JOINT DATA CENTER
ON FORCED DISPLACEMENT

Ensuring Reliable, Comparable,
and Timely Data to Enhance Decision-Making
A Timeline toward Better Data, Better Response

The Joint Data Center on Forced Displacement (JDC) is a collaboration between two multilateral institutions — the World Bank and UNHCR — to improve the quality and quantity of data for evidence-based policy decisions and response to global refugee crises. Both institutions are building on their on-going joint initiatives on forced displacement including analytical work, collaboration with governments on microdata collection, and joint missions.

A Timeline of Key Events:

SEPTEMBER 2016 • New York Declaration on Refugees and Migrants recognizes the importance of improved data collection and enhanced international cooperation.

SEPTEMBER 2016 • The World Bank announces the Global Concessional Financing Facility to provide development support on concessional terms to middle-income countries impacted by refugee crises.

JULY 2017 • The World Bank sets up the IDA 18 Regional Sub-Window for Refugees and Host Communities to provide dedicated funding to help low-income countries hosting large numbers of refugees. With the replenishment of IDA, up to $2.2 billion will be available for refugees and their host communities over the next three years.

APRIL 2018 • The World Bank and UNHCR sign a Memorandum of Understanding to set up a Joint Data Center.

DECEMBER 2018 • UN General Assembly affirms the Global Compact on Refugees, which emphasizes reliable, comparable, and timely data for evidence-based responses to improve lives of refugees and host communities.

OCTOBER 2019 • The JDC is inaugurated by the UN Secretary-General António Guterres, along with the Danish Development Minister, Rasmus Prehn, at the UN City in Copenhagen.

JDC’s Mission Statement

“To enhance the ability of stakeholders to make timely and evidence-informed decisions that can improve the lives of affected people”

Forced Displacement in 2018

70.8 million forcibly displaced people worldwide

41.3 million internally displaced people

25.9 million refugees

3.5 million asylum-seekers

Source: UNHCR
The JDC focuses on the collection, analysis, and dissemination of primary microdata on forced displacement. This includes demographic and socioeconomic data including on income, consumption, skills, health, and economic activity. The data is anonymized and encompasses refugees, internally displaced persons, stateless people, returnees, asylum seekers, and host populations.

**OUR OBJECTIVES**

- **STRENGTHENING DATA SYSTEMS**
- **FILLING DATA GAPS**
- **FILLING DATA ANALYSIS AND KNOWLEDGE GAPS**
- **IMPROVING DATA ACCESS**
- **SHARING KNOWLEDGE**

**EXAMPLES OF OUR ACTIVITIES**

- Establishing a microdata library on forced displacement
- Capacity-building programs and developing methodological tools for data collection
- Launching poverty assessment of forcibly displaced and host communities
- Rolling out recommendations on refugee and IDP statistics
- Reviewing and using innovative technologies to enhance available data
- Supporting UNHCR registration for collection and analysis of socioeconomic data
JDC’s Governance Structure

The JDC is managed by a secretariat based in Copenhagen and staffed equally by the World Bank and UNHCR.

Development and Humanitarian Actors on JDC

“We are dealing with a population that absolutely requires, not only our commitment, our engagement, our support, but that commitment, that engagement and that support is accurate because we can’t afford to do the wrong thing with people that have so basic and dramatic needs.” —António Guterres, UN Secretary-General

“Data and evidence are critical to World Bank’s long-term focus and support to refugee and host communities. The Joint Data Center is a step in that direction and will enable us to measure better the impact of refugee inflows on their hosts and inform our responses. This will help us ensure our interventions reach the right people and have the desired outcomes.” —Axel van Trotsenburg, World Bank Managing Director of Operations

“The UNHCR-World Bank Joint Data Center on Forced Displacement marks another important development in cooperation between the two organizations. I am convinced that improving our collective analytical work can make a significant difference to improving the lives of displaced populations.” —Filippo Grandi, UNHCR High Commissioner

“The Joint Data Center will create a step-change in the quantity and quality of data available to policy-makers and practitioners on those forcibly displaced and their host communities. It will ensure better decisions and results that serve the affected people.” —Björn Gillsäter, Head, Joint Data Center on Forced Displacement

Read compilation of JDC’s Literature Review on Forced Displacement

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