with methodological and technical expertise, the JDC creates, stewards, and maintains partnerships that are critical to creating conditions for the development and testing of innovative tools and methods for data production and consequently, for enhanced responses to forced displacement.

Three JDC workstreams currently demonstrate this approach: 1) collecting high frequency phone surveys on the socioeconomic impacts of COVID-19; 2) identifying and filling geospatial data gaps; and 3) using natural language processing and machine learning to make data and analysis more discoverable.

High frequency phone surveys

As COVID-19 emerged and restricted movement, it intensified the need for socioeconomic data on the forcibly displaced while making it harder to collect. In response, the JDC worked with the World Bank and UNHCR to find the best pragmatic solution, helping to fill this data gap in a dozen countries (and counting) by using high frequency phone surveys. In adapting the approach to each context,

JDC's support included identifying opportunities; facilitating relationships and data-sharing agreements between country teams; and providing support for data collection or analysis. In nearly all rounds of data collection for these countries, the surveys on the displaced populations were (or will be) carried out contemporaneously with surveys on the host populations (either based on a nationally representative sample or a representative sample from the same geographic area). The overview of this work by the JDC allowed for consistency in data collection approaches and created favorable circumstances to cross-pollinate insights and areas of inquiry from one context to another.

Geospatial data

Already, before COVID-19, the use of geospatial data in development planning and humanitarian response was accelerating, thanks to technological advances and increases

To address this challenge, the JDC supports the World Bank in applying innovative methods (such as natural language in computing power. However, to make the best use of geospatial data sources that generate socioeconomic insight processing, topic modeling, and machine learning) to build relevant to forced displacement and prevent the duplication tools that researchers and project managers across different and wastage of effort and investment, datasets need to be organizations can use to find information published by collected, evaluated, and curated systematically. multilateral development banks and other actors. The process selects a subset of documents related to forced displacement The JDC is working with the World Bank to fill information (that is less than 10,000 from more than 300,000 in the pigaps in forced displacement settings using geospatial data lot phase), augments the metadata associated with these, and analysis as well as to establish protocols for assessing and provides powerful tools to search their content in detail geospatial data needs and intended uses to inform further (such as filtering by multiple topic frequencies). Among other data gathering. In situations of forced displacement, first, things, these tools will allow for monitoring of the scope and coverage of Multilateral Development Bank (MDB) data on the location and condition of key infrastructure programs on forced displacement, and possibly help idenand facilities such as hospitals, schools, and roads tify gaps in their research and analytical work. As a result of will be methodically assessed. Second, this assessment will be used to gauge the added value of further data that could explorative and iterative testing, this activity applies existing be acquired. For example, the combination of data on service computational methods to provide more effective responses to situations of forced displacement. provision locations such as dispensaries with data on whether they are operational or have specific medicines available.

Through the growth and development of its work program, Innovative approaches, especially those relying on technology the JDC is catalyzing change and innovation by connecting parts of the humanitarian and development systems to meet or novel data sources, are often used to meet shortterm needs without consolidation that would allow data needs. It requires broad and deep engagement to future users to benefit from their development and understand the breadth of opportunity, as well as the application. The efforts supported by the JDC introduce a nuances and detailed context of specific needs. The JDC and systematic approach while allowing for more immediate its partners will continue this work, alongside NSOs and line responses to urgent needs. The aim is to gather geospatial ministries to nurture a better-connected community, which will data that is likely to deliver actionable insight into forced harness innovative methods and approaches, and exchange displacement situations, and to create a framework for knowledge effectively. the humanitarian and development community to draw on. For example, by providing a collated taxonomy of the geospatial data items and standardizing the application of existing tools to improve geospatial data quality and

comparability, a holistic humanitarian response may be ensured in the future.

Automated text analysis

Another approach enabled by recent technological development and supported by the JDC is the application of text analytics to summarize and organize large numbers of documents automatically. As development and humanitarian organizations integrate their approaches to respond to forced displacement, an important starting point for the effectiveness of their work is the already existing and relevant data and knowledge. Nevertheless, while there might be large numbers of documents with useful material, due to the ways they have been cataloged and labeled, it is often hard to acquire them.

2. JDC actions and activities: illustrative examples

Key achievements in 2021

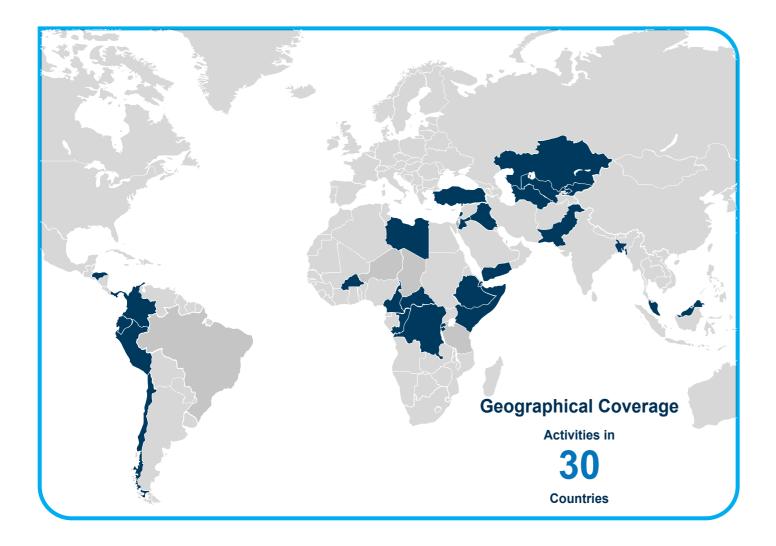
Operationally, 2021 was squarely focused on the implementation of the recently approved JDC Strategy for 2021–2023. The Strategy confirms the Center's four priorities: 1) strengthen systems and standards; 2) produce data and analysis; 3) enhance safe and responsible data access; and 4) build evidence and share knowledge. JDC's Strategy defines a way to fulfil its mission of improving the protection and well-being of the forcibly displaced with better data and evidence. Overall, six principles quide JDC's effort: 1) innovation and sustainability: 2) protection and diversity; 3) capacity development; 4) breadth and representation; 5) data ethics; and 6) partnerships and coordination. Against this background, the section below provides an overview of JDC's portfolio in 2021, illustrating the results and progress of the work prgram.

Portfolio overview

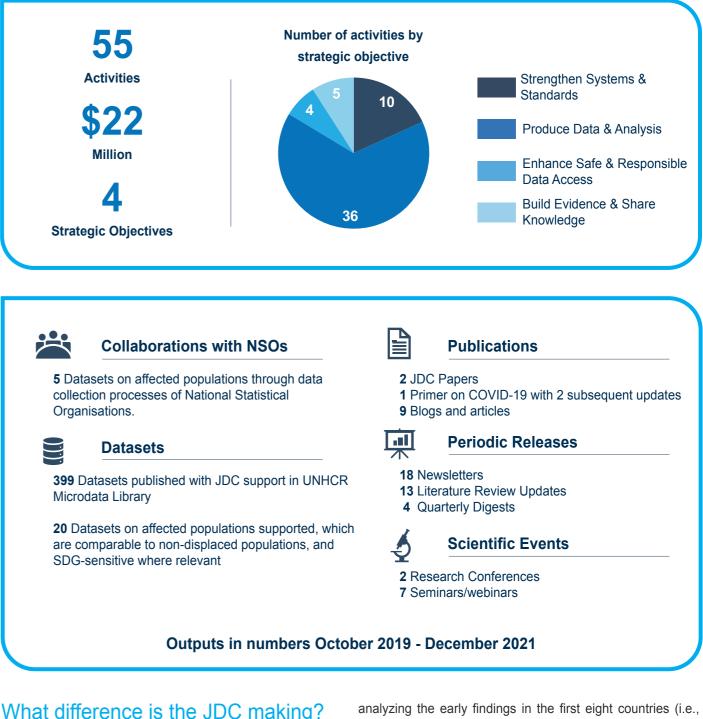
Despite the continued impact of the pandemic on operations, the JDC expanded its portfolio of activities and steadily delivered results from existing activities. In 2021, the work program reached 55 activities, including 36 activities implemented in the 30 countries hosting the world's majority of forcibly displaced persons.

JDC's expanded support to country and regional level data production and analysis is in agreement with the second strategic priority. The JDC Management Committee endorsed 11 new activities to the work program, as shown in Annex 1.

Four activities were successfully closed at the end of 2021. For each of them, a thorough end-of-activity review was done, capturing how the work and results have contributed to a longer-term impact and identifying lessons learned.



JDC results by 2021



What difference is the JDC making? Bangladesh, Chad, Djibouti, Ethiopia, Iraq, Kenya, Uganda, and Yemen) that used this approach. As the year progressed, Understanding the effect of COVID-19 on the forcibly the JDC helped deliver more rounds of data and analytics displaced. In 2021, the JDC helped move the needle on and allowed the coverage of additional countries. knowledge about the socioeconomic impact of COVID-19 Furthermore, individual briefs and reports were made publicly on the forcibly displaced. A rich set of data was gathered available for countries such as Burkina Faso and Irag, through World Bank-led efforts in six countries, capitalizing on and the data collected can be accessed at the World Bank improvements in technologies and data collection techniques. Microdata Library. Efforts are underway to expand countries From some 100,000 interviews with displaced households and rounds, and harmonize data, enabling cross-country and host populations, the JDC delivered the report comparisons, supporting better global analyses, and improving Answering the Call: Forcibly Displaced During the Pandemic,

responses to the effects of the pandemic in the host countries.

Mainstreaming displacement statistics and building

capacity. The work to understand the socioeconomic welfare of displaced and host populations during the pandemic has also helped raise the bar for statistical inclusion of the forcibly displaced in national surveys. The JDC supported activities encompassed the inclusion of the forcibly displaced in traditional national socioeconomic surveys in the Central African Republic and Ethiopia. This is also reflected in the selection of new activities in 2021, among which data is going to be collected by the National Statistical Offices of eight countries, namely Jordan, Honduras, the Republic of the Congo, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and four Central Asian states. These opportunities build the capacity of national institutions seeking to ensure the sustainability of systematic inclusion of forcibly displaced persons in regular surveys. JDC's support to EGRISS to promote and implement the recommended standards in statistical surveys for different population groups complements the country-level activities.

Making displacement data and evidence available and accessible to policymakers. The JDC has begun to take the findings and experiences closer to policy makers. At the High-Level Official's Meeting on the Global Compact on Refugees in November – December 2021, on two different occasions, the JDC shared experiences from Chad as well

as the support to EGRISS to argue for greater inclusion of refugees in national statistics. Also, the Center shared concrete findings on how refugees and IDPs have fared during the pandemic in countries such as Bangladesh. Djibouti, Ethiopia, Irag, and Yemen.

With regards to the internally displaced, the JDC contributed to the recommendations on data and evidence in the report of the High-Level Panel (HLP) on Internal Displacement. The HLP report, submitted to the United Nations Secretary-General in September 2021, calls for an approach that recognizes solutions to internal displacement as a development priority in which national ownership is crucial. JDC's engagement also extended to the United Nations Secretary-General's Action Agenda on Internal Displacement. The Agenda recognizes the socioeconomic data needs for development programming, national ownership through statistical inclusion of IDPs, and reliance on the EGRISS standards in national and international surveys.

Standardizing approaches to responsible data access.

The contribution to UNHCR's work on Responsible Data Access as part of its Data Transformation Strategy 2020-2025 continued in 2021, with a growing microdata library and a strengthening of internal data systems and processes. This enables the UNHCR to efficiently and systematically manage, use, and share data, as well as monitor and improve its guality. Simultaneously, the JDC broadened its engagement

Achieving the gold standard for survey inclusion of the forcibly displaced in the Central African Republic

Nearly 15 percent of the CAR's national population are internally displaced (an estimated 717,000 as of December 2020), but detailed data on this vulnerable population is lacking. The National Statistical Institute is currently preparing the Harmonized Household Living Conditions Survey to provide nationally representative data on household welfare, poverty, and inequality.

Although the upcoming survey covers IDPs by virtue of its national scope, an analysis of the IDP situation was not foreseen. Without dedicated planning and survey design enhancements, the IDP sample could be insufficient and the questionnaire could lack important modules to adequately identify IDPs and assess their specific socioeconomic challenges and opportunities.

Through capacity building and technical and financial support from the poverty team in the World Bank and the JDC, the National Statistical Institute is increasing the IDP sample size of the survey and strengthening displacementrelated guestionnaire content, thereby enriching the information collected during the survey to inform the national response to internal displacement. The JDC also helped the various government, development, and humanitarian stakeholders coordinate better around the survey, leading to the sharing of information on IDP locations, and in some cases, to camp management partners actively facilitating the work of the NSO data collectors.

Locking away data is potentially harmful as it remains under-utilized in the design of policies, operations, programs, and research — limiting the possibility for evidence to feed into decision-making processes on forced displacement. Both the Global Compact on Refugees and UNHCR's Data Transformation Strategy 2020–2025 emphasize evidence-informed policy and programming, alongside relevant protection and privacy principles. We are committed to working with other partners to share our knowledge and practices to enable similar approaches in their institutions and organizations.

Filippo Grandi, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, at the JDC's Strategic Advisory Council 2021

to include the development and humanitarian community, Knowledge sharing. Much effort was put into the intending to build consensus on how to align and standardize preparation of the Second JDC Research Conference approaches to responsible and safe access to data. A on Forced Displacement. Out of some 150 submissions, positive momentum was generated by the JDC's Strategic 24 papers were selected, prioritizing those that tackled Advisory Council in September 2021, where the High interesting and original research questions while adopting Commissioner lent his support by sharing UNHCR's robust, and often innovative, analytical methods. The experience so far and encouraging stakeholders to join these Research Conference highlighted the "explosion" of efforts. JDC is injecting energy into this space by forming socioeconomic research on forced displacement and new partnerships and nourishing existing work to confirmed that the JDC is a valued contributor to strengthen community knowledge and resources on increasing data and analysis on forced displacement. The microdata curation, anonymization, and dissemination. event was organized virtually in partnership with the Universi-Using the foundation created by the internal UNHCR dad de los Andes and the World Bank's research department. work, the JDC is linking organizations, soliciting expertise, and convening safe spaces for technical discussions in order to build a community of practice on forced displacement data.

JDC is engaging governments in a new way... in how data is collected especially on people affected by forced displacement.

Sarah Smith, Director, Refugees Initiative, Conrad N. Hilton Foundation

JDC's 2021 highlights at a glance

The key achievements outlined above show that JDC's efforts knowledge - are mutually reinforcing. To illustrate the work across its four strategic priorities - Strengthen systems and program further, the following pages summarize 10 of the standards, Produce data and analysis, Enhance safe and on-going 55 activities, representing examples of achievements responsible data access, and Build evidence and share under the four strategic priorities in more detail.



Developing Statistical Standards on Statelessness

Motivation

For a range of political, technical, and operational reasons, many countries either struggle to produce internationally comparable estimates on statelessness or do not report any statistics at all. As a consequence, the often cited but unverified global estimate of 10 million stateless people contrasts sharply with the 4.2 million (Global Trends Report, 2019) that UNHCR — the global aggregator of national figures — has been able to validate and which it assumes to be a severe underestimate.

At this point, the international statistical community lacks well-established statistical concepts, definitions, and methods around the phenomenon of statelessness, and government statistical producers are left to their own devices when translating applicable legal frameworks into statistical ones.

Improved data about statelessness and stateless people is critical to raise awareness of this important issue and support evidence-based policy development at the national level. The ultimate objective of enhancing evidence on stateless populations is to improve their well-being and integration and advance the resolution of statelessness itself.

Activity

In 2018, the Secretary-General of the United Nations called for improvements in data and estimates on stateless populations. In response, the UN Inter-agency Working Group on Statelessness set up a data sub-group, co-chaired by UNHCR and UNFPA, recommending the initiation of two complementary workstreams:

Workstream 1: Improving the direct measurement of statelessness: Under the auspices of EGRISS, develop International Recommendations on Statelessness Statistics (IROSS) to be submitted to the UN Statistical Commission in 2023 for endorsement. The IROSS will provide National Statistical Offices (NSOs) with technical norms and standards in order to facilitate the production of official statistics on stateless persons.

Workstream 2: Improving the indirect estimation of statelessness: Identify and develop methods through expert and community knowledge and innovative modeling techniques, for example, to obtain improved and comparable approximations of statelessness where direct measurement is not yet possible.

Expected Results

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Improved population statistics enhance the ability to support and advocate for stateless persons.

Expected Activity Outputs

- International statistical standards and technical guidance on statelessness endorsed by the UN Statistical Commission.
- Documentation and guidance on reproducible indirect estimation methods on stateless population sizes

BENEFICIARY Stateless populations

INTENDED USER

Governments, and in particular National Statistical Offices, World Bank, UNHCR, and regional & international organizations.

IMPACT

Improved wellbeing, protection and integration of stateless persons, as well as advanced resolution of statelessness itself, through better data and evidence.

MAIN ACHIEVEMENTS SINCE THE START OF THE ACTIVITY

In December 2021, the UN Statistical Commission formally incorporated statelessness statistics in EGRISS's Terms of Reference. The extension includes the development of recommendations for statistics on statelessness, which are currently overseen by a subgroup of EGRISS made of representatives from 19 countries. An EGRISS side event to the UN Statistical Commission (UNSC) in March 2021, titled "Leaving no one behind: Improving Statistics on Statelessness," was an opportunity to socialize this new area of EGRISS's work among the international statistical community, and particularly the close to 100 participants.

Technical development of the International Recommendations on Statelessness Statistics (IROSS) itself also progressed well during 2021 among a dedicated drafting group of leading national and international experts. A first consolidated draft was produced, and an article summarizing progress so far was published by the Statistical Journal of the IAOS to raise awareness within the statistical community. In addition, an official progress report was developed in 2021 and submitted to the UN Statistical Commission for its discussion during the 2022 session, with the Kenya National Bureau of Statistics leading the presentation on behalf of the group. The report summarizes progress made so far and outlines key elements of the draft recommendations to solicit feedback and guidance from the Commission to help finalize the draft. The IROSS is expected to be submitted to the UN Statistical Commission's session in 2023 for endorsement. In parallel, the work on indirect modelling methods to improve statelessness estimates proceeded as planned and has concluded a thorough exploration of the existing data landscape and relevant estimation methods.





Listen to The JDC-EGRISS webinar at the 2021 World Data Forum on this topic.



Automated Text Analytics for the Joint Data Center on Forced Displacement

Motivation

The JDC was established to enhance the ability of stakeholders to make timely and evidence-informed decisions that can improve the well-being of forcibly displaced populations. Among these stakeholders are the multilateral development banks (MDBs) — the World Bank, the African Development Bank, the Asian Development Bank, the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, • and the Inter-American Development Bank - which play a critical role in financing and implementing their shareholders' policies and programs. In 2016, the MDBs issued a joint statement expressing their commitment to working together, and, within their respective institutional mandates, responding to the global forced displacement crisis. Improving the availability, quality, and operational relevance of data collection and analytical work related to forced displacement is thus a common objective and interest of the JDC and the MDBs. A better understanding of the content and evolution of the research and operational work of the MDBs would provide valuable insights on how and where knowledge on forced displacement is generated and used to inform development projects and programs.

Activity

MDBs invest substantial resources into research output V. and aim to make project documents publicly available. An analysis and regular monitoring of the scope and coverage of these documents would reveal the extent to which issues related to forced displacement have been covered by their VI. analytical and operational work, over time and by country, Considering the large volume of available information, such an analysis can only be conducted by applying advanced machine learning and artificial intelligence techniques, such as natural language processing

Expected Results

- A comprehensive corpus of project and analytical documents published by MDBs related to forced displacement.
- An analysis of how MDBs, over time and across countries, have addressed forced displacement and related issues.

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Open-source machine learning and natural language processing tools used to extract, structure, analyze, and monitor the information contained in a large volume of publicly available documents.

Expected Activity Outputs

IV.

- The scripts (Jupyter notebooks) used for document preprocessing and modeling. An API that will serve the output of the word embedding models.
- A database of documents produced/published by MDBs, with topic composition and other metadata elements.
- A technical and analytical report describing the approach and presenting the main results of the modeling work.
- A dissemination platform consisting of interactive visualizations and a document discovery system, branded as a joint product by the Bank, UNHCR, and JDC.
- One or more blogs presenting the most relevant outputs.

BENEFICIARY

Project managers, Multilateral Development Banks (MDBs), donors, development partners, policy makers, and reseachers.



INTENDED USER

Multilateral Development Banks (MDBs), including the World Bank; other humanitarian and development partners, working in operations, policy, and research functions.



IMPACT

Support the monitoring of the scope and coverage of MDBs' projects and programs related to forced displacement; identify gaps in their research and analytical work; and provide tools to researchers and project managers to easily discover useful information in this vast knowledge repository

MAIN ACHIEVEMENTS SINCE THE START OF THE ACTIVITY

The activity has developed and launched an automated system and open-source machine learning techniques (based on natural language processing tools and methods) for extracting and summarizing large volumes of text on forced displacement and providing a detailed description of how MDBs, over time and across countries, address forced displacement and related issues. The team conducted two seminars (one to UNHCR and another to the JDC) where the tool and results were presented. Consultations with the JDC web-design team have taken place to assess the possibility of hosting this tool on the JDC website.







Learn more about the activity "Automated Text Analytics for the Joint Data Center on Forced Displacement" here.



Filling Information Gaps on Forcibly Displaced Populations Through Geospatial Data

Motivation

The need for timely and accurate information about people, infrastructure, services, and the environment is vital for planning humanitarian and development interventions. The disruption caused by COVID-19 has intensified the need for information while at the same time making it harder to gather. The collection and use of this information is necessary for humanitarian and development operations, that work to improve the lives of people affected by forced displacement. In fact, it can inform policy interventions that aim to improve the livelihoods of these vulnerable groups. While many 11 organizations have used geospatial data sources, geospatial data in forced displacement settings is often not collected, evaluated, or curated in a systematic manner, making project initiation, assessment, and implementation difficult.

Activity

The activity aims to identify, document, and fill data gaps leveraging geospatial technologies in a series of IDP and refugee settings. Geospatial data will be collected, cataloged, curated, and made available via relevant platforms to the JDC to support the current data collection efforts of the NSOs. humanitarian and development organizations, and other relevant stakeholders. While the research aspect of the program may be broader, data collection and data improvement will focus on physical infrastructure that can be identified in satellite imagery.

Expected Results

- Identify and document data gaps that could be filled using geospatial data sources in a set of forced displacement contexts.
- Fill these gaps through the collection, cataloging, curation, and dissemination of geospatial data.

Expected Activity Outputs

- Data packages for each of the prioritized locations.
- Updated public data sources.
- 111. Cartographic products

VI.

- Presentations and outreach material. IV.
 - Sharing links to the data catalogs where the data is curated.
 - Methodological documentation on the use of geospatial data in forced displacement settings.





INTENDED USER

National statistical offices, UNHCR, World Bank and partners



Improve and standardize the collection of specific foundational datasets in forced displacement and demonstrate the application in four different geographical settings

MAIN ACHIEVEMENTS SINCE THE START OF THE ACTIVITY

The Geospatial Operations Support Team at the World Bank (GOST - DECAT) has been leading this activity and hired the Earth Observation Department of Geoinformatics of the University of Salzburg to identify and document the geospatial needs in the forced displacement settings. The team has held several consultations with humanitarian and development actors working in displacement settings, and together they produced a draft inventory of existing and available geospatial data in contexts of displacement. Two reports summarizing the state of geospatial data in situations of forced displacement and a methodology to assess data completeness in a specific area have been drafted and are currently being reviewed by the internal technical team.

Learn more about this activity on Filling Information gaps on Forcibly **Displaced Populations Through Geospatial Data**









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CHAD: Refugees in Chad - The Road Forward

Motivation

Over the past decade, Chad has been significantly affected by forced displacement. Chad hosts nearly 480,000 refugees and asylum seekers from Sudan, the Central African Republic (CAR), and, more recently, Nigeria. The majority of these groups have remained in Chad for more than fifteen years. In addition, there are an estimated 240,000 IDPs and more than 30,000 Chadian returnees, adding pressure to the country's already fragile economy. The impact of COVID-19 has further increased the vulnerability of the refugee suitable policies and programs for managing the refugee population, especially women, girls, and children.

Chad's hosting of refugees takes place against the backdrop of a complex country context, as it is one of the poorest countries in the world with very low human development indicators. Hence, there is an urgent need not only to deal with the existing situation but also to develop a capacity to manage such repeated refugee inflows in the longer term. The transition Expected Results from a humanitarian aid approach to a development and integration approach for managing the refugee situation, requires a strong understanding of the well-being and livelihood of refugees, local communities, and the Chadian population. •

The analytical work has contributed to policy dialogue by providing rigorous evidence from a unique data source, specifically designed to allow welfare comparison among . refugees, host villages, and the Chadian population. This is the 2018/19 Enquête sur la Consommation des ménages et le Secteur Informel au Tchad (ECOSIT4), which was expanded to include a representative sample of refugees and hosts while collecting data of the Chadian population.

Activity

The analytical work built on data from the 2018/2019 ECOSIT4 survey and the 2018/19 Refugees and Host Communities Household Survey in Chad (RHCHS) was implemented by the Institut National de la Statistique, des Etudes Economiques et Démographiques (INSEED) of Chad. The sample for the refugee survey is representative of the two main refugee groups in the country (Sudanese in the East and CAR refugees in the South) and the host villages. Drawing from this unique set of data, the analytical work aims to:

- Review the government's current approach to refugee management in Chad.
- Understand the profile of Sudanese and CAR refugee groups to highlight the need for assistance programs tailored to different sociodemographic groups.
 - Explore the heterogeneity of economic welfare within each refugee group, such as how wide the consumption distribution is or why certain groups are doing better while others are falling behind.

Understand the refugee situation in the welfare context of the Chadian population by comparing monetary and non-monetary welfare refugee measures to host communities and the general Chadian population.

The overall objective is to inform policy makers (i.e., the government of Chad) and international development communities, including the World Bank and UNHCR, about situation in Chad. The findings were presented to the government and development partners as evidence-based input to the policy-making process, and will be disseminated among the World Bank country team, the UNHCR team, and other donors in Chad to support project design and coordination.

- The data set can be the basis for further analytical work on the welfare of the forcibly displaced and their income situations.
- A report informing operations in Chad and the Sahel region, aiming to improve the welfare of those forcibly displaced and reduce socioeconomic inequality.
- The implementation of the World Bank Refugees and Host Communities Support Project, which has been informed by the data and report produced under this activity.

Expected Activity Outputs

Clean dataset with household-level information on the forcibly displaced in Chad. Final report.

BENEFICIARY Refugee households in Chad.

INTENDED USER

Government of Chad, Operations in Chad and the Sahel

region, UNHCR, and the World Bank.

IMPACT Policy interventions to improve welfare of the forcibly displaced and host communities.

MAIN ACHIEVEMENTS SINCE THE START OF THE ACTIVITY

JDC, together with the World Bank, supported the production and publication of the findings from the study on the socioeconomic conditions of refugees and host communities in Chad - Refugees in Chad. The Road Forward. Drawing on a unique data source from one of the first national household surveys in Africa to cover refugees and host communities as well as the general population, the report provides a renewed understanding of the challenges and opportunities for refugees and host communities. The paper provides some critical insights into how we can transition from a humanitarian relief approach to one that provides an integrated response that can be sustained over time. The findings were presented to government and development partners in the context of the first-ever "knowledge week" in Chad organized by the World Bank. JDC also incorporated the findings in an intervention during the High-Level Officials Meeting (HLOM)in a panel discussion at the launch of the GCR Indicator Report.







Learn more about JDC's work in Chad



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COLOMBIA: Venezuelan Crisis: Regional Data Collection and Analysis on Venezuelan Refugee-like Population

Motivation

Economic, social, political, and institutional crises, as well as food scarcity and insecurity, have driven between 3.4 to 5.5 million Venezuelans from their country. Forecasts suggest this large outflow of Venezuelans in refugee-like situations will continue.

The COVID-19 crisis underscored the conspicuous gaps • in statistics and policy guidance for this group, including in Colombia, which receives the largest number of people fleeing Venezuela, however, administrative data collected by the government excludes those in irregular conditions. Although the main nationally representative household survey in • Colombia (Gran Encuesta Integrada de Hogares (GEIH)) contains a sizeable sample of the Venezuelan population that could be the basis of a sampling frame, that survey questionnaire was not designed specifically to obtain policy-relevant information on this group and does not include specific questions related to COVID-19 impacts. This leaves an important knowledge gap about the needs and challenges faced by this population, and about opportunities to increase economic and social integration.

Activity

This activity aims to support the establishment of a new survey, the Pulso de la Migracion, led by the national statistical office, that complements the country's GEIH and adds to the suite of "Pulso" surveys including the Pulso Empresarial and the Pulso Social. The Pulso de la Migracion contributes precise information to facilitate the design, monitoring, and evaluation of policies through the analysis of high quality new and existing quantitative data on Venezuelans living in Colombia.

The Pulso de la Migracion uses the Venezuelan portion of the GEIH baseline sample for a multi-round series of phone surveys. This data will be complemented by data on host Colombians collected through the GEIH monthly updates.

Expected Results

- Produce original evidence to fill knowledge gaps on the most updated and precise data on living conditions, service provision, and income opportunities of Venezuelan migrants and refugees, focusing on monitoring the impact of the COVID-19 crisis and the recovery process.
- Analyze the information produced to provide support for policy interventions that effectively improve the living conditions of Venezuelan migrants and address barriers to social and economic integration and recovery postcrisis. Inform government engagement to support effective integration measures of host and migrant communities in the medium and long term. Use the data and analysis for planned humanitarian and development approaches, including the World Bank project Colombia: COVID-19 Crisis Response Development Policy Financing (DPF).

Expected Activity Outputs

111.

- Four rounds of phone surveys to monitor well-being and crisis impact, and recovery.
- Analytical report of the well-being of Venezuelans in Colombia during the pandemic crisis and early recovery.
- Integration of analytical results and lessons learned from Colombia in a regional report on Venezuelan migration and a perceptions' survey of migration.

BENEFICIARY Venezuelans in refugee-like situations in Colombia

INTENDED USER Government of Colombia, the World Bank, UNHCR, National Statistical Offices in the region, and implementing partners



Policy interventions to improve welfare of the forcibly displaced and host communities.

MAIN ACHIEVEMENTS SINCE THE START OF THE ACTIVITY

The first and second of four rounds of the new Pulso de la Migración survey have been collected, and the findings of the first round were presented in a high-level press conference in October 2021, held by the National Administrative Department of Statistics of Colombia (DANE) and headlined by the Colombian Vice President and Foreign Affairs Minister and the DANE Director-General. The survey complements the country's flagship national surveys. The event and release were successful and have raised interest from several development partners to support future rounds. The findings come at a timely moment in the policy space to inform the roll out of the country's protection permit (TPP).

In close collaboration with the World Bank's country team and with input provided by the UNHCR, the survey instrument measures characteristics of the migration process of Venezuelan and returning Colombian migrants, such as the labor market, income and remittances, discrimination, violence, and, for women, family planning and menstruation. Going forward, the World Bank team plans to use the Pulso de la Migración data as a comparison to data from the national survey to develop a more robust picture of people in refugee-like situations in Colombia.

> Listen to JDC partners on the "Impacts of regularization on Venezuelan Refugees"







IRAQ: Integrating Forcibly Displaced Populations into **COVID-19 High Frequency Phone Surveys**

Motivation

The COVID-19 pandemic has torn through lives and livelihoods across the globe with alarming pace and impartiality. There is reason to believe that the most vulnerable populations may be the most affected, but without sufficient data, it is difficult to understand the gravity of the challenge or . design countermeasures to alleviate suffering. In particular, the lower incomes and often crowded and poor living conditions of populations affected by forced displacement likely make them more susceptible to the pandemic's health and economic effects. Timely data and evidence will be critical to help monitor and mitigate the social and economic effects of the crisis on these specific vulnerable groups and support the inclusion of forcibly displaced populations in national COVID-19 responses.

The World Bank's Poverty and Equity Global Practice (GP) and Development Economics Data Group (DECDG) have jointly engaged in fielding high frequency phone surveys (HFPS) in some 100 countries worldwide to understand welfare needs and changes in socioeconomic outlooks during the pandemic. The JDC has suppored contemporaneous extensions of these high frequency phone surveys to include forcibly displaced persons in several countries, including Iraq.

Activity

The World Food Program (WFP) in Iraq started a mobile phone survey (mVAM) in April 2020 to acquire information on food consumption and access to basic services during the pandemic. In September 2020, this was expanded to a technical collaboration between the WFP and the World Bank, increasing the WFP's current data collection. With JDC support, those activities included an expansion of the household survey to interview 800 IDPs and 600 returnee households (that is returning IDPs). The IDP sample includes households that were forcibly displaced by the 2014 ISIS conflict and are still living in places other than their habitual residence whereas the returnee sample consists of those who were forcibly displaced by the crisis and have now returned to their places of origin. Four rounds of phone surveys will be conducted on these populations in a timeline and with questionnaires that match the survey work to the broader national program.

Expected Results

- Include IDPs and returnees in data collection and subsequently in the national policy dialogue and response.
- Use the data to inform national and regional governments, the WFP, and the World Bank about the socioeconomic changes, market participation, and receptivity toward COVID-19 testing and vaccination among displaced and non-displaced nationals in Iraq.
- Use this information to inform planning for humanitarian/development operations and emergency responses to the pandemic in Iraq.

Expected Activity Outputs

- Extended report that includes the national averages and the nondisplaced, IDPs, and returnee populations in the North and Kurdistan Republic of Iraq provinces.
- Data sets from Iraq published on the World Bank Microdata Library for all rounds of data.

INTENDED USER Government of Iraq, World Bank, WFP, UNHCR, and other humanitarian and development partners. IMPACT

The forcibly displaced are made visible data-wise and represented when assessing the socioeconomic fallout of COVID-19.

BENEFICIARY Iraqi IDPs, returning IDPs, and nondisplaced households.

MAIN ACHIEVEMENTS SINCE THE START OF THE ACTIVITY

JDC published and disseminated findings from the high frequency phone survey data collection and analysis in Iraq carried out by World Bank and JDC colleagues, in collaboration with the WFP. The report titled Iraq High Frequency Phone Survey (IHFPS) to Monitor Socioeconomic Trends During COVID-19 summarizes efforts to monitor socioeconomic trends during COVID-19, focusing extensively on IDPs and returnees. Specifically, it conveys data from nearly 15,000 interviews carried out through four rounds of high frequency phone surveys from October 2020 through January 2021, with interesting comparative data on welfare indicators between displaced and non-displaced households. In parallel with the report's release, the curated and anonymized microdata across the four survey rounds was published on the World Bank Microdata Library and linked to the UNHCR Microdata Library. In August 2021, the JDC finalized and launched the paper Answering the Call: Forcibly Displaced During the Pandemic based on the high frequency phone survey data from Iraq and seven other countries.

Moreover, the JDC provided COVID-19 socioeconomic evidence to and supported the Operational Policy and Advocacy Group (OPAG) of the Inter-Agency Standing Committee meeting on the socioeconomic impact and associated protection risks of the COVID-19 pandemic on women and children. In those efforts, the JDC particularly highlighted data and evidence on the experience of internally displaced and non-displaced households in Iraq during the pandemic. An action point that stood out among others was the strengthening of IASC's socioeconomic analysis to inform response and early action.

> Learn more about the JDC Support to Integrating forcibly displaced populations into COVID-19 **High Frequency Phone Surveys**









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YEMEN: Forced Displacement Monitoring Systems

Motivation

Yemen has been facing a forced displacement crisis since the conflict expanded in 2015. There was a large surge in internal displacement at the onset of the violence, followed by continued displacement of new households roughly equal in aggregate to the number of households returning over time. According to official statistics reported by the International Organization for Migration (IOM), over 10 percent of the population has been displaced since the start • of the conflict (IOM, 2020). However, other surveys (such as Gallup World Poll, World Food Programme (WFP) monitoring, and more) suggest the figure could be as high as thirty percent of the population. Given the magnitude of the problem and the fluidity of the crisis, with households coming in and out of displacement, the current data systems in the country are not equipped to fully gauge the needs of displaced populations. Hence, a more robust data system needs to be Expected Activity Outputs developed. In addition to challenges caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, there has been an ongoing food security crisis that continues to push the country to the brink of famine. Local food prices are climbing due to increases in global food prices and a currency crisis in regions II. controlled by the internationally recognized government (IRG). Additionally, there have been reductions in humanitarian support in portions of the country alongside the prospect of additional reductions due to donor fatigue in Yemen. Against IV. this economic backdrop, data collection in the country is V. becoming progressively more difficult and costly, reducing the country's ability to perform survey work within its borders.

Activity

The project seeks to build a more robust data collection system through related surveys:

- Address food security and other welfare dimensions through high frequency tracking of displaced households.
- Increase representation of underrepresented and especially vulnerable regions in existing highfrequency surveys (hot spot surveys).
- Expand key informant interviews with local governments and sectors that are crucial to displaced households.
- Collect prices of essential commodities and confirm they are currently available.
- Collect information from local governments on changes in various issues faced by each region. Including issues related to the provision of basic services (such as health, school, law and order).

Each of these activities will be coordinated with a geospatial team that can better map the availability of service provision

across the country and include additional remote sensing data sources. These new data sources will be jointly analyzed with relevant complementary data, such as WFP's ongoing monthly mobile phone surveys of food security and some other limited welfare dimensions.

Expected Results

Better incorporation of IDPs into the humanitarian/ emergency response to ensure adequate coverage. Identification of differences between IDP and non-IDP households in welfare and resilience to shocks, as well as regional differences in those domains.

- Publicly available, cleaned, deidentified data from periodic surveys of displaced households, insofar as the situation in Yemen may allow.
- Publicly available, anonymized summaries of key informant surveys of local government officials. Periodic bulletin with summary research results and up-to-date monitoring.

Summaries of operational engagement and lessons. Series of high quality analytical reports and academic articles covering a range of relevant topics, including food security, drivers of food emergencies, consequences of displacement during conflict, violence leading to displacement, and relative vulnerabilities of displaced and non-displaced households in Yemen.

BENEFICIARY IDP households and local communities that host IDP households in Yemen.



INTENDED USER

The Yemen Social Fund for Development (SFD) - Yemeni Institution for Development Interventions with extensive reach in local communities. Regional authorities, World Bank, World Food Programme, UNHCR, and other partners.



IMPACT

Increase focus and inclusion of IDP households and host communities in the community and local development and humanitarian programming.

MAIN ACHIEVEMENTS SINCE THE START OF THE ACTIVITY

The activity in Yemen, in collaboration with WFP, continued to deliver throughout 2021. A local government survey was completed along with expanded key informant interviews. WFP's monthly data collection has now reached some 50,000 household, of which 35-40 percent are displaced. Due to several large shocks over the past year, the country was pushed to the brink of famine in early 2021. Aided by the JDC's engagement, and leveraging relationships in country, the team was poised to swiftly develop an analytical report to inform stakeholders on the emerging food crisis that spoke to the needs of Yemeni IDPs and hosts (2020 Food Security Crisis in Yemen). Furthermore, high frequency phone survey findings were shared with the UNHCR country representative to inform a recent consultation on the IDP response in Yemen between the UNHCR and the government of the United States.

Two papers using this data have been drafted and are currently under internal review — a paper investigating the causes and consequences of forced displacement in Yemen, and another exploring the pathways by which violence results in forced displacement. Additional reports on challenges for IDPs and hosts in education, health, and social protection are underway.







Learn more about JDC's work in Yemen



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Compiling and Curating UNHCR's Datasets for the UNHCR Microdata Library

Motivation

While UNHCR routinely collects a wealth of data, both Expected Results directly and through its partners, the organization has not been able to capitalize fully on the significant investment in collecting this data. Such collection is expensive in terms of financial cost, human resources, and time. To ensure efficiency, transparency, and the best use of public funds, safe and responsible dissemination of data . is increasingly promoted and sometimes even mandated by those funding data collection efforts. In fact, many NSOs now must maintain open data portals. To date, data published by UNHCR has mainly been aggregated data, and access to microdata has largely been regulated by ad-hoc data-sharing agreements. This project is taking to scale UNHCR's commitment to sharing data openly and responsibly by discovering, cleaning, and cataloging II. microdata collected by UNHCR and its partners through complementary internal and external online catalogs. The dissemination of microdata enables and facilitates analysis and research that will inform and improve future III. programs and policies that aim to improve the lives of persons affected by forced displacement, generating a positive impact on their well-being.

Activity

The internal-facing Raw Internal Data Library (RIDL) and the external-facing are platforms designed to provide a secure location for the storage and re-use of diverse datasets in a user-friendly format. The vision is for these two platforms to be the corporate tools and primary means to manage curated operational data for archiving and dissemination both internally and externally. In addition to being the repository for newly collected data, these platforms will also host a large backlog of previously collected datasets

Internally, the project will help improve data quality, prevent data loss and duplication of data collection efforts, and reduce the burden of finding data and responding to personalized requests from other staff members. Externally, it will contribute to the data value chain by allowing ease of access and promoting further analysis by academics and research centers, the private sector, development actors, and other humanitarian organizations to inform programming, policy, and advocacy efforts.

- Enhance the effectiveness of UNHCR's investments in microdata collection.
- Support a growing and thriving research community on forced displacement.
- Position UNHCR as a trusted leader in the data field.

Expected Activity Outputs

- UNHCR microdata repositories are up and running and continuously enhanced to meet user demands.
- Microdata from recent years has been cleaned, documented, anonymized, and uploaded to the libraries.
- Guidance material for the documentation and anonymization of microdata has been developed and institutionalized.
- The data curator function is sustainably established IV by UNHCR.
 - Communications around the Microdata Library for greater visibility and use.

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BENEFICIARY Forcibly displaced populations.

INTENDED USER

Academics and research centers, the private sector, development actors, and other humanitarian organizations.

IMPACT

Improving the lives of forcibly displaced populations by unlocking the full potential of UNHCR's microdata investments.

MAIN ACHIEVEMENTS SINCE THE START OF THE ACTIVITY

The curation and dissemination of microdata has exceeded expectations. The UNHCR curation team has processed 399 datasets and made them available through the UNHCR Microdata Library (including the listing of 57 hosted on other platforms); an additional 235 datasets have been made available internally. In parallel, the team has engaged with all seven UNHCR regional bureaus and 33 UNHCR country offices, delivering workshops, webinars and training sessions, and updating briefing and training material in response to feedback. The curation team received 485 external requests for data in 2021 and has received 820 since the establishment of the Microdata Library. Universities are the primary stakeholder group that requests data, followed by civil society organizations and UN organizations.

The UNHCR Microdata Library was established through collaboration with the World Bank Microdata Library team, and this joint work continues. Building on this support, the UNHCR Microdata Library team has developed a Data Curation Handbook that serves as a how-to guide for UNHCR staff and documentation on practices used by the Data Curation team. The team has also drafted an Administrative Instruction for Curation Standards and Procedures for Personal Microdata of Persons of Concern to UNHCR, which will formalize the responsibilities and the procedures for the sharing of microdata across UNHCR. Further, the team has been raising awareness on the importance of forced displacement microdata data curation, both within UNHCR and more widely. Besides developing and providing training on curation and anonymization, they have published seven microdata library quarterly updates (circulated both internally and externally and reaching over 1,000 subscribers) and three blog posts on the Microdata Library.

Learn more about JDC's support to the UNHCR Microdata Library





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Disseminating Evidence and Data on Those Forcibly Displaced

Motivation

One of the ways in which the JDC pursues its mission is by sharing relevant data and information in a systematic manner to better inform decision making for forcibly displaced populations. These knowledge sharing activities are crucial in defining the JDC as a key facilitator of data-based knowledge exchange between different stakeholders.

Overall, these activities aim to enhance connections and build networks, and contribute to knowledge exchange while strategically disseminating publications and other knowledge products through targeted groups of experts and general audiences.

Activity

The JDC collects evidence from data-based research, either financed and supported by the Center itself or originating from other rigorous studies. This evidence is then disseminated among a wide audience of academic scholars, practitioners, staff in international and non-governmental organizations, and policy makers to inform policy design, implementation, and programming. Special attention is devoted to reaching researchers in affected countries to improve their awareness III. of relevant data and evidence-based products.

Expected Results

- Increase policy and academic debate on forced displacement.
- Reinforce links between the JDC, think tanks, research institutions, and other evidence-driven actors.
- Facilitate better-informed policy dialogue leading to impactful decisions and processes.
- Position JDC as a key facilitator of knowledge exchange of data-based evidence between relevant stakeholders.

Expected Activity Outputs

- Publications: reports from country and global activities, briefs, blog posts, and new issues of the JDC papers.
- Periodic Releases: around 10 newsletters every year, each featuring a Literature Review Update or a JDC Quarterly Digest.
- Scientific Events: one Annual Research Conference every two years; five to six other events annually, such as webinars, seminars, and workshops. Ad-hoc activities, such as background papers for reports.

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published JDC's blog titled Why it's time to bring refugees out of the statistical shadows, suggesting how more high quality data and evidence can make a difference in the lives of the forcibly displaced and their hosts.

Discover all JDC's publications and reports on data and evidence here: () SCAN ME

BENEFICIARY Forcibly displaced populations, researchers, and policymakers.

INTENDED USER The World Bank, UNHCR, governments, academics and practitioners.



IMPACT More informed and evidence-based policies on forced displacement.

MAIN ACHIEVEMENTS SINCE THE START OF THE ACTIVITY

The JDC published its second working paper (Answering the Call: Forcibly Displaced During the Pandemic), which provides a comprehensive summary of the high frequency phone surveys' results in eight countries between March 2020 and March 2021. Eight newsletters, including a Literature Review Udate, reaching more than 2,100 readers were published in 2021.

At the end of the year, the JDC Literature Review Database contained 450 summaries. Two JDC digests were issued; one produced in collaboration with the UNICEF Office of Research - Innocenti, focusing on data and research on children and youth in situations of forced displacement; the other explored evidence emerging from papers that were published by the World Bank's Gender Dimensions of Forced Displacement (GDFD) Research Program. JDC hosted together with EGRISS the seminar - Making the most vulnerable visible: Data gaps and official statistics on forced displacement. This was JDC's contribution to the UN World Data Forum for the second year in a row. Four seminars were held in 2021, two of which were organized in collaboration with Innovation for Poverty Action (IPA) and the Center for Effective Global Action (CEGA). The JDC also hosted a virtual panel discussion with the IKEA Foundation, inviting private sector actors and foundations for a discussion on using socioeconomic data and evidence to support the economic inclusion of the forcibly displaced. JDC and World Bank colleagues published on the World Bank Data Blog titled World Bank's ongoing engagement through the Expert Group on Refugee and IDP Statistics. Also, JDC contributed four articles to a Forced Migration Review's mini-issue on data and displacement, covering topics such as aligning humanitarian surveys with international statistical standards; including refugees and IDPs in national data systems; the pitfalls and potential of high frequency phone surveys during COVID-19; and some reflections on progresses and challenges for data and evidence on forced displacement. Finally, the 2nd JDC Research Conference on Forced Displacement was held on 20-22 January 2022, featuring 24 outstanding research papers, which stimulated debate on how to better link research to the needs of practitioners.







A JDC Impact Story about how insufficient data keeps Syrian refugees in the shadow and hampers efforts to help during COVID-19 was featured in Paris21's Data-for-Change campaign. Furthermore, the World Economic Forum



Fellowship Program

Motivation

The JDC Charter states that the JDC will pursue its mission by "... sharing relevant data and information in a systematic manner to better inform decision making for persons of concern ... " and shall facilitate the collaboration between the UN-HCR and the World Bank by "sharing knowledge, ideas and lessons learned."

Activity

The Young Fellowship Program allows young researchers from developing countries affected by forced displacement to collaborate with the JDC team and develop their research agenda by using JDC's network and facilities. The fellows' research tasks are further complemented with training activities.

The Fellowship Program represents a pivotal element in I. JDC's effort to support capacity building for young scholars and professionals from displaced and host communities in middle- and low-income countries facilitating their work on topics related to forced displacement.

Expected Results

- Increased capacity for World Bank and UNHCR country teams and clients.
- Increased capacity for fellows such as heightened expertise on forced displacement topics and increased country-level experience.
- Knowledge products such as policy briefs and JDC papers relevant to the design of efficient programs targeting the forcibly displaced and host communities.

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Contribution to data collection and analysis at country and global level.

Expected Activity Outputs

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- Two to three fellows are selected for each year of activity (see fellows' profile on the JDC website). Fellows contribute to country and global level activities.
- Each fellow produces two deliverables related to the collection and/or analysis of data on the forcibly displaced and host communities.



The forcibly displaced and host communities in countries where fellows provide support to World Bank and UNHCR country teams.



INTENDED USER

Global and country level World Bank and UNHCR teams; wider community working on forced displacement.



Young scholars/professionals provide technical support to country level activities, bringing unique experience and skills to the team supported, and subsequently to other stakeholders.

MAIN ACHIEVEMENTS SINCE THE START OF THE ACTIVITY

For the first cycle of the JDC's Young Fellowship Program 2020 –2021, three candidates worked with the JDC from September 2020 to June 2021. During this period, the fellows provided direct support to World Bank and UN-HCR country operations (in Ethiopia, CAR, Chad, and Rwanda) while developing their final dissertations related to forced displacement. In particular, they contributed to the development of questionnaires, analysis of datasets, and preparation of policy briefs. They were also involved in the JDC-supported activities on the COVID-19 high frequency phone surveys. The fellows produced interesting research contributions concerning forced displacement, often in collaboration with their academic institutions.

The World Bank Country Management Units (CMU) supported the fellows' work by reviewing their final papers and providing insightful feedback. For example, JDC Fellow Mr. Nfamara K Dampha produced the paper titled (Rohingya refugee camps and forest loss in Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh: an inquiry using remote sensing and econometric approaches), which was described by the CMU as "providing an important analytical foundation for a better-informed dialogue about how to address the challenge of deforestation in Cox's Bazar." The paper is expected to be published in the World Bank Working Paper series and will be disseminated widely with the help of the JDC. Other papers are also close to completion.

Moving forward, the JDC has built a partnership with the World Bank's Office of the Chief Economist for the Africa Region (AFRCE) for the second cohort, and two candidates have joined the JDC Young Fellowship Program in January 2022. The two new fellows are Ms. Velma Mukoro from the University of Manchester and Ms. Olumurejiwa (Mureji) Fatunde from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.









Meet JDC's fellows and discover their work (i) SCAN ME

3. Lessons and insights

Learning from experience

In 2021, the JDC advanced the implementation of a substantive portfolio of activities towards addressing data and evidence gaps on forced displacement. Two years into the Center's first mandate, the team continues to amass significant experiences and observations. This section reflects on four operational learnings that will guide the JDC in its effort to transform the data and evidence landscape on forced displacement and a data-gap analysis presented in last year's Annual Report. The analysis highlighted five key gaps in the data and evidence landscape as illustrated in the figure below.

PERSISTENT DATA & EVIDENCE GAPS		QUALITY GAP	Inconsistent use of terminology, concepts, and definitions in the data landscape on forced displacement, as well as variation in methods and tools to collect data.
	Â,X	SUBSTANTIVE GAP	A lack of quality socioeconomic data that allow for comparisons with host populations and longitudinal analysis.
	D	SYSTEMS GAP	Limited integration of forcibly displaced populations in national statistical systems of affected countries.
	0	ACCESS GAP	Limited availability and access to microdata and disaggregated data on forcibly displaced.
	iii	COVERAGE GAP	Lack of data on key population groups and geographical areas. (Such as out-of-camp populations, IDPs residing in urban areas, stateless persons, returning refugees, and geographical areas such as Sub-Saharan African, the Sahel, and Latin America).

Covid-19 and data collection: from obstacle to opportunity

In an era of social distancing and restrictions on movement. high frequency phone surveys and other rapid monitoring systems demonstrated the possibility of producing quality data and evidence relatively quickly. Through monthly waves of high frequency phone surveys, the teams that the JDC supports have been able to provide analysis of the change in welfare indicators over time and compare such indicators between population groups. Before 2021, clear statistical evidence would not have been at hand to point to the pervasive food insecurity and impeded access to health and educational services that COVID-19 brought among those forcibly displaced. Innovative data collection methods helped fill a time-sensitive substantive gap in understanding the welfare implications of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Transformational change is a long game

Significant contributions were made to address the quality and access gaps. Nevertheless, the time necessary to generate the intended results is humbling. For example, in progressing a common statistical approach to measuring internal displacement, the Center's contributions have led towards the identification of criteria for measuring the attainment of durable solutions for IDPs. Yet, to improve data quality, the measure heavily relies on the successful integration into key producers' data collection processes. Such integration requires persistent efforts and investments to build awareness and capacity - efforts that have been slowed down by COVID-19. Similarly, 2021 saw substantial improvement in the amount of available microdata on forcibly displaced and stateless persons, including through the growing UNHCR Microdata Library (MDL). While this

represents a remarkable improvement, a complete transformation will only occur when the data is used to inform operations and policy and more forced displacement data producers and custodians draw on the responsible and safe approaches to data access to build momentum across organizations.

Continuous risk assessments and remaining agile

The capacity to continuously assess risks and adapt to changing circumstances is critical when planning and executing large-scale data collection exercises. In 2021, the JDC continued improving its ability to deal with operational challenges arising in fragile contexts. A range of geopolitical developments and changes in national priorities caused major disruptions to existing commitments in several coutries.

In Kenya, government budget shortages in combination with the closure of refugee camps led the JDC to agree to shift the focus from refugees in camps to refugees in urban areas and implement the activity through a private firm, in close collaboration with the National Statistical Office. In Rwanda, the government reconsidered the planned socioeconomic survey on hosts and refugees, deeming it redundant in light of other planned exercises such as the forthcoming census. Consequently, the JDC shifted resources from Rwanda towards other activities while remaining engaged in possible future opportunities. In the Central African Republic, security concerns following national elections stalled operations during the first part of 2021. However, as soon as the situation stabilized, the collaboration with the National Statistical Office resumed, and two rounds of face-to-face surveying of IDP sites were carried out. And in Djibouti and DRC, data collection efforts on forcibly displaced persons were delayed to support governments in developing a census or sampling frame that could then use to collect more representative data on displaced and host populations.

These examples are illustrations of the operational dynamics in the situations where the JDC supports in-country work, and they underline the importance of agility, active portfolio management, persistence, and patience to stay the course as they address the coverage gap and systems' gaps.

Disseminate findings and make them accessible for the target audience

Having a clear line of sight from the conceptualization of an activity to the ultimate potential impact on policy and programming is central to successfully deliver on the Center's overall mission. A clear understanding of the use of the deliverables has helped the JDC identify operationally relevant, timely, and potentially impactful investments. As part of this effort, the JDC has steadily built up a substantive rapport with colleagues in its parent institutions and other national and regional partners to understand policy priorities fully, identify opportunities, and design partnerships for a transformational change.

The results from each investment are shared in briefs, analytical papers, and at strategic events. As more results come in, there is a growing recognition that the Center needs to pay particular attention to the last mile to ensure the appropriate uptake and use. Making the data and evidence accessible for policymakers and practitioners faced with competing priorities is critical if the work is to have the intended impact and lead to the improvement in the well-being and protection that those forcibly displaced and their hosts need

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4. Conclusion

The Center's third year of operation has been focused on implementation and delivering results while extracting learnings from its work. To achieve a step-change in the amount, quality, and use of data and evidence on forced displacement, is not a sprint but a continuous, long-term investment in systems, tools, instruments, and capacity. With the current rate of displacement and the continuation of already protracted situations, the Center is committed to supporting the national and regional statistical responses and actions to ensure better protection for some of the most vulnerable people in the world.

In 2022, the JDC will commission a mid-term review that will examine the impact, effectiveness, and relevance of the work done so far. This will be an important milestone for the Center, informing its future work and allowing for reflections on the data and evidence needs, and the JDC's role in the same. As the portfolio of activities keeps growing, the JDC looks forward to forging new partnerships in 2022, including private sector actors and philanthropic foundations. The JDC is encouraged by the confidence shown in its work by the IKEA and Hilton foundations, which have chosen to join other partners in supporting the JDC's strategy.

In closing, we would like to thank the individuals, organizations, governments, and National Statistical Institutions for their collaboration and support in achieving the JDC's mission. We are particularly grateful for the guidance received from the JDC Management Committee and Strategic Advisory Council members. The JDC would like to extend its appreciation to its partners for their generous contribution to the JDC in 2021: the Government of Denmark represented by the Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs; the European Union represented by the Directorate-General for International Partnerships (INTPA) at the European Commission; and the United States Government represented by the U.S. Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (PRM).

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IKEA foundation is a strategic fit with the work that JDC is doing to promote refugee economic inclusion and we do believe that this is an area where philanthropy can make an impact by supporting programs like this to eventually reduce the risk for the private sector to engage.

Per Heggenes, CEO, IKEA Foundation



Annex 1: The JDC Work Program at the end of 2021

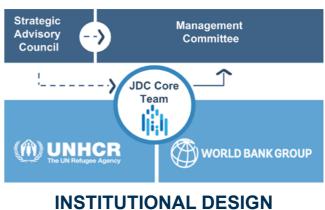
Objective	Activity	Start	End
	Implementing and refining statistical standards on refugee and IDP statistics	2019	2023
(0)	Developing statistical standards on statelessness	2020	2022
em	Improving the quality of survey data on forcibly displaced populations	2020	2022
yst ds	Enhancing Kobo Toolbox for data collection and analysis	2020	2022
ta s dar	Making forcibly displaced persons visible in the SDG indicators	2021	2023
Strengthen data systems and standards	Supporting UNHCR's creation of an integrated and standardized "flagship" global survey series	2021	2023
igth anc	Expanding statistical methods and tools on forced displacement	2020	2023
lren	Exploring innovative methods to strengthen data	2020	2022
S	Automated Text Analytics for the Joint Data Center on Forced Displacement	2020	2022
	Filling information gaps on Forcibly Displaced Populations through geospatial data	2020	2022
	Strengthening UNHCR's capacity at country level to use socioeconomic data and evidence	2021	2023
	Burundi: Survey(s) on vulnerable populations	2021	2022
	Central African Republic: IDP survey as part of the 2020 Harmonized Living Conditions Survey	2020	2022
	Djibouti: Identifying and Monitoring Displaced Populations	2020	2021
	Ethiopia: Including refugees in a national socioeconomic household survey	2020	2022
	Kenya: Integrating Vulnerable Populations into Continuous Household Survey Framework	2020	2022
<u>.</u>	Rwanda: Socioeconomic Assessment of refugees and host communities	2020	2022
and analysis	Somalia: Rapid monitoring of socioeconomic conditions for displaced people Integrating Forcibly Displaced Populations into Covid-19 High Frequency Phone Surveys:	2021	2022
	Regional: Venezuelan Crisis: Regional data collection and analysis on Venezuelan refugee-like population	2020	2022
e data	Chile: Venezuelan Crisis: Regional data collection and analysis on Venezuelan refugee-like population	2020	2022
Produce data	Peru: Venezuelan Crisis: Regional data collection and analysis on Venezuelan refugee-like population	2020	2022
L.	Colombia: Venezuelan Crisis: Regional data collection and analysis on Venezuelan refugee-like population	2020	2022
	Ecuador: Venezuelan Crisis: Regional data collection and analysis on Venezuelan refugee-like population	2020	2022
	Yemen: Forced Displacement Monitoring Systems	2020	2023
	Bangladesh: Cox's Bazar Humanitarian Development Statistics Center/ Analytical Program	2020	2022
	DRC: Crisis Observatory and Household-Forced Displacement Survey in Eastern DRC	2020	2023

Objective	Activity	Start	End
	Chad: Refugees in Chad. The road forward	2020	2021
	Mashreq Region: Measuring changes in socioeconomic welfare since COVID-19 on the forcibly displaced and host communities	2020	2021
	Mashreq Region: Mitigating the poverty impact of Covid-19 on host communities and refugees in Lebanon, Jordan, and KRI*	2020	2021
	Burkina Faso: Integrating forcibly displaced populations into Covid-19 High Frequency Phone Survey*	2020	2022
	Chad: Integrating forcibly displaced populations into Covid-19 High Frequency Phone Surveys	2020	2022
	Djibouti: Integrating Forcibly Displaced Populations into Covid-19 High Frequency Phone Surveys	2020	2022
	Ethiopia: Integrating forcibly displaced populations into Covid-19 High Frequency Phone Surveys	2020	2022
	Iraq: Integrating forcibly displaced populations into Covid-19 High Frequency Phone Surveys	2020	2021
sis	Jordan: Integrating Syrian forcibly displaced populations into Covid-19 High Frequency Phone Surveys	2020	2022
laly	Covid-19 Analytics	2020	2022
nd an	Turkey: Agricultural labor market and socioeconomic status for Refugees and Turkish Citizens: Baseline Data Collection for Impact Evaluation	2022	2023
e data a	Honduras: Tracking progress towards durable solutions to internal displacement in Honduras in the context of the International Recommendations on IDP Statistics (IRIS) NEW	2021	2023
Produce data and analysis	Mashreq: Strengthening poverty analysis, assessing the impact of COVID-19, household data collection and informing poverty mitigating measures for the benefit of host communities and refugees in Lebanon, Jordan, and the Kurdistan Region of Iraq (KRI) NEW	2021	2022
	Jordan: Inclusion of refugees in national household survey NEW	2021	2022
	Libya: Socioeconomic survey of refugees and migrants in Libya NEW	2021	2022
	DRC: Socioeconomic survey in the Grand Kasaï, DRC: Focus on IDPs, returnees and host communities NEW	2021	2022
	Republic of Congo (ROC): Impact evaluation of a disintegrated safety net for refugees and host communities in the Northern Republic of Congo NEW	2021	2023
	Malaysia: Comparative baseline study of livelihoods of refugees and comparable host communities in Malaysia NEW	2021	2023
	Central Asia : Support for the inclusion of stateless people in national population censuses and gathering of additional socioeconomic data on stateless populations in Central Asia NEW	2021	2022
	Pilot surveys for UNHCR's new flagship survey program NEW	2021	2022

Objective	Activity	Start	End
hance safe responsible ita access	Supporting the development and operation of Microdata Libraries at UNHCR and the World Bank	2020	2022
nce safi ponsib access	Compiling and curating UNHCR's datasets for the UNHCR Microdata Library	2019	2022
Enhance nd respo data acc	Enhancing the capabilities of UNHCR's global registration system	2019	2021
Enl and da	Enhancing microdata accessibility to improve policy and response in forced displacement situations	2020	2022
and ge	Developing methodologies for measuring the impact of hosting, protecting and assisting refugees		
ce a	Developing World Refugee and Asylum Policy (DWRAP) Online Data Platform	2021	2023
den Now	JDC Knowledge Agenda	2021	2023
tuild evidence an share knowledge	Knowledge sharing activities of the JDC: Disseminating evidence and data on those forcibly displaced	2019	2023
Build share	Knowledge sharing activities of the JDC: Fellowship programs	2020	2023

Annex 2: The JDC Business Model

Embedded in its parentorganizations to facilitate sustainable change



Activities led by task teams (from WB, UNHCR, JDC and external partners) and supported by JDC



SUPPORT & ACTIVITY/TASK TEAMS



PARTNERSHIP MODALITIES

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Partnerships are integral to achieve expected results

Joint Data Center

on Forced Displacement

VORLD BANK GROUP

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