



The World Bank-UNHCR Joint Data Center on Forced Displacement

In Review

Since the creation of the JDC, UNHCR has strengthened its own role as a data-driven organization through its Data Transformation Strategy, and the World Bank has extended some of its surveys and assessments to include forcibly displaced populations.

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Since February last year, more than eight million refugees have fled Ukraine; now the largest refugee crisis since the Second World War. Over the same period, more than one million Venezuelans have claimed asylum, and over 211,000 have been recognized as refugees. As we face new forced displacements, others continue, leaving over one hundred million people forced to flee. These events make the work of the World Bank-UNHCR Joint Data Center on Forced Displacement (JDC) more relevant than ever.

The JDC was established in late 2019 to help change the collective approach to forced displacement to a bigger and broader one that lasts longer, matching the scale of the challenge. This requires a different model, one that recognizes protracted displacement as part of an interconnected web of socioeconomic issues. A model that is driven by evidence-informed decisions that are based on robust data. As we look back on the past four years, an observable improvement has occurred in this approach.

Since the creation of the JDC, UNHCR has strengthened its own role as a data-driven organization through its [Data Transformation Strategy](#), and the World Bank has extended some of its surveys and assessments to include forcibly displaced populations. Last December, the [High Commissioner's Dialogue on Protection Challenges](#) focused on the theme of development cooperation, highlighting the JDC's value as a curator and source of high-quality socioeconomic data and evidence.

That the [World Development Report 2023](#) focuses on migrants and refugees is further testament that the challenge of forced displacement is at the core of the global development agenda, including the data challenge. Ahead of the 2023 [Global Refugee Forum](#), this report is important recognition of the development community's commitment to leave no one behind, and further evidence of the changing collective response of humanitarian and development partners.

Beyond the direct support to the World Bank and UNHCR, the JDC has worked hard, so that refugees, internally displaced and stateless people are included in national statistics. Censuses and household surveys that include the forcibly displaced produce data that can help governments and humanitarian and development partners create policies and programs that can profoundly affect the lives of these people.

At the end of 2023, when the JDC concludes its first phase, the sum of our efforts will have increased the quality, quantity and accessibility of socioeconomic data on those forced to flee, and their hosts. Although this creates a clearer picture of the situation of forced displacement, our improved understanding also makes the gaps in the data even more apparent; a reminder that there is still work to be done.




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Highlights

 UNHCR Forced Displacement Survey

 Data Collection ongoing

 Data Collection and analysis

 Data Collection

 Census

 Analysis



Colombia: Encuesta Pulso de la Migración (EPM)

In Colombia, the JDC supported the implementation of [Pulso Migratorio surveys](#) aiming to generate precise information for the design, monitoring, and evaluation of policies for Venezuelans living in Colombia. These surveys expanded on the existing household survey in Colombia (Gran Encuesta Integrate de Hogeres) to obtain information on the Venezuelan population about the impact that the COVID pandemic had had on their socioeconomic situation. The third and fourth waves of the survey were completed in 2022 and key findings published in an online dashboard [Dane Información Para Todos](#).



Burkina Faso: COVID-19 Impact monitoring: Internally displaced persons

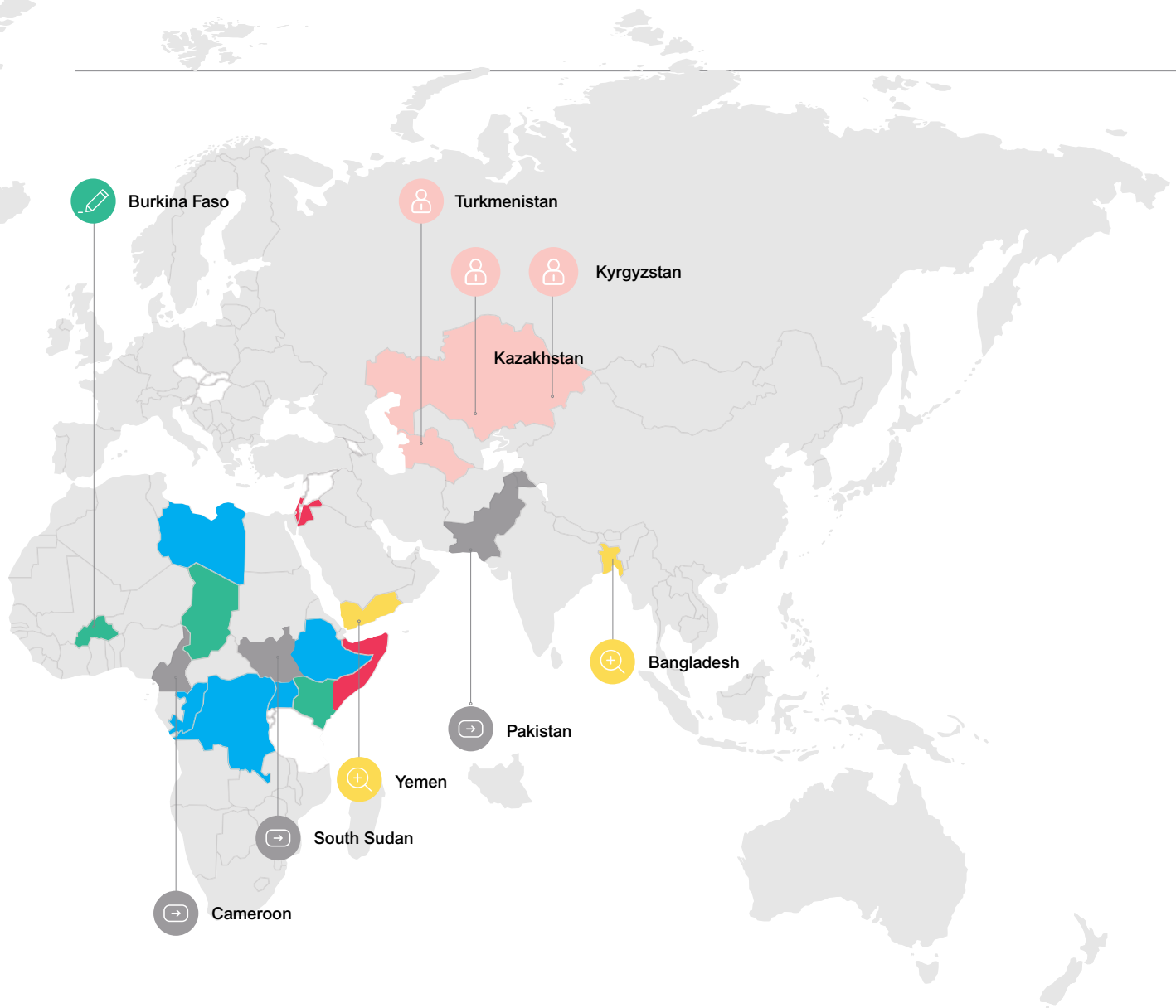
The third and final round of High Frequency Phone Surveys on IDPs in Burkina Faso, which was conducted between June 28 and July 20, 2021, found that:

- One in three IDPs skipped meals regularly - a rate three times higher than the national average.
- Employment rates steadily improved for IDP and national households, particularly in rural areas, from 52.2 percent in May to 72.1 percent in July for IDPs, probably due to the start of the planting season.



Cameroon, Pakistan and South Sudan: UNHCR Forced Displacement Survey

The JDC has been playing a leading role in the design and implementation of UNHCR's Forced Displacement Survey (FDS) – a first-of-its-kind survey series designed to be statistically representative of displaced populations residing in those countries. Together with governments and development partners, UNHCR has been piloting the FDS in three countries – Cameroon, Pakistan and South Sudan – with the JDC's support. In 2022, the team undertook inception missions to three pilot countries to consult government and other stakeholders, and provide technical assistance on sampling strategies, questionnaire design and procurement. Data collected through these surveys will provide critical information on the socioeconomic challenges that displaced populations face and serve as an asset to guide future policy responses.



Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Turkmenistan: Inclusion of Stateless People in National Population Censuses

The JDC provided technical and financial support to include stateless people in national censuses in these three countries. This consisted of two main components. First, improving the capacity and technical infrastructure of the NSOs, and training census enumerators on citizenship status and statelessness. Second, conducting information campaigns that increase public awareness of stateless persons and encourage their participation in censuses. Census in all three countries took place successfully in 2022.



Bangladesh: Status of Employment and Labor in Cox's Bazar

Three rounds of phone surveys, built on the Cox's Bazar Panel Survey, found that:

- The labor market in the camps faces increasing supply-side pressure as labor force participation has doubled since 2019 (from 33 percent to 61 percent)
- Even though labor force participation and unemployment are rising, the percentage of employed Rohingya refugees (as a share of working-age population) is close to the pre-pandemic level.
- Hours of engagement and the nature of the activities indicate that the recovery is occurring in parallel with the re-opening of humanitarian operations.

Baseline data was collected in March-August 2019 and the third round of phone surveys completed in August 2021.



Yemen: Monitoring food insecurity and employment

A food insecurity and livelihoods survey conducted between August and September 2022 found that:

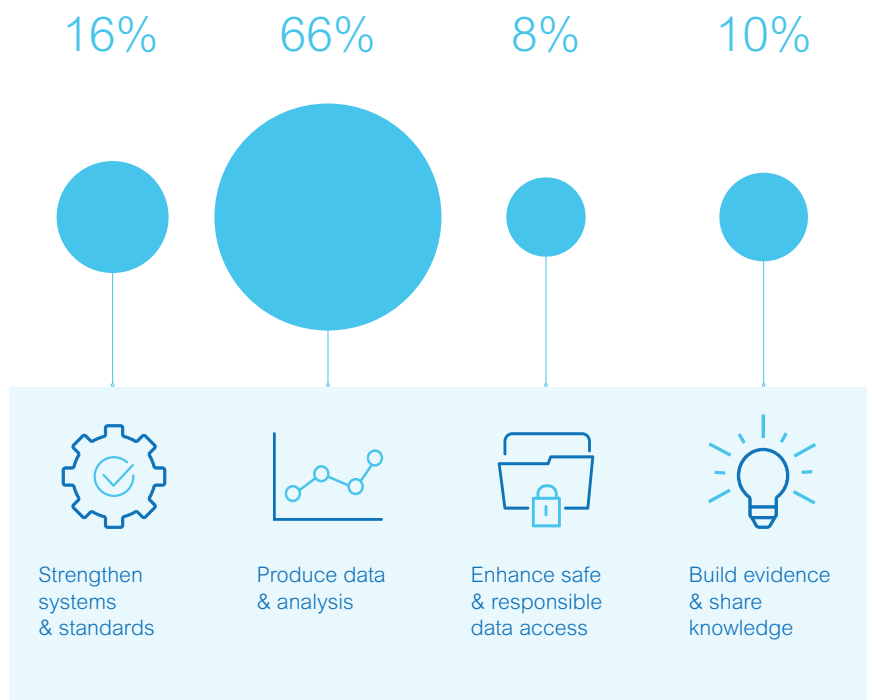
- Roughly a quarter of households were currently displaced and only 16 percent of households that were previously displaced had returned to where they resided before the conflict.
- Respondents from displaced households are more likely to have occasional jobs compared to those from households that are not displaced. Displaced households are also more likely to have poor food consumption (30 percent) compared to households that are not displaced (23 percent).

JDC Strategy

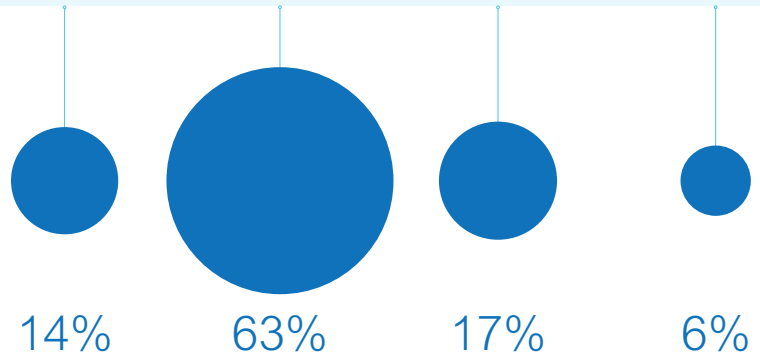
The JDC has four strategic objectives against which it measures progress:

1. Strengthening standards and systems for the inclusion of forcibly displaced people in national statistics
2. Producing data and analysis
3. Enhancing responsible data access
4. Building evidence and sharing knowledge.

Activities by objective 2020-2023



Budget per objective



Strengthening Systems and Standards



Innovative Tools & Methods

The Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) has not had a census since 1984. Excluded by a dated sampling frame, most displaced people – refugees and internally displaced – are invisible in national statistics. The JDC has supported the development of an innovative sampling tool for a socioeconomic survey of IDPs, returnees, and host communities in the Grand Kasai, DRC, an area that has had multiple displacements, and is home to returnees and IDPs. This tool has been applied to situations where sampling frames are absent or outdated to ensure that forcibly displaced populations are captured in the data. The quality of existing sampling frames in many fragile, violent or conflict-ridden countries that host a significant population of forcibly displaced people are often questionable as they are not current, comprehensive or sufficiently informative of the target population. The tool is an open-source application that provides data collectors with user-friendly, advanced sampling approaches, with minimal programming skills required.

Collecting high-quality, comparable data is only possible with clear definitions, robust standards and rigorous methodology. This is particularly true of statistics on refugees, internally displaced (IDP) and stateless people, who have been largely excluded from national statistical systems. The JDC has invested in developing and implementing data standards and systems that transform the foundation of systems that produce data on forcibly displaced populations.

Statelessness

To this day, little is known about the scale of the world's stateless population due, in part, to a lack of statistical standards and methodologies on stateless people. This is something that the JDC addresses through its support to the [Expert Group on Refugee, IDP and Statelessness Statistics \(EGRISS\)](#). In 2021, the [UN Statistical Commission](#) decided to include statelessness statistics into EGRISS' mandate and so, with financial and technical support from the JDC, EGRISS developed a third set of international recommendations the following year that focus on statelessness statistics. The International Recommendations on Statelessness Statistics (IROSS) aim to standardize statistics by providing clear definitions of statelessness and by stipulating the data sources that can be used in national systems. The UN Statistical Division organized a global consultation on the IROSS draft in November 2022, inviting all national statistical offices (NSOs) of UN Member States. In March 2023, the recommendations were endorsed by the UN Statistical Commission.

Refugees & Internally Displaced People

With financial and technical contributions from the JDC, EGRISS has advocated for, and supported the implementation of, international recommendations on [refugee \(IRRS\)](#) and [IDP \(IRIS\)](#) statistics. EGRISS was active in identifying and resolving gaps in the statistical frameworks set out in IRRS and IRIS.

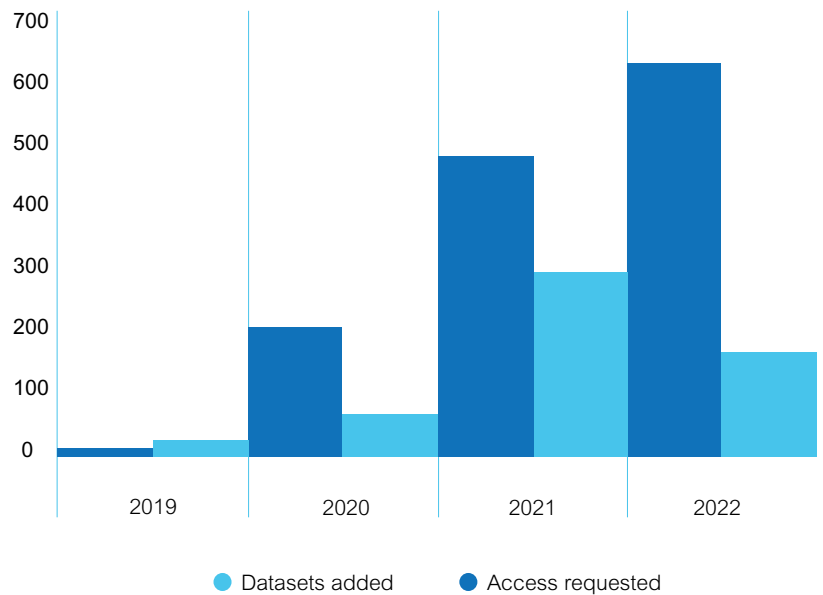
The JDC has developed UNHCR’s capacity to process and disseminate microdata on forcibly displaced people in a safe and responsible way resulting in over 600 datasets available on the UNHCR Microdata Library (MDL).



Enhancing Responsible Data Access

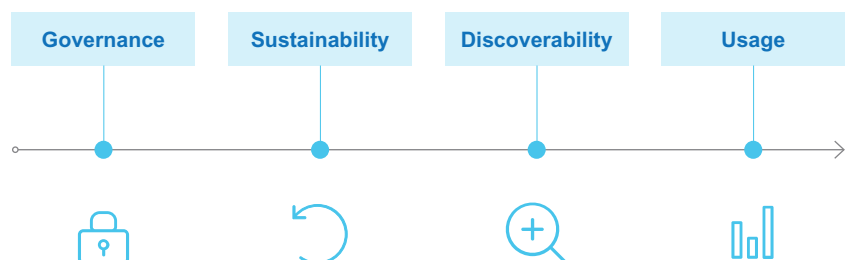
It is important that our key stakeholders – governments, development and humanitarian partners, the research community – can access data without jeopardizing the safety of the people of concern. The JDC has developed UNHCR’s capacity to process and disseminate microdata on forcibly displaced people in a safe and responsible way resulting in over 600 datasets available on the [UNHCR Microdata Library \(MDL\)](#).

Datasets added & Access requested



2021 registered the largest increase in the number of new datasets because many historical datasets collected before 2021 were finally added to UNHCR MDL in that year.

To enable UNHCR to release data on forcibly displaced people that can be used by practitioners across the development and humanitarian communities, data goes on a journey through four stages which are supported by the JDC:



Since 2010, the amount of research on forced displacement produced by economists or other quantitative-oriented scholars has increased dramatically.



Building Evidence and Sharing Knowledge

Until recently, quantitative literature on forced displacement was limited, with the majority of academic research confined to disciplines such as legal studies or anthropology.

However, since 2010, the amount of research on forced displacement produced by economists or other quantitative-oriented scholars has increased dramatically. This trend has accelerated since 2020, as data on forcibly displaced people became increasingly available through sources such as the World Bank and UNHCR Microdata Libraries, and in geographic areas where research was often neglected.

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Literature Review Updates

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Research Conferences

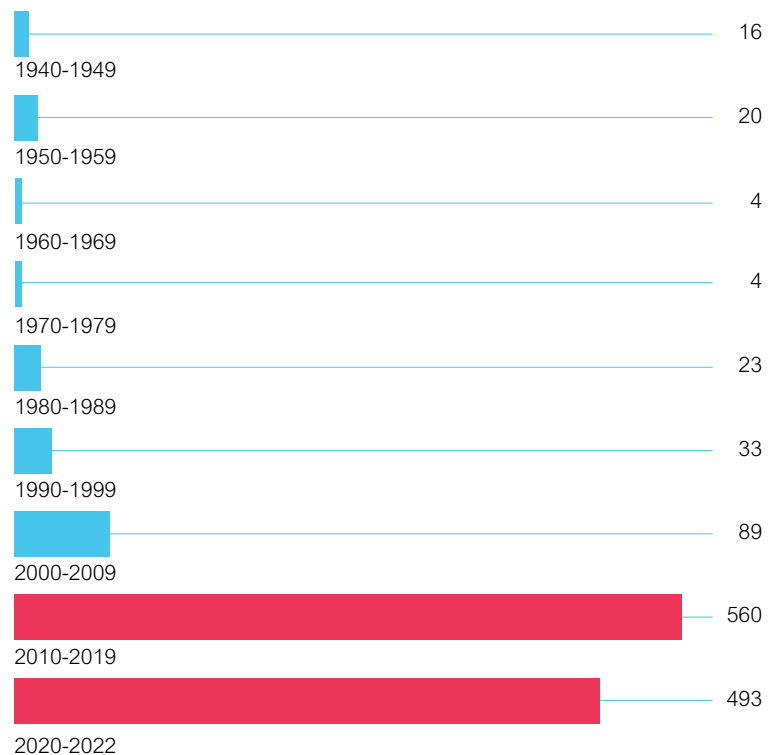
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Blogs

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Digest



Papers published on Forced Displacement in Economics



JDC Work Program

			
Objective	Activity	Start	End
Strengthening data systems and standards 	Implementing and refining statistical standards on refugee and IDP statistics	2019	2023
	Developing statistical standards on statelessness	2020	2023
	Improving the quality of survey data on forcibly displaced populations.	2020	2023
	Making forcibly displaced people visible in the SDG indicators	2021	2023
	Supporting UNHCR's creation of an integrated and standardized "flagship" global survey series	2021	2023
	Expanding statistical methods and tools on forced displacement	2020	2023
	Exploring innovative methods to strengthen data	2020	2023
	Automated Text Analytics for the Joint Data Center on Forced Displacement	2020	2023
	Filling information gaps on forcibly displaced populations geospatial data	2020	2023
	Strengthening UNHCR's capacity at country level to use socio-economic data and evidence	2019	2023
Producing data and analysis 	Central African Republic: IDP survey as part of the 2021 Harmonized Living Conditions Survey	2020	2023
	Ethiopia: Including refugees in a national socio economic household survey	2020	2023
	Kenya: Household Survey with refugee and host communities in Nairobi	2020	2023
	Somalia: Rapid monitoring of socio-economic conditions for forcibly displaced people	2021	2023
	Regional: Venezuelan Crisis: Regional data collection and analysis on Venezuelan refugee-like population	2020	2023
	Chile: Venezuelan Crisis: Regional data collection and analysis on Venezuelan refugee-like population	2020	2023
	Peru: Venezuelan Crisis: Regional data collection and analysis on Venezuelan refugee-like population	2020	2023
	Colombia: Venezuelan Crisis: Regional data collection and analysis on Venezuelan refugee-like population	2020	2023

Objective	Activity	Start	End
	Ecuador: Venezuelan Crisis: Regional data collection and analysis on Venezuelan refugee-like population	2020	2023
	Yemen: Forced Displacement Monitoring Systems	2020	2023
	Bangladesh: Cox's Bazar Humanitarian Development Statistics Center/ Analytical Program	2020	2023
	DRC: Crisis Observatory and Household-Forced Displacement Survey in Eastern DRC	2020	2023
	Burkina Faso: Integrating forcibly displaced populations into Covid-19 High Frequency Phone Survey	2020	2023
	Chad: Integrating forcibly displaced populations into Covid-19 High Frequency Phone Surveys	2020	2023
	Djibouti: Integrating Forcibly Displaced Populations into Covid-19 High Frequency Phone Surveys	2020	2023
	Jordan: Integrating Syrian forcibly displaced populations into Covid-19 High Frequency Phone Surveys Covid-19 Analytics	2020	2023
	Türkiye: Agricultural labor market and socioeconomic status for Refugees and Turkish Citizens: Baseline Data Collection for Impact Evaluation	2022	2023
	Honduras: Tracking progress towards durable solutions to internal displacement in Honduras in the context of the International Recommendations on IDP Statistics (IRIS)	2021	2023
	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)	2021	2023
	Libya: Socio economic survey of refugees and migrants in Libya	2021	2023
	DRC: Socio economic survey in the Grand Kasaï, DRC: Focus on IDPs, returnees and host communities	2021	2023

Objective	Activity	Start	End
	Republic of Congo (ROC): Impact evaluation of a disintegrated safety net for refugees and host communities in the north of the Republic of Congo	2021	2023
	Malaysia: Comparative baseline study of livelihoods of refugees and comparable host communities in Malaysia	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.	2021	2023
	Cameroon, Pakistan, South Sudan: Pilot surveys for UNHCR's new flagship survey program	2021	2023
	Colombia: Support to IRIS Implementation in Colombia	2022	2023
	Uganda: Refugee inclusion in the Demographic Health Survey	2022	2023
Enhancing safe and responsible data access 	Integrated platform for aggregated statistics on forced displacement	2022	2023
	Supporting the development and operation of Microdata Libraries at UNHCR and the World Bank	2020	2023
	Compiling and curating UNHCR's datasets for the UNHCR Microdata Library	2019	2023
	Enhancing microdata accessibility to improve policy and response in forced displacement situations	2020	2023
Build evidence and share knowledge 	Developing methodologies for measuring the impact of hosting, protecting and assisting refugees	2020	2023
	Developing World Refugee and Asylum Policy (DWRAP) Online Data Platform	2021	2023
	JDC Knowledge Agenda	2023	TBD
	Knowledge sharing activities of the JDC: Disseminating evidence and data on those forcibly displaced	2019	2023
	Knowledge Sharing activities of the JDC: Fellowship programs	2020	2023

Lessons Learned

Despite significant progress across the four strategic objectives, the challenges and obstacles that have been encountered through the course of the JDC's work have imparted several lessons on how to cope with unexpected events and risks namely:



Timely implementation entails commitment and engagement.



Working with National Statistical Offices and building their capacity is fundamental to delivering data that is sustainable, scalable, comparable, and which governments trust.



More work needs to be done to put EGRISS international recommendations into action.



Production of data does not translate into operational and policy impact without effective engagement and dissemination.



There is still significant potential to develop and use innovative tools and methods to improve the quality, production and dissemination of data on forced displacement.



Focus needs to be on scale and sustainability.

2022 marked the fruition of many activities that the JDC has supported over the past three years. Despite this, persistent data and evidence gaps remain. This calls for continued investment and technical leadership to fill them. Therefore, it is critical that the JDC takes stock of what has been achieved and uses key lessons to inform its future strategy. To this end, the JDC's Mid-Term Review was commissioned by the Management Committee in early 2022. The purpose of the review is to ensure that the JDC's work remains relevant by assessing its mission and objectives, as well as the effectiveness of its organizational structure and business model. Due for completion early in 2023, the review will also provide a set of actionable recommendations to inform JDC's work in 2024-27.

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