Stronger Data, Brighter Futures: Protecting Migrant Children with Data and Evidence

Side-Event at the International Migration Review Forum (IMRF) organised by the International Data Alliance for Children on the Move (IDAC)

Date and time: **18.05.2022**, 8.30 – 10 AM (EDT), 2.30 – 4 PM (ECT)

Notetakers: Saskia Müller and Rose Allen

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<tr>
<th>Notes of the session</th>
<th>Member State/UN/Stakeholder</th>
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<td>GCM objective 1: Improving data and evidence on migration</td>
<td>Presenting Member States</td>
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<td>Key takeaways:</td>
<td>• Norway</td>
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<td>• Philippines</td>
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<td>• South Africa</td>
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<td>Other Stakeholders</td>
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<td>• IOM</td>
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<td>• Urgent need for quality, timely, disaggregated data to inform evidence-based policies and programmes and achieve the GCM objectives, particularly GCM Objective 1.</td>
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<td>• IDAC’s continued call to action urges Member States to implement 5 Action points to improve data on children on the move</td>
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<td>• Good practices for better data on children on the move (cited during panel discussion and in IDAC’s new publication)</td>
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<td>• Renewed call for governments, organizations, and other stakeholders to invest in and prioritise data on children on the move</td>
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Summary (500 words max)
Welcome remarks by Dr. Mark Hereward, Chief Data Officer, Associate Director, Division of Data, Analytics, Planning and Monitoring (DAPM), UNICEF
- IDAC’s contribution and accountability to the GCM and the UNCRC
- Recommitment regarding IDAC’s call for action

Opening Remarks by Ambassador Evan P. Garcia Jr., Permanent Representative of the Philippines to the UNOG
- Investment in data on children is key to achieve the objectives of the GCM and SDGs
- Data for evidence-based policy and programming, to ensure no child is left behind
- Call for countries to make data collection on children on the move a priority and institutionalize a child-specific lens in GCM National Action Plans

Opening Remarks by Mrs. Vidhya Ganesh, Director of DAPM, UNICEF
- Highlighted urgency to work together to achieve GCM objectives, particularly on improving data on children on the move
- Renewed call for member states to make greater political, financial, and technical investments to address data gaps on children on the move

Presentation of IDAC’s continued call to action “Stronger Data, Brighter Futures: Protecting children on the move with data and evidence” by Dr. Frank Laczko, Director of the Global Data Institute, IOM
- Underscored the importance of the IDAC event - one in only two events focusing on GCM objective 1, and the only event focusing on children on the move and the related data challenges
- Highlighted the urgent need to close data gaps to understand the vulnerabilities and risks and to protect children on the move.
- IDAC’s renewed call for action:
  1. Disaggregate data by age, sex and migratory status
  2. Cover key issues relating to children affected by migration and displacement;
  3. Make better use of existing data, and share it;
  4. Coordinate data efforts within countries and across borders;
  5. Make special efforts to collect and analyze data on children
  6. Strengthen national data systems and capacities to protect migrant and displaced children
  7. Promoting and establishing collaborative, innovative methods for child-specific data work, harness potential of new data sources
  8. Improve data visibility, availability, accessibility and usability: communicate impact of data, collaborative data collection

Panel discussion
Panelist I: Ms. Alankrita Dayal, Founder of Program yoUR Future (youth representative)
- Disaggregated data, standardized terminology, and qualitative data are key to determining children’s vulnerabilities and protection needs
- Organizations and practitioners should have opportunities to collaborate with
Panelist II: Mr. Vebjørn Aalandslid, Senior Adviser, Division for Development Cooperation, Statistics Norway

- Statistics Norway has linked data from different administrative registers with data from immigration authorities to produce comprehensive, up-to-date data on various topics (education, status, income, etc) impacting unaccompanied minors
- Norway’s approach could serve as a model for how IDAC can continue its work

Panelist III: Mr. Jean-Christophe Dumont, Head, International Migration Division, Directorate for Employment, Labour and Social Affairs, OECD

- Highlighted importance of IDAC’s 5 action points to ensure children are not missing from the data
- Obstacles in sharing data between agencies and stakeholders needs to be addressed

Prospects for the next IMRF by Mr. Diego Iturralde Chief Director for Demography and Population Statistics, Statistics South Africa

- Importance of 5 strategic points to tackle global issues
- Cooperative and integrated approach is key
- New sources of data, enhancement of capacity-building and access across regions
- Suggested a research and data base forum
- Call for more nations and organisations to join IDAC