



The Joint Data Center's Strategic Advisory Council

Read-out from the fourth meeting

September 1, 2022 CEST 13:00-17:00

The fourth Strategic Advisory Council of the World Bank-UNHCR Joint Data Center on Forced Displacement was held as a hybrid event¹ on September 1, 2022. Some 130 participants joined the event, including representatives from governments, humanitarian and development organizations, academic institutions, civil society organizations and the private sector.² The primary objective of the meeting was to seek the Council's feedback and advice on the JDC's new activity: Knowledge Agenda. The Executive Summary of the proposed Knowledge Agenda can be found [here](#).³

Dominique Hyde, the Chair of the Joint Data Center Management Committee, opened the consultations by highlighting the rising importance of knowledge sharing in the light of increasing numbers of forcibly displaced people. She pointed out the lack of quality socioeconomic data, particularly for internally displaced populations. Data opens doors for evidence-based planning and impacts policy and advocacy. She stressed the importance of partnership and collaboration and concluded with a call to the Council members for guidance and suggestions on how to further promote and strengthen the JDC's work.


In his [opening remarks](#), the Head of the Center, Björn Gillsäter noted the continued need for better quality, quantity and accessibility of socioeconomic data. He touched upon the JDC's role as a catalyst, facilitator and an enabler in this regard, and explained how the proposed Knowledge Agenda fits with the JDC strategy. He underlined the importance of the operational relevance of the JDC's work using the inspiring example from Colombia, showcasing the role of research in the decision to grant special permanence permits to Venezuelans in refugee-like situation. The video capturing this example succinctly is accessible [online](#). In conclusion he expressed the JDC's commitment to increase, better disseminate and use knowledge, and to work in partnerships to find new innovative solutions to old challenges.

The keynote address was delivered by Ana Maria Ibáñez, Principal Economic Advisor for the Vice Presidency of Sectors and Knowledge at the Inter-American Development Bank (IADB). In her presentation she underscored what drives forced displacement and the socioeconomic challenges that forcibly displaced and hosts face. She also noted how sometimes researchers and practitioners do not speak the same language and therefore communication becomes a barrier. Understanding these elements and filling various data gaps helps inform what she describes as the "virtuous cycle". This is where knowledge, policy and operations need to come together, producing and implementing appropriate policies and programs to better support the forcibly displaced and the host communities. Her remarks set the scene for the subsequent conversation on the JDC's Knowledge Agenda.

¹ [The program of the day may be seen in Annex 3.](#)

² [The list of registered participants may be seen in Annex 4.](#)

³ [Executive summary of the JDC's Knowledge Agenda may be seen in Annex 1.](#)



Domenico Tabasso, a Senior Economist with the JDC, presented the main pillars of the proposed Knowledge Agenda and described its origins. Despite a recent increase in literature and research on forced displacement, there are still significant gaps in the understanding and knowledge about displaced populations and their hosts defined both thematically and geographically. The proposed Knowledge Agenda aims to contribute to filling these gaps and to help better match research with the needs of policymakers and practitioners. The objective is to boost the design, adoption and use of evidence-based policies and programs and with that to improve the lives of forcibly displaced people and their hosts.

The first session was followed by a dynamic panel discussion, moderated by Jeffery Tanner, a Senior Economist at the JDC. The invited experts shared experiences and insights from their respective organizations, with the aim to stimulate further conversations on the core elements of the proposed Knowledge Agenda in the subsequent breakout rooms. Marie Gaarder, Executive Director from the International Initiative for Impact Evaluation (3ie), offered her reflections on how the evidence gap maps work and how they benefit policy makers. Ricardo Morel, Director of Peace & Recovery Program from Innovations for Poverty Action (IPA), spoke about the challenge of how to make research operationally relevant and how to ensure that knowledge is responsive to local demand. Tilman Brück, Founder and Director of the International Security and Development Center (ISDC), addressed the topics of tools for policy making and training practitioners. He discussed how these elements can help progression from data dissemination to data use, and what type of training can help build a bridge between researchers and practitioners.

The Council then moved to breakout rooms where the participants were asked to provide their strategic, technical, and operational insights to the key areas of the proposed Knowledge Agenda.


Following the presentations from the breakout rooms, the Deputy Head of the Center Maja Lazić, summarized the key messages of the Council and shared the next steps.

First, there was broad support from the panelists and the Council suggesting that this is the right time for the JDC to reinforce efforts into implementing the proposed Knowledge Agenda. This is pertinent in the current context of the growing numbers of forcibly displaced, the increased interest and engagement of development actors in forced displacement and the recognition that socioeconomic research that can shape policy and programs remains very limited.

Second, the Council advised the JDC to continue its catalytic role, and to act as a facilitator and enabler in establishing the evidence base in demand from policymakers and practitioners. The JDC has proven its convening power and was therefore encouraged to focus on investing in partnerships and collaborations with experts who can support the development and implementation of the proposed Knowledge Agenda.

Third, there was a clear message to actively include forcibly displaced people and host communities as the proposed Knowledge Agenda and associated activities take shape. This could be done through training and the involvement of researchers from forcibly displaced and host communities.

Lastly, valuable feedback from the lively breakout group discussions demonstrated support for further development of the proposed Knowledge Agenda and its composite pillars. The Council members emphasized the importance of clarifying how the activities



across the pillars connect and how they contribute to filling the gaps highlighted. Key messages from each breakout group can be found [here](#)⁴.

In terms of next steps:

- The JDC will be guided by the valuable advice from the Council in the further development of **the scope and priorities of the proposed Knowledge Agenda**. The read-out will be shared with the Management Committee to inform the discussion in the forthcoming Committee meeting in October.
- The JDC will continue to **act as a catalyst, facilitator and enabler as well as continue its commitment to further invest in partnerships and collaboration** in the context of the Knowledge Agenda.
- The JDC will **ensure broad and purposeful dissemination** of the Knowledge Agenda once finalized.
- The JDC is committed to **its relationship with the Council** and will continue to nurture the collaboration with the Council's members.

The day was closed by Soukeyna Kane, the co-Chair of the Management Committee. She appreciated the discussion and the knowledge shared in the meeting as highly relevant and important to the effectiveness and efficiency of the World Bank's operations on the ground. She highlighted the importance of solid data backed by sound analysis. In conclusion Soukeyna Kane expressed commitment to the collective aim of finding a way to "DNA" the forced displacement agenda into public policy, and move from short term humanitarian aid to long term developmental approaches.

We thank the Strategic Advisory Council and the Management Committee for continuous support and guidance. The JDC is looking forward to hosting a special Strategic Advisory Council session towards the end of 2022 to present draft findings of the JDC's Mid-term review and gather valuable reflections from the Council members.

Updates about the work of the JDC can be found in the regularly issued Newsletter by subscribing here: <https://www.jointdatacenter.org/subscribe-to-our-newsletter/>.

⁴ [Annex 1: Key messages on the pillars of the proposed Knowledge Agenda](#)

Annex 1

Executive Summary of the JDC's Knowledge Agenda

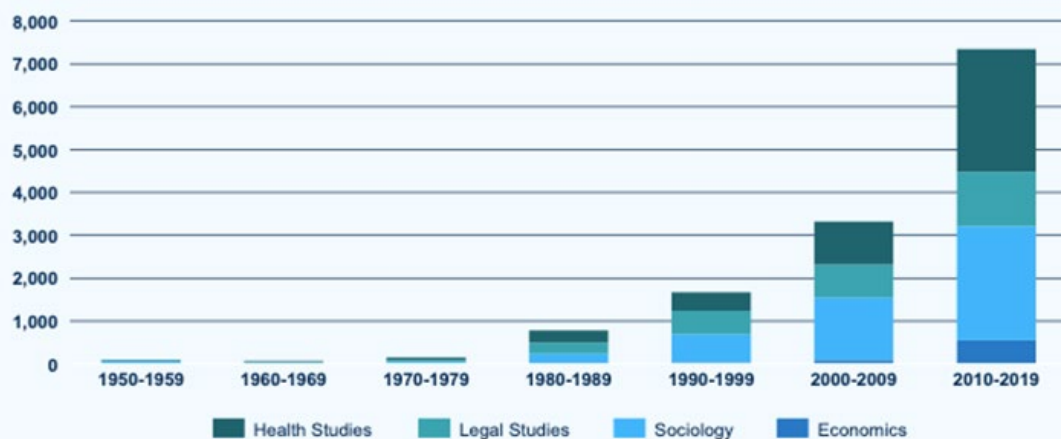
CONTEXT AND STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM



Data and analysis illuminate the needs and capacities of forcibly displaced persons, and their impact on host communities. They provide the foundation for designing effective programmes, assessing their impact over time, and measuring progress towards solutions¹

INTRODUCTION

There has been a sharp increase in **quantitative research on forced displacement** over the last ten years:



The growth in available evidence enriches the debate on forced displacement. At the same time, it stimulates the emergence of two sets of questions:

- 1** ----- Evidence gaps persist, especially for certain populations (stateless people, children on the move) and geographical areas (Sahel, Sudan and South Sudan)
→ How can we fill these gaps?
- 2** ----- Even in those areas where data and evidence are relatively abundant, research risks being confined within the boundaries of academia
→ How can we make research operationally relevant?

¹ [People Forced to Flee](#), 2022, UNHCR and Oxford University Press; p. 304.

WHY A JOINT DATA CENTER KNOWLEDGE AGENDA?

The work of the JDC lends itself to the creation of “knowledge” on forced displacement. We see data and evidence as necessary inputs in the process of knowledge generation, and we interpret knowledge as the result of a broad set of products, analyses, and activities that foster our understanding of forced displacement. These products include the [data collection and data analysis](#) activities currently funded and supported by the Center, and the JDC’s [papers](#), [Quarterly Digests](#), and [Research Conferences](#).

This Concept Note outlines a programmatic package with four sets of activities (“pillars”) that will form the Knowledge Agenda:



THE KNOWLEDGE AGENDA AND THE JDC STRATEGY

The Knowledge Agenda contributes to the achievement of three objectives described in the JDC Strategy

- Filling the **coverage gap** and the **substantive gap**, or lack of data or analysis on key population groups, geographic areas, socioeconomic welfare, or time dimensions → mapping exercises, the marketplace and the knowledge papers.
- Reinforcing the **convening role** of the Center → marketplace, the knowledge papers and the training activities.
- Forging **new partnerships** → All Knowledge Agenda pillars envision collaborations and will facilitate the creation of new partnerships outside the Center



**ONE OVERALL
GLOBAL OBJECTIVE**

— To boost the design, adoption and use of evidence-based policies and programs



Annex 2

Strategic Advisory Council, key messages from the breakout groups, September 1, 2022

- **Breakout Group 1: On the data and evidence maps** it was noted that forcibly displaced people and host communities should participate in the design of the questions and participation in the process towards the evidence. Emphasis should be put onto longitudinal surveys to enable progress-monitoring over time, particularly in protracted situations. Lastly, evidence mapping should help us understand what has already been covered by research and where the evidence is non-existing. Council members from the academia highlighted that efforts in assisting researchers accessing data are very welcomed.
- **Breakout Group 2: On the marketplace idea**, Council members advised the Center to further clarify the objective and scope of this activity and define the priorities. Scope should link more towards the current work of the JDC, with a focus on data. If there are other platforms, they should be listed and compared. Areas for further discussion included the moderation of the marketplace, accessibility, inclusion of interactive components, and the legal aspects of such platform.
- **Breakout Group 3: On Knowledge Papers**, guidance was received to invest heavily in dissemination, which should be broad and purposeful. Usage of a variety of media channels such as blogs, workshops with researchers, social media and other means allow for significant multiplication increasing the media reach. Important aspects to keep in mind include overcoming barriers such as linguistic understanding, reducing the use of technical jargon, translation to other languages and how we can best engage stakeholders at the inception of the production of knowledge papers.
- **Breakout Group 4: On technical training and capacity building**, strong support was received for engaging on training opportunities and the Council members invited the Center to consider creating a space for a committee to advise the shaping of such opportunities. Further considerations included the need for clarifications of the targeted audience and exploration of delivery methods, where the digital divide has to be taken into consideration. The JDC was encouraged to consider its comparative advantage, as a data center, therefore training should be clearly focused on the issues around socioeconomic data.

Annex 3

Strategic Advisory Council, Program of the day, September 1, 2022

Moderator: Caroline Verney Sergeant, World Bank

Session 1		
13:00-13:05	Welcome & introduction	Dominique Hyde, Director of External Relations, UNHCR, and Chair of the JDC's Management Committee
13:05-13:15	Setting the scene	Björn Gillsäter, Head of the Joint Data Center on Forced Displacement
13:15-13:35	Keynote address	Ana Maria Ibáñez, Principal Economic Advisor – Vice Presidency of Sectors and Knowledge, Inter-American Development Bank (IADB)
13:35-13:55	Presenting the JDC's Knowledge Agenda	Domenico Tabasso, Senior Economist, Joint Data Center on Forced Displacement
13:55-14:10	Q&A	Attendees will be invited to submit questions using the chat function. Moderated by Caroline Sergeant
Session 2		

14:10-15:10	Panel discussion. Followed by Q&A	<p>Moderator: Jeffery Tanner, Senior Economist, Joint Data Center on Forced Displacement</p> <p>Panelists: Ricardo Morel, Director, Peace & Recovery Program, Innovations for Poverty Action (IPA)</p> <p>Marie Gaarder, Executive Director, International Initiative for Impact Evaluation (3ie)</p> <p>Tilman Brück, Founder and Director, International Security and Development Center (ISDC)</p>
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15:10-15:25 **Coffee break**

Session 3

15:25-16:10	Breakout rooms	<p>Each room will focus on one pillar of the JDC's Knowledge Agenda.</p> <p>Participants can select which room to join:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Breakout room 1: Data and evidence mapping exercises • Breakout room 2: Marketplace for researchers and practitioners • Breakout room 3: Knowledge papers • Breakout room 4: Technical training and capacity building
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16:10-16:30	Reporting back to the plenary	Each breakout room will select one facilitator to report back to plenary
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16:30-16:40	Reflections and response to reports	Domenico Tabasso, Senior Economist, Joint Data Center on Forced Displacement
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Session 4

16:40-16:50	Reporting the outcomes to JDC's Management Committee	Björn Gillsäter and Maja Lazić, Head and Deputy Head of the Joint Data Center on Forced Displacement
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16:50-17:00 **Closing remarks**

Soukeyna Kane, Director of the Fragility, Conflict and Violence (FCV) Group at the World Bank, and co-Chair of the JDC's Management Committee

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

Annex 4

Strategic Advisory Council, Participants, September 1, 2022

Organization	Name	Position
3ie	Audrey Portes	Chief of Staff
3ie	Carolyn Huang	Senior Evaluation Specialist
3ie	Kirthi Rao	Evidence Impact Specialist
Aarhus University	Derek Beach	Professor
African Development Bank (AFDB)	Aghaby Yanni	Resilience & Fragility Officer
African Development Bank (AFDB)	Jerome Berndt	Principal Fragility and Resilience Officer
American University of Beirut and INSEAD	Jad Chaaban	Associate Professor of Economics and Visiting Scholar
Center for Global Development (CGD)	Helen Dempster	Policy Fellow
Conrad N. Hilton Foundation	Marcela Gonzalez	Program Officer, Refugees
Dalberg	Kiara Soobrayan	Analyst
Department of State	Seth Perlman	Data Scientist
Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs	Laura Brinks	Senior Policy Officer
Directorate-General for International Partnerships	Delphine Drapeau	Policy Officer and Program Manager



(EC DG INTPA)		
EGRISS/UNHCR	Charis Sijuwade	Assistant Statistics and Data Analysis Officer
Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific	Petra Nahmias	Section chief
(ESCAP)		
The Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO)	Ciara Silke	Adviser
The Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO)	Nicholas Leader	
Forced Migration Review	Alice Philip	Managing Editor
Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ)	Alina Juckel	Adviser
Global Affairs Canada	Emma Medjovic	Program Officer
Good Neighbors	Martina Piras	Program & Research Coordinator
Grassroot Leadership Organizations	Paul Kithima	Founder & CEO
Hajjah Fannah supportive and development initiative	Fatima Hussaini	CEO
HIAS	Juan Carlos Pacheco	
ICVA	Jerome Elie	Head - Forced Migration
Inter-American Bank (IDB)	Ana Ibanez	Economics Princial Advisor
Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre (IDMC)	Christelle Cazabat	Head of Programmes
IESEG School of Management	Josephine Kass-Hanna	Assistant Professor

IKEA Foundation	Laura Costica	Manager - Monitoring, Learning and Evaluation
International Organization for Migration	Julia Lendorfer	
International Organization for Migration (IOM)	Laura Bartolini	DTM Operations Support and Analysis Coordinator
J-PAL	Theresa Stienen	Policy Manager
Joint Data Center	Björn Gillsäter	Head of the Joint Data Center
Joint Data Center	Maja Lazić	Deputy Head of the Joint Data Center
Joint Data Center	Domenico Tabasso	Senior Economist
Joint Data Center	Melany Markham	Senior Communications Consultant
Joint Data Center	Patrick Brock	Senior Data Scientist
Joint Data Center	Harriet Mugeru	Senior Data Scientist
Joint Data Center	Jeff Tanner	Senior Economist
Joint Data Center	Katherine Perkins	Program Assistant
Joint Data Center	Petra Kaps	Data and Economic Analysis Intern
Joint Data Center	Agnes Gaga	Digital Communications Consultant
Joint Data Center	Donatien Beguy	Senior Statistician
Joint Data Center	Velma Mukoro	Fellow
The Joint IDP Profiling Service (JIPS)	Corina Demottaz	Head of Knowledge Sharing & Communications
John Carroll university	Tina Facca-Miess	Professor
Kenya Mission to the UN and other international organizations in Geneva	Veronica Waeni NZIOKI	Diplomat

Los Andes	Andres Moya	Associate Professor
Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Denmark	Katrine Siig Kristensen	Chief Adviser
National Institute of Educational Planning and Administration (NIEPA)	Anugula Reddy	
Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs (NL MFA)	Ana Uzelac	
Nordic Consulting Group	Niels Harild	Policy expert, forced displacement and development
The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)	Jens Hesemann	Senior Policy Advisor
Open Society Foundations	Michael Paller	Associate Director, Refugee Protection
U.S. Department of State, Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (PRM)	Ellen Lee	Policy Officer
RefugePoint	Amy Gray	Associate Director MEL
Robert Bosch Stiftung	Anisha Schwille	Project Manager Migration
SIDA	Ingela Norberg	Specialist in Migration and development
World Bank	Ella Humphry	Education Specialist
World Bank	Imran Ali	Sr. Operations Officer
World Bank	Johan Mistiaen	Practice Manager
World Bank	Marc Navelet	Senior Transport Specialist
World Bank	Takaaki Masaki	Economist
Trinity College Dublin	Laura Muñoz Blanco	PhD Candidate

U.S. Department of State, Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (PRM)	Anna Nicol	Policy Officer
U.S. Department of State, Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (PRM)	Paula Lynch	Director, Policy & Resource Planning (PRM/PRP)
UGANDA EMBASSY	Olga Adnette Muzungu	Third Secretary
UIUC NCSA	Yifang Zhang	Data Analyst
UN OCHA	Sugi Kim	Partnerships officer
UNDP	Catherine Osborn	Programme Specialist
UNHCR	Aina Saetre	Statistics and Data Analysis Officer
UNHCR	Alessandro Nava	Economist
UNHCR	Ana Carolina Dantas	Associate Protection Officer (GCR Coordination and GAIN Secretariat)
UNHCR	Anna Korneeva	PSP Officer
UNHCR	Anna Rudycheva	Temporary Assistance
UNHCR	Betsy Lippman	Chief of Section for Development Partnerships, Analytics and Research
UNHCR	Carolina Ferrari	Assistant Statistics and Data Analysis Officer
UNHCR	Charles B. Alemi	Economist
UNHCR	CONOVALI Irina	Chief of Norms & Standards Sec
UNHCR	Dante Sanchez	Data Scientist
UNHCR	Dominique Hyde	Director of DER

UNHCR	Fabiana Pineda	Statistics Project Coordination Intern, EGRISS
UNHCR	Gady Saiovici	Senior Statistics and Data Analysis Officer
UNHCR	Gina Kosmidou-Bradley	Economist
UNHCR	Jacqueline Strecker	Education Officer
UNHCR	Jedediah Fix	Economists
UNHCR	Marguerite Duponchel	Senior Development Officer
UNHCR	Mohammed Masud Rahman	Economist
UNHCR	Nicolas Fasel	Senior Statistician
UNHCR	Nikolas Pirani	Associate Economist
UNHCR	Paul Absalon	Senior Development Officer
UNHCR	Rakesh Gupta Nichanametla	Economist
UNHCR	Sajjad Malik	Director, Division of Resilience and Solutions
UNHCR	Tarek Abou Chabake	Chief Statistician
UNHCR	Teresa Talo'	Economist
UNHCR	Theresa Beltramo	Senior Economist
UNHCR	Elia Meschin	
UNICEF	Danzhen You	Senior Advisor
UNICEF	Estrella Lajom	IDAC Coordinator
UNICEF	Jan Beise	Statistics Specialist
University of Essex	GS Gilbert	Professor of Law

University of Illinois	Aiman Soliman	Research Assistant Professor
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign	Alejandro Montoya	PhD Student
University of Perugia	michela gnaldi	Associate professor
World Food Program (WFP)	Caroline Legros	Deputy Director
World Food Program (WFP)	Maria BALCAZAR	Logistics Officer
World Food Program (WFP)	Mrangaye DJINDIGUINAN	Logistics Assistant
World Bank	Abril Rios	Consultant
World Bank	Alfredo Manfredini Bohm	
World Bank	Annabelle Vinois	Senior Operations Officer
World Bank	Caroline Sergeant	Consultant
World Bank	Chu Anh	Analyst
World Bank	Dina Abu-Ghaida	Lead Economist
World Bank	Emma Cameron	Consultant
World Bank	Facundo Cuevas	
World Bank	I Lee	
World Bank	Irina Galimova	Operations Analyst
World Bank	Lucia Hanmer	Lead Economist
World Bank	Noah Yarrow	Sr Education Specialist
World Bank	Patrick Muthui	Consultant
World bank	Sandra Rozo	Research Economist



World Bank	Soukeyna Kane	Director, Fragility, Conflict & Violence
World Bank	Thomas Djurhuus	Partnership Advisor
World Bank	Catalina Quintero	Senior Consultant and Technical Lead on ECD in FCV environments
World Bank	Paola Elice	Impact Evaluation Specialist
World Bank	Diego Luna Bazaldua	Education Specialist
	Ana Beatrice Vasquez	
	Angela Lyons	
	Sassou David-Anthonie Damessi Akollor	