Manual on Child-Specific Data Capacity Strengthening on Children on the Move

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international data alliance
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Acknowledgements

Contents

On 4 March 2022, children and families reach Berdyszcze, Poland, after crossing the border from Ukraine, fleeing escalating conflict.

Introduction

This manual aims to help countries and their national statistical systems to improve the collection, analysis, sharing and use of data on children on the move. It provides analytical guidance to national statistical authorities and relevant actors on how to acquire or enhance the appropriate capacity to collect data on migrant and displaced children, in compliance with the United Nations' Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics[1]. It also shares several country experiences regarding migration data flows and official statistics.

Reliable data and official statistics are key to developing successful policy strategies. Data that can be disaggregated allow for non-obvious trends to be identified, highlight the visibility of vulnerable groups and assist policymakers and stakeholders in their evaluations of measures taken by the State.

As a group, children have special characteristics that place them at elevated risk to certain vulnerabilities and dangers compared to other groups. Their age and often limited or non-existent legal capacity generally means that they lack the ability to make legally binding decisions for themselves and decisions are made by their parents or appointed guardians. The need to protect children is even more dire in the case of those who have migrated or been displaced, or what we call 'children on the move'.

[1] *United Nations, Fundamental Principles of National Official Statistics, Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 29 January 2014.*

Who are children on the move?

A compound concept that has gained traction on the operational level in the international community, the term describes children who have been directly or indirectly affected by migration or displacement, either internationally across borders or within the same country. When referring to children on the move, IDAC includes child migrants; children in need of international protection, such as refugees and asylumseekers; internally displaced children; children indirectly affected by migration, such as children who stay behind while parents or caregivers migrate, stateless children and child victims of cross-border trafficking.[2]

Several legal instruments enshrine a range of rights for migrant and refugee children, offering multiple tools for their protection if effectively enforced. States undertake the obligation to work towards the protection of these rights, including the right to life and health, the right to education and family, the right to be informed, the right to be heard and the right to a life free from violence, abuse and neglect.

The international institutional environment through which States undertake obligations and commitments towards children includes:

1. Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) – treaty adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in 1989 that outlines the rights of children and sets out the responsibilities of governments, parents and other actors to ensure those rights are protected[3]

Convention on the Rights of the Child | OHCHR

2. Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography – optional protocol to the CRC, adopted in 2000 that seeks to protect children from sexual exploitation and abuse

Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography | OHCHR[4]

3. Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict – optional protocol to the CRC that seeks to protect children from being recruited or used in armed conflicts, also adopted in 2000

Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict | OHCHR

4. The 1951 Convention Relation to the Status of Refugees and its 1967 Protocol –

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[2]. *International Data Alliance for Children on the Move, Children on the Move: Key terms, definitions and concepts, United Nations Children's Fund, New York, 2023.*

[3]. *https://www.unicef.org/child-rights-convention*

[4]. *https://www.ohchr.org/en/instruments-mechanisms/instruments/optional-protocol-convention-rights-child-sale-children-child*

convention adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in 1951 that provides the internationally recognized definition of a refugee and outlines the legal protection, rights and assistance a refugee is entitled to receive

Convention and Protocol Relating to the status of refugees | UNHCR

5. The Global Compact for Refugees – framework adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in 2018 for more predictable and equitable responsibility-sharing to promote a sustainable solution to refugee situations

The Global Compact for Refugees | UNHCR

6. The ILO Convention No. 182 on the Worst Forms of Child Labour – convention adopted in 1999 by the International Labour Organization that seeks to eliminate the worst forms of child labour, such as slavery, forced labour and trafficking

C182 – Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention, 1999 (No. 182) | ILO

7. Universal Declaration of Human Rights – declaration adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in 1948 that establishes the fundamental rights and freedoms to which all human beings are entitled, including children

Universal Declaration of Human Rights | United Nations

8. African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child – treaty adopted by the African Union in 1990 that outlines the rights of children in Africa and sets out the responsibilities of governments, parents and other actors to ensure those rights are protected

African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child | African Union

9. Inter-American Convention on the Rights of the Child – treaty adopted by the Organization of American States in 1989 that outlines the rights of children in the Americas and sets out the responsibilities of governments, parents and other actors to ensure those rights are protected

Inter-American Convention on the International Return of Children | OAS

10. European Convention on the Exercise of Children's Rights – convention adopted by the Council of Europe[5] in 1996 that sets out the rights of children to participate in decision-making processes that affect them

European Convention on the Exercise of Children's Rights | Council of Europe

11. United Nations Guidelines on Justice in Matters involving Child Victims and Witnesses of Crime – guidelines adopted by the United Nations in 2005 that provide recommendations for governments to ensure that child victims and witnesses of crime receive appropriate support and protection

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[5]. https://rm.coe.int/european-convention-on-the-exercise-of-children-s-rights/1680a40f72

Guidelines on Justice in Matters involving Child Victims and Witnesses of Crime | ECOSOC

12. Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide - convention adopted by the General Assembly of the United Nations on 9 December 1948 that set out the global community's commitment to never again repeat the atrocities committed during the Second World War

Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide | United Nations

13. Declaration of the Rights of the Child - declaration adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in 1959 that outlines the fundamental rights of children, including the right to education, health care and protection from abuse

Declaration of the Rights of the Child | United Nations

14. United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime - convention adopted in 2000 that seeks to prevent and combat transnational organized crime, including the trafficking of children for labour or sexual exploitation

United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocols Thereto | United Nations

15. Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children - protocol adopted in 2000 by the United Nations that aims to prevent and combat trafficking in persons, with a particular focus on protecting women and children[6]

Annex II Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children | United Nations

16. Guidelines for the Alternative Care of Children - guidelines adopted by the United Nations in 2009 that provide recommendations for governments to ensure that children who cannot live with their families are provided with appropriate care and protection

Guidelines for the Alternative Care of Children | United Nations

17. Guidelines on the Protection of Child Victims of Trafficking - guidelines adopted by the United Nations in 2003 that provide recommendations for governments and other actors to ensure that children who have been trafficked for sexual purposes are protected from harm and receive appropriate support and services

Guidelines on the Protection of Child Victims of Trafficking | UNICEF

18. Convention concerning the powers of authorities and the law applicable in

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[6.] *https://www.ohchr.org/en/instruments-mechanisms/instruments/protocol-prevent-suppress-and-punish-trafficking-persons*

respect of the protection of infants (1961) - convention adopted by the Hague Conference on Private International Law, establishing common provisions on the powers of authorities and the law applicable in respect of the protection of infants

Convention of 5 October 1961 concerning the powers of authorities and the law applicable in respect of the protection of infants | HCCH[7]

19. Convention on Protection of Children and Co-operation in Respect of Inter-country Adoption (1993) and the related Recommendation Concerning the Application to Refugee Children and Other Internationally Displaced Children (1994) - convention adopted by the Hague Conference on Private International Law to establish common provisions on the matter of intercountry adoption, to ensure that it is made in the best interest of the child and with respect to their fundamental rights and to prevent the abduction, the sale of or traffic in children

Convention of 29 May 1993 on Protection of Children and Co-operation in Respect of Intercountry Adoption | HCCH[8]

20. Convention on Jurisdiction, Applicable Law, Recognition, Enforcement and Co-operation in respect of Parental Responsibility and Measures for the Protection of Children (1996) - convention adopted by the Hague Conference on Private International Law to establish clarity regarding the jurisdiction, applicable law, recognition and enforcement of measures that states take for the protection of children

Convention of 19 October 1996 on Jurisdiction, Applicable Law, Recognition, Enforcement and Co-operation in Respect of Parental Responsibility and Measures for the Protection of Children | HCCH[9]

In order to meet the responsibilities and obligations deriving from the above legal instruments, involved actors - i.e., States, international organizations and other entities - are in need of accurate data, not only regarding the number of displaced and migrant children, but also on their movement, conditions of travel and stay, and access to fundamental services such as health, education, housing, food, security, etc.

Systematized data flow and information on children on the move would allow competent authorities responsible for the well-being of children to better identify and map their needs, as well as to identify gaps and seek for proper and sustainable solutions to ensure the protection of children's rights.

In this context, the international community is pushing state authorities and international organizations to safely collect, analyse and disseminate disaggregated migration and displacement data and promote all strengthening efforts regarding data on children on the move.

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7. https://www.hcch.net/en/instruments/conventions/full-text/?cid=39
8. https://www.hcch.net/en/instruments/conventions/full-text/?cid=69
9. https://www.hcch.net/en/instruments/conventions/full-text/?cid=70

On 20 June 2023, students sit together during a visit by UNICEF Executive Director Catherine Russell and World Food Programme (WFP) Executive Director Cindy McCain to a UNICEF- and WFP-supported school in Port-au-Prince, Haiti.

The International Data Alliance for Children on the Move (IDAC)

2

This manual is a product of the International Data Alliance for Children on the Move (IDAC). IDAC is a cross-sectoral global coalition that aims to improve data and statistics and support evidence-based policymaking for migrant and displaced children. Jointly led by Eurostat, IOM, OECD, UNHCR and UNICEF, IDAC brings together governments (including experts from national statistical offices and migration- and displacement-related ministries), international and regional organizations, NGOs, think tanks, academics, civil society and youth.

Formally launched in March 2020, IDAC is currently comprised of 50 members, including 25 Member States, 13 United Nations agencies and other international organizations, and 12 NGOs, think tanks and academic organizations. It provides a platform for key stakeholders to convene and co-create solutions to the glaring data gaps impacting children on the move. Through a wide variety of initiatives, including the production of relevant manuals, guidance and reports; timely webinars and engagement

at high-level conferences, panels and events, IDAC has become a leader in global efforts to protect the well-being of children on the move through better data.

Four IDAC working groups (WG) are tackling the key data challenges:

a) WG1 – Child-specific data capacity strengthening on children on the move
b) WG2 – Child-specific indicators development and data on children on the move
c) WG3 – Improving availability of data on internally displaced children
d) WG4 – Promoting collaboration on innovative methods on child-specific data work.

This manual is the outcome of IDAC's WG1, which is led by the Hellenic Sta-tistical Authority (ELSTAT), the national statistical office of Greece. It is a tool for policymakers and stakeholders across national statistical systems to improve the collection, analysis, storage and production of high-quality, disaggregated and reliable data on children on the move.

Two forthcoming IDAC briefs – 1) *Children on the move: Key terms, definitions and concepts* and 2) *Data and Statistics for Children on the Move: Key sources and good practices* – complement this manual. They serve as foundational documents that unpack the definitions, statistics and data sources behind the data currently available on migrant and displaced children, while also highlighting ongoing data gaps, challenges and promising practices for improving these data.

On 23 March 2022, a child walks though Moldexpo «Blue Dot» centre in Chisinau, Moldova with a blue heart-shaped balloon.

On 13 August 2020, Nuha, 16, studies to sit for national exams in Aleppo. "It was a long and tiring journey, I was scared to travel without my family but the reward is that I get to continue my learning," says Nuha, who traveled all the way from Manbij in rural Aleppo to sit for her national Grade 9 exams in Aleppo city.

The Disaggregation Challenge and Data Needs Related to Children on the Move

3

There are currently substantial gaps in the production of data on migrant and displaced children. According to IDAC[10], 3 out of 10 countries or territories do not generate recent age-disaggregated data on migrants, almost 4 out of 10 countries with data on refugees do not provide representative age-disaggregated data on refugees present in the country and almost 9 out of 10 countries with conflict-related internally displaced persons do not disaggregate the data by age.

Data on migration flows are even more scarce: many countries do not collect data on migration flows. Migrant flow data disaggregated by age and population flow data on other mobile groups such as internal migrants, refugees, and internally displaced persons, are even less common.[11,12]

[10.] *International Data Alliance for Children on the Move, Missing from the Story: The urgent need for better data to protect children on the move, Data Insight #1, November 2021.*
[11.] *United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, Global Trends Report 2021, June 2022.*
[12.] *United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs Statistics Division, International Migration 2020 Highlights, January 2021.*

Today's statistical environment regarding children on the move: Key observations and limitations

- There is a lack of data disaggregation regarding children in general and especially concerning those who are on the move.

- Data shortages on children are observed in both low- and high-income countries. Even for countries that collect data on children on the move, data on the integration experiences of children (education, health, living conditions and access to services and welfare in general) are usually insufficient.

- In most countries, data collection regarding children on the move remains quite fragmented across different actors; in other cases, data on children on the move in a country or region are incoherent and unreliable.

- Data on children are generally difficult to collect, especially when the data refer to children on the move.

- Data on children require attention at all stages of their development and throughout the data lifecycle, from production to dissemination. Statistical confidentiality issues are crucial in regards to children and data collection and storage require particular expertise.

- There are huge gaps in the availability of data on more specific children on the move populations, such as unaccompanied minors, children in migration detention and stateless children.

- Many countries adopt different age groups when defining children, which makes it difficult to compare the data on children across countries.

- There are a range of ethical challenges that require robust data protection frameworks and consideration in collecting and using data on children on the move.

Given the substantial data gaps on children on the move across countries and contexts, it is imperative that all countries build and strengthen their capacity to generate data on children on the move.

On 28 January in the extreme eastern part of Ndjamena, the capital of Chad, 10-month-old Majorité sits in the lap of her mother, Anastasie Napidimbaye, 24, as she has her mid upper arm circumference (MUAC) measured, at a UNICEF-supported outpatient nutrition site.

On 19 April 2022 in Ukraine, 9-year-old Polina (in pink tracksuit and black vest) and her twin sister, Iryna (in lavender fleece) join a children's museum activity in a subway station in Kharkiv, where children and families have sought shelter from the conflict above.

4

International Guidelines Relevant to Children on the Move

International frameworks for defining and measuring populations on the move have been developed throughout the years to promote common concepts and definitions, in order to ensure comparability of data across countries. Harmonizing definitions and methodologies is crucial to ensure consistency in the production, analysis and dissemination of migration statistics across countries and critical to a better understanding of the evolving dynamics between population demographics and migration to inform policymaking and programming.

The following section cites key international statistical and conceptual frameworks that are most relevant to the collection of data and statistics on migrant, refugee and internally displaced children. Some groups of children on the move are not yet covered by these frameworks, such as children left behind when parents or caregivers migrate without them. As indicated in the IDAC's resource, *Children on the Move: Key terms, definitions and concepts*, efforts should be made to improve data collection concerning these groups, as well as the groups outlined below.[13]

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[13]. *See IDAC's "Terminology brief on Children on the move" for more information on various groups of children on the move and major gaps in data collection.*

4.1 International migrants

The 1998 United Nations Recommendations on Statistics of International Migration served as the main framework for defining and generating statistics on international migrant populations until 2021, when the United Nations Statistical Division (UNSD) initiated revisions on this framework under the guidance of the Expert Group on Migration Statistics to better reflect current mobility patterns.

In the revised guidelines, *Final Report on Conceptual Frameworks and Concepts and Definitions on International Migration*,[14] an international migrant is defined as: **"a person who has changed his or her country of residence and established new residence in the country within a given year. International migrant can be either 'immigrant' or 'emigrant' and include those with national or foreign citizenships or stateless persons."**[15]

Other key features of the revised conceptual framework include:
• A glossary of standardized terminologies and statistical definitions related to international migrant populations
• Two conceptual frameworks for measuring international migration and international temporary mobility
• Guidance on achieving coherence between international migrant flow and stock data
• Recommendations for countries to collect data on four key subpopulations: foreign-born populations, native born populations, foreign citizens and national citizens.

The UNSD's *Handbook for Measuring International Migration through Population Censuses*[16] is another key international framework that offers detailed guidelines on generating international migration statistics, specifically through population and housing censuses.

Among other topics, this document provides:
• Guidance on the important aspects of population census planning and design related to migration
• Specific proposed questions related to international migration that are recommended for inclusion in country censuses
• Techniques for estimating recent migration and net international migration through population census data
• Methods for combining census data with other sources of data on international migration.

4.2 Refugees and asylum-seekers

The *International Recommendations on Refugee Statistics* (IRRS), adopted by the United Nations Statistical Commission in March 2018 (Decision 49/115), provide a set of specific recommendations that countries and international organizations can use to improve the collection, collation, disaggregation, reporting and overall quality of statistics on populations forcibly displaced across borders. The recommendations are intended to help improve national statistics on the stocks and flows and characteristics of refugees and refugee related

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14. *United Nations Expert Group on Migration Statistics, Final Report on Conceptual frameworks and Concepts and Definitions on International Migration, April 2021.*

15. *Ibid.*

16. *United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs Statistics Division, Handbook on Measuring International Migration through Population Censuses, UNSD, New York, 2020.*

populations and to help make such statistics comparable internationally.

IRRS defines **refugees** as:

"Persons who have current refugee status, granted either before arrival or upon arrival in the receiving country. Those with status granted before arrival in the receiving country include resettled refugees, and those who were living abroad at the time of application and whose application for permanent residence was considered concurrently with that of the protected person already living in the country. Refugee status can be granted on the basis of the 1951 Convention and the 1967 Protocol or pertinent regional instruments (see IRRS Chapter 2 for a full description). The group may also include persons who qualify as refugees under national legal systems. Refugees under the UNHCR mandate, Palestine Refugees registered with UNRWA and other persons eligible to receive UNRWA services without being registered are also covered under this category. It may be important, however, to distinguish refugees recognized under different conventions and covered by different entities for data compilation. This will depend on the needs of national statistical users."[17]

IRRS defines **asylum seekers** as:

"Persons who have filed an application for asylum in a country other than their own and whose claims have not yet been determined. These include those filing primary applica-
tions or subsequent applications following an appeal. The date on which the application for asylum is filed marks their entry into the status of asylum-seeker. They remain in the status of asylum-seeker until their application is considered and adjudicated."[18]

In addition to the definitions laid out above, key features of IRRS include:
• A statistical framework standardizing relevant terminology and classifications
• List of basic data tabulations and indicators
• Assessment of data sources and methods and recommendations for their use and improvement
• Identification of socioeconomic indicators to measure refugee integration
• Recommendations to improve coordination at national, regional and international level as well as data quality, statistical legal frameworks and capacity development.

4.3 Internally displaced persons

The *United Nations Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement*, published in 1998, is a key international framework providing guidance on the protection of internally displaced persons. Although the Guiding Principles represent an important step in establishing a protection framework for internally displaced persons, they do not present statistical definitions and standards that clearly define the population in scope.
In view of that, the Expert Group on Refugee, Internally Displaced Persons and Statelessness Statistics (EGRISS)

[17.] *Expert Group on Refugee and Internally Displaced Persons Statistics, International Recommendations on Refugee Statistics, European Union and the United Nations, 2018, p. 31.*
[18.] *Ibid.*

developed the *International Recommendations on Internally Displaced Persons Statistics* (IRIS) to support guiding practitioners in the collection, production and dissemination of statistics on internal displacement. IRIS was unanimously adopted at the UN Statistical Commission (UNSC) 51st session in 2020 (Decision 51/116).

IRIS defines an **internally displaced person** (IDP) as:

"a person who was forced or obliged to leave his or her place of habitual residence (i.e., usual residence at the time of a displacement event) and who is found within the internationally recognised borders of the country. The total stock of persons who have displacement-related protection needs and vulnerabilities is divided into three sub-stocks:
1. IDPs who remain in locations of displacement (IDPs in locations of displacement);
2. IDPs who have returned to their **place of habitual residence (IDPs in locations of return);**
3. IDPs who have settled elsewhere in the country (IDPs in other settlement locations)."[19]

Other key features of IRIS include:
• Standardized terminology and classifications based on the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement

• A list of basic data tabulations and variables; assessment of relevant data sources and methods

• Statistical measurement of progress towards solutions and of determining when a person has overcome key displacement-related vulnerabilities and can thus be taken out of the IDP stock, based on the IASC Framework on Durable Solutions for Internally Displaced Persons

• Recommendations to improve coordination at national, regional and international levels.

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[19] *Expert Group on Refugee and Internally Displaced Persons Statistics, International Recommendations on Internally Displaced Persons Statistics (IRIS), European Commission and United Nations, 2020, pp. 28–29.*

In the short term, UNICEF in Romania's response, in collaboration with central and local authorities, as well as other partners, focuses on establishing and operationalizing Blue Dots at the border crossings.

On 8th August 2022, a girl draws at the UNICEF-supported CBE in Ainak Nawa, Helmand Province, Afghanistan.

Official Statistics and Data Sources

5

Official statistics are those compiled by the national statistical office (NSO) of each country or other bodies of the national statistical system, in full compliance with the UN's Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics and other national codes of practice. National statistical systems encompass the set of rules, tasks and bodies (organizations and units within a country) that are responsible for the execution of statistical tasks, in order to develop, produce and disseminate a country's official statistics. Official statistics are the statistics disseminated by the national statistical system, except those explicitly stated not to be official,[20] and have preceded the advent of statistical science.

Sources of official statistics are either surveys (sample or census) or administrative data, i.e., data collected by state services for their own purposes and then processed and converted into statistical data. Concerning children on the move data, however, state services in many countries are unfamiliar with the UN's Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics and conduct fragmented data collection efforts.

Key features of the data produced by national statistical systems are i) the use of a

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[20.] *Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development, International Monetary Fund, International Labour Organization, Interstate Statistical Committee of the Common wealth of Independent States, Measuring the Non-Observed Economy: A handbook, OECD, 2002, Annex 2, Glossary.*

commonly agreed methodology (definitions, method of collection) between countries and periods, which ensures data comparability, ii) a defined periodicity of surveys through which the data are produced and iii) a necessary legal framework to ensure the ownership of data by the respective country.

Sources of official statistics are:

• Statistical surveys of the NSO, such as the census and sampling or census surveys that are carried out.
• Administrative sources, i.e., data collected by government agencies within their competences (not for statistical purposes), which can be a valid source for the production of official statistics through appropriate adjustments.
• Statistics produced by other bodies of the national statistical system, either through surveys or through the use of administrative sources.
• Innovative data sources, such as the use of big data from mobile phones, online platforms and payment services.

The basic underlying principle for the production of official statistics is to use the best possible source of data according to the guidelines and directions of the statistical community worldwide.

However, there are some universal difficulties associated with the use of these sources:

• In the case of data produced by NSOs, the main constraint is in the sharing of these data. Under statistical confidentiality rules, statistical authorities are not permitted to disclose identifiable information that they have in any way collected and used in order to produce official statistics. This would imply that data collected from statistical authorities or

shared with them would not be shared with any other entities, nor would they be stored in interoperable systems.
• The main issue with the use of administrative data is the lack of common legal definitions between legal systems, which leads to a lack of accuracy of collected data and problems with the protection of human rights.

If, for example, under one legal system a permit that is granted to the head of a family also covers dependents, then the data collected from this source will not reflect the total migrant population in this region. This will consequently lead to a disruption of accuracy in the case of transfers of such data to other entities with different systems of collection, as well as create difficulties in the protection of human rights of the persons in question.

• Individuals may be reluctant in accessing or utilizing services when official statistics are interconnected, such as refraining from attending school if their legal status becomes linked to that information.
• Finally, the use of big data and other innovative data sources for the production of statistical information for migrant and refugee children   introduces concerns of bias and of ethical considerations. Bias emerges from the fact that girls or the poorest populations often have lower access to devices, such as cellphones. Ethical considerations arise because of the vast invasion of privacy these methods entail, as well as questions of safety and guarantees against possible misuse of such technologies.

Official statistics are by nature developing in an environment of significant "tradeoffs" (i.e., timely publication vs.

exhaustive and detailed analysis, common standards vs. perfect statistical methodology) as they are based on the UN's Fundamental Principles. These principles might be considered by users of statistical data as limitations, considering that in a world where economic and social events are evolving rapidly, official statistics are evolving slowly and steadily. Users' demands for timely information are creating room for competition in the provision of statistical information.

5.1 Official statistics on children on the move

Individual countries are the leading producers of data and statistics on migrant and displaced populations, including children. Within countries the National Statistics Offices (NSOs) and line ministries are involved in migration-related data collection processes and generate data on migrant and displaced children. The entities responsible for collecting, analyzing, and sharing data on various groups of migrant and displaced children make up part of a country's data ecosystem, which may vary substantially from one country to another. In addition, there are major inconsistencies in the quality and comparability of the data on children on the move between countries and regions.

While there is a core set of official statistics commonly produced by almost all countries, each country's full range of official statistics will vary. This variation is due to the need to match local, national and international users' priorities with the resources available for meeting them. Statistics on children on the move are not yet a high priority in many national statistical systems, but there is a growing demand for better data and

statistics on migrant and displaced children to inform humanitarian and development interventions.

Data on children on the move sit in various agencies across the national statistical system that deal with all concerned population groups, including migrants, internally displaced persons, refugees and asylum-seekers. NSOs can play a vital role in maintaining the overall integrity and validity of all official statistics and ensuring effective planning, coordination and dissemination of data. For instance, they can help ensure that various agencies adhere to harmonized definitions, concepts, nomenclatures, classifications and disaggregation dimensions. Depending on the involvement of other actors, coordination should be carried out in close collaboration with directorates and other line ministries with access to administrative data on children on the move. To ensure efficient involvement from non-statistical actors, it is important to adapt a non-technical language when and if required.

Global coordinated advocacy from different actors is further necessary to highlight areas that are important but not necessarily a priority at country level nor reflected in the public debate. At the same time, global advocates need to be sensitive to the fact that countries have several competing priorities and limited resources and thus try to promote synergies with different initiatives that appeal to national interest. At the same time, policymakers cannot challenge official data as easily as they usually do with data from other providers/organizations. Official statistics are also submitted to international organizations, which mobilize stakeholders and decision makers in countries.

UNICEF Representative in Afghanistan HervO© Ludovic De Lys and WFP Afghanistan Representative and Country Director Mary-Ellen McGroarty visit a Child Friendly Space at an IDP settlement in the outskirts of Herat city. Around 120 boys and girls attend recreational activities, numeracy and literacy classes and are provided with information on hygiene practices. This is one of three Child Friendly Spaces in the camp providing children with some respite.

International Databases on Migrant and Displaced Children

While individual countries are the main producers of official data and statistics on migrant and displaced populations, some international organizations and regional bodies publish these statistics in publicly available databases. This section highlights key databases where information on children on the move can be found.

Further information on key databases and resource hubs with information on children on the move is available in IDAC's *Data and Statistics for Children on the Move: Essential sources and good practices.*

6.1 International migrants

• The United Nations Global Migration Database publishes data on the international migration stock, which is available for children for five age groups. UNICEF estimates the number of international migrant children based on these age groups.

• Eurostat's Data Browser on Migration publishes migrant stock data that can be disaggregated by seven age groups, sex and 32 places of birth. Data on child migrant stocks are also calculated based on permit

data, which includes an age dimension (0–4, 5–9, 10–14). The database also includes data on the enforcement of immigration legislation and provides statistics on third country nationals (including children under the ages of 14; 14–17 and under 18) who were illegally present or ordered to leave the EU or who returned after being ordered to leave. Additionally, residence permits statistics provide information on stocks and flows of migrant children with permits.

• The OECD Database on Immigrants in OECD and non-OECD Countries provides information on the enforcement of immigration legislation and statistics on third country nationals (including children under the ages of 14; 14–17 and under 18) who were illegally present or ordered to leave the EU or who returned after being ordered to leave. Additionally, residence permits statistics provide information on stocks and flows of migrant children with permits. OECD data enable the calculation of macro-estimates for children entering OECD countries on a yearly basis,[21] but without more detailed information (i.e., by sub-age categories or country of nationality).

6.2 Refugees

• UNHCR's Refugee Data Finder provides annual statistics on refugees (both by country of asylum and country of origin) including demographic data on children in the age groups of 0–4, 5–11 and 12–17 for 177 countries. Demographic data are also available for asylum-seek-

ers and internally displaced people, albeit with lower country coverage.

• UNHCR's Resettlement Data Finder provides specific information on the flight of refugees from their country of origin to the country of asylum, until being submitted by UNHCR to the country of resettlement. Available for over 100 UNHCR operations and more than 30 resettlement countries, data in the Resettlement Data Finder include resettlement submission categories such as 'Children and Adolescents at Risk' who are unaccompanied, separated or orphans, girls at risk who may be submitted under the 'Women and Girls at Risk' category,[22] and 'Family Reunification', which includes children reunified with their nuclear family or other relatives after a BID process.

• Eurostat's Data Browser on Migration publishes data from 27 EU Member States and 4 EFTA countries on flows of children in migration, temporary protection, asylum applicants and asylum decisions by age groups such as children less than 14, 14–17 and under 18.

Data are collected with various frequency depending on datasets (monthly, quarterly, annual) and are broken down by sex, citizenship and, since 2021, by status of minor (allowing for identification of unaccompanied minors for all asylum statistics). Eurostat's specific dedicated section 'Children in migration' covers the following statistics related to children on the move: temporary protection, asylum, residence permits and irregular migration.

[21.] *Children under 15 years of age accounted for more than one quarter of all family migrants moving to the OECD in 2015, exceeding a total of 400,000, or almost 10 per cent of all permanent migrants, and a fourth of all family migrants. At least 130,000 of these children were younger than 4 years old. See https://www.oecd-ilibrary.org/social-issues-migration-health/international-migration-outlook-2017/a-portrait-of-family-migration-in-oecd-countries_migr_outlook-2017-6-en*
[22.] *https://www.unhcr.org/3d464e842.html*

6.3 Internally displaced persons

• IDMC's Global Internal Displacement Database publishes data on the number of internal displacements due to violence and conflict and disaster, disaggregated by sex and age, including data by several age groups (0–17, 0–4, 5–14, 15–17, 15–24). IDMC's Disaster and Displacement Risk model assesses the likelihood of displacement due to sudden-onset disasters. Data disaggregation by age or sex is not available, which is one of the many monitoring challenges when analysing IDPs.

• IOM's Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) continuously provides information on mobility tracking, flow monitoring, return intention and IDP registration (not published). Approximate numbers of children are included in flow counts and interviews for flow mobility tracking are conducted with migrants, which possibly include children over the age of 14. DTM tracks IDP populations in over 40 countries from eight regions. Results from the DTM are reported in country profiles and updated on an ongoing basis, along with more detailed information on causes and events leading to the displacements.

6.4 Cross-cutting

• The UNICEF Data Warehouse provides a central location for data on international migrant, refugee, asylum-seeking and internally displaced children.

On 12 March 2022,
9-year-old Danylo
sits in a bus at
the Lviv Regional
Children's Clinical
Hospital. Danylo
and his mother
Inna travelled
to Lviv to seek
medical treatment.

Danylo says,
«I am ready to fight
for my life whether
it is cancer or war.»

Data Integration 7

Data integration has the potential to bridge data gaps by pulling together data from diverse sources such as censuses, sample surveys, administrative data and new sources of data, including geospatial information and big data. New sources of data can provide more frequent, timely and disaggregated data and statistics at a lower cost than traditional approaches. Although data integration approaches are promising, challenges need to be overcome to realize their full potential.

Data integration requires a wide range of institutional and technical capacities, from appropriate coordination and collaboration mechanisms among stakeholders to core technical skills needed to address data issues and record linkage. Access to data and metadata, data quality, interoperability, privacy and confidentiality, and limited technical capacity are among the major challenges, as well as the lack of harmonization across different structures and the use of different definitions and methodologies.

7.1 Considerations

While there are many compelling reasons to apply data integration approaches, there are several challenges and issues that should be addressed and requirements to be met. These can be classified into three categories:

7.1.1 Legal and institutional considerations

One of the most important requirements is the existence of a legal basis (including legislation, codes of practice, protocols and policies) that supports the use of and access to administrative data and data sources external to the NSO for statistical purposes. In most cases, a country's statistical act will include specific provisions for the NSO using and accessing administrative data; in other cases, the law may need to be revised.

Microdata access and use are sometimes regulated by legislation that safeguards confidentiality and privacy. Thus, the collaboration between data providers and the NSO should be open and transparent. Privacy and confidentiality safeguards should be in place. Both the benefits of data integration and efforts to protect individual data should be communicated to the public.

Mechanisms for collaboration with data providers should be built to facilitate data flow. These may take the form of formal agreements that specify the duration of data sharing, types of data and metadata required, frequency of data supply, quality standards, technological standards such as security measures, and the mode of transmission to be used. This can ensure a smooth data flow while minimizing any issues or misunderstandings between the data provider and the NSO.

Another aspect to consider is building effective partnerships with data producers, data users and providers of ICT infrastructure. Establishing close connections across organizations, providing feedback on data, identifying shared benefits and opportunities, educating data users and defining governance in joint projects have all been identified as critical drivers.

In the case of administrative data sources, one primary requirement is the availability of administrative data sources that are actively used for administrative procedures, hence, ensuring that the data quality is sufficient.

7.1.2 Managerial considerations

The managerial category mainly refers to required resources. Budget constraints may prevent the producer from obtaining the necessary resources. The human resources required are broad and include methodologists, statisticians and ICT experts, who hold a range of skills such as leadership, negotiation, relationship-building, data protection and communication. They should also be familiar with the numerous laws and rules that govern data access and use.

The availability of appropriate ICT infrastructure, including hardware and software, facilitates the flow and utilization of data from different sources. The expenses associated with setup, maintenance and access to data sources are substantial. However, they pay off in terms of long-term data utilization and availability of more frequent and granular data.

The use of data sources such as administrative data, data held by the private sector and new data sources may introduce some risks that should be managed. One example is interrupted data sources that require contingency plans to be in place if the data source becomes unavailable. Another managerial challenge is the resistance to changing

an ongoing production process by replacing it with an external data source when existing procedures are widely accepted and expertise and experience have been acquired.

7.1.3 Methodological and technical considerations

The amount of literature available on different types of data integration varies. While there is extensive material and experience about the use of administrative data, new data sources such as geospatial information and big data are still in their early stages, with some countries and agencies starting to explore them. There are limited commonly recommended methods available and the methodology largely depends on the data sources in use.

One first technical requirement is to identify available data sources that are best suited for producing the statistics of interest. This needs a deep understanding of the available data sources, which can be obtained through their metadata. However, metadata are not always available. Administrative data and new data sources are not initially produced for statistical purposes and the NSO has limited control over data collection and processing.

Thus, a major issue is a lack of interoperability in terms of inconsistency in the concept, classification, coverage, data format, reference periods and unavailability of a unique identifier, among others. When using such data sources, it is necessary that potential sources of bias be identified in order to be avoided or resolved. In addition, proper approaches should be selected to handle data quality issues, such as missing data, inconsistencies and errors. The avail-

ability of metadata coupled with informal dialogues with data providers can assist in detecting bias sources and interoperability and data quality issues, foster better analysis of their impact, and help decide on solutions.

Another technical difficulty is combining microdata from different data sources. Record linkage refers to the process of identifying and combining records that relate to the same entities across two or more data sources. Record linkage methods fall into two categories:

• **Deterministic matching** (or exact matching): cases when data sources have a formal decision rule (usually in the form of unique IDs) that can be utilized for matching

• **Probabilistic matching:** cases when strict decision rules are not applicable, so complex probabilistic decision rules are established based on a set of common variables

In recent years, a variety of machine-learning techniques have also been introduced to link records. Currently, various software tools are also available for record linkage.

Regardless of the data source or methodology used, the quality of the data sources and the statistics produced should be measured, managed and published. One critical consideration is effectively communicating the produced data and statistics to users, which entails:
a) speaking with stakeholders and data users to capture and understand data needs,
b) finding the most efficient way to meet those needs,
c) explaining the methods and results,

On 24 August 2022, residents of Khoshi District, Logar Province, Afghanistan stand in the camp where they live since their homes were destroyed in recent flash floods.

and d) continuously seeking their feedback to improve the data and statistics produced.

7.2 Where to start

Thus far, we have touched upon some of the requirements and challenges associated with integrating various data sources. However, data integration encompasses a broad range of approaches to integrating data from censuses, sample surveys, administrative data, geospatial information and big data. Each approach and each combination of these types of data sources has its own set of requirements and considerations. Moreover, each data integration exercise may present unique challenges requiring customized solutions. Nonetheless, there are still common solutions for shared problems, which makes the sharing of experiences beneficial for enhancing technical capacities.

Globally, there is a large amount of literature and several initiatives related to integrating different types of data sources. Among them, the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) Asia-Pacific Guidelines to Data Integration for Official Statistics,[23] which build on ECE's guidelines,[24] present an overview of data integration approaches, include country examples (mainly from the Asia-Pacific region) and provide links to additional valuable resources.

Furthermore, the Asia-Pacific Data Integration Community of Practice, launched in 2020, has facilitated the exchange of knowledge and experience on data integration and features a rich repository of materials and country examples.[25] The United Nations Economic Commission for Europe has also published a guidance specifically dedicated to the data integration for measuring migration.[26]

[23.] *https://www.unescap.org/kp/2021/asia-pacific-guidelines-data-integration-official-statistics*

[24.] *United Nations, Economic Commission for Europe, "A guide to data integration for official statistics", version 2. Available at https://statswiki.unece.org/display/DI/Guide+to+Data+Integration+for+Official+Statistics*

[25.] *For more information see blog post Celebrating the 1st Anniversary of the Data Integration Community of Practice.*

[26.] *United Nations Economic Commission for Europe, Guidance on Data Integration for Measuring Migration, 2019.*

Children at a temporary shelter in Hatay, Türkiye, on 1 May, after two devastating earthquakes hit south-east Türkiye.

Eight-year-old
Sasha holding
toys in his hands
in local modular
town for internally
displaced
people (IDPs)
in Borodianka,
Ukraine.

8

Key Principles and Legal Considerations when Collecting and Using Data on Children on the move

Collection and use of data on children is considered particularly sensitive nature of work given that children are an especially vulnerable group. They face distinct physical and emotional risks, possess limited agency and may lack legal standing. Their ongoing development makes their response to risks distinct from that of adults. Therefore, ensuring the legal protection of children is of paramount importance.

In the field of data collection and processing, the legal inability of children to make binding decisions for themselves excludes the child's consent from the legal bases under which one can process children's data. Children can also not legally enter into contracts, with some exceptions for children of a certain age for certain matters, e.g., intellectual property of works of children and employment. Because personal data of children are handled in different ways than those of adults, they require more attention. Where parental consent is considered the legal basis, it is crucial to also seek assent from the child.

Whenever feasible, obtaining the child's assent is important. Where an alternate justification is used – e.g., vital interest of the child or public interest – there should still be consultation and transparency around the reason and need for the data.

In addition, data on migrant or refugee status are thought to be of a sensitive nature and should always be treated under strict data protection rules. Data on migrant and refugee children may include data on race or ethnicity, falling under the definition of "special category data" and inclusion of both should be determined in conjunction with the population that the data is trying to serve.

The rights of migrant and refugee children are enshrined in international legislation, as well as in various conventions, treaties and State regulations. The obligations undertaken by States and other parties that are bound by these documents, in addition to the need to protect children and the interests of the receiving country, may provide adequate legal basis for the collection and further processing of the personal data of child migrant and refugee populations.

It is crucial to recognize that if not used properly, disaggregated data can contribute to the reinforcement of harmful narratives and pose additional risks to children on the move. Therefore, when collecting and processing personal data on migrant and refugee children, it is essential to establish clear expectations regarding the competency, integrity and governance structures of national data collection systems. This ensures that the pursuit of disaggregation is not only feasible but also safe and protective for the children involved.

When it comes to collecting data on

children on the move, the challenges/ constraints have more to do with how these data are used, rather than if they can be collected.

There are two main domains of legal constraints regarding the collection and use of data:

8.1 Adherence to fundamental principles of processing

The nature of data on migrant and refugee populations makes adherence to internationally established basic rules of data processing essential, especially those of lawful processing, confidentiality, accuracy and integrity of data, purpose limitation and storage periods. It is commonly accepted that protection of migrant and refugee populations includes protection of their personal data. Data protection is tied to the fundamental right to privacy and is recognized in all major international legal instruments on human rights protection, as well as internally in the majority of States around the world.

Data protection is integral to protecting migrants and refugees. If refugee children's data are misused or leaked, for example, these children may be exposed to higher risks. The emergence of new technologies, such as the wide use of smartphones, social media, collection of biometric data, cloud and blockchain technologies, and the growing number of stakeholders involved in these processes, combined with the profound dangers these children face because of their status (human trafficking; physical, emotional, sexual violence; abduction; economic exploitation; etc.), present increased challenges for data protection of these populations, as data are more

likely to be shared among different actors or could be used for reasons other than those for which they were originally collected, lead to creation of profiles or unlawful surveillance, leaked to the wrong hands, etc.

Personal data on migrant and refugee children may include biographical and identification data such as name, sex, family status, date and place of birth, country of origin, country of asylum, individual registration number, occupation, religion and ethnicity, photographs, biometric data (e.g., fingerprints, facial or iris images), as well as any expression of opinion about the individual, such as assessments of their status and any specific needs.

The basic principles that need to be respected and applied when processing such personal data, which are also the basic restrictions/constraints, are generally considered to be the following:

8.1.1. Legitimate and fair processing

Processing of personal data may only be carried out on a legitimate basis and in a fair and transparent manner. Legitimate basis in these cases is usually set by law, i.e., the legal requirements of each receiving country or region. For example, in Europe the receiving State collects and uses data on migrant and refugee children that enter European soil under the Dublin Regulation and the Eurodac Regulation, which establish mandatory collection and set the legal ways in which these data can be used by authorities and other parties. The

Eurodac database[27] accommodates the effective implementation of the Dublin Convention by collecting and examining fingerprints (biometric data) of asylum-seekers and illegal immigrants in the European Union for identification purposes. The Eurodac system was later supplemented by Regulation (EU) No 603/2013[28] to allow data to be compared for other purposes as well.

Another legal basis for collection can be consent of the data subject (in the case of children, the subject's parent or appointed legal guardian). This is usually the basis in cases of data collection from actors other than receiving States, such as NGOs, international organizations etc.

One must always be aware of these restrictions and establish a clear basis of processing. The legal institution of each country regarding migration and refugee populations is paramount here and must be clear, concise and detailed regarding which data can be collected and what purposes they can be used for.

8.1.2. Purpose limitation

Personal data need to be collected for one or more specific and legitimate purposes and should not be processed in a way incompatible with these purposes, and also collected over specific retention periods.

For example, data collected under the Dublin and Eurodac regulations cannot be used for purposes other than the ones described and allowed for in them, nor can they be maintained for longer

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[27.] *Regulation (EC) No 2725/2000* https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/en/TXT/?uri=celex:32000R2725 *and Regulation (EC) No 407/2002* https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/ALL/?uri=CELEX%3A32002R0407
[28.] https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/en/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A32013R0603

Fatouma, 2,
after she received
her health
consultation
by a UNICEF
-supported
mobile clinic in
Sleiman Alhalabi
neighbourhood,
Aleppo city, north
Syria, on 10
February 2023.
Her family is
among the families
affected by the
earthquake
that hit parts
of Türkiye
and Syria on 6
February 2023.

periods of time than the ones absolutely necessary for the completion of the purpose of collection. The Eurodac system is a good example of how purpose limitation can change, as its original purpose was gradually expanded, ultimately allowing for use of its data for additional purposes.

8.1.3. Necessity and proportionality

Processing should be relevant, necessary and proportional (not exceeding) to the specific purpose. Data that are not necessary for the purpose of collection should not be asked for or maintained, and there always needs to be a limit to what is asked, even if it is deemed necessary, as the basic core of individual privacy must always be respected.

Necessity and proportionality of data collection of migrant and refugee children are parameters that must be addressed and regulated in the legal environment of each country.

8.1.4. Accuracy

Data should be recorded as accurately as possible and updated regularly. Accuracy of collected data is not only desired for the quality of information that is produced but is also a fundamental requirement in the data protection system. There are challenges in this field as well, as the means of verifying collected data varies among different countries and can also be disproportionately invasive of privacy.

A prominent example is the way in which age is verified for asylum-seekers that declare to be underage. Is this declaration enough or should it be verified through other means? If so, could that be with research and comparison of data

through different databases, or through the examination of biometric data, such as fingerprints or genetic data? There is no common answer among the different national legislations. While there is an undisputed need to respect a person's dignity during any kind of validation, which is legally established on the international level, there can also be additional concerns regarding the validity and accuracy of collected data.

8.1.5. Respect for the rights of the data subject

The rights most commonly recognized in this context are those of information, access, correction, deletion and objection, depending on the legal basis under which data are processed. Deletion and objection, for example, are usually not available in cases where legal obligations are the basis of processing. These are also matters that need to be addressed by law in each State.

The right to be informed in particular is crucial, as it is the basis for everything else, and in this case, it is a very sensitive and difficult endeavor. Migrant and refugee children have the right to know what is happening with the data that are collected by authorities and other entities. However, it is extremely difficult to present them with clear information about which data are collected, the different ways in which they are processed and the variety of entities that have access to them, as well as their own rights on them, in a way that will be fully understood.

As registration and data storage systems become increasingly complex and interoperability is being established among them, with the purpose of processing expanding into other areas

– e.g. national security and combating terrorism – it is becoming increasingly more difficult for data subjects to receive clear information on the use of their data.

8.1.6. Security of data

Data security refers to the protection of data from unauthorized access, use, disclosure, modification or destruction. It is an essential aspect of information security and critical to maintaining the confidentiality, integrity and availability of sensitive information. Data security is achieved through the physical security of the infrastructure in which data are stored and used (buildings, rooms, servers, hard drives, paper archives, files, etc.), the security of digital assets (computer systems, networks, services, cloud storage, etc) and the security procedures for personnel.

To achieve data security, several measures can be taken, including:

Digital security:

• Access controls: These can be used to restrict digital access to areas where sensitive data are stored. Access controls can include password protection, two-factor authentication, biometric authentication and other security measures.

• Encryption: This is the process of converting plain text into a secret code. Encrypted data are only readable by those who have the key to decrypt it. Encryption can be applied to data in transit (e.g., when being transmitted over a network) and data at rest (e.g., when stored on a server or hard drive).

• Firewalls and network security: Firewalls can be used to prevent unauthorized digital access to networks, while network security measures such as intrusion detection and prevention systems can help to detect and prevent security breaches.

• Regular software updates and patches: These can be used to ensure that computer systems and software are up-to-date with the latest security fixes and vulnerabilities are patched.

• Anti-virus software: This can be used to protect computer systems and networks from malware and other malicious software.

• Data backup and disaster recovery: Regular data backups can be used to ensure that data are not lost in the event of a security breach or other disaster. Disaster recovery plans can be developed to ensure that data can be restored quickly in the event of a security breach or other disaster.

• Security audits: These can be conducted regularly to identify potential vulnerabilities in the data security infrastructure and address them before they can be exploited.

• Employee training: Employees should be trained on how to handle digital assets containing sensitive data, including how to properly store and secure these assets and how to report any suspicious activity or security incidents.

Physical security:

• Access controls: These can be used to restrict physical access to areas where sensitive data are stored. Physical access controls can include keycard access, biometric authentication, security guards and other security measures.

• Surveillance: Surveillance systems, such as video cameras, can be used to monitor access to areas where sensitive data are stored.

• Environmental controls: Environmental controls, such as fire suppression systems, can be used to protect data

A boy washes
his face at a
UNICEF installed
water point at the
Herat Regional
Hospital.

from physical damage caused by environmental factors, such as fire or water damage.

• Secure storage: Sensitive data should be stored in a secure location that is designed to protect against physical theft, damage, or destruction, such as a locked room or a secure data centre.

• Regular inventory checks: These can be conducted to ensure that all physical assets containing sensitive data are accounted for and that any missing assets are immediately reported.

• Employee training: Employees should be trained on how to handle physical assets containing sensitive data, including how to properly store and secure these assets and how to report any suspicious activity or security incidents.

8.1.7. Confidentiality of data

Data confidentiality refers to the protection of information from theft, unauthorized access or disclosure. It is an essential component of information security and crucial to ensuring data privacy and security.

Statistical confidentiality in particular refers to the protection of the confidentiality of the information provided by survey respondents or other sources of data used in statistical analyses. The goal of statistical confidentiality is to prevent the identification of individuals or organizations based on the data provided.

This is important because the confidentiality of survey respondents and other data sources must be protected in order to encourage truthful and accurate responses.

Statistical confidentiality is predicated on data security, but is not limited to it. There are several methods that are used to achieve statistical confidentiality, including:

• Data anonymization: This involves removing or changing identifying information in the data set, such as names, addresses and other personal identifiers. This can be done by aggregating data or replacing identifying information with codes.

• Statistical disclosure control: This involves the use of statistical methods to modify the data to prevent the identification of individuals or organizations. This can include adding noise to the data, rounding the data or suppressing certain values.

• Access controls: These are mechanisms that restrict access to confidential data to only those who are authorized to view or use it. Access controls can include using passwords, biometric authentication or other security measures to ensure that only authorized users can access the data.

• Data masking: This is the process of hiding sensitive data by replacing them with fictitious data. For example, a social security number might be replaced with a random string of numbers or characters.

• Secure storage: Sensitive data should be stored in a secure location, such as a secure server or cloud storage environment. The storage location should have appropriate security controls in place, such as firewalls, intrusion detection systems and other security measures.

• Employee training: Employees should be trained on how to identify and handle confidential data. This can help prevent accidental disclosures or breaches caused by human error.

• Legal protection: Legal protections, such as confidentiality agreements or privacy laws, can be used to ensure that the confidentiality of the data is protected.

8.1.8. Accountability and supervision

Data controllers and processors must be prepared to prove at all times that they are upholding all principles and safeguards; in addition, independent supervision of data processing activities must be in place.

8.1.9. Transfers of data

Transfer of data is also a very important issue, especially taking into account the principle of confidentiality. However, transfer can play a great role in diminishing costs and burdens of collection, as well as protecting the rights of populations in question. Transfers can occur either between States, or between a State and another party, such as an international organization.

A transfer is an act of processing based on one or more legitimate bases, e.g., a legal requirement, an agreement of cooperation or the public interest, and it can be done for one or more specific and legitimate purposes. The data to be transferred must be relevant, necessary and not excessive in relation to the purpose. The data subject must, in principle, be informed about the transfer, either at the time of collection or later.

The state of data transfers is also a matter that must be clearly regulated in the legal institution of each receiving country and requires the cooperation of countries and other actors.

8.2. Use of consistent legal definitions between countries

An important issue regarding legal constraints in the collection and use of data on migrant and refugee children is the lack of uniformity in legal definitions. The definition of a "child", a "migrant person" or a "refugee" varies across different legislations. This not only creates problems of comparability as the collected data are not of a similar nature and thus rendered insufficient as inputs for statistical information, but also potentially creates problems with the protection of children's rights.

Prominent examples include:
- The right of access to protection for a refugee child is tied to their access to asylum. Faced with each individual country's legal system, one may or may not be granted refugee status, rendering said protection impossible. This would create imbalances in the field of comparable data and accurate measurements of refugee flows, while also posing a threat to the child's right of self-protection.

- Depending on the definition and the data collection systems used by different countries, the distinction between short- and long-term migrants is not always clear. It can be difficult to collect accurate information on this important characteristic of migratory status, as there is a need to determine both the country of usual residence and the migrant's duration of stay. But countries use different methods to determine duration of stay, which further complicates the distinction and relevant applicable legal status.

- Whether a person crossing borders is considered a child or not is obviously a matter of great implication. Legislation varies on the subject among States, which could lead to difficulties regarding both the quality and comparability of data that could be used for statisti-

cal purposes and the protection of the rights of these individuals as children.

Determining the age of an asylum-seeker who claims to be a child can be a complex issue, and it is important to balance the need to protect vulnerable children with the need to prevent fraud and abuse of the asylum system.

There seems, however, to be consensus deriving from legal documents that, in general, it is not appropriate to investigate the age of a child as a first resort, as this can be traumatic and may not be necessary. Instead, other methods can be used to determine the age of the child, such as medical exams, dental exams or interviews with the child and their family members.

However, in cases where there is credible evidence that the individual may not be a child, and where there is a risk of fraud or abuse of the asylum system, investigating the age of the child may be necessary as a last resort. This should only be done in a sensitive and respectful manner and in compliance with international human rights standards.

There are several international legal instruments and conventions that address the issue of how migrants and asylum-seekers should be treated. They provide a framework for the protection of the rights of children and asylum-seekers and emphasize the importance of treating all individuals with dignity, respect and compassion. They include:

• The Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC): Article 3 of the CRC states, "in all actions concerning children, whether undertaken by public or private social welfare institutions, courts of law, administrative authorities or legislative bodies, the best interests of the child shall be a primary consideration."
• The Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR): Article 14 of the UDHR states, "everyone has the right to seek and to enjoy in other countries asylum from persecution."
• The 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees: Article 33 of the Convention states that "no Contracting State shall expel or return ('refouler') a refugee in any manner whatsoever to the frontiers of territories where his life or freedom would be threatened."
• The 1984 United Nations Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment: Article 3 of the Convention prohibits the return of individuals to a country where they would be at risk of torture.

On 13 February 2023 in Lattakia, Syrian Arab Republic, 6-year-old Aya, sits on a mattress in the sports centre in Lattakia, where her family and hundreds of others have sought shelter after being displaced as a result of the earthquake that hit Syria on 6 February.

On August 7, 2022 Joanna, 23, a scout and a shift coordinator at UNICEF Blue Dot in Poland, leaves Medyka border crossing area to go home after a full day's work.

Elements of Capacity Strengthening

9.1 Legal framework

A legal framework that strengthens national statistical systems must focus on the development and strengthening of existing and emerging data sources while also driving cooperation among States and other actors to ensure regulated and secure data flows between them. This second objective includes overcoming definition variances and collection and storage system imbalances and establishing common goals and procedures. Transparency regarding the usage of collected data is also vital, as well as the guarantee of confidentiality, security and data subjects' rights.

9.2 Identification of clear purposes of collection and processing of data among States and organizations

Purposes of collecting data on migrants and refugees may include:

• Identifying and registering migrants and refugees in order to award relevant protection status and/or for purposes of national security
• Developing, implementing and assessing migration and related public policies on

matters including access to education, health care, social security and work

• Comparing the level of human rights realization between migrants and refugees in different countries

• Identifying legal or practical barriers to the enjoyment of human rights of migrants and refugees

• Monitoring the implementation of States' obligations regarding migrants' and refugees' human rights

• Monitoring the collaboration of different stakeholders, such as public services, NSOs, human rights institutions and academic and NGOs

The scope of the purposes of data collection will determine which data can and should be collected and help to establish same or equivalent definitions across different legal orders. It will also help identify new data sources that are more appropriate for the desired use. Appropriate legal bases can then be established in order to facilitate said purposes and the use of new data sources.

9.3 Identification of gaps in data collection

In order to improve existing data sources and promote new appropriate ones, it is important to identify gaps and shortcomings in existing records and collection and storage systems. Gaps and shortcomings can be of a practical or a legal nature.

In general, different sources produce different results and have different legal dynamics. Administrative sources, for example, are not appropriate for gathering data on irregularities, such as de-

nial of education to refugee children or other violations of human rights. These require special inquiries by state agencies and other human rights monitoring mechanisms.

The use of population censuses as a means of gathering migrant and refugee children's data would present subsequent legal shortcomings, as these data would not be able to be shared with other organizations or be utilized in any way other than the processing for statistical purposes.

Regarding emerging and innovative data sources, there are legal difficulties involved in the utilization of data that could come from them, mainly because of privacy considerations.

It is therefore important to identify such difficulties in data collection and use, deriving from both the practical and legal environment, in order to assess the use of each of the existing and emerging data sources.

9.4 Strengthening and improving appropriate data sources

Once the gaps have been identified and the appropriate data sources selected, the next step involves the legal strengthening of these sources.

If, for example, innovative sources are deemed appropriate for the appointed purposes, it is then up to the legislator to establish a favourable legal environment that would facilitate the uninhibited use of such sources. For instance, this would include safeguards to prevent abuse of data and legislated motivation for private data holders to cooperate.
If official statistics are found to be ade-

quate sources of information for certain uses, then prohibitions and difficulties in statistical agencies' access to administrative data of migrant children should be lifted through appropriate legislation. The process of strengthening data sources, however, also poses dangers to the persons of interest, especially concerning privacy and human rights.

Certain general rules must be followed:
• Overall promotion of ethical collection of data

• Assurance that the fundamental right to privacy is not inhibited by said collection, storage, use and dissemination of data

• Assurance that a clear legal distinction is created between public services and immigration authorities to protect migrants and refugees from legal implications because of the use of such data

• Participation of all stakeholders in the design of surveys and other data collection instruments in order to improve relevance and quality of the produced information

9.5 Promotion of interstate cooperation and involvement of all stakeholders

The basis of all attempts to strengthen States' and other organizations' capacity for data collection and use related to migrant and refugee children should be close cooperation in order to manage collection system imbalances, establish networks of common goals and procedures, and ensure regulated and secure data flows between different actors.

It is important to use appropriate legal tools to encourage harmonization of col-

lection systems, ensure comparability and improve cooperation among different stakeholders, including public services, statistical offices, human rights institutions, academics and civil society organizations and migrant populations.

Finally, a key component of this effort should be legal national- and international-level involvement of all countries that are part of migrant and refugee flows, using appropriate legal instruments, and to allocate the responsibility for monitoring the situation of migrant and refugee children among all countries involved in migrant flows, origin, transit and destination.

Some concrete activities to improve coordination in the area of data on children on the move are mapped out below. They build on EGRISS recommendations, which face some of the same challenges when introducing a "new" area of statistical production:

• Engage ministers and senior politicians at international, regional and national levels to elevate statistics on children on the move as a priority for political and government agendas. For example, a regional ministerial conference could be called, aiming to establish regional plans for improving statistics on children on the move. It is crucial to engage children on the move and youth in these discussions and listen to their advice and identified needs.

• Map out and link up with initiatives working on migration, forced displacement and 2030 Agenda statistics and connect them with initiatives working on capacity building and integration into national statistical systems and plans. Whenever possible, organize joint capacity-building workshops and trainings

with partners leading in these areas at national, regional and global levels.

• Explore the potential of setting up a research-based forum on children on the move that could further be a platform for promotion of migrant and displaced children's data and inclusion of children on the move in the public debate. Similarly, there is a need to strengthen the data hub on child data and include a far broader set of indictors linked to the Convention on the Rights of the Child, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Global Compact for Migration and the Global Compact on Refugees.

• National authorities should form technical governance bodies to strengthen statistics on children on the move, such as advisory groups, working groups, expert groups and common collaborative spaces to harmonize concepts, definitions, methodology and reporting on data collected. The IDEAS project, for example, aims to map out the data ecosystem related to child-specific data and identify gaps and capacity needs (see below).

• More coordinated global-level advocacy showcasing data and statistics on children on the move, highlighting data gaps and demonstrating examples of how joint production of such statistics, can lead to effective policies and programmes for children on the move.

• A more coordinated effort should be made to disaggregate Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by age and agree on a uniform set of age categories for disaggregation of key SDG statistics.

• Regional and international statistical authorities should highlight the need for national statistical systems to prioritize statistics on children on the move. IDAC is an example of a coordinated global effort to advocate for the inclusion of statistics on children on the move into national work programmes and national statistical development strategies.

9.6 Data ecosystem management

Across contexts, the national data ecosystem typically includes three main data actors: [29]

• Data users – those who primarily need statistical information (e.g., national planning commissions, ministries and policymakers in general)

• Data producers – those who primarily generate data (e.g., NSOs and other members of the national statistical system, as well as other data providers of non-official statistics (e.g., NGOs, private sector, stakeholders in general)

• Entities that are both data users and producers – those who both oversee the production of data and who use information to inform decisions regarding service delivery (e.g., ministries of education, health, justice, social development; development partners (multilateral and bilateral agencies); civil society and NGOs)

Management of a country's data ecosystem is influenced by national priorities, strategies and programmes;

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[29] *Understanding National Data Ecosystems – Development Gateway: an IREX Venture – Data and digital solutions for international development.*

existing national legal and structural frameworks; and availability of capacities and resources.

To produce quality, timely and reliable data and statistics on migrant and displaced children, the national data ecosystem ideally includes the following elements:

• **Inclusive.** It involves the multitude of data producers and demanders, including local, subnational and national authorities (e.g., ministries, departments, NSOs, bureaus), international organizations, civil society organizations, academics and think tanks, donors, private sector and individual citizens that work at the nexus of migration, displacement, development, data and children's issues.

• **Integrated.** Relevant data are pulled together from diverse sources such as censuses, sample surveys, administrative data and innovative data sources.

• **Child-centred.** All concerned stakeholders are engaged on data processes for the purpose of providing child protection, as well as implementing and monitoring child-relevant SDGs and the two global compacts on migrants and refugees.

• **Interrelated.** Stakeholders do not operate in silos, but actively seek to foster synergies between data-related work on the ground (for humanitarian and development purposes) and the broader national data collection efforts. They share a common objective to enhance the availability, timeliness and quality of data and statistics for evidence-based policymaking and programming.

• **Coordinated.** An effective coordination mechanism is in place to mainstream refugee and migration data across the statistical system and to promote synergies with various statistical activities and processes involved in the collection, storage, analysis, use and sharing of child-specific data for policymaking and public information.

• **Connected.** The data ecosystem supports the achievement of national strategies for the development of statistics and other relevant sectorial strategies.

Boys in primary
grades 1-5 attend
classes at Sultan
High School in
Herat, Afghanistan.

The Integrated Data Ecosystem Assessment and Strengthening (IDEAS) Tool
- A framework for managing national data ecosystem on migration

In an effort to strengthen national data capacities and support countries in fulfilling their promise to achieve the 2030 Agenda, as well as to operationalize the Global Compact for Migration and the Global Compact on Refugees, the Integrated Data Ecosystem Assessment and Strengthening (IDEAS)[30] project was developed jointly by UNICEF, IOM, UNHCR, UNSD and UNESCAP in 2019.

Using an assessment toolkit, the project aims to comprehensively map existing data, identify gaps and good practices in national data capacities, and provide recommendations on how to sustainably enhance the collection, analysis and use of high-quality, timely and disaggregated data on children on the move at the country level, thereby ensuring well-informed responses to the needs of migrant and displaced children.

Based on the data and knowledge gaps in countries of implementation, the project further aims to identify key indicators on migrant and forcibly displaced children to report against in line with international standards and recommendations, and according to national priorities and global commitments.

The IDEAS tool consists of a general module that focuses on the way migration data are collected, shared and disseminated at national level, as well as topic-specific modules on child-related data and themes, such as access to services, detention, child protection and education, which are of particular interest for the implementing country.

With the assistance of an interviewer, questionnaires are filled in by relevant focal points of collaborating partners in the country, including the NSO, line ministries and other key stakeholders working in pertinent child-specific areas. Through the exercise, national focal points can identify not only which data are collected and available, but also the topic-specific indicators that are crucial for migrant and forcibly displaced children.

Based on the responses received by key stakeholders, a set of recommendations are presented on how to enhance the national data capacity, along with a road map on follow-up activities such as trainings and technical assistance.

[30.] *The IDEAS project has so far been implemented in Thailand in 2019 and Jordan in 2020. However, the continued roll out of the project was disrupted by the COVID-19 pandemic.*
[31.] *Understanding National Data Ecosystems – Development Gateway: an IREX Venture – Data and digital solutions for international development.*
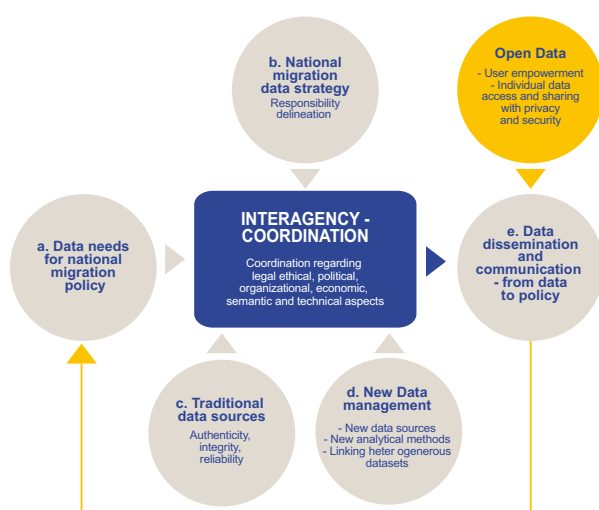
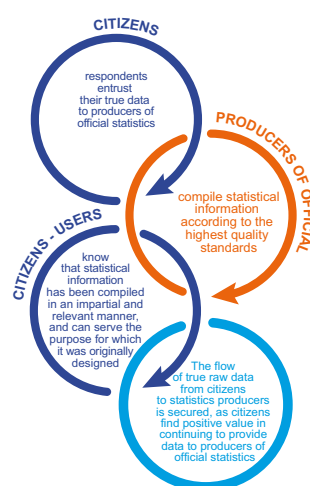Figure 1. A comprehensive national migration data infrastructure[31]

Figure 2.
Virtuous circle
of official statistics[32]

9.7 Statistical literacy

The main purpose of statistical literacy – and more specifically its development – is to strengthen and enhance statistical knowledge and equip citizens with the basic skills to use data effectively. Promoting statistical thinking is an important skill that needs to be acquired, as everyone receives unfiltered information and data from all kinds of networks.

People with basic skills regarding statistics (and the importance of statistical data) can evaluate published research results in scientific fields related to their professional life and, at the same time, they have acquired the ability to critically read online articles, newspapers, and journals in their everyday life.

Countries where citizens understand the value of data and trust data providers tend to have better data in all fields (and the appropriate disaggregation) compared to countries where people do not understand the importance of statistical data. This demand for data mobilizes resources to data providers and helps the whole data ecosystem.

Statistical thinking is equally important to policymakers since governments are always the most important users of statistical data. Public administration should also be able to understand and effectively use the available data and push statistical agencies to provide reliable, coherent and disaggregated data. Especially in data relating to children on the move, the importance of data must be embedded in all stakeholders who, intentionally or not, are part of the data production procedure.

State authorities who evaluate the importance of statistical data tend to work closely with statistical agencies and international organizations on the collection, analysis and dissemination of data. This is crucial for the data on children on the move because of the constraints discussed previously.

[32.] Thanopoulos A.C., and Karamichalakou C., 'Fostering Statistical Literacy in Greece', Statistical Journal of the IAOS, no. 37, 2021, pp. 873–884.

On 16 October 2022 in Haiti, mother Jesula Gaspard, 30, feeds her 2-year-old son, Chrisle Amboise, Plumpy'Nut Ready-to-Use Therapeutic Food (RUTF) at their home in CitO© Soleil, which she received in a mobile medical clinic run by UNICEF.

10

Country Experiences and Best Practices

Improving data for migrant and displaced children starts at the country level. While this manual offers standards and principles in line with international recommendations, the realities on the ground may differ from one country to the next. With this in mind, it is vital to foster the exchange of lived experiences, gained insights and tested methodologies between and among countries as they strengthen migrant - and child-sensitive data for children on the move. This section highlights country examples submitted by some national statistical authorities from around the globe, which can serve as models and good practices to inspire other countries and facilitate information exchange and peer-learning across contexts.

10.1 Chile: Updating census methodology to keep pace with rising numbers of immigrants

Historically, the population and housing census has been the main source of information for measuring immigration to Chile. An analysis of census data on the evolution of the percentage of immigrants over time shows that the proportion of migrants decreased between 1907 and 1982, and therefore immigration was not an important issue for the country in the 1980s. However, **by the time of the 2017 Census, significant increases in immigration had been observed**, and the proportion of migrants had climbed to 4.4

per cent of the total resident population, a level of migration that had not been seen since 1907.

Data on migratory flows recorded in administrative border-crossing records have shown a positive balance (i.e., more international entries than exits) since 2014. Most increases in the number of applications for residence permits within the national territory occurred after the 2017 Census, **which led to the assumption that the census had become outdated in its measurement of the total number of immigrants.**

Coordinating stakeholders

Given the recent increase in immigration to Chile, the issue quickly gained political importance. It therefore became necessary to initiate institutional coordination between the four institutions involved in the migratory flow and the National Statistics Institute (INE, by its Spanish acronym).

The following list includes the records used and their institutional sources:
- 2017 Census stock – administered by INE
- Visa applications processed inside the country – applications administered by the National Migration Service (Sermig, by its Spanish acronym) of the Ministry of the Interior
- Visa applications processed outside the country at consulates and embassies – applications administered by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- Entries into and exits from the country through regular border crossings – administered by the Investigations Police (PDI, by its Spanish acronym).
- Identification numbers and death certificates – administered by the Civil

Identification and Registration Office

Improving census methodology

Every year since 2018, the main methodology has been as follows: The census stock has been maintained as the basis of the estimate, but has been adjusted for census omission and the aging of the population. Also, information contained in administrative records on foreigners who entered the country after the census have been added, while foreigners who left the country and those who died during the period up to the date of the estimate have been subtracted (see Figure 3).

This methodology has some limitations. For instance, when census omission is applied, it is assumed that the omission is the same for all people. Furthermore, there are no administrative records that account for a change in the place of residence of the population.

For subnational estimates, the census indicates the place of residence on the day of the census and administrative records include residence information declared at the time of application; it is therefore assumed that people continue to live in the same location.

Additionally, because the census does not ask for a unique identification number nor does it store personal information such as names and surnames, the census cannot be linked with administrative records at the micro-level.

A clearer picture of young migrants

In 2021, there were an estimated 1.5 million foreign residents in Chile, representing about 7 per cent of the total resident population. At the national level, a
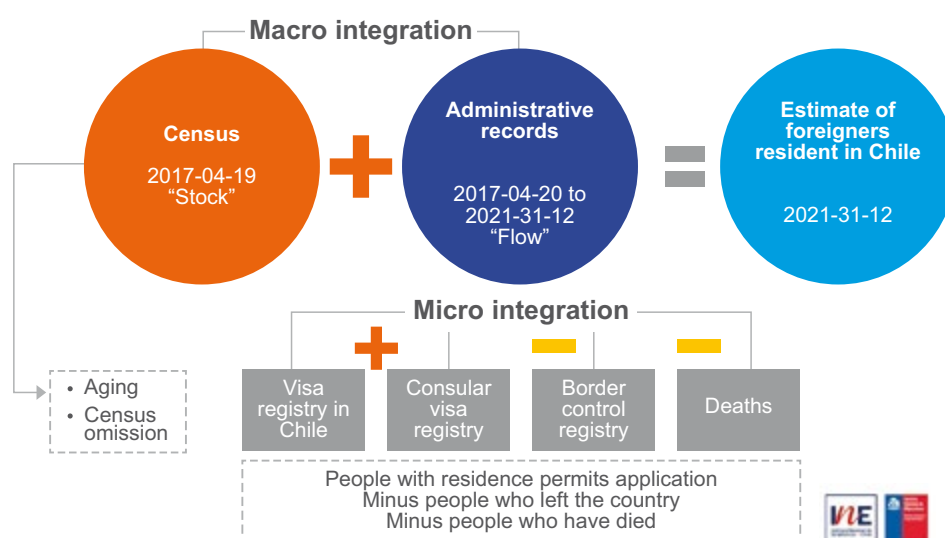
Figure 3. Methodology for estimating foreign residents in Chile (2018–2021)
Source: National Statistics Institute and National Migration Service

total of 198,266 of the foreign residents were under the age of 20, of whom the highest concentration was in the 10-to-14-year age group (33.2 per cent). This segment has grown 7.8 per cent when compared to 2018 data. On the other hand, children between the ages of 0 and 4 years represented 5.2 per cent of the population under the age of 20 in 2021, falling 11.9 per cent compared to 2018.

In 2018, 2019 and 2020, males represented the majority of the group under the age of 20 (50.6 per cent, 50.5 per cent and 50.4 per cent, respectively). In 2021, females became the majority in this age group, representing 50.4 per cent of the total.

Collaborating for better data on behalf of child migrants

After the publication of the 2021 estimates, the mutual interest of INE Chile and UNICEF to deepen the statistical use of administrative records focused on the migration of children, adoles-

cents and their families led to the signing of a Collaboration Agreement.

It establishes two lines of action: The first is to carry out an analysis of migrant children and adolescents in Chile based on currently available data, including vital statistics and the estimate of the number of foreign residents in 2021. The second line of action is to evaluate complementary data from administrative records external to the NSO, which can be used to deepen the analysis.

10.2 Greece: Better data to drive equity and inclusion for children on the move

At the end of 2019, an estimated 42,500 migrant children were present in Greece, including a total of 4,815 unaccompanied children. To improve registration and inform government planning and response, the Hellenic Statistical System (ELSS) and UNICEF Greece Country Office worked together to improve quality of data and statistics and thus better support these children.

Zarghuneh, 10,
claps along to a
song while playing
with friends in a
UNICEF-supported
child-friendly space
in Gayan District,
Paktika Province,
Afghanistan.

Data during crisis

The responsible authority to manage referrals and placement of unaccompanied children in Greece is the National Centre for Social Solidarity (in Greek: Εθνικό Κέντρο Κοινωνικής Αλληλεγγύης or EKKA) of the Greek Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs, after 2020 under the Special Secretary for the Protection of Unaccompanied Minors of the Ministry of Migration and Asylum in Greece and from June 2023 under the Ministry of Social Cohesion and Family. Until the refugee and migration crisis, EKKA's involvement in provision of data was minor since the number of children was relatively small. There was no information management system in place, and, because of that, policies regarding children on the move were not a priority for policymakers. EKKA itself was not part of the ELSS, but the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs as a whole was.

During the refugee and migrant emergency, the first- and second-line reception facilities in Greece were increased with the establishment of six reception and identification centres (five on the islands and one on the mainland), as well as a high number of open accommodation sites across Greece (29 open sites by the end of 2019 – currently 24). However, reliable data on children on the move in Greece remained fragmented, on many occasions omitting key aspects such as their age and sex.

Long- and short-term accommodation places and facilities for unaccompanied children (UAC) on the move also increased significantly (e.g., by the end of 2019 there were 52 UAC shelters across Greece, 10 safe zones for UAC accommodation within open sites, 14 hotels for UAC accommodation). With data on

UAC on the move being recorded manually in each accommodation location/shelter, EKKA did not have the appropriate personnel to manage those huge arbitrary datasets, where crucial variables were omitted or were not collected at all.

At the same time, social workers were in urgent need of data in order to be able to go through the appropriate processes and more quickly make decisions of placements of children on the move. However, the Reception and Identifications Service did not have the statistical culture to collect data on arrivals properly and with the disaggregation that was needed. The main issue was that the country did not have the ownership of reliable data regarding children on the move, since data were fragmented and incoherent among different actors.

Building capacities

The UNICEF Greece Country Office and the Hellenic Statistical Authority (ELSTAT), in alignment with existing/planned legislation, provided the appropriate means to EKKA regarding data capacity building. The steps that helped EKKA build its appropriate skills and know-how included:

• UNICEF, while working on the field to provide solutions for the immediate needs of the most vulnerable children, strongly advocated for sustainable solutions, ownership by authorities and evidence-based solutions and systems building that included the availability (public) and reliability of disaggregated data for monitoring the situation of children on the move.

• Data gaps as dictated from international experience were clearly mapped. Data on children on the move had to be

disaggregated by sex, country of origin, age group (0–5, 6–11, 12–14, 15–18) and whether a child is unaccompanied and separated.

• The legal basis for the collection of data was the common interest and the protection of the children. Since EKKA was a public entity there were no legal barriers.

• Skilled personnel helped EKKA construct and update a reliable and secure database and worked with existing EKKA personnel to use the data on their own. The focus was not only data collection, but also data analysis and data usage. These data advisors were provided by the UNICEF country office and thus did not result in financial burdens to EKKA's budget.

• ELSTAT has made the Ministry of Migration and Asylum individual part of the ELSS that enables them to have access to funding from other sources.

• Apart from the development and production of data, dissemination of statistical data has also been prioritized.

• Interoperability with other existing or planned systems has been at the forefront of measures.

• Close collaboration between the UNICEF country office and ELSTAT in the fields of data exchange processes was vital, as with more data available there are more requests in accordance with national and European legislation.

• Sustainability was achieved through coordination between different actors, capacity building of staff, and inclusion of budget planning by authorities to maintain data systems and expert staff in the long term.

Improved data quality and availability

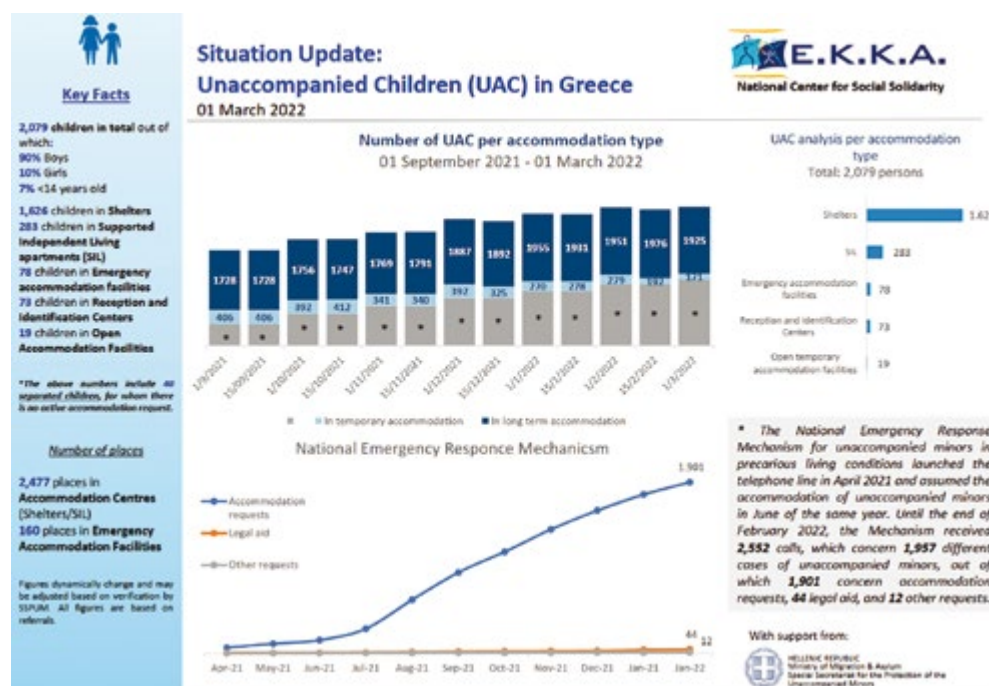As of August 2021, it was estimated that

Figure 4. Dissemination of data regarding unaccompanied Children in Greece

Nafasgul, 9,
reads books with
her friends in a
UNICEF-supported
child-friendly space
in Gayan District,
Paktika Province,
Afghanistan.

a total of 31,000 children on the move (migrant and refugee children) were present in Greece, including 2,079 unaccompanied children. Thanks to these investments in the data collection system, disaggregated data on arrivals are now being collected from the Reception and Identification Service, which oversees over 10,000 children currently residing in 28 open accommodation sites and six reception centres.

A safe and secure storage system provides automatic analysis of key indicators based on an agreed analytical framework. At the same time, a national online and easy-to-use web-based database (www.helidon.gr) provides a vital snapshot of the situation of unaccompanied and separated children in Greece.

Social workers can now see a child's information and social history in one place, leading to faster processing, decision making and placement. At the same time, there is an automatic matching of an unaccompanied child with the appropriate place based on specific criteria such as age group and real time monitoring of availability of places, ensuring that children are quickly assigned and centres do not remain unused.

During the 2021 Population and Housing Census, data regarding refugees were spotlighted. For the first time, ELSTAT, in collaboration with the Greek Ministry of Migration and Asylum, performed the census in refugee camps with a special questioner, collecting data on the number of refugees living there and their characteristics with the appropriate disaggregation. At the same time, social workers as special enumerators collected data regarding unaccompanied children who were not living in camps across the entire country.

10.3 Italy: Integration of data and data on integration

The Italian National Institute of Statistics (ISTAT) has been collecting and disseminating information on migrant children – stocks and flows – for many years. Substantial data on migrant minors and their demographic characteristics are made available using administrative sources. In addition, the census collects and disseminates information regarding children and young people on the move, including information about households and families.

Over the last decade, ISTAT has established collaborative relationships with various ministries (Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Education and Ministry of Labour and Social Policies). The approval of the European Parliament Regulation on European statistics on migration and international protection – 862/2007/EC – represented a milestone in improving the quantity and quality of information available; moreover, the regulation boosted the collaboration between ISTAT and the Ministry of Interior.

This positive cooperation is not limited to administrative data but has also involved the implementation of sample surveys focused on migrant children, with the Ministry of Interior financing the first survey, which focused on the integration of second-generation migrants in Italy and was carried out by ISTAT.

Over the same period, ISTAT also initiated a modernization programme that includes a significant revision of statistical production. The use of a system of integrated statistical registers as a base for data production is at the centre of this new approach. As a result, new information about minors on the move

has been made available – including their specific characteristics and needs of the new generations.

Administrative data: towards integrated registers

Administrative data can be used for an overall description of stocks and of migrants/foreign population; they can also be useful also to describe the presence and the dynamics of migrant minors. Administrative data are derived from many different sources (e.g., municipality registers, residence permits, data collected by the Ministry of Education).

Today, this information is harmonized, transformed into statistical data and integrated, providing rich information on the number of migrant minors (stocks and flows) in Italy, their personal characteristics (age, sex, place of residence, citizenship, country of birth), migratory status (migrant, born abroad, new citizen that has acquired Italian citizenship, duration of stay), on the reasons of the migration (family reasons, asylum application, temporary protection, etc.) and on some behaviours (school attendance). The Permanent Population and Housing Census (PPHC) is planned on a yearly sampling survey to produce annual data –replacing the previous decennial cycle – and is based on the integrated registers system. In this way, the census completes the system of registers by providing additional information on several different aspects and, above all, on household structures.

Another important advantage offered by administrative data integration is the possibility of applying longitudinal analysis. This aspect is particularly promising for children and young people that are living a period of growth, develop-

ment and transition. It is essential to follow their paths of social integration over time.

The key role of cooperation

Cooperation with other administrative bodies has been essential for the improvement of statistical data on migrant children. ISTAT has worked for many years with the Ministry of Interior, the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Labour and Social Policies in order to improve the quantity and quality of data about children on the move. On 6 May 2017, a new legislation, "Protection Measures for Unaccompanied Minors" (law n.47/17), established the National Information System for Unaccompanied Minors, which is managed by the General Directorate of Immigration and Integration Policies. The real-time, updated system registers stocks and flows of unaccompanied foreign minors in Italy. The General Directorate of Immigration and Integration Policies periodically disseminates reports that monitor the presence and the characteristics of unaccompanied minors, offering also regionally specific insights.

In 2018, ISTAT signed an agreement of cooperation with the Ministry of Labour and Social Policies – General Directorate of Immigration and Integration Policies – that manages the National Information System for Unaccompanied Minors. The agreement focused in general on integration of migrants, but a special focus is dedicated to minors.

In addition, ISTAT has collaborated with UNHCR on a project dedicated to the integration of asylum-seekers and refugees. A specific phase of the project is devoted to the study of the integration of minors. Presently, ISTAT is work-

On 16 March 2022, little Sofiya peeks out from the UNICEF tent at the Medyka border in Poland. Sofiya arrived with her mother Tanja at the border as they fled the war in Ukraine. Tanja, her sister and young Sofiya had to wait for their drive from the border for a couple of hours in order to continue their journey. In the UNICEF tent, they found a safe space where Sofiya could play, get breastfed and rest.

ing to identify the number of refugees and asylum-seekers attending Italian schools through the integration of different administrative datasets. Provisional results are already available.

Sample surveys and integration

While it is important to quantify stocks and flows of children on the move – and their characteristics, it is also important that receiving developed countries consider the integration processes, well-being and special needs of migrant children.

Since 2014, ISTAT has been conducting surveys that focus on the integration of children and adolescents on the move. Minors are directly interviewed to collect information about their opinions and expectations without the bias of a proxy respondent. ISTAT, jointly with UNICEF-Italia, is developing a new approach that considers children as the main actors in some statistical processes. Young people are involved from the first step through focus groups and workshops with students in order to individuate relevant issues and the most suitable wording to address them. ISTAT applies innovative statistical techniques and questionnaires that are tailored to easily reach young people.

A first survey was carried out in Naples in 2014 in cooperation with local administrators, the University of Naples Federico II and the Ministry of Education. It was a pilot project about the integration of foreign students attending lower secondary school in the city.

In 2015, ISTAT, jointly with the Ministry of Interior and the Ministry of Education, carried out a national survey on the integration of second-generation mi-

grants to investigate the critical issues and the positive experiences of the inclusion processes of children with a migrant background. The survey involved students attending lower and upper secondary school. The target population were children and adolescents with foreign citizenship. The survey also collected information about the country of birth and the date of arrival in Italy (for migrant children). For an overall understanding of the phenomenon, ISTAT also involved Italian students as a control group. The sample included the top ten citizenships present at the national level.

The questionnaire was structured into six sections.
• The first section concerned demographic information and the history of migration (if migrants), with questions about future expectations and the feeling of belonging.
• The second section – dedicated to foreign students – concerned the knowledge and use of the Italian language.
• The third section dealt with school, teachers and classmates, specifically investigating the influence of other subjects on school choices, a self-evaluation of their school performance and their perception of the importance of study.
• The fourth section collected information on leisure time and friends, investigating the use of post-school time, attendance at specific places, the use of the Internet, and any episodes of discrimination suffered by their peers.
• The fifth section focused on the family context, deepening the relationships of coexistence with their families and with other subjects close to the family.
• The sixth section dealt with their housing conditions. The survey was administered using computer-assisted web

interviewing with students filling the questionnaire at the informatics laboratories in the school.

In 2021, ISTAT carried out the 'Children and young people: behavior, attitudes, and future projects' survey with the support of the Ministry of Education. The general aim of the research was to collect information about the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on the daily lives of children and young people, in order to highlight the vulnerabilities and strengths of the country's youngest citizens. In this case, the sample was representative for foreign and Italian students and it was also possible to disaggregate data for students that have acquired Italian citizenship. The research involved a sample of around 41,000 students attending secondary schools in Italy and focused on various topics. The sample represented the first five most frequent foreign citizenships and several citizen groups. Some of the questions dealt with the pandemic (distance learning, relationships with peers and family, the use of social media); other questions were more general and collected information about behaviours, opinions and expectations of the students about several aspects of everyday life, including the environment, future plans and the use of internet. Finally, some questions were focused on students with a foreign background: migrant history, language use, citizenship, etc. The survey was administered using computer-assisted web interviewing with students filling the survey at home – or where they preferred – since they could also use the smart phones to fill the form.

In 2023, ISTAT will carry out a new survey, 'Children and young people: behavior, attitudes, and future projects'. Dedicated to children and young people

ages 11 to 19, it will collect information on many aspects of everyday adolescent life: school, social relationships, use of social networks, leisure time, sport, future projects, etc. Some questions are focused on vulnerabilities such us bullying and cyberbullying and educational poverty. For each dimension, it is possible to compare Italians and foreigners, native and foreign born, principal foreign citizenships, etc. The questionnaire pays particular attention to children on the move, with special insights on migration process (for migrant children), on Italian language knowledge and on citizenship (legal status and attitudes).

New perspectives

ISTAT is also carrying out projects about data integration using information collected through both surveys and administrative data. A topic that has already generated interesting results is the realization of intentions for the future expressed by foreign students interviewed during the 2015 survey on integration among second-generation children on the move. The students declared their intention to attend university or not. It is now possible, using administrative data collected by the Ministry of Education, to check if the declared intentions have been realized or not. The general aim of the National Institute of Statistics is to promote the integration between survey data and administrative sources in order to develop longitudinal analysis of integration processes.

Special topic: Ukrainian children on the move

Over the last year, thousands of Ukrainian children have arrived in Italy fleeing the war. ISTAT is cooperating with the

On 21st November 2022, 9 year old Mohammad Yusef is photographed at the UNICEF-supported Child Friendly Space (CFS) in Chata village, Badakhshan Province in Afghanistan.

Ministry of Interior in order to provide the European Commission with data about Ukrainians under temporary protection in Italy (stocks and flows). Special attention is paid to children, which represent a high percentage of the new arrivals from Ukraine. ISTAT is also cooperating with the World Bank for a project titled 'Protecting human capital during episodes of forced displacement: learning from Ukrainian refugees in Italy' that aims to generate knowledge on the factors preventing or ameliorating human capital losses during episodes of massive forced displacement among extremely vulnerable populations (such as Ukrainian refugees, most of whom are women and children). The project includes a survey on Ukrainian children carried out in the Italian schools.

10.4 Morocco: Improving governance and data availability of international migration

In 2013, upon the initiative of King Mohammed VI, Morocco adopted the National Strategy for Immigration and Asylum to promote coherence and alignment of national efforts with regional and global commitments and to realize the objective of making migration work for all.

Since then, Morocco has led global efforts aimed at improving the governance of international migration, including by chairing and hosting the Global Forum on Migration and Development, followed by the inter-governmental adoption of the Global Compact for Migration in Marrakech in 2018.

Morocco also spearheaded related regional efforts, including the adoption of the Migration Policy Framework for Afri-

ca and Plan of Action (2018–2030) and the hosting of the first African Migration Observatory.

Recognizing the importance of sound data and evidence for policymaking and programming, Morocco formed an inter-ministerial steering committee to monitor the implementation of the migration strategy and encourage the development of statistics on different categories of migrants across all sectors, including statistics related to education and culture, youth and leisure, health, housing, social and humanitarian assistance, vocational training, employment, management of flows and fight against trafficking.

This resulted in the implementation of a centralized information technology (IT) system on international migration, which includes statistical data resulting from surveys and other administrative statistics that can be disaggregated by age and sex. Morocco also currently collects age- and sex-disaggregated data on migrant and populations through its national census and is considering integrating additional questions specific to migrant and displaced children in the next census round in 2024.

Using surveys to close the data gaps

In recent years, Morocco has also carried out a number of surveys that represent good examples of national initiatives to close the data gaps concerning the numbers and experiences of migrant and displaced populations, including children:

1. From 2018–2019, Morocco carried out its first representative migration survey at the national level, on emigrants, return migrants, forced migrants and the

non-migrant population.

2. In 2020, the High Commissioner for Planning collaborated with UNHCR to carry out a survey on the impact of COVID-19 on the socioeconomic, cultural and psychological situation of refugee households. The survey included specific data on children, such as data on virtual school attendance during the pandemic.[33]

3. In 2021, Morocco carried out a national forced migration survey, which included four key categories of migrant populations: migrants in an irregular administrative situation, regularized migrants, refugees and asylum-seekers.

4. In 2022, a survey was carried out on the socioeconomic conditions of refugees in Morocco.

Building on frameworks

Critically, all of these surveys collected data disaggregated by age and sex, enabling the identification of children on the move. Moreover, throughout the development of these surveys, the High Commissioner for Planning of Morocco utilized guidance from international frameworks, including recommendations produced by EGRISS, to ensure that data generated from these surveys can be compared across contexts. The High Commissioner for Planning has recognized the need to carry out additional surveys in the future that zoom further into the specific needs and experiences of migrant and displaced children in the country.

Finally, the leadership of the High Commissioner for Planning is establishing

an integrated and harmonized information system that integrates statistical data from surveys and censuses and administrative data in coordination with the national institutions producing those data. This includes about 20 administrative statistics produced by 12 institutions integrating data on migrant children disaggregated, among other things, by age and sex.

10.5 Poland: Priority areas when planning a comprehensive study on migrant and displaced children

In-depth research of a sociological nature should cover various aspects of a child's life, in the context of his/her development needs and the degree to which they are met, and should be a key issue in a comprehensive diagnosis of the situation of migrant or displaced children.

Conducting social research on the situation of migrant and displaced children should be based on the data in this area and supplemented by existing information obtained from administrative sources (if any). Research on migrant and refugee children should be comprehensive and aimed primarily at diagnosing the satisfaction of the child's needs, within the context of the child's well-being and proper development and the ability to exercise their rights, as well as the need for public services.

Child-centred study and research design

The following areas should be taken into account when designing studies on migrant and displaced children:

[33.] https://egrisstats.org/recommendations/examples-of-implementation/morocco/

- number of children, social structure of migrants, displaced persons, family situation (including the issue of separation) and living conditions in Poland
- dimension (in quantitative and qualitative terms) of the assistance provided to such children, including the availability of public services for children
- actions taken on the part of various institutions (governmental entities, local governments, NGOs) and individuals in Poland to integrate migrants/displaced persons (including children) in Poland
- effectiveness of the measures outlined above through subjective assessments of aid recipients, which relate both to the current situation of these refugee children and the evaluation of aid activities of various entities and institutions
- future plans of migrant and displaced persons
- expectations of these people (including children) regarding the assistance provided
- state and capabilities of the various entities in providing assistance to these children
- public attitudes toward migrant or displaced persons

Research on the situation of migrant and displaced children could include:
- children and their parents from migrant and displaced families and those fleeing the war (as the primary respondent group)
- NGOs involved in helping such people
- governmental and local authorities providing assistance to such persons and institutions under their authority
- the country's general population

A key issue besides the scope of sub-jects and topics is the creation of a survey frame and ensuring the representativeness of the surveys conducted.

10.6 United Kingdom: Better data for children on the move

The UK already publishes a range of statistics on children in the immigration system (including the number of unaccompanied minors claiming asylum as well as children in other parts of the system, such as those relating to dependents on family visas), in the quarterly Immigration Statistics. These statistics, including their quality and presentation, are kept under review with the aim to ensure they continue to meet user needs and enhance people's understanding of immigration.

Improving data flows and analysis

The department is undertaking a major transformation of case-working systems. This ongoing project will improve data flows and provide potential for better and more timely analysis. It will also enhance case-working processes, which will help manage cases more effectively.

This could improve the availability of data recorded across the immigration system, including on children.

Once established, the new system will also allow for a more joined up view of the immigration system, by providing capability to follow an individual's interactions across different parts of the system.

On 25 June 2022, 8-year-old Nazgul holds her 3-year-old sister Wahida in the tent which became their home after the earthquake on 22 June in Gayan District, Paktika Province, Afghanistan destroyed their family's house. They lost their 10-year-old sister, Mah Gul, in the collapse.

On 6 April 2022 in Ukraine, a group of relatives and family friends of women and children who have been separated from their husbands and fathers seek safety in a bomb shelter as air raid sirens blare outside in the southern port city of Odesa. They wait to board an evacuation train that will take them to a safer part of the country, toward the border with Poland.

Proposals

Improving national statistical systems' capacity to produce better data on children on the move involves several key steps:

1. **Collaboration with relevant stakeholders:** National statistical systems should work closely with relevant organizations and institutions, such as government agencies, international organizations and civil society groups, to identify and collect data on children on the move.

2. **Data collection and management:** National statistical systems should invest in the development of robust data collection and management systems that are designed to capture information on children on the move. This may include the use of specialized data collection tools and techniques, such as surveys and other forms of data collection in the field.

3. **Data analysis and dissemination:** National statistical systems should invest in the development of capacity to analyse and disseminate data on children on the move, including the use of appropriate methodologies and data visualization tools.

4. **Staff training and capacity-building:** National statistical systems should invest in the training and capacity-building of staff in order to ensure that they have the necessary skills and knowledge to effectively collect, analyse and disseminate data on children on the move.

5. **Funding and resources:** National statistical systems should secure adequate fund and resources to support data collection, analysis and dissemination activities related to children on the move.

By taking these steps, national statistical systems can build capacity and enhance their ability to collect, analyse and disseminate high-quality data on children on the move in order to inform policy and practice and improve outcomes for this vulnerable population.

This will also help to raise awareness of the challenges faced by children on the move and contribute to the development of evidence-based policies and programmes that support their well-being and protect their rights.

On 22 January 2022, 3-year-old Kawthar wears her new woollen hat and scarf, received as part of the winter clothing kits UNICEF distributed in Alzhourieyh makeshift camp, east rural Homs. "These came just in time," says her mother Turkiyeh, 39, about the winter clothes.

Index of Photographs / Credits

Page Number	Unique Identifier	Source Name
Cover	UN0665339	Sayed Bidel
p. 10-11	UN0605534	Tom Remp
p. 16-17	UNI400172	Georges Harry Rouzier
p. 19	UN0613909	Vincent Tremeau
p. 20-21	UN0398442	Antwan Chnkdji
p. 23	UN0594514	Frank Dejongh
p. 24-25	UN0634445	Ashley Gilbertson
p. 29	UN0605259	Adrian Holerga
p. 30-31	UN0747717	Mark Naftalin
p. 34-35	UN0530720	Sayed Bidel
p. 38-39	UN0607183	Viktor Moskaliuk
p. 42-43	UN0694154	Hasinullah Qayoumi
p. 45	UN0835841	Haşim Kiliç
p. 46-47	UN0765268	Aleksey Filippov
p. 50-51	UN0781590	Muhannad Al-Asadi
p. 54-55	UN0530465	Sayed Bidel
p. 59	UN0782749	-
p. 60-61	UN0685372	Michal Korta
p. 66-67	UN0625974	Sayed Bidel
p. 70-71	UN0721770	Odelyn Joseph
p. 74-75	UN0665304	Sayed Bidel
p. 78-79	UN0581076	Bashir Ahmed Sujan
p. 82-83	UN0609643	Agnieszka Sochon
p. 86-87	UN0748254	Mark Naftalin
p. 91	UN0662322	Sayed Bidel
p. 92-93	UN0623932	Siegfried Modola
p. 95	UN0581830	-

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