Work Program 2020

THE MISSION of the Joint Data Center is to enhance the ability of stakeholders to make timely and evidence-informed decisions that can improve the lives of affected people. The JDC leverages partnerships and innovation in its focus on the collection, analysis, and dissemination of primary microdata that enables policy-making and programming. The work program presented here includes 40 activities to be implemented in 2020, that have been carefully selected for their contribution toward achieving this mission.

5 THEMES OF WORK

The Center’s work program is structured along five themes; i. Strengthening data systems, ii. Filling Data Gaps, iii. Filling Data Analysis and Knowledge Gaps, iv. Improving Data Access, and v. Sharing Knowledge.

I. Strengthening Data Systems

Implementing UN-EGRIS’s recommendations: Disseminate and implement the International Recommendations on Refugee and IDP Statistics (EGRIS) through strengthening capacity of national statistical systems and enhancement of the associated Compilers’ Manual.

Strengthening IDP statistics: Build on and refine the International Recommendations on IDP Statistics to standardize vulnerability measures, to complete the statistical framework and develop associated tools.

Improving statistics on stateless people: Support the development of statistical recommendations with guidance on the production of stateless statistics, including guidance on data collection, indicator development, and analysis.

Strengthening digital data collection solutions: Supporting the ongoing development and maintenance of digital data collection tools (such as Survey Solution and Kobo Toolbox). These open source solutions will be enhanced to improve the quality of data collected in capacity-constrained environments.

Capturing forcibly displaced persons in SDG indicators: Work with countries and custodian agencies to ensure that affected populations are captured in priority SDG indicators, when possible and relevant, particularly through data disaggregation.

Promoting FDP-sensitive data methods: Develop and promote forcibly displaced-sensitive data methods to enhance comparability and construct validity. Areas of work may include question development, sampling approaches and enumerator trainings, to be developed in line with relevant norms.

Strengthening UNHCR’s data systems: i. Support UNHCR’s data transformation processes, specifically the development of standardized survey series; ii. provide direct support to UNHCR’s country operations in generating comparable socio-economic data on forcibly displaced and additional analysis for programming and policy in collaboration with national authorities; and iii. work with the PRIMES business and process owners to standardize the collection of registration data.
II. Filling Data Gaps

**Burundi**: Supporting household surveys
- Adding samples of refugees, returnees, IDPs, and host communities to national household and/or stand-alone surveys.

**Central African Republic**: Data on IDPs
- Extra modules on forced displacement added to 2020 household survey implemented by CAR NSO with technical assistance from the WBG.
- Data collection on displacement, food security, access to basic services, employment, social protection, to better understand how displaced households cope with shocks.
- Interviews of forcibly displaced households and hosts on development and welfare information, including household socioeconomic characteristics.

**Chad and Sudan**: High frequency data collection
- Qualitative interviews with key informants, a detailed cartographic exercise to build a sampling framework, and household listing and survey.
- Data collection simultaneously with official poverty survey (HCES), undertaken by Central Statistics Agency.

**DRC**: Crisis Observatory & Forced Displacement Survey
- Data collection on refugee sample of with KCHS-compatible questionnaire to allow for comparative analysis and vulnerability studies.

**Djibouti**: Identifying/monitoring displaced populations
- Design and implement RMS for IDPs, making questionnaires compatible with upcoming national comprehensive household survey.

**Ethiopia**: Household survey on refugees & host communities
- Data collection on refugee sample of with KCHS-compatible questionnaire to allow for comparative analysis and vulnerability studies.

**Kenya**: Vulnerable Populations in Continuous Household Survey Framework
- Design and implement RMS for IDPs, making questionnaires compatible with upcoming national comprehensive household survey.

**Rwanda**: Socio-Economic Assessment (SEA)
- Baseline survey on household consumption, livelihoods, well-being, coping strategies, resilience, and return intentions. Subsequent rounds measure perceptions, needs and constraints of those in and out of camps.
- Data and statistics center to track welfare indicators for displaced Rohingya and hosts; initiate policy dialogue on refugee-focused policies/interventions; and activate use of data in project interventions.

**Somalia**: Rapid socio-economic monitoring in IDP camps
- Support data collection on the socio-economic status of refugees and host communities by establishing a system for regular data collection in collaboration with the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics.

**South Sudan**: Crisis Recovery & Refugee Skills Survey follow-up
- Generate evidence to fill knowledge gaps on flows, patterns, living conditions, service provision, and income opportunities in Venezuela, Colombia, Ecuador and Peru.

**Bangladesh**: Cox’s Bazar Humanitarian Development Statistics Center
- Call center and digital platform to continuously collect data from key informants to produce analytics for humanitarian/development response.

**Pakistan**: Administrative & institutional reform for refugee administration
- Support data collection on the socio-economic status of refugees and host communities by establishing a system for regular data collection in collaboration with the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics.
Work Program: Financial Scope

The scope of activities in the program amount to USD 13.2 million for 2020. The budget-distribution between the five work streams can be seen in the bar chart on the right, plus a USD 1 million set-aside for a floating fund to support opportunistic investment during the year.

III. Filling Data Analysis and Knowledge Gaps


Supporting implementation of Regional Response Framework in the Sahel (Chad, Niger, Uganda): i. Establish a harmonized dataset on the living conditions, wellbeing and level of self-reliance of refugees in the Sahel; ii. compare the policy frameworks for the countries for which data is available; and iii. propose a regional study that takes advantage of the harmonized data set and other data sources (such as the UNCHR registry).

Understanding displacement, fragility and welfare: Improve approximations of poverty among displaced people by getting better estimates of whether they are indirectly captured in household surveys, and whether their welfare levels differ by their living situations (camps or in housing), their status (IDPs, refugees or asylum-seekers), and their country of origin.

Developing methodologies for measuring impact on host communities: Support the continuing development of a methodology for measuring the impact of hosting refugees. The objective is to provide technical assistance to a UNHCR-coordinated effort for refugee-hosting countries to develop a shared understanding and common methodology to measure the impact of hosting, protecting, and assisting refugees.

Exploring innovative methods to strengthen data: Explore opportunities in innovative methods to strengthen data on forced displacement through an innovation award. The scope of award is to be developed but could include predictive analytics and use of big data. The award will be widely distributed amongst private and academic sectors.
IV. Improving Data Access

Enhancing UNHCR’s Microdata Library systems: Support to the further enhancement of UNHCR’s external Microdata Library system. Quality control and maintenance procedures of microdata library catalogs and development of underlying scripts for archiving, disseminating and sourcing data.

Collecting and curating datasets: Collection and curation of datasets from UNHCR operations worldwide. This will populate the microdata library for public/wider use of responsibly anonymized and de-identified data on forcibly displaced populations.

Enhancing the capabilities of UNHCR’s global registration database: Enhance the business intelligence capabilities around UNHCR’s global registration database with a view to improve access and use, either directly or by anonymized snapshots.

Supporting assessments of refugee laws and policies: Institutional assessment of refugee laws and policies (IDA 19 policy commitment), including through the sponsor of the Developing World Refugee and Asylum Policy (DWRAP) online data platform.

Pursuing a responsible open data agenda: A multi-year consultative process to enable open data practices among a multitude of stakeholders including UNHCR, WB, ICRC, OCHA, and possibly IRC, alongside experts in innovative practices and new technologies.

Using AI-tools to analyze qualitative studies: Build an automated system that will provide a detailed description of how multilateral development banks, over time and across countries, address issues related to forced displacement. The system will rely on open source machine learning techniques, extract, organize and update information on a regular basis.

V. Sharing Knowledge

Promoting a knowledge agenda - mapping data and evidence gaps: Development of mapping exercises of existing data and evidence, with outcomes to be presented as summary studies, topical reports, and derivative products (e.g. blogs, policy briefs, social media outreach).

Disseminating evidence and data: JDC outreach through quarterly seminars, annual research conference, monthly literature reviews, and an active blog platform. Targeted support to agenda-setting publication(s) and events focused on forced displacement to enable knowledge exchange across stakeholder groups.

Fellowship program and senior scholar-visiting stays: The JDC Fellowship program aims to train young scholars and professionals from displaced or host communities in middle- and low-income countries. The JDC will also invite experienced researchers to visit the JDC to develop their research on forced displacement.