



Joint Data Center on Forced  
Displacement  
**Annual report 2025**

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[Link to the JDC Annual Report 2025 Microsite](#)

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# Foreword

By the close of 2025, close to 120 million people worldwide remained forcibly displaced, a reality that continues to shape lives, strain communities, and test limits of humanitarian and development systems alike. What has also shifted, and markedly so, is the environment in which governments (including those hosting refugees) and their partners are working to respond: financing is tighter, political headwinds are stronger, and the pressure to demonstrate impact has never been greater.

The Global Refugee Forum Progress Review in December 2025 brought these tensions into sharp relief. It also reaffirmed that good data is not a luxury. When resources are scarce, the quality of decisions matters even more—and decisions are only as good as the evidence behind them.

That conviction drives this work. Since its inception in 2019, data generated with JDC support has contributed to development programming and policy making across multiple countries. In effect, this means investments in education, health, livelihoods, and infrastructure for displaced people and the communities that receive them—investments that, without reliable socioeconomic data, would be far harder to justify or target effectively.

Beyond financing, the JDC's work has contributed to a more comprehensive understanding of the full spectrum of forced displacement—refugees and internally displaced persons (IDPs) alike—among governments and their partners. In Honduras, the continued inclusion of IDPs in the national household survey—now sustained without external financing—demonstrates what genuine national ownership of IDP data looks like in practice. In Sudan, the expansion of the Sudan Welfare Monitoring Survey to include both IDPs and refugees generated new socioeconomic evidence to support assistance prioritization in one of the world's most fragile and evolving displacement contexts.

The influence on policy has been equally tangible. In Moldova, findings on barriers to refugee employment fed directly into the national refugee response plan and opened new conversations about improving labor market inclusion. In Peru, data on poverty dynamics among Venezuelan refugees gave policymakers a clearer picture of what socioeconomic integration requires in practice. Taken together, these results reflect the value of evidence that is not only rigorous, but actionable: informing the decisions and investments that matter most.

Looking ahead, this partnership has an important role to play in supporting broader ambitions for change. UNHCR's new High Commissioner has set a clear goal: to halve the number of refugees in protracted situations who remain dependent on humanitarian assistance over the next decade. Realizing that vision requires sustained investment in understanding the socioeconomic realities of displaced people.

This is precisely what the JDC exists to do, and it aligns closely with the World Bank Group's refreshed approach to fragility and conflict-affected settings, where timely data, tailored responses, and a shared commitment to economic opportunity are recognized as essential to lasting progress.

With continued support from partners and stakeholders, the JDC will advance its 2024–2027 Strategy in step with these priorities: deepening national data systems, addressing critical evidence gaps, and helping ensure that governments and partners have the information they need to respond to forced displacement in ways that are effective, inclusive, and built to last.

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# Acknowledgements

The JDC would like to thank the individuals, organizations, governments, and national statistical offices that collaborated with, and supported, the Center in achieving its objectives in 2025, particularly guidance provided by the JDC Management Committee and the Partnership Forum.

The JDC also extends its appreciation to its partners for their generous financial contributions and steadfast support in 2025: the Government of Denmark, represented by the Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs; the European Union, represented by the Directorate-General for International Partnerships at the European Commission; the United States Government, represented by the United States Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration; and the Conrad N. Hilton Foundation.

## Acronyms

<b>AI</b>	Artificial Intelligence
<b>EGRIS</b>	Expert Group on Refugee, Internally Displaced Persons and Statelessness Statistics
<b>EPHPM</b>	Encuesta Permanente de Hogares de Propósitos Múltiples (Permanent Multipurpose Household Survey)
<b>FDPs</b>	Forcibly Displaced Persons
<b>IDPs</b>	Internally Displaced Persons
<b>ILO</b>	International Labour Organization
<b>JDC</b>	World Bank–UNHCR Joint Data Center on Forced Displacement
<b>MICS</b>	Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey
<b>NSO</b>	National Statistical Office
<b>UNFPA</b>	United Nations Population Fund
<b>UNHCR</b>	United Nations Refugee Agency
<b>UNICEF</b>	United Nations Children’s Fund
<b>UNOSAT</b>	United Nations Satellite Centre

# Executive Summary

Global displacement is approaching 120 million, intensifying pressure on governments and partners to move beyond short-term responses. High-quality, timely data on forcibly displaced people (FDPs) are now essential for shaping sustainable, development-oriented solutions and reducing long-term aid dependency.

Evidence is driving better outcomes. Countries with robust displacement data are better able to access development financing, strengthen national systems, mobilize domestic resources, and attract private investment. Where data are lacking, responses remain fragmented and reliant on parallel structures.

The Joint Data Center (JDC) plays a central role in this shift by helping countries integrate displacement into national statistical systems. Embedding displacement into routine data operations enables governments to assess needs across populations and make more informed planning, policy, and investment decisions.

At the midpoint of its 2024–2027 Strategy, the JDC's impact is clear. Since 2021, JDC-supported data and analysis have contributed to national development programs totaling US\$4.7 billion across multiple countries. In 2025, the number of national statistical systems explicitly including FDPs rose from 18 to 25, and publicly accessible, and representative, datasets increased by over 40 percent—substantially strengthening the evidence base.

Country momentum is growing. Honduras continues to include internally displaced persons (IDPs) in national surveys without external financing, reflecting a shift toward more sustainable statistical practice.

In 2025, Malawi, Mauritania, and Kenya integrated refugees into national survey operations, expanding the data available to guide inclusive planning.

Where national systems are still evolving, targeted data and analysis are informing policy decisions. Recent work has shaped labor market inclusion discussions in Moldova, poverty-focused planning in Peru, and assistance prioritization in Sudan.

Global standards and innovation are further improving the quality and reach of displacement data. The Expert Group on Refugee, Internally Displaced Persons and Statelessness Statistics (EGRIS) recommendations are guiding countries on integrating displacement into official statistics, while partnerships with Google Research and the United Nations Satellite Centre (UNOSAT) are advancing AI-enabled methods in access-constrained settings. Privacy-preserving approaches are expanding secure data access for analysis.

Together, these developments reflect a broader shift: government-led displacement data systems are becoming part of routine statistical practice. As more countries embed displacement into national systems, responses are becoming more evidence-driven—supporting more inclusive, efficient, and longer-term solutions for displaced people and host communities.

# Strategic Progress in 2025



## Evidence Informing Policy and Programs

- **Data generated with JDC support** are shaping how policies, programs, and investments are designed and delivered. **Since 2021**, they have contributed to **US\$4.7 billion in national development programs** across eight countries—supporting investments in education, health, livelihoods, and infrastructure—strengthening national systems that serve both displaced people and host communities and that can continue over time.
- Access to data continues to expand. A total of **314 publicly accessible, and representative,<sup>1</sup> datasets** are now available through the [World Bank](#) and [UNHCR microdata libraries](#), a 42 percent increase since 2022. As this evidence base grows, it is enabling deeper socioeconomic analysis and more informed policy.
- Country experiences show how **socioeconomic data are being used** in practice.
  - In **Moldova**, analysis of barriers to refugee employment, drawing on UNHCR-supported socioeconomic assessments, fed into the national refugee response plan and helped shape discussions on economic integration.

- In Malaysia, the HARMONY Survey produced the first systematic comparison of refugee and host community households, covering poverty, livelihoods, and human capital outcomes. The results have strengthened the evidence base for policy dialogue on economic participation—particularly relevant in a middle-income context where refugees have limited formal legal status.



## Expanding and Institutionalizing Inclusion in National Statistics

- **Twenty-five national statistical systems** now explicitly include **FDPs**, up from 18 in 2024. As a result, governments and partners have a clearer understanding of how displaced people are living—their incomes, employment, and access to services—and can bring that evidence directly into planning, budgets, and policy decisions.
- **Inclusion is becoming part of routine statistical practice.** In Honduras, IDPs continue to be included in the national household survey without external financing. What began as a supported effort is now embedded in routine data collection, an indication of growing national ownership.
- **International standards are reinforcing this shift.** Recommendations developed through EGRIS are increasingly guiding how countries integrate displacement into official statistics, improving consistency across contexts, and strengthening the basis for planning and investment.

The Forced Displacement Microdata [dashboard](#) lists publicly available datasets that have a representative sample of refugees or internally displaced people (IDP) by country, year, theme, and data producer, among others. The underlying methodology is presented in [this technical paper](#).



## Innovation and Methodological Advances

- **New methods are helping close long-standing data gaps.** Partnerships with Google Research and UNOSAT are using geospatial and machine-learning techniques to better identify displacement settlements, strengthen survey design, and enable data collection in areas where access is limited.
- At the same time, data are becoming **easier to use responsibly**. Synthetic data methods are expanding secure access while protecting confidentiality, allowing more stakeholders to work with displacement data and generate insights.
- On-going **methodological development is strengthening national systems**. These advances are supporting the integration of displaced populations into official survey programs, improving both coverage and comparability over time.



## Capacity Strengthening and Knowledge Transfer

- **National statistical offices (NSOs)** are increasingly able to **generate and use socioeconomic data** on displaced populations as part of their core operations. This **reflects sustained JDC support**, including on-the-job training, technical workshops, and investing in peer-to-peer capacity in regional statistical ecosystems, with impact in countries such as Honduras, Malawi, and Cameroon.

- **The pipeline of work continues to grow.** JDC-supported survey operations are underway in multiple contexts—including household surveys in Bangladesh, Kenya, Mali, Djibouti, Mozambique, South Sudan, and Yemen and a labor force survey in Mauritania—extending the availability of nationally representative data, with some including FDPs for the first time.
- **Data are being used more actively.** Workshops, datathons, and partnerships are bringing together governments, UNHCR, the World Bank, and development actors—helping to translate data into insights that inform policy, guide planning, and support operational decisions.

### What this means

Every dollar invested by the JDC helps unlock government capacity to produce and use data on FDPs. When displaced populations are included in surveys, they become visible in the evidence that shapes policy and investment decisions in favor of sustainable responses and long-term self-reliance. Innovation is also helping to reduce the cost of producing high-quality data and making it timely and more readily available.



Abel Noro fled his home in Bambouti, Central African Republic, with his two children after shelling killed his wife. They are now living in housing provided by local residents in Yubu, South Sudan.

© UNHCR / Reason Moses Rumyangga

## Sustaining Momentum Amid Global Headwinds



### Data Systems for Sustainable Responses

2025 was a year of compounding pressures. Global displacement was at an overwhelming figure of almost 120 million people, even as available resources fell sharply. Humanitarian assistance decreased by 9 percent in 2024<sup>2</sup>, the largest drop on record, and official development assistance (ODA) declined by a further 6 percent in real terms, from US\$223.3 billion in 2023 to US\$214.6 billion in 2024.<sup>3</sup> Analysis for 2025 is underway, with projections pointing to further significant reductions in assistance.<sup>4</sup>

Displacement has also become more prolonged. Approximately two-thirds of refugees—around 29 million people—have been displaced for five years or more, many for over a decade.

Protracted displacement of this scale doesn't just affect individuals; it reshapes the systems around them as host countries absorb growing demand on services, labor markets, and public finances.

Taken together, these trends expose the limits of traditional humanitarian response models. Short-term interventions cannot address displacement at this scale. More sustainable responses must be anchored in national institutions, supported by development financing, and guided by reliable data and evidence. The [Global Refugee Forum \(GRF\) Progress Review](#) in December 2025 underscored growing demand from governments and partners for reliable data and evidence that can inform policies and programs that address these pressures while supporting more sustainable solutions.

[2] OECD (Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development). 2025. *Cuts in Official Development Assistance: OECD Projections for 2025 and the Near Term*. OECD Policy Briefs No. 26. Paris: OECD Publishing. <https://doi.org/10.1787/8c530629-en>.

[3] OECD. 2025. *Final OECD statistics on ODA and other development finance flows in 2024: Key figures and trends*. OECD Data Explainers. <https://www.oecd.org/en/data/insights/data-explainers/2025/12/final-oecd-statistics-on-oda-and-other-development-finance-flows-in-2024-key-figures-and-trends.html> (accessed March 2026).

[4] OECD. 2025. *Cuts in Official Development Assistance: OECD Projections for 2025 and the Near Term*. OECD Policy Briefs No. 26. Paris: OECD Publishing. <https://doi.org/10.1787/8c530629-en>.



Bidibidi is the largest refugee settlement in Uganda and home to close to 210,000 refugees, most of whom fled conflict in neighboring South Sudan.

Against this backdrop, the JDC stepped up its efforts in 2025 to advance the shift toward sustainable, nationally led responses. This included strengthening national statistical systems so countries can produce displacement data as part of their routine operations, alongside targeted data collection and timely analysis where evidence gaps remain or decisions cannot wait.

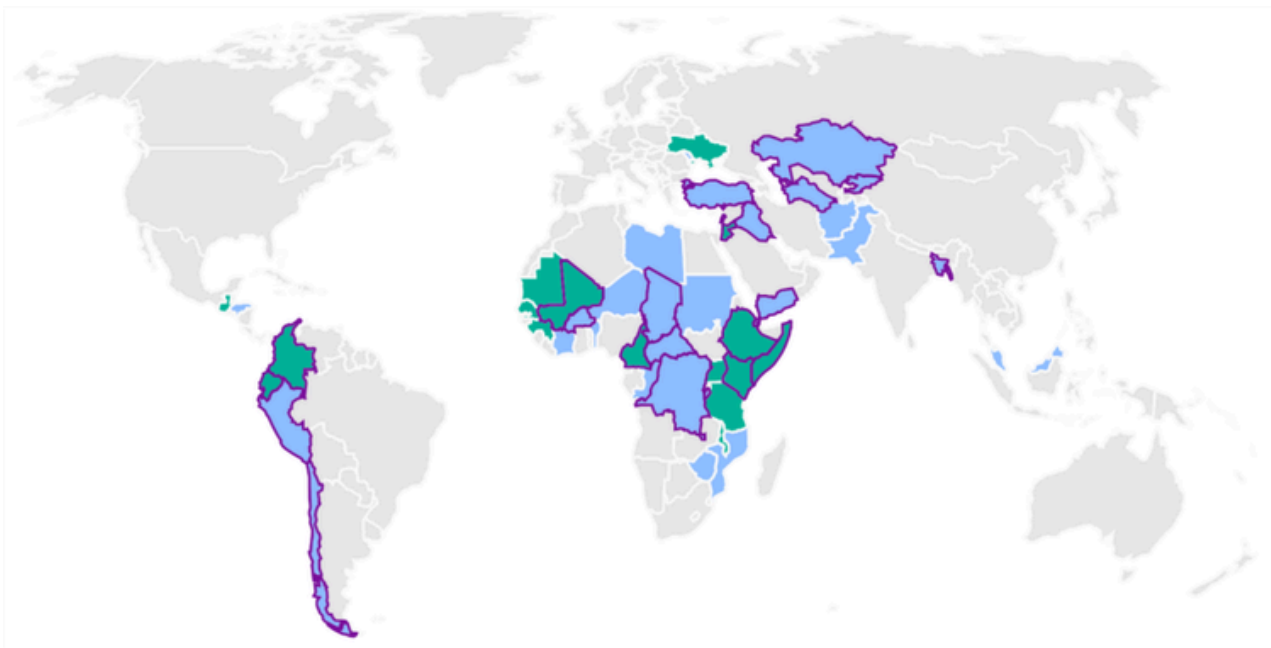
Progress is visible. In Uganda, the National Household Survey produced nationally representative data on refugees and host communities—bringing displaced people into the same evidence base used to guide national planning and investment. In Malawi, the inclusion of Dzaleka refugee camp in the Demographic and Health Survey made it possible to compare health and living conditions between refugees and the broader population for the first time—an important step to ensure decisions on services and resources are better aligned with people’s needs.

Targeted analysis is informing policy and planning. In Moldova, socioeconomic analysis identified barriers to refugee employment and informed response planning and discussions on labor market inclusion. In Peru, analysis of poverty dynamics among Venezuelan refugees gave policymakers a clearer picture of what socioeconomic inclusion requires in practice.

# Country and Regional Highlights

## Expanding the JDC Portfolio

■ At least one activity started in 2025    
 ■ At least one activity started before 2025    
  At least one activity completed



In 2025, under its 2024-2027 Strategy, the JDC expanded its country and regional portfolio to advance the inclusion of FDPs in national statistical systems and strengthen the production and use of policy-relevant socioeconomic data.

The JDC's second Call for Expressions of Interest, issued in May 2025, highlighted strong global demand for displacement data. The Call received 68 proposals from World Bank and UNHCR teams spanning 78 countries across all seven global regions. Together these proposals totaled US\$23.7 million against a funding envelope of US\$5 million.

Proposals were reviewed by the JDC against its strategic priorities and operational and policy opportunities, identified through consultations with World Bank and UNHCR leadership at global, regional, and country levels. Following a rigorous technical and strategic review, the JDC Management Committee approved 19 proposals totaling US\$4.7 million.



## Statistical Inclusion

### Anchoring Inclusion in National Systems

Statistical inclusion remains central to enabling more sustainable responses to forced displacement, particularly as displacement remains high, and resources are under increasing strain.

Guided by international statistical standards developed through EGRIS, the JDC continues to advance this agenda by supporting governments and NSOs—alongside partners including the ILO, UNFPA, UNICEF, UNHCR, and the World Bank—to treat displacement as a standard feature of national data collection, not as a one-off exercise, but as a routine part of household, labor force, and enterprise surveys.

### Institutionalizing Statistical Inclusion

Earlier investments are beginning to take hold within national systems. In Honduras, following JDC support to include IDPs in the Encuesta Permanente de Hogares de Propósitos Múltiples (EPHPM)—the Permanent Multipurpose Household Survey—they remain part of the 2025 round without additional external financing.

A similar pattern is emerging elsewhere. In the Central African Republic, displaced and stateless populations are now incorporated into additional statistical operations, including the national census and the forthcoming Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS).

These examples point to a gradual shift—from externally supported efforts to more routine practice within national systems.

Ahmed Al-Khlaf, a 27-year-old Syrian refugee from Raqqa, opened a small fruit and vegetable shop in Zataari camp's marketplace after he was displaced in 2015. The business has since grown, providing a steady income for him and his family.

© UNHCR/Hasan Abdallahs

## Expanding Inclusion Through National Surveys

At the same time, inclusion is being extended through new surveys. In Lebanon, the JDC supported a [sub-national MICS](#), implemented by the Central Administration of Statistics in partnership with UNICEF, that covered host communities, settlements of displaced Syrians, and Palestinian refugee camps, generating detailed information on the living conditions of children and women.

This makes it possible to compare outcomes across population groups and identify disparities—providing a clearer basis for government policy and planning and humanitarian programming in the context of protracted displacement.

A broader set of survey operations is underway, including household surveys in Kenya, Bangladesh, Mali, Djibouti, South Sudan, Yemen, and Mozambique, alongside a labor force survey in Mauritania.

In several of these cases, FDPs are being included in nationally representative surveys for the first time, marking a shift toward more systematic inclusion.

These surveys expand the availability of data on welfare and living standards. Implemented by NSOs, with technical support from the World Bank and UNHCR, they also help build capacity to integrate displacement into regular statistical production and generate decision-grade evidence.

## Advancing Statistical Inclusion Globally

The JDC also works through global partnerships to advance statistical inclusion. At the 2025 GRF, it highlighted the role of inclusion as a foundation for evidence-based refugee policy. As co-convenor of the Multistakeholder Pledge on Statistical Inclusion, launched as part of the [Global Compact on Refugees](#), the JDC reported on progress while underscoring the need for continued capacity building and sustained financing to advance this agenda.

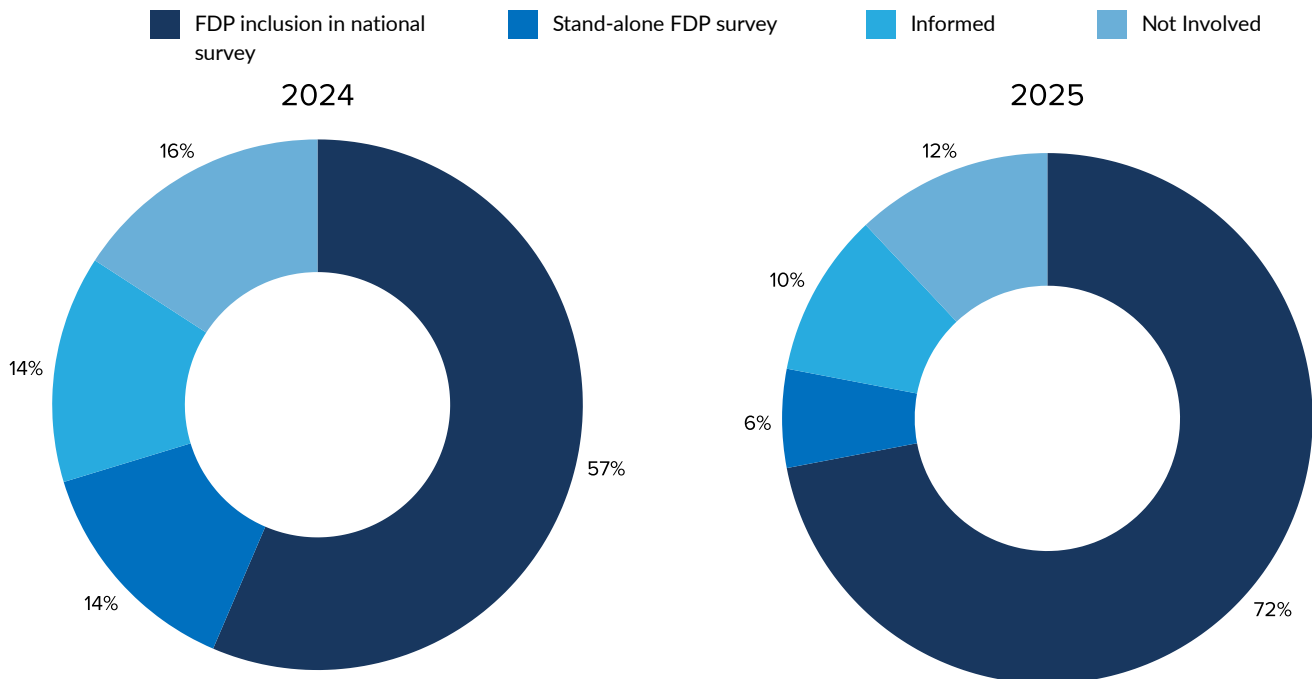


Wiam, an 11-year-old Syrian refugee, lives with her family in a shelter in Bekaa, south Lebanon, after fleeing conflict in Syria in 2014.

In 2025, the JDC continued its financial, technical, and strategic engagement with EGRIS, which plays a central role in advancing international statistical recommendations on displacement. It also contributed to efforts to improve the measurement of displacement in household surveys, including technical discussions with NSOs and international partners in Latin America at a workshop convened by the Inter-American Development Bank in Santiago de Chile.

Together, this work is strengthening collaboration across statistical systems and reinforcing the role of inclusion within the global data architecture on forced displacement.

**Figure 1. National Statistical Office Involvement in Surveys and Censuses**



## Targeted Data and Analysis for Policy and Operations

Alongside efforts to strengthen national statistical systems, the JDC continues to support the targeted production of high-quality data and timely analysis to inform policy dialogue and operational responses. In many displacement contexts, national systems are not yet able to capture rapidly evolving socioeconomic conditions at the pace required for decision making or when policy windows open. Targeted surveys and analytical work help address these gaps, ensuring evidence is available when needed.

This is reflected in Malaysia, where the Hosts and Refugees in the Malaysian Economy (HARMONY) Survey produced the first systematic comparison of refugee and host community households, generating detailed data on human capital, skills, and working conditions, and strengthening the evidence base for policy dialogue on economic participation.



© UNHCR/Samuel Otieno

In Nguenyyiel camp, Gambela, Ethiopia, farming supports livelihoods for both refugees and host communities.



Natalia fled Odesa, Ukraine, following the full-scale invasion by Russia, and is now living in refugee accommodation with her newborn and older child.

© UNHCR/Mark Macdonald



## Beyond Data Generation: Analysis and Use for Policy and Planning

In Moldova, analysis from the [Socioeconomic Assessment of Refugees and Host Communities](#) identified barriers to refugee employment, including language constraints and childcare responsibilities, with findings informing the 2025–2026 Refugee Response Plan and broader discussions on labor market inclusion.

Even in highly fragile contexts, this work remains both possible and necessary. In Sudan, the expansion of the [Sudan Welfare Monitoring Survey](#) to include refugees—alongside IDPs—has generated new evidence on socioeconomic conditions, supporting the prioritization of assistance in a rapidly evolving environment. Making [microdata publicly available](#) through the World Bank and UNHCR libraries also ensures that a wider set of users can access and apply the data to inform evidence-based decision-making.

Beyond generating data, the JDC supports the analysis and use of socioeconomic evidence to inform national planning, policy development, and investment decisions. Combining nationally representative datasets with targeted analytical work makes it possible to better understand how displaced and host populations are living—and, in turn, to shape more inclusive and effective responses.

This is reflected in Malawi, where the JDC supported the NSO, together with UNHCR and the World Bank, to integrate Dzaleka refugee camp into national survey programs, including the [Demographic and Health Survey](#) and the Integrated Household Survey. Results released in 2025 provide, for the first time, comparable evidence on health and living conditions across refugee and host communities—an important step toward more equitable planning and service delivery.

This work extends to Peru, where the JDC supported the National Institute of Statistics and Informatics to expand the Encuesta Nacional de Hogares (National Household Survey) to include Venezuelans living in the country. [Analysis released in December 2025](#) examined poverty dynamics among Venezuelans alongside the broader population, contributing to UNHCR’s multi-year planning and informing policy discussions among national authorities and development partners focused on socioeconomic inclusion.



In Arequipa, Peru, 40-year-old Venezuelan migrant María Gerarda works in a small, but expanding, dough business, run by a fellow Venezuelan entrepreneur.

In Uganda, these efforts have been anchored within the national statistical system. The Uganda Bureau of Statistics released the [Uganda National Household Survey 2025 report](#) with a dedicated chapter on refugees and host communities. With JDC support, refugees were included in the national sampling framework, generating nationally representative evidence on education, labor market outcomes, and living conditions.

This evidence provides a basis for policy dialogue and development investments on refugee inclusion, including programs financed through the [World Bank’s Window for Host Communities and Refugees](#).

## Advancing Inclusion Through Decision-Grade Data

<b>Lebanon</b>	<b>Evidence to monitor disparities across population groups</b>
<b>Malawi</b>	<b>Nationwide comparability between refugees and broader population</b>
<b>Malaysia</b>	<b>Policy-relevant data on refugee livelihoods and decent work</b>
<b>Moldova</b>	<b>Employment analysis informing the national response plan</b>
<b>Peru</b>	<b>Poverty analysis shaping planning for Venezuelan populations</b>
<b>Sudan</b>	<b>Socioeconomic data informing prioritization in a fragile context</b>
<b>Uganda</b>	<b>Nationally representative evidence supporting development investment</b>

# Global Partnerships and Data Innovation

Beyond its country-level engagement, the JDC continues to strengthen the broader ecosystem for displacement data—through partnerships, methodological advances, and efforts to improve how data are shared, connected and used. This work reflects a simple premise: better decisions depend not only on better data, but on the systems and collaboration that make that data usable.

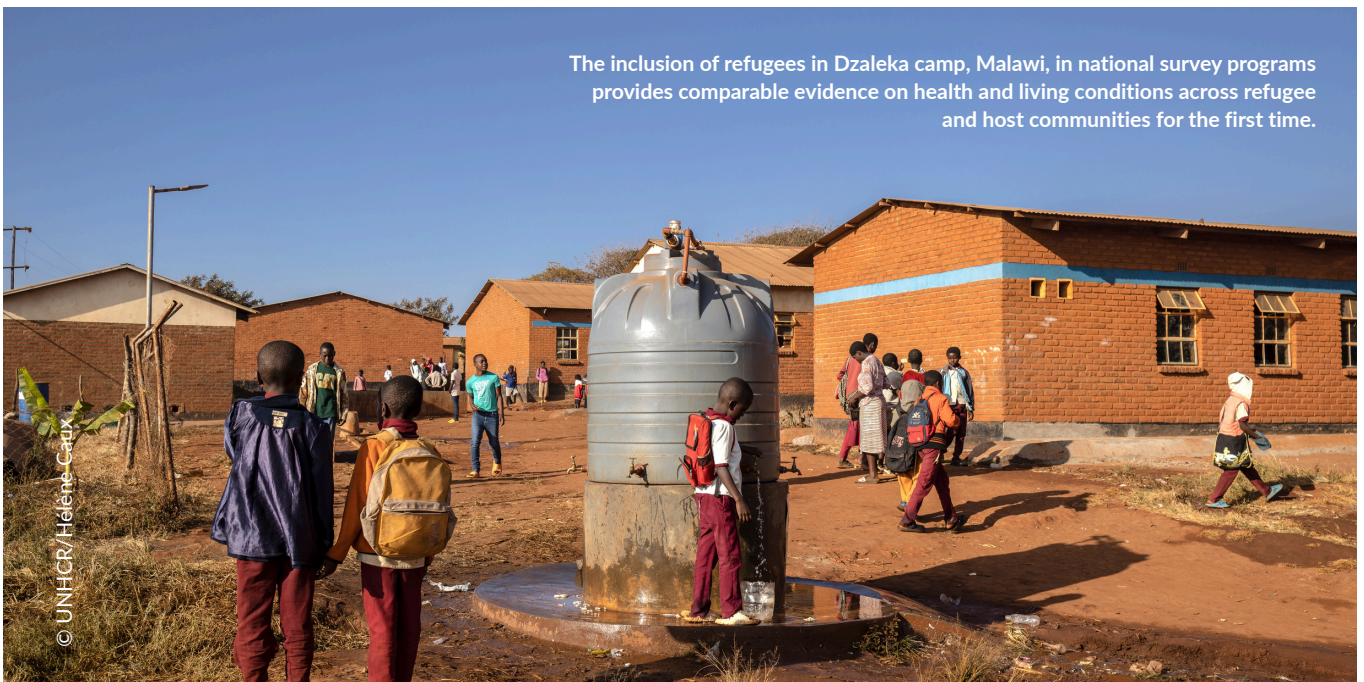
## Advancing Methods and Data Innovation

Efforts over the past year have focused on closing persistent gaps in how displacement is measured and understood. As part of this, the JDC has brought together operational teams, researchers, and technical partners to test new approaches

to data collection and analysis, particularly in contexts where traditional methods remain difficult to apply.

One area of progress has been the use of satellite imagery in displacement settings. Through partnerships facilitated by the JDC, UNHCR's Geoservices team worked with Google Research, UNOSAT, and the Data for Inclusive Societies and Humanitarian Action (DISHA) initiative to develop approaches for detecting shelters in satellite imagery. This work contributes to improving the availability of spatial data in hard-to-reach areas, where population figures are often difficult to obtain. In parallel, collaboration with the United Nations Secretary-General's Innovation Lab has explored how emerging technologies can support the analysis and use of displacement data in operational contexts.

The inclusion of refugees in Dzaleka camp, Malawi, in national survey programs provides comparable evidence on health and living conditions across refugee and host communities for the first time.



At the same time, the JDC has supported analytical work to better understand how displacement data are reflected in policy and planning processes. This has included exploring how tools such as large language models and synthetic data can be used to track references to displacement across policy documents, reports, and operational plans, providing insights into how evidence is taken up and where gaps remain. This work was presented at the International Conference on Learning Representations and forms part of the JDC's broader [Commit to Data initiative](#), launched at the United Nations World Data Forum.

Work in this area has also included support to UNHCR-led research on transfer learning methods, adapting existing machine learning models to forced displacement contexts. To strengthen this, the JDC convened a Technical Advisory Group bringing together World Bank researchers and academic partners. Engagement with the UN 2.0 Quintet of Change Data Strategy community of practice has further provided a platform to share lessons from the JDC's 2024–2027 Strategy, including advances in responsible microdata dissemination in displacement settings.

This focus on strengthening methods has extended to survey design and sampling. In collaboration with UNHCR's Forced Displacement Survey Team, the JDC supported the development of approaches capable of generating robust, nationally representative refugee samples in data-constrained environments—addressing a longstanding challenge in displacement data. Methodological advances from this work were presented at the European Survey Research Association conference. The JDC also facilitated data-sharing agreements between UNHCR and World Bank teams to support analytical work, including predictive analytics in Uganda and imputation work in Cameroon.

Taken together, these efforts highlight how partnerships across research, technology, and operational communities are expanding the tools available to improve both the quality of displacement data and the ways in which it is used.



Nigerian refugee, Salaha Adamou (left), in Garin Kaka, near Maradi, Niger, where she works in a cooperative of refugee and local women producing peanut oil.



## Expanding Data Platforms and Access

Alongside methodological work, the JDC has continued to strengthen platforms that place data directly in the hands of policymakers, practitioners, and researchers.

### Connecting Research with Policy—The Marketplace

A key initiative is the development of the [Marketplace on Forced Displacement Research](#), an online platform designed to connect policy and operational evidence needs with research expertise. The aim is straightforward: to bring those who need evidence closer to those who can generate it. Policymakers, practitioners, and donors will be able to signal priority questions, while researchers can respond with relevant expertise.

Early consultations have helped shape this approach. In September 2025, the JDC, together with the International Institute of Humanitarian Law, convened policymakers from Armenia, Bangladesh, Brazil, Chad, Côte d'Ivoire, Ethiopia, Ghana, and Zambia, alongside researchers from leading institutions. Discussions focused on concrete evidence needs and opportunities for collaboration, aligned with policy and operational timelines. Insights from this exchange are informing the platform's development, with a launch planned for 2026.



© UNHCR/Blaise Samyila

Amiri, 24, a South Sudanese refugee in Aru, northeastern Democratic Republic of Congo, works on farms and plantations to pay for school. In Ituri province, agriculture provides paid work for refugees and women—supporting self-reliance and local integration.

## Data Platforms and Microdata

At the same time, efforts to strengthen global data platforms have continued. Supporting UNHCR's Global Data Service, the JDC has contributed to the development of the [Integrated Platform on Aggregate Statistics](#), including the evolution of the Refugee Data Finder. What was once primarily a source of population figures is now expanding to include socioeconomic indicators on well-being and living conditions. This shift reflects growing demand for more comprehensive evidence to support planning and policy. The platform was soft launched at the GRF Progress Review in Geneva, with a full public launch planned for 2026.

Access to microdata has also continued to expand through collaboration with the [World Bank](#) and [UNHCR](#) microdata libraries, alongside updates to the [Microdata Atlas](#). The most recent update, in 2025, identified 314 publicly accessible datasets containing representative samples of refugees<sup>5</sup>—a significant increase of more than 40 percent since 2022.

The JDC also supported UNHCR, the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), and the International Data Alliance for Children on the Move (IDAC) in organizing a datathon to promote the use of displacement microdata. By October 2025, the UNHCR library had received more than 5,600 license requests for access. Resulting data use has contributed to a growing body of research, including analyses of gender outcomes in Kenya, the Vulnerability Assessment of Syrian Refugees in Lebanon (VASR), and mixed movements in South-Eastern Europe.

Efforts to support responsible data sharing have progressed alongside this expansion. The JDC provided technical support to UNHCR's data

curation team to pilot a privacy-preserving approach, enabling the release of full-size synthetic refugee registration datasets through the UNHCR Microdata Library.

## Global Dialogue and Research Partnerships

The JDC has continued to engage in global forums and multi-stakeholder platforms to advance dialogue on displacement data and strengthen collaboration across governments, international organizations, and research communities.

Building on the momentum of the GRF and its 2025 Progress Review, the Government of Djibouti, EGRIS, and the JDC [co-convoked a webinar in May 2025](#) focused on statistical inclusion and socioeconomic policies for FDPs. This formed part of a broader set of engagements through which the JDC contributed to global discussions on displacement data, including keynote presentations and participation in technical forums such as the [Working Group on Anticipatory Action for Displacement](#), discussions on [sustainable settlements](#) with UN-Habitat, and events focused on innovation and data use in forced displacement contexts.

At the same time, research partnerships continue to deepen. The [Dataset of World Refugee and Asylum Policies \(DWRAP\)](#), published in 2024, gained further traction in 2025, attracting more than 4,100 users and contributing to [discussions](#) at the World Bank Law, Justice and Development Week.<sup>6</sup>

[5] The Forced Displacement Microdata Atlas lists publicly available datasets that have a representative sample of refugees or internally displaced people (IDP) by country, year, theme, and data producer, among others. The underlying methodology is presented in [this technical paper](#).

[6] The data has been recently used by the Danish Refugee Council for an [analysis on how return and reintegration are affected by different factors](#) in host and origin countries as well as a World Bank Policy Research Paper [Refugees and Other Forcibly Displaced Populations](#), which provide a comprehensive review of quantitative studies on the effects of forced displacement on host communities and an evaluation of policies designed to support forcibly displaced populations and their hosts.

# Moving forward

As the JDC enters the second half of its 2024–2027 Strategy, the work ahead builds directly on what 2025 has shown is possible. Nationally led data systems are taking root. Evidence is reaching decision-makers. And the case for investment in high-quality displacement data has never been more clearly demonstrated.

The next phase will go deeper. Household and enterprise surveys will be used more systematically to understand labor market dynamics—not just whether refugees are working, but what skills they bring, what host economies need, and where the real opportunities for inclusion lie. Analytical work will expand across education, employment, and economic inclusion, with a sharper focus on helping governments and partners translate data into policy and programming that support long-term self-reliance.

Underpinning this is a focus on the sustainability of data production and evidence delivery within governments, our institutions, and partners. As socioeconomic data are more systematically mainstreamed into policy and programming, governments and partners will be better equipped to move beyond short-term responses toward more forward-leaning strategies that unlock solutions and improve the lives of affected people.

This agenda connects directly to two strategic opportunities that will shape the partnership's direction. UNHCR's new High Commissioner has set a clear goal: to halve the number of refugees in protracted situations who remain dependent on humanitarian assistance over the next decade. That ambition cannot be achieved without a sustained, evidence-based understanding of who those refugees are, what barriers they face, and what pathways to self-reliance are realistically within reach. Generating that evidence—and ensuring it reaches the institutions that can act on it—is precisely what the JDC is positioned to do.

At the same time, the World Bank Group's refreshed approach to fragility and conflict-affected settings recognizes that timely data, tailored responses, and economic opportunity are not optional features of a good response—they are its foundation. As the World Bank moves toward earlier, more proactive engagement in these contexts, the demand for high-quality socioeconomic data on displaced populations will only grow, and the JDC's role in supporting the sustainability of this agenda will become more central.

Critically, the JDC will also examine what tightening humanitarian and development financing means in practice—modelling the implications of funding cuts and helping partners understand where evidence-based prioritization matters most. At a time when every dollar is under scrutiny, decisions about where to direct resources are not only technical but strategic. This work will be informed by a mid-term review of the 2024–2027 Strategy, which will take stock of progress, draw lessons from across the portfolio, and sharpen priorities for the period ahead.

Looking forward, the 4th JDC Research Conference on Forced Displacement, scheduled for June 2026, will bring together researchers, policymakers, and operational partners—reinforcing the connections between evidence generation and real-world decision-making that sit at the heart of this partnership.

The Global Refugee Forum Progress Review made one thing clear: governments and partners want better data, and they want to use it. With the UNHCR High Commissioner's vision and the World Bank's renewed commitment to fragility and conflict-affected settings pointing in the same direction, the JDC's task in the two remaining years ahead is to continue making evidence-based responses to forced displacement not the exception—but the standard.

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Cover photo: Burundian refugees cultivate a community field in Kahengele village, near Kalémie, Tanganyika province, eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo  
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