

TOWARD DURABLE SOLUTIONS

MAPPING AND ANALYSIS OF DISPLACEMENT DATA IN ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

NOVEMBER 2025

ASIAN DEVELOPMENT BANK

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www.adb.org

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ISBN 978-92-9277-506-3 (print); 978-92-9277-507-0 (PDF); 978-92-9277-508-7 (ebook)
Publication Stock No. TCS250453-2
DOI: http://dx.doi.org/10.22617/TCS250453-2

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Note:
In this publication, "$" refers to United States dollars.
All photos by ADB.

Cover design by Edith Creus.

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Acknowledgments

The Asia Displacement Solutions Platform (ADSP) contributed to this study. It was financed under the Asian Development Bank (ADB) technical assistance project Operations, Knowledge, and Analytics Support in Fragile and Conflict-Affected Situations and Small Island Developing States, administered by the Fragility and Engagement Division, Climate Change and Sustainable Development Department.

The report was authored by Jerome Elie (Asia Displacement Solutions Platform) with support from Erin Chu Felton (ADB). The authors are grateful to stakeholders who shared their expertise and gave their time to be interviewed. Many thanks in particular to those who reviewed the draft report and provided comments and inputs (in alphabetical order): Alessandro Telo (United Nations [UN] Refugee Agency), Christelle Cazabat (Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre), Hong My Tran-Jones (UN Refugee Agency), Karen Whiting (UN Refugee Agency), Kristina Uzelac (International Organization for Migration), Natalia Krynsky Baal (Expert Group on Refugee, Internally Displaced Persons, and Statelessness Statistics), Olga Aymerich (International Organization for Migration), and Steven Goldfinch (ADB).

Abbreviations

ADB	Asian Development Bank
CSO	civil society organization
DMC	developing member country
DSID	Data for Solutions to Internal Displacement
DTM	Displacement Tracking Matrix
EGRISS	Expert Group on Refugee, Internally Displaced Persons, and Statelessness Statistics
GCR	Global Compact on Refugees
IASC	Inter-Agency Standing Committee
IDMC	Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre
IDP	internally displaced person
IOM	International Organization for Migration
IRIS	International Recommendations on IDP Statistics
IRRS	International Recommendations on Refugee Statistics
JIPS	Joint Internal Displacement Profiling Service
MDB	multilateral development bank
NGO	nongovernment organization
PNG	Papua New Guinea
RBAP	Regional Bureau for Asia and the Pacific
SDG	Sustainable Development Goal
UN	United Nations
UNDP	UN Development Programme
UNHCR	UN High Commissioner for Refugees
UNICEF	UN Children's Fund
UNSDG	UN Sustainable Development Group
UNSG	UN Secretary-General



1 Introduction

According to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), by late 2024, there were 123.2 million forcibly displaced people worldwide.[1] A growing trend in the past 5 years, there are now 16.3 million refugees, asylum seekers, returnees, internally displaced, and stateless persons in the Asia and Pacific region alone, many of whom struggle to achieve durable solutions.[2] Forced displacement has multifaceted implications, including disrupting lives and livelihoods; putting pressure on services and infrastructure; and often exacerbating vulnerabilities, poverty, and inequality. This poses significant challenges to the achievement of sustainable and inclusive development.

Over the past decade, a series of interconnected global United Nations (UN) and intergovernmental initiatives have worked to better equip the international community in advancing durable solutions to forced displacement. From the drafting of the 2018 Global Compact on Refugees (GCR) to the 2025 UN Guidance on Solutions to Internal Displacement, these processes stressed that solutions must be based on reliable, timely, and disaggregated data and analysis, ideally produced through national systems with support from international partners when needed. This is imperative for understanding the scale, causal factors, and long-term implications of displacement. Reliable data, produced through sustainable approaches, is needed to formulate solutions-oriented policies and responses. These global initiatives have influenced and accompanied evolutions in the data landscape in the Asia and Pacific region.

Aligned with the increasing shift toward integrating development approaches with humanitarian efforts—and the heightened attention given to forced displacement by multilateral development banks (MDBs)—the Asian Development Bank (ADB) recognizes that improved data and analytical work related to forced displacement informs policy dialogue, programming, and operational design. ADB's Strategy 2030 provides an institutional framework that prioritizes inclusiveness, resilience, and sustainable development.[3] ADB's *Fragile and Conflict-Affected Situations and Small Island Developing States Approach* specifically identifies displaced persons as a key target group in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).[4] The bank's *Disaster Risk Management Action Plan 2024–2030* also recognizes the growing risk of disaster displacement.[5]

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1 United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). 2025. *Global Trends Report 2024*.
2 UNHCR. 2025. *Refugee Data Finder*. Definitions of key terms are provided in Appendix 1.
3 ADB. 2018. *Strategy 2030: Achieving a Prosperous, Inclusive, Resilient, and Sustainable Asia and the Pacific*.
4 ADB. 2021. *Fragile and Conflict-Affected Situations and Small Island Developing States Approach*.
5 ADB. 2024. *Disaster Risk Management Action Plan 2024–2030: Redoubling Action Toward Disaster Resilience*.

Recent ADB studies highlight that data is crucial for understanding the impact of forced displacement and developing effective responses, including when displacement is driven by disasters.[6] Context-specific understanding and solutions emerging from analytical work supports institutional change and the needs of the displaced—including women and children—as well as host communities. Yet, it appears that data, especially in disaggregated form, is often unavailable or complex to collect in locations facing fragility and conflict.

In November 2024, ADB engaged the Asia Displacement Solutions Platform to review the data landscape on solutions to forced displacement in Asia and the Pacific.[7] Against the backdrop of global initiatives, the objectives were to identify relevant available datasets and actors in the region, outline methodologies employed, and describe key gaps and challenges. This study focuses on data at national and regional levels, covering a spectrum of displacement contexts, including situations of internal and cross-border displacement related to conflict and natural hazards. It also aims to identify potential opportunities for ADB to support its developing member countries (DMCs), develop relevant partnerships, and inform ADB's operations and projects.

Finally, this study was impacted by the disruptions experienced by the humanitarian and development sectors since the start of 2025, particularly a drastic reduction in available funding for many data producers as well as ongoing restructuring and contraction of their capacities. Those parameters have been factored into the analysis and recommendations, given the evolving situation which ultimately underscores the need and opportunity to support government systems for sustained responses to data needs on displaced populations.

[6] ADB and Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre (IDMC). 2024. *Harnessing Development Financing for Solutions to Displacement in the Context of Disasters and Climate Change in Asia and the Pacific*; and ADB and IDMC. 2025. *Integrating Displacement Considerations in Country Dialogues and Planning: Guidance Note*.

[7] Research parameters and methodology can be found in Appendix 2.



2 Overview of Global Initiatives and Instruments on Solutions

Recent global initiatives have emphasized the importance of enhancing the collection and analysis of data on forced displacement, particularly concerning durable solutions (Appendix 1). Data facilitates trend monitoring, including displaced populations' access to rights and protection, which supports policymaking, planning (especially for development), and resource allocation, and is utilized to assess the impact of programs.[8]

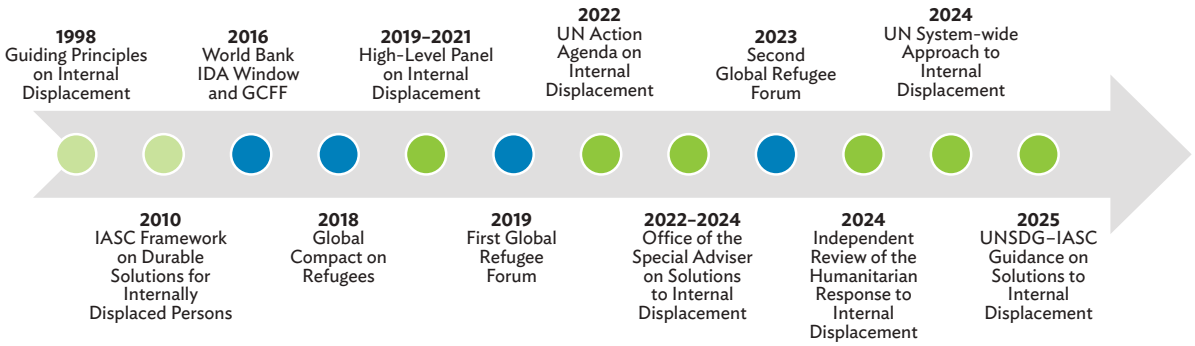
Early Developments

Conceptualizing and promoting durable solutions for refugees has a long history (Figure 1). In the current era, solutions for refugees derive primarily from the protection and responsibility-sharing principles of the 1951 Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees and its 1967 Protocol,[9] and the 1950 Statute of the Office of the UNHCR.[10] Within this framework, a durable solution is achieved when a refugee (re-) establishes a *permanent legal status*, through one of three pathways: voluntary repatriation to the country of origin, local integration in the country of refuge, or resettlement in a third country.[11]

Recognizing internal displacement as a phenomenon and devising ways to address it have taken much longer. The (non-legally binding) 1998 Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement was the first key milestone toward comprehensive UN guidance on the subject.[12] It outline the responsibilities of governments and other actors, and emphasizes that durable solutions must be voluntary, safe, and dignified, and that internally displaced persons (IDPs) must be able to fully enjoy their human rights. To outline how to make progress toward solutions, in 2010 the UN Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) developed its Framework on Durable Solutions for IDPs. This framework put forward a broadly accepted definition of solutions to internal displacement: "A durable solution is achieved when IDPs no longer have specific assistance and protection needs that are linked to their

8 Sustainable Development Group (UNSDG)-Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC). 2025. *Guidance on Solutions to Internal Displacement*. p. 6 and p. 21.
9 UNHCR. 2010. *Convention and Protocol Relating to the Status of Refugees*.
10 UNHCR. 2010. *Statute of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees*.
11 UNHCR. UNHCR Master Glossary of Terms. A condensed list of key terms can be found in Appendix 3.
12 UN Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC). *Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement*.

Figure 1: Solutions to Displacement—Main Global Processes and Instruments (Refugees and Internally Displaced Persons)



IASC = Inter-Agency Standing Committee, IDA = International Development Association, GCFF = Global Concessional Financing Facility, UN = United Nations, UNSDG = UN Sustainable Development Group.

Source: Author's compilation.

displacement and such persons can enjoy their human rights without discrimination resulting from their displacement."[13] It lays out eight key criteria and suggests indicators to guide programming, assess IDP needs, and make progress toward solutions. While issued by a UN humanitarian body, this framework is today widely regarded as a valuable and comprehensive resource for both humanitarian and development actors.

Mirroring the approach in the refugee context, options for durable solutions for IDPs are outlined in the *Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement and IASC Framework on Durable Solutions for IDPs*, including voluntary return to a place of origin, local integration in the area of displacement, and relocation to another part of the country. Both documents reiterate and reinforce the notion that states have the primary responsibility for protecting and assisting IDPs within their borders, including providing solutions to their displacement.

Global Initiatives on Solutions to Forced Displacement Since the Mid-2010s

Over the past decade, the global focus on durable solutions to forced displacement has significantly intensified, resulting in structural changes and innovations in coordination and interventions. The growing number of IDPs and refugees, the increasingly protracted nature of conflicts and displacement situations, the cumulative impact of climate change and natural hazards on displacement dynamics, and the reduced funding for emergencies have all contributed to a rethinking of humanitarian and development assistance toward more sustainable and integrated approaches. Central to this shift was the recognition that humanitarian interventions alone cannot create conditions for sustainable solutions, and that states should be encouraged and equipped to fulfill their responsibilities toward displaced populations.

One of the main milestones came with the adoption of the 2018 GCR.[14] Its four main objectives (para. 7) center on solutions, reflecting the compact's aim "to facilitate access to durable solutions" (para. 85). As such, the GCR established tools and arrangements designed primarily to better protect and assist refugees, support host countries and communities, and ultimately promote durable solutions. Supported by a Global Refugee Forum

[13] IASC. 2010. *Framework on Durable Solutions for Internally Displaced Persons*. p. 5.
[14] UNHCR. 2018. *Global Compact on Refugees*.

mechanism, those tools and arrangements notably include regional support platforms.[15] The GCR also builds on and promotes interventions based on a strengthened humanitarian–development–peace nexus and a multistakeholder approach, emphasizing the agency of refugees and their resilience.

At the time, many stakeholders also felt that IDPs would be left off this global compact agenda.[16] Despite the scale of internal displacement, limited global attention was attributed to a lack of political will, fear of interference in states' internal affairs, and weak international frameworks, turning IDPs into an invisible majority.[17] Therefore, civil society and leading states called on the UN Secretary-General (UNSG) to dedicate specific attention to internal displacement and ensure IDPs would not "fall through the cracks" of the two global compacts.[18] As a result, in 2019 a High-Level Panel on Internal Displacement was established, followed by the UNSG Action Agenda on Internal Displacement and a time-bound UN Special Adviser on Solutions to Internal Displacement.[19] This led to UN commitments to find durable solutions for IDPs, to prevent displacement and provide protection and assistance. Between 2019 and 2024, a "Group of Friends" in Geneva and New York brought regular feedback from governments and from 2022, 15 countries piloted solutions efforts.[20] While UN-centric, those efforts placed a strong emphasis on working with and through government systems and called for a change in mindset to support national ownership, responsibility, and accountability for the IDP solutions agenda.[21] This was also predicated on a strengthened humanitarian–development–peace nexus and development investments.[22] As the Office of the Special Adviser closed at the end of 2024, two major evolutions took place:

- In 2024, 28 UN entities developed a UN System-Wide Approach to Internal Displacement, recognizing the need for different ways of working; they also set up new institutional mechanisms, including a new Hub for Coordination of Solutions to Internal Displacement and a Global Solutions Data Platform.
- In February 2025, the work of the Office of the Special Adviser resulted in the publication of a new *Guidance on Solutions to Internal Displacement*, endorsed by both the UN Sustainable Development Group (UNSDG) and the IASC.[23] Synthesizing insights gained over the years, this document offers guidance to UN staff and other relevant actors on supporting governments in their solutions efforts.

Since the mid-2010s, the durable solutions agenda has transitioned toward more development-oriented solutions, with notable investments by development-focused actors such as the World Bank and recently the UN Development Programme (UNDP). This trend highlights a growing recognition of the link with the SDGs and its central principle of "leave no one behind," including displaced populations. Major evolutions include (i) the 2016 launch of key international financing mechanisms to support refugee hosting countries, (ii) the International Development Association Window for Host Communities and Refugees and the Global

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15 The Solutions Strategy for Afghan Refugees Support Platform is a GCR mechanism designed to support the Solutions Strategy for Afghan Refugees by fostering responsibility-sharing and collective global efforts for Afghan refugees, returnees, and other displaced persons in Afghanistan, Iran, and Pakistan.

16 Norwegian Refugee Council. 2017. *Off the Agenda: The Need to Refocus the World's Attention on Internal Displacement*.

17 Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre (IDMC). 2018. *Thematic Series: The Invisible Majority*.

18 High-Level Panel on Internal Displacement. 2019. *Concept Note and Member states' letters to the UNSG*; and UN General Assembly. 2018. *Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration*.

19 UN. 2022. *The United Nations Secretary-General's Action Agenda on Internal Displacement*.

20 The Group of Friends gathered up to 30 members and was chaired by Colombia and Canada. See: High-Level Panel on Internal Displacement. 2021. *Shining a Light on Internal Displacement: A Vision for the Future*. pp. 57–58; and Office of the Special Adviser on Solutions to Internal Displacement. 2024. *Member State Briefing. December 2024 – Geneva. Talking Points as Delivered by Special Adviser on Solutions to Internal Displacement*. p. 3 and p. 5.

21 UN High-Level Panel on Internal Displacement. 2021. *Shining a Light on Internal Displacement: A Vision for the Future*. p. ii; and UN Sustainable Development Group-IASC. 2025. *Guidance on Solutions to Internal Displacement*. p. 45.

22 Note that IASC. 2024. *Independent Review of the Humanitarian Response to Internal Displacement* and related IASC. 2024. *IASC Management Response to the Independent Review of the Humanitarian Responses to Internal Displacement* also pointed to needed changes in solutions approaches.

23 UNSDG-IASC. 2025. *Guidance on Solutions to Internal Displacement*.

Concessional Financing Facility,[24] (iii) landmark publications by a UNHCR–World Bank strategic partnership launched in 2017,[25] and (iv) the creation of an MDB Coordination Platform on Economic Migration and Forced Displacement.[26]

This study observes two key considerations that stand out from the above analysis:

- Although there were concerns in the mid-2010s that IDPs might be overlooked, global efforts to promote solutions ultimately centered primarily on internal displacement.
- These global initiatives generated efforts that were bound to carry significant implications for data related to durable solutions.

Data Implications of Global Solutions Initiatives

In the mid-2010s, considerable progress was made to advance data on refugees, notably through the affirmation of the GCR in 2018. States recognized the importance of supporting harmonized or interoperable standards for the collection, analysis, and sharing of disaggregated data, and the inclusion of refugees in national statistical systems.[27] The GCR included a section emphasizing that "improving data and evidence will also support efforts to achieve solutions." Relevant pledges were made at Global Refugee Forums, notably under a multistakeholder pledge.[28] Moreover, within the GCR follow-up and review process, UNHCR developed an indicator framework feeding into the regular GCR Indicator Report which measures progress toward achieving the GCR objectives, including solutions.[29] Concurrently, the UN Statistical Commission developed the 2018 *International Recommendations on Refugee Statistics (IRRS)*, an effort by UN member states to address the need for harmonization and improved national statistics on refugees.[30] The IRRS were the first internationally endorsed guidance defining refugee statistical methodology, with implications for durable solutions.

For IDPs, an early global data development came in 2018 with an initiative of the UN Special Rapporteur on the human rights of internally displaced persons. A project coordinated by the Joint Internal Displacement Profiling Service (JIPS) developed indicators and guidance to measure progress toward solutions, resulting in an Interagency Indicator Library and Analysis Guide.[31] The indicator library presents measurable core demographic indicators, a module on IDPs' preferences and plans, and the IASC framework's eight criteria.[32] The indicators can be used for different types of data collection and timeframes and have been aligned with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.[33]

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[24] H. Dempster, M.G. Ble, and S.L. Villamil. 2024. *Why and How Multilateral Development Banks Support Improved Outcomes for Economic Migrants and Refugees*. Center for Global Development.

[25] World Bank. 2017. *Forcibly Displaced: Toward a Development Approach Supporting Refugees, the Internally Displaced, and Their Hosts*; and World Bank. 2023. *World Development Report 2023: Migrants, Refugees, and Societies*.

[26] The platform members are ADB, African Development Bank, Council of Europe Development Bank, European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, European Investment Bank, Inter-American Development Bank, Islamic Development Bank, and the World Bank.

[27] Among the few countries that include refugees in national statistical systems (none in Asia and the Pacific) are Colombia, Italy, Rwanda (A.H. Saetre, G.S. Steffan, and J. Kreuder. 2024. Inclusion of Forcibly Displaced and Stateless Persons in National Statistics. UNHCR Blogs. 7 June); and Kenya (N.K. Baal. 2021. Including Refugees and IDPs in National Data Systems. Joint Data Center on Forced Displacement Blogs. 1 April).

[28] Global Compact on Refugees (GCR). 2025. Multistakeholder Pledge on the Inclusion of Forcibly Displaced and Stateless Persons in National Statistical Systems and Surveys.

[29] GCR. 2023. *Global Compact on Refugees Indicator Report*.

[30] European Union and the United Nations. 2018. *Expert Group on Refugee and Internally Displaced Person Statistics—International Recommendations on Refugee Statistics*.

[31] Joint Internal Displacement Profiling Service (JIPS). 2025. Durable Solutions Indicators & Guide.

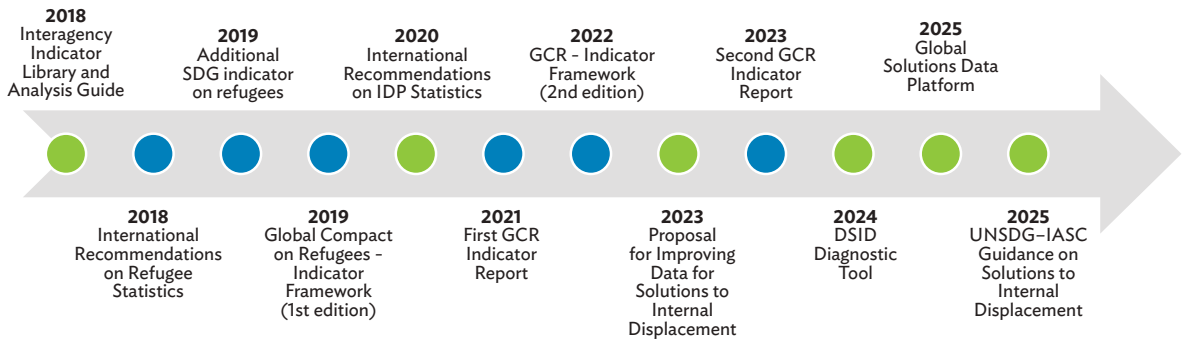
[32] JIPS. 2010. *IASC Framework on Durable Solutions for Internally Displaced Persons*.

[33] UN. *Transforming Our World: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*.

This effort overlapped with the High-Level Panel on Internal Displacement's work, which reported data as a foundational parameter for achieving solutions and recommended a shift toward national ownership, coordinated efforts, and practical application of data for policy and decision-making. Therefore, where possible, it recommended increased investment in national capacity for data collection and analysis, while also stressing the importance of strong data protection standards.[34] Concrete progress on data came with the adoption in 2020 of the International Recommendations on IDP Statistics (IRIS), which provide a framework for countries and international organizations to improve the production, coordination, and dissemination of statistics on IDPs and includes clear standards for measuring progress toward solutions.[35]

The UNSG Action Agenda then reiterated the importance of data for solutions and the centrality of states' systems. The UNSG highlighted that to "strengthen collective action on solutions to internal displacement, there is a need for an improved understanding of IDP numbers, demographics, socioeconomic dynamics and associated trends."[36] Moreover, recognizing the challenges in making a more effective use of data to inform solutions efforts, a task force was launched to develop a Proposal for Improving Data for Solutions to Internal Displacement (DSID).[37] The task force was in charge of putting forward a framework and coordination model to improve the availability, quality, interoperability, and national ownership of data for solutions.[38] In line with IRIS and the IASC framework, the DSID proposal aims to help measure (i) the total number of IDPs in a given country and time; (ii) progress made by IDPs toward solutions, while also identifying obstacles faced along the way; and (iii) the number of IDPs that have achieved solutions, thus suggesting a way to measure the end of internal displacement.[39] In addition, a draft diagnostic tool was developed and piloted to help identify and map the availability of essential data for solutions and related gaps at country level.[40]

Figure 2: Displacement and Solutions Data—Main Global Processes and Instruments (Refugees and Internally Displaced Persons)



DSID = Data Solutions to Internal Displacement, GCR = Global Compact on Refugees, IASC = Inter-Agency Standing Committee, IRIS = International Recommendations on Internally Displaced Persons Statistics, IRRS = International Recommendations on Refugee Statistics, SDG = Sustainable Development Goal.

Source: Author's compilation.

[34] High-Level Panel on Internal Displacement. 2021. *Shining a Light on Internal Displacement: A Vision for the Future*. pp. 37–38.
[35] Expert Group on Refugee, Internally Displaced Persons, and Statelessness Statistics (EGRISS). 2020. *International Recommendations on Internally Displaced Persons Statistics (IRIS)*.
[36] UN. 2022. *The United Nations Secretary-General's Action Agenda on Internal Displacement Follow-Up to the Report of the UN Secretary-General's High-Level Panel on Internal Displacement*. pp. 15–16.
[37] UN. 2023. Proposal for Improving Data for Solutions to Internal Displacement.
[38] Office of the Special Adviser on Solutions to Internal Displacement. 2024. *The UN Secretary-General's Action Agenda on Internal Displacement Progress During the Mandate of the Special Adviser on Solutions to Internal Displacement Report (2022–2024)*. pp. 6–7.
[39] Data for Solutions to Internal Displacement Taskforce. 2023. *Proposal for Improving Data for Solutions to Internal Displacement*. p. 5 and p. 9.
[40] UNSDG-IASC. 2025. *Guidance on Solutions to Internal Displacement*. p. 21.

Going forward, a global solutions data platform and national dashboards are to be established, as part of the UN system-wide approach, to bring together actionable data and improve the quality and availability of data. The platform will include data produced by national systems on IDP solutions and other relevant resources. To increase attention to solutions to internal displacement, the UN will build on the existing PROGRESS reports currently produced by the International Organization for Migration (IOM) to release a biennial *State of Displacement Solutions Reports*, highlighting trends, data, and global progress.[41] Finally, in the summer of 2025, a revised DSID initiative was released, building on the 2023 proposal to provide more targeted, catalytic country-level support for producing and using data for solutions.[42]

Box: What Is Data for Solutions?

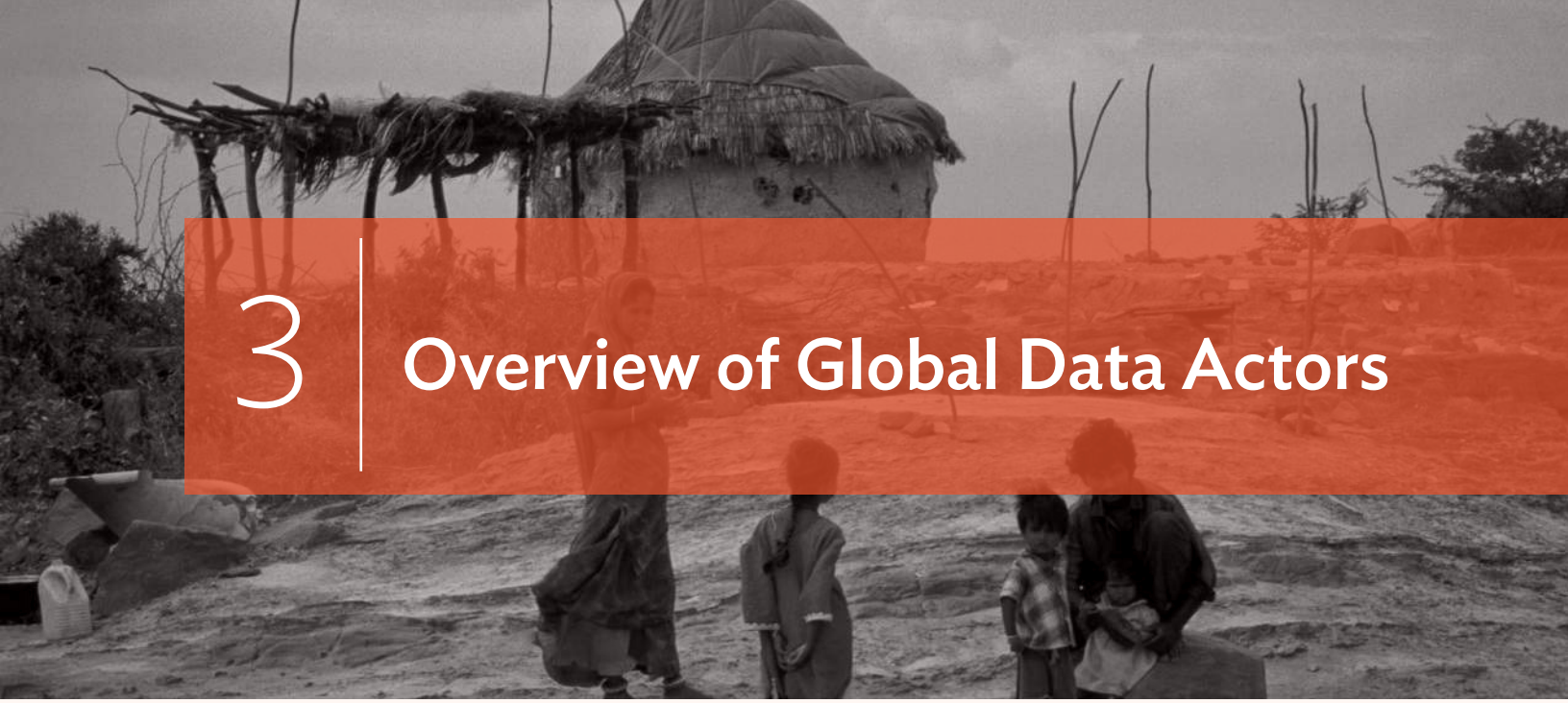
"Data for solutions to forced displacement" refers to the collection, analysis, and use of statistical evidence to inform policies, programs, and interventions aimed at achieving durable solutions for forcibly displaced persons. This process extends beyond basic stock and flow figures to measure the extent to which displacement-related vulnerabilities are being addressed. This involves assessing whether displaced individuals can fully enjoy their rights, regain agency, rebuild the capacity to pursue personal development goals and aspirations, contribute meaningfully to national and local development, and ultimately move beyond aid dependency.

This entails collecting socioeconomic data to assess the degree of displaced persons' (re)integration into society. Measuring progress toward durable solutions begins with evaluating the extent to which displaced individuals have regained or been granted permanent legal status, documentation, and civic rights, along with access to effective remedies and justice. Other important indicators include the restoration of personal security; adequate living conditions; access to livelihoods, health care, and education; as well as the recovery of housing, land, and property.

Note: A detailed description is provided in Appendix 1.
Source: Author's compilation.

[41] International Organization for Migration (IOM). PROGRESS 2024 Reports; Office of the Special Adviser on Solutions to Internal Displacement. 2024. End of Mandate Note. p. 7; and UN. 2025. *Report of the High-Level Committee on Programmes at its Forty-Eighth Session: United Nations System-Wide Approach to Internal Displacement*. pp. 17–18.

[42] DSID. Working Group. 2025. *Revised Data for Solutions to Internal Displacement (DSID) Initiative*.



3 Overview of Global Data Actors

With refugee movements toward Europe, the 2015 Syria crisis was another turning point in how displacement data is collected and used, as it highlighted existing limitations, states' interest in understanding and evaluating the scale and trends of displacement, and the lack of standards to meet these new demands.[43]

As a result, displacement-focused organizations positioned themselves strategically on the data landscape, increasing their capacity to produce, analyze, and disseminate data.[44] As explained by one key informant for this study, the progress made can be measured in the variety and level of interest in data on displacement: "Compared to the past, [data on displacement] is taken much more seriously. When only a handful of displacement experts used to call for improved data, it is now increasingly the World Bank, the Asian Development Bank, and others which show interest. We have seen a real shift."

UNHCR's Strategic Directions 2017–2021[45] aimed to "build information systems and be data adept," while the *Data Transformation Strategy 2020–2025* carried the vision to become "a trusted leader on data and information related to refugees and other affected populations."[46] In 2020, a Copenhagen-based Global Data Service was established to support the effective collection, analysis, and use of operational data. Data capacity and expertise increased across the organization, contributing to the development of tools and repositories such as the Refugee Population Statistics Database (Refugee Data Finder), the Operational Data Portal, and a Microdata Library.[47] Data availability and analysis were also enhanced through a series of landmark publications, especially the *Global Trends* and *Mid-Year Trends* reports.[48] UNHCR's primary data collection includes a series of diverse methodologies depending on scope and context which comprise registration and profiling. These include data collection and management tools such as the Population Registration and Identity Management Eco-System, sample-based household surveys, and socioeconomic assessments including remote data collection methods such as mobile surveys. A notable series of UNHCR-led socioeconomic data collections is the Forced Displacement Survey.[49]

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43 Key Informant Interview 5, 16 January 2025.
44 Appendix 4 provides a summary table of dataset sources and key characteristics.
45 UNHCR. 2017. *UNHCR's Strategic Directions 2017–2021*.
46 UNHCR. 2019. *Data Transformation Strategy 2020–2025*.
47 UNHCR. Refugee Data Finder; UNHCR. Operational Data Portal; and UNHCR. Microdata Library.
48 UNHCR. Global Trends; and UNHCR. Mid-Year Trends.
49 UNHCR. Forced Displacement Survey.

Launched in 2020, it aims to cover most of the refugees, asylum seekers, and host communities in low- and lower-middle-income countries. Additionally, UNHCR collects protection monitoring data as well as qualitative data through participatory assessments and community-based assessments.[50] Secondary data, such as administrative data, data from partners, social media, and open data, are also leveraged.

UNHCR's data action was reinforced through its partnership with the World Bank. By launching the Joint Data Centre on Forced Displacement in 2019, both institutions joined forces to improve statistics on refugees, other forcibly displaced and stateless people, and host communities.[51] Over the years, the data center has supported (i) the development of data collection and surveys, mainly in Africa and the Americas; (ii) the improvement of innovative data systems, tools, and methods as public goods;[52] and (iii) the strengthening of national and international data standards. Collection, analysis, and dissemination of socioeconomic data and evidence were recognized as key to policy and programs that support solutions. Since the beginning of its second mandate in 2024, the Joint Data Centre on Forced Displacement aims to consolidate advances emphasizing four strategic priorities: (i) systematic inclusion in national statistics; (ii) targeted production of high-quality data and timely analysis to inform policy and programs; (iii) data innovation to increase the quality, timeliness, and accessibility of data; and (iv) operationalizing data and evidence to strengthen solutions to forced displacement.[53]

At IOM, the systematic production of global migration data was developed in the 1990s and its own landmark *World Migration Report* started being published in 2000. Currently, IOM's approach to data is based on its *Migration Data Strategy (2020–2025)*, which presents a framework to enhance the collection, analysis, and application of migration data. It also established a Berlin-based Global Migration Data Analysis Centre in 2015 to strengthen IOM's role in global migration data analysis, and launched its Migration Data Portal (2017) and a Global Data Institute (2023) to consolidate IOM's data expertise.[54] IOM collects and analyzes data on various related themes, such as assisted voluntary return and reintegration, missing migrants, and victims of human trafficking.[55] IOM also developed a 2021–2025 Internal Displacement Data Strategy.[56]

In 2004, IOM established its Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM), which has since become a widely used tool for monitoring and understanding displacement caused by conflict, disasters, and other crises. Its core components include mobility tracking (collecting data on locations and presence of mobile populations and their diverse needs to inform assistance); flow monitoring (movements, profiles, and the situation at key points); registration (developing a record of individuals and households in a location for beneficiary selection, vulnerability targeting, and programming); and surveys through population sampling.[57] Data is disseminated through specific dashboards, maps, and public reports available online. For post-crisis contexts, in 2022, IOM launched the Solutions and Mobility Index, a tool to assess the level of stability in targeted locations and support the monitoring of IDPs' progress toward durable solutions.[58] While cross-border movements are included in the DTM, it has mainly established itself as a reference on internal displacement. DTM's context-specific data collection is closely coordinated with national and local government counterparts. Engagement with authorities

[50] Protection monitoring covers a wide range of protection-related concerns, including safety and security; access to basic rights and services (including education, labor market, health care, and social safety net programs); child protection risks; and incidents of gender-based violence.

[51] World Bank-UNHCR Joint Data Center on Forced Displacement.

[52] For example, UNHCR. Forced Displacement Microdata portal; JDC. Geospatial Data on Forced Displacement Tool; and JDC. Forced Displacement Document Catalogue.

[53] JDC. *World Bank-UNHCR Joint Data Center on Forced Displacement: Strategy 2024–2027*.

[54] IOM. 2024. *World Migration Report*; and IOM. 2021. *Migration Data Strategy: Informing Policy and Action on Migration, Mobility and Displacement*.

[55] IOM. 2022. IOM Data Overview.

[56] IOM. 2021. *Internal Displacement Data Strategy 2021–2025: Strengthening Capacity and Leadership in Internal Displacement Data*.

[57] IOM. Displacement Tracking Matrix.

[58] Key Informant Interview 8, 20 March 2025; and IOM. Solution and Mobility Index.



spans the entire data management cycle, with a strong emphasis on strengthening national data infrastructure to support sustainable and efficient information systems. To enhance the policy impact of its data, DTM also partners with academic institutions.

The leading global authority on IDP data is the Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre (IDMC), established in 1998 by the Norwegian Refugee Council. IDMC's mission is to provide high-quality data, analysis, and expertise on internal displacement with the aim of informing policy and operational decisions. IDMC provides verified, consolidated, and multisourced estimates on the number of people internally displaced and the number of internal displacements (or forced movements) due to conflict, violence, or disasters. IDMC also released a Global Disaster Displacement Risk Model which estimates the number of people likely to be internally displaced in any given year in the future due to disasters, according to different climate change scenarios.[59] Global data is paired with interdisciplinary research informing policymaking at multiple levels.

Based on a comprehensive methodology, IDMC applies a rigorous process to validate and triangulate a variety of sources and ensure accuracy of estimates. IDMC data is not published unless verified and it is made accessible through various repositories, including the Global Internal Displacement Database, which provides annual data on internal displacement resulting from conflict, violence, and disasters.[60] The dataset includes additional disaggregation by displacement cause and event. Estimates on the number of IDPs are also disaggregated by sex and age. IDMC maintains country profiles, which notably include details on policy and legal frameworks. Through its research program, IDMC has collected data on the impacts of internal displacement on IDPs and host communities' livelihoods, health, education, housing conditions, and security, and on the conditions in which IDPs live, which can help inform solutions. This research is, however, only available for certain countries and displacement situations. IDMC also hosts a Global Repository of Good Practices, which shares and evaluates policies and programs for IDPs worldwide. IDMC's dissemination products include its annual flagship *Global Report on Internal Displacement*, alongside thematic and regional reports.[61]

59 IDMC. *Disaster Displacement Risk Modelling.*
60 IDMC. Global Internal Displacement Database.
61 IDMC. 2025. *Global Report on Internal Displacement (GRID).*

The Expert Group on Refugee, Internally Displaced Persons, and Statelessness Statistics (EGRISS) also plays an increasingly critical role. EGRISS is a multistakeholder collaborative initiative gathering 61 national statistics authorities and 38 regional and international organizations under a mandate from the UN Statistical Commission since 2016. EGRISS has since developed the world's first international recommendations and standards to support countries and regional or international organizations in enhancing quality, consistency, and comparability of national statistics on forced displacement and statelessness.[62] Currently, the group works on the dissemination and implementation of these recommendations, especially through strengthening national statistical capacity, producing technical guidance, and providing different platforms for peer exchange and learning.

Other notable interagency or civil society actors producing data and analysis on forced displacement include JIPS and the Mixed Migration Centre, both hosted by the Danish Refugee Council; the REACH joint initiative of Agency for Technical Cooperation and Development, IMPACT Initiatives, and UN Satellite Applications Programme; and Assessment Capacities Project. Many of those take a primarily humanitarian perspective. Other UN agencies are also important contributors, such as the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), which leads the International Data Alliance for Children on the Move; the United Nations Population Fund, particularly through its focus on population dynamics and data to inform policy and development planning; and UNDP, working specifically on connecting displacement data with the SDGs. UNDP and JIPS jointly designed an SDG-oriented indicator and analytical framework to evaluate progress toward solutions to internal displacement. This resulted in a September 2024 report, *Monitoring Progress Towards Solutions to Internal Displacement: A Development-Oriented Indicator Framework*.[63]

While the above has highlighted a rich global ecosystem of data producers and initiatives, there is also a sense of fragmentation and lack of cohesion that may present obstacles to standardized approaches within and across countries.[64] Those characteristics are also evident at the regional level, including in Asia and the Pacific.



[62] EGRISS developed the 2018 *International Recommendations on Refugee Statistics (IRRS)*, and the 2020 *International Recommendation on IDP Statistics (IRIS)*. It has also developed a *Compilers' Manual* and E-Learning Course to guide implementation.

[63] JIPS and UNDP. 2024. *Monitoring Progress Towards Solutions to Internal Displacement: A Development-Oriented Indicator Framework*.

[64] IDMC. 2025. *2025 Global Report on Internal Displacement (GRID)*. pp. 21–24.



4 Data on Forced Displacement and Solutions in Asia and the Pacific: An Analysis

Following this mapping of global initiatives and actors on solutions to displacement and data, and the recent growth in capacity worldwide, this study now turns to analyzing and examining these developments in Asia and the Pacific.

Asia and the Pacific Contributions to Global Data Developments

Asia and the Pacific is rather underrepresented in global conversations on displacement, solutions, and related data. Key informant interviews and desk research indicated that in many of the initiatives described earlier, specific examples and contributions from actors in the region have been relatively minimal—but not totally absent—even though historically Asia has played a major role in hosting refugees, supporting IDPs, and in contributing to durable solutions. Arguably, should the full spectrum of actors and trends from Asia and the Pacific be better represented in global forums, this could enhance the region's visibility, drive governments' political will, heighten donor interest, and improve actors' capacity to collect and use data for solutions. This space could be invested by states and other stakeholders, building on an emerging momentum.[65]

To take a few examples, the region's representation on panels at the 2019 and 2023 Global Refugee Forums was relatively small and pledges made by states and other actors in Asia represented about 9% of the total 3,428 pledges,[66] despite the region being home to two of the world's most significant refugee situations and having one of the GCR regional support platforms.[67] This situation might be explained by the limited formal adherence of states to the 1951 Refugee Convention and its 1967 Protocol, the absence of strong regional and national refugee frameworks, and limited regional cooperation among states on displacement issues. One of the direct implications is arguably lower institutional pressure to report on displacement. In the absence of a

[65] Key Informant Interview 9, 2 April 2025.
[66] Global Compact on Refugees Forum. Pledges and Contributions Dashboard (pledges as of June 2025).
[67] The Support Platform for the Solutions Strategy for Afghan Refugees was created in 2019 to reinforce collective efforts to build on a solutions approach.

regional refugee framework or strong national frameworks, forcibly displaced populations often fall into legal gray categories, being considered as irregular migrants or temporary guests. As in other regions, countries in Asia and the Pacific are sensitive to the perception of refugees and migrants in the media and among their electorates. Governments are reluctant to take actions to regularize the long-term stay of refugees that may be construed by the public as placing a strain on national resources and services or reducing employment opportunities for nationals. Displaced populations may also be disenfranchised vulnerable groups, often already overlooked within their countries of asylum. These considerations, along with statistical and technical limitations for some countries, result in deliberate or actual exclusion of refugees from national statistics.

The relative lack of engagement from regional states is also reflected in the membership of EGRISS. Among the 61 national statistics authorities that are currently members of EGRISS, only nine come from Asia and the Pacific, which are commonly less actively involved than others, and more focused on statelessness than refugee or IDP populations (footnote 43). Nevertheless, two regional institutions are members of EGRISS, the UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific and its regional training arm, the UN Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific. The Global Annual Inclusion Survey, which monitors global progress on statistical inclusion of displaced populations, also reveals that Asia ranked last on the number of relevant projects currently implemented, although there has been a growing trend over the past couple of years.[68] There were also noteworthy activities on specific thematic areas such as the March 2024 Asia-Pacific Regional Workshop on Implementing Guidance on Inclusive Civil Registration and Vital Statistics Systems, which gathered 11 governments in the region.[69] This workshop emphasized, among other things, the importance of producing inclusive vital statistics and development indicators and improving integration of displaced and stateless individuals in statistical systems. It set the stage for continued regional dialogue and actions.[70]

Specifically on internal displacement, while Asia did not feature prominently in the High-Level Panel final report, some contributions were made by states and civil society organizations (CSOs) in the region. Consultations with displaced communities took place in Afghanistan,[71] Bangladesh, Indonesia, and the Philippines.[72] A November 2020 regional virtual consultation on disaster displacement emphasized that Asia and the Pacific is the world's most disaster-prone region, with over 80% of documented disaster displacement between 2008 and 2019.[73] Since 2022, the UNSG Action Agenda and the Special Adviser on Solutions to Internal Displacement included Afghanistan and Vanuatu as examples, although those did not feature prominently in communications.[74] Nevertheless, the 2023 *Proposal for Improving Data for Solutions to Internal Displacement (DSID)* was developed based on country case studies and surveys, including some in Asia.[75] Afghanistan is also one of the pilot countries in which the related diagnostic tool is being tested.

The above, therefore, seems to confirm that the Asia and Pacific region has been relatively less visible in global processes addressing solutions to internal and cross-border displacement. However, there is an interesting basis for the region to further contribute to and benefit from global initiatives. To better understand this issue, it is also important to evaluate the data capacities and challenges specific to the region.

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68 EGRISS. Global Annual Inclusion Survey Results Dashboard.

69 This workshop was organized in Bangkok in March 2024 by the UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, UNHCR, UNICEF, EGRISS, and the International Data Alliance for Children on the Move.

70 EGRISS et al. 2024. *Outcome Document: Asia-Pacific Regional Workshop on Implementing Guidance on Inclusive CRVS [Civil Registration and Vital Statistics] Systems*. It is noteworthy that ADB has been active on regional CRVS discussions in the past, notably through the 2014 International Identity Management Conference.

71 ADB placed its regular assistance in Afghanistan on hold effective 15 August 2021.

72 UN Secretary-General's High-Level Panel on Internal Displacement. 2020. Consultations with IDPs and Host Communities.

73 UN Secretary-General's High-Level Panel on Internal Displacement. 2020. Consultation in Asia Concludes with Recommendations on Disaster Displacement for UN High-Level Panel - Platform on Disaster Displacement. News. 19 November.

74 See, for example, the lack of references to both countries at the end of: Office of the Special Adviser on Solutions to Internal Displacement. 2024. Member States Briefing by the Special Adviser on Solutions to Internal Displacement. 12 December. Note also that other countries were considered as pilots without going forward.

75 Data for Solutions to Internal Displacement Taskforce. 2023. *Proposal for Improving Data for Solutions to Internal Displacement*. Case studies from Asia included Afghanistan, the People's Republic of China, India, Indonesia, Myanmar, the Philippines, and Viet Nam.

Displacement Data Capacities in Asia and the Pacific

Data capacity varies significantly across the region, but key informants highlighted that it should not be underestimated: Some consider the region as "data rich."[76] Along with the global-level institutional developments described above, data capacity in the region has also increased. UNHCR, IOM, other UN agencies, and nongovernment organizations (NGOs) have made consistent efforts over the past decade to develop the collection and analysis of displacement data.[77] This has led to improvements in the understanding of what to collect and how to work with data (footnote 58). How this translates into states' capacities remains relatively less clear since these agencies have collected data primarily for humanitarian operations and programming.

Snapshots of the United Nations and Other Actors' Capacities and Data in the Region

The *UNHCR Data Strategy 2020–2025* boosted an investment in data capacity which gradually spread to the regions.[78] As in all other bureaus, the Bangkok UNHCR Regional Bureau for Asia and the Pacific (RBAP) created a Data, Identity Management, and Analysis unit. Consolidating data functions (registration and identity management, information management, operational data management, statistics, and analytics), this unit was designed to support coordination and country operations within the region, and facilitate registration, data, and information management activities, including strengthening socioeconomic analyses and promoting refugee inclusion into national systems, while overseeing and ensuring compliance with global UNHCR data standards and norms.[79]

As a result, the RBAP increased its personnel and technical expertise, professionalizing the approach. Key informants cited a notable improvement in data collection tools and methodologies after 2020, and expanded partnerships with national entities, international financial institutions, other UN agencies, and NGOs dealing with population statistics. In the process, two specific UNHCR survey models were launched or rolled out in Asia:

- The UNHCR Forcibly Displaced Survey, a standardized, multi-topic survey developed to, over time, collect comprehensive data on forcibly displaced populations, streamline various ad hoc and sector surveys, and ensure consistency and comparability across countries. It focuses on the socioeconomic and living conditions of refugees, asylum seekers, and host communities. In the region, the survey has been implemented in Pakistan in 2024, with results forthcoming.
- The Results Monitoring Survey, which recently led to the UNHCR's Socio-Economic Conditions of Forcibly Displaced and Stateless Populations in Asia and the Pacific report.[80] Based on surveys conducted in 2022–2024, it provides comparative analyses of living conditions of forcibly displaced and stateless people in the region. More generally, the survey intends to assess how effective UNHCR and its partners are in achieving specific objectives for displaced populations.

Other data collection exercises have been implemented in Bangladesh, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Myanmar, Nepal, and Thailand, focusing on refugees.[81] These particularly focused on refugee intentions, access to services, and socioeconomic conditions, through quantitative and qualitative methods. Similarly for the Afghanistan situation, significant investments in primary data collection have been undertaken.[82] In line with UNHCR's data protection

[76] Key Informant Interview 4, 8 January 2025.
[77] Key Informant Interview 5, 16 January 2025; and Key Informant Interview 9, 2 April 2025.
[78] UNHCR. 2019. *UNHCR Data Strategy 2020–2025: Supporting Protection and Solutions*.
[79] Key Informant Interview 7, 10 March 2025.
[80] UNHCR. 2025. *Socio-Economic Conditions of Forcibly Displaced and Stateless Populations in Asia and the Pacific*.
[81] Effective 1 February 2021, ADB placed a temporary hold on sovereign project disbursements and new contracts in Myanmar.
[82] UNHCR also mentioned a 2025 Forcibly Displaced Survey-style survey undertaken in Iran; 2024–2025 World Bank–UNHCR–UNDP–IOM analysis of absorption capacities of the 20 top districts for returnees in Afghanistan; 2025 Results Monitoring Survey; and 2024–2025 Post Return Monitoring Surveys in Afghanistan.



policies, datasets go through a process of anonymization prior to being made available online (e.g., the RBAP Data and Analysis web page), the regional Operational Data Portal (and country-level equivalents), the UNHCR microdata library, and other repositories and publications. Those tools have been instrumental in improving data accessibility and transparency, enabling better informed decisions and sometimes tracking trends and progress over time. Key informants indicated that while the process of anonymization is resource and time-intensive, since 2020, UNHCR has anonymized 180 datasets (arguably the highest result among UNHCR regional bureaus), while there were none 5 years ago (footnote 81). Of note, the RBAP also publishes annually its own *Asia and the Pacific Regional Trends*, highlighting key statistical information and analysis, including stock and flow data about IDP and refugee returns, resettlement and complementary pathways, and naturalizations.[83]

Similarly, over the past decade, IOM has built on its *Global Migration Data Strategy* and significantly enhanced its institutional capacity to produce and analyze data on forced displacement in the Asia and Pacific region. Next to the Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific, in 2021 IOM established the Regional Data Hub for Asia and the Pacific, which aims to enhance the availability of data and promote its use in the region. IOM Regional Data Hub's annual Asia and Pacific migration data flagship report provides key insights into migration trends in the region, and supports evidence-informed policy and programmatic actions toward achieving the SDGs and the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly, and Regular Migration.[84] The report is complemented by an online Asia and Pacific migration data portal which provides key migration data at regional, subregional, and national levels.[85] The hub operates in synergy with other IOM data entities, notably the DTM, and provides support to a variety of actors, through training and technical advice. Currently, in the Asia and Pacific region, the DTM is active in eight countries, collecting data in Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea (PNG), the Philippines, Solomon Islands, Thailand, and Vanuatu. Mobility tracking is prevalent in Afghanistan, Pakistan, PNG, and Thailand, while flow monitoring is mainly done in Afghanistan, Pakistan, and Thailand (footnote 62). Surveys in Bangladesh and the Philippines integrate community perceptions and IOM also contributes to joint site assessments with sector partners in Bangladesh.

83 UNHCR.2023. *Asia and the Pacific Regional Trends - Forced Displacement and Statelessness.*
84 IOM. 2023. *Asia-Pacific Migration Data Report*.
85 IOM. Asia Pacific Regional Data Hub.

Recent IOM outputs include the *2024 Papua New Guinea Internal Displacement Overview*, which provides a yearly summary analysis based on 21 community-level assessments conducted in 2024.[86] Of note also is the March 2025 *Afghanistan's Climate Vulnerability Assessment Round 1: Population and Mobility Report*, which focuses on the link between climate-related hazards and mobility patterns across Afghanistan.[87] This report is part of a broader effort to understand and address the impacts of climate change on displacement and migration in the region. Similarly, a team in Pakistan conducted a series of community needs assessments in areas affected by devastating floods in 2023 and 2024.[88]

Other notable UN agencies active on displacement data in the region include the UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, UNICEF, UNDP, and UN Human Settlements Programme. NGOs also collect data, often at country level. For example, many NGOs collect, analyze, and use data on displacement in Afghanistan, including the Danish Refugee Council, the International Rescue Committee, Norwegian Refugee Council, REACH, and Samuel Hall. The Mixed Migration Center Asia also collects and disseminates data and analysis on regional movements. On internal displacement, IDMC remains a major actor. In addition to the collaborations highlighted above, ADB and IDMC undertook assessments in Indonesia, Nepal, and PNG, notably as part of their work on the 2022 report on disaster displacement in Asia and the Pacific.[89]

States' Data Engagement and Capacities in the Region

States' capacity to produce data on displacement, including durable solutions, varies widely depending on several factors such as governance, infrastructure, security, stability, technical capacity, expertise, and political will. The capacity of the region's countries to produce data on forced displacement varies accordingly. Commonwealth Nations such as India and Sri Lanka tend to have inherited similar reporting structures and capacities, which simplify data tracing, validation, and interpretation (footnote 77). Most countries in the region have established national statistical institutions. However, in fragile settings, governments tend to have weak statistical systems and limited institutional capacity to collect granular socioeconomic data.

When limitations stem from capacity deficits, international organizations and NGOs can play a bridging role in supporting and strengthening states' data expertise and capabilities. This is done through programs that produce operational data, geared to inform specific projects often done collaboratively with government ministries and agencies. For instance, UNHCR works closely with the Government of Bangladesh on producing data related to the refugee population hosted in Cox's Bazar district. Since 2018, UNHCR and Bangladesh's Refugee Relief and Repatriation Commissioner have jointly conducted biometric registration to collect individual data and deliver identification cards to refugees useful in accessing services. This process ensures that both UNHCR and the government have harmonized and verified population data. Results are regularly published through joint population dashboards, maps, and factsheets available on the UNHCR Bangladesh operational data portal.[90] Aside from cooperating with the government, UNHCR contributes to other data efforts such as Inter-Sector Needs Assessments coordinated by the Inter-Sector Coordination Group and aiming to ensure humanitarian actors and the authorities can respond to up-to-date needs.[91] The Inter-Sector Coordination Group recently published its first Cox's Bazar Development Factsheet.[92]

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86 IOM. Papua New Guinea — Annual Displacement Overview: 2024.
87 IOM. 2025. *Afghanistan's Climate Vulnerability Assessment*.
88 IOM. 2024. *Pakistan – Flood Response Community Needs Identification (CNI) | Round 6 – Balochistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Provinces (August 2024)*.
89 IDMC. 2022. Disaster Displacement in Asia and the Pacific. IDMC also did an assessment in Vanuatu with support from Australia's Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade.
90 UNHCR. Operational Data Portal: Bangladesh.
91 UNHCR. 2025. *Inter-Sector Needs Assessment - Bangladesh*.
92 Key Informant Interview 12, 21 April 2025; and ISCG. 2025. *Development Factsheet Cox's Bazaar*.

Another interesting example is IOM's close collaboration with the Government of PNG to collect and manage data on displacement. For almost a decade, IOM has applied the DTM methodology in various PNG provinces in an effort to support its ability to monitor and respond to internal displacement, notably caused by natural hazards and communal conflict. The DTM is now the primary source of displacement data in the country and includes registration activities, mobility tracking, and post-disaster site assessments. The data is directly used by the PNG National Disaster Centre, the national government, and local authorities. Activities involve close interaction with authorities, including working together to deploy assessment teams. IOM has also conducted capacity-building initiatives for government officials (and partners) across the country on data collection and programming responses.[93]

With data protection safeguards in place, international data actors usually collaborate with governments, building their capacities to adhere to statistical international norms and standards, collect quality disaggregated data on forcibly displaced populations, and validate the data collected. There is also some collaboration between producers of national statistics and external operational data producers.[94] Operational data can be crucial to decision-making on responses, programming, and resource allocations because it is focused, detailed, and usually much more timely than official statistics such as censuses.[95] It is also sometimes the only displacement data available. Therefore, when integrating socioeconomic aspects, operational data can contribute importantly to solutions programming.[96]

There are, however, inherent weaknesses associated with the operational nature of such data efforts. First, short-term funding cycles often lead to a lack of coherence among the various datasets produced by different actors, for different purposes and at different times. This results in challenges related to data heterogeneity, fragmentation, and interoperability. Investigating specific queries by using data from multiple countries or sources can be complex as it is often impossible to get the same level of granularity across the board. As mentioned by one key informant, "The harmonization problem is not trivial: Sometimes one can be surprised by the amount of [household level] data collected but it remains very complex or even impossible to harmonize it to make valid comparisons" (footnote 65). This suggests clear limitations on the insights that operational data can provide for solutions.

Even when produced jointly with governments, operational data tends to lack connection to national systems and is therefore largely unable to provide longitudinal details and analyses needed to plan for solutions and development approaches. For example, operational data actors increasingly emphasize area-based, localized surveys which have shown limitations in their ability to connect with national development plans. One key informant stressed, "The only way to get sustainability is working with national statistical offices, but this requires governments' recognition of [the link between development and displacement as a] long-term challenge" (footnote 43). While key informants have highlighted progress made to improve the interoperability of different datasets, this is a gradual evolution particularly connected to adherence to common standards. Operational data has an important complementary role to play next to official statistics, but this requires further development in national systems.

National statistical offices or other relevant government agencies produce socioeconomic data on settled citizens, through censuses and other surveys and tools. However, marginalized groups, especially displaced persons, are often excluded (footnote 43).[97] Governments can collect data on any population in their territory, but this does not necessarily translate into collecting and using socioeconomic data or including displaced persons in the responsibility of the national statistical systems. Administrative surveys only relate to a country's

93 Key Informant Interview 10, 7 April 2025.
94 EGRISS. 2020. *International Recommendations on Internally Displaced Persons Statistics (IRIS)*. p. 74.
95 Displacement is often a dynamic phenomenon that requires data to be collected regularly, and more frequently than official statistics, which are also often more costly to obtain, albeit of higher quality.
96 Data for Solutions to Internal Displacement Taskforce. 2023. Proposal for Improving Data for Solutions to Internal Displacement. p. 10.
97 N.K. Baal. 2021. *Forced Displacement Data: Critical Gaps and Key Opportunities in the Context of the Global Compact on Refugees*.



legal residents. As a result, it is very difficult to compare the situation of displaced persons and communities with that of nondisplaced nationals, especially from a longitudinal perspective (footnote 43). This particularly makes it practically impossible to apply the IASC framework approach to compare the situations of IDPs to that of nondisplaced populations, to verify whether displacement-related vulnerabilities have been addressed.[98]
The level of inclusion of displaced persons–especially refugees, asylum seekers, and IDPs—in national statistics across the Asia and Pacific region is uneven and limited. As explained in earlier sections, there is a relative lack of active states' engagement with EGRISS in the region. The nine national statistical organizations that are members of EGRISS represent Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Cambodia, Malaysia, Pakistan, the Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand, and Viet Nam. Most do not systematically include forcibly displaced populations in national censuses, administrative records, or household surveys such as health surveys, except for recent targeted initiatives in Indonesia and Pakistan.[99] Moreover, in early June 2024 the decision to include refugees in the Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey in Bangladesh was officially announced, during the launch of the Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey Round 7 (2024–2025).[100] A collaborative effort between the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics and UNICEF, this survey aims to collect essential data on children and women, and encouragingly includes a dedicated component on the refugee population in the country. Such examples may herald opportunities and room for progress, provided conducive political will emerges or is encouraged.

The Impact of Legal Frameworks and Political Will

Beyond capacity issues, two important and interconnected parameters determine governments' involvement in solutions data collection, availability, and analysis: existing legal frameworks and available political will. Legal frameworks are particularly relevant when considering cross-border displacement. As explained earlier, a minority

[98] The *IASC Framework on Durable Solutions for IDPs* helps measure whether IDPs are on a path towards a durable solution by evaluating eight key criteria that reflect the main challenges IDPs face. The framework uses the conditions for the nondisplaced population in the same area as the benchmark to assess the conditions for IDPs.

[99] Badan Pusat Statistik (Statistics Indonesia). 2024. *Indonesia's Experience in Population Data Collection from Census and Survey*; and Government of Pakistan. 2023. 7th Population and Housing Census.

[100] UNICEF. 2024. The Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS), Supported by UNICEF, Launches Large-Scale Household Survey on the Situation of Children and Women in the Country. News release. 11 June.



of countries in the region have signed the 1951 Refugee Convention and its 1967 Protocol, and many also lack national frameworks since signatories are not obliged to develop relevant policies or laws.[101] As a result, refugees and asylum seekers are not official statistical categories and no data is collected systematically by the authorities on them. As a proxy and with concerned governments' agreement, UNHCR does apply its mandate Refugee Status Determination procedure in 14 states in the region (footnote 81). Through this procedure, UNHCR produces relevant data, including name, nationality, age, sex and gender, skills languages, vulnerabilities, and specific needs. This feeds into UNHCR's stock and flow analyses. When possible, records are updated through capturing data on vital events such as births, deaths, and marriages. While this data can connect to durable solutions (e.g., determining eligibility for third-country resettlement), its primary objective is individual case protection and it also serves a programming and operational monitoring purpose for non-state actors, including when supporting the government. Refugee status determination may also connect to self-reliance as it provides access to services such as health care and education, although rarely within national systems in the region. NGOs also produce data, often on movements, and some community-based and refugee-led organizations have also started producing their own data. Ultimately, UNHCR aims to build national capacity and transfer registration to governments where possible, as governments have the primary responsibility for registration of refugees and asylum seekers.[102] However, the lack of regional and national frameworks presents major obstacles and there has been very little sign of evolution of governments' perspectives. While UNHCR urges universal accession to the 1951 Refugee Convention, this has had little traction in the past decade, especially in the Asia and Pacific region.

Internal displacement considerations are not governed by binding international treaties but rather through soft normative and operational guidance as well as national laws and policies, especially as there is no regional equivalent to the African Union Kampala Convention.[103] According to a 2025 UNHCR report, as of November 2024, there

[101] UNHCR. 2010. *Convention and Protocol Relating to the Status of Refugees*; currently 20 out of the 45 states covered by UNHCR's Regional Bureau for Asia and the Pacific are signatories.

[102] UNHCR. 2001. *ExCom Conclusion 91/2001 on Registration of Refugees and Asylum Seekers*.

[103] The African Union Convention for the Protection and Assistance of Internally Displaced Persons in Africa (Kampala Convention) is a legally binding treaty adopted in 2009 that obligates African states to prevent displacement, protect the rights of IDPs, and provide assistance and durable solutions for their recovery.

were 32 IDP-specific instruments in the Asia and Pacific region, 19 laws at national and subnational levels, and 13 policies or strategies, also at national and subnational levels.[104] The report also notes that developments over the past 2 years have particularly focused on disasters and climate change, signaling a specific traction for such issues in the region. This is consistent with the fact that most of the disaster displacement recorded globally has taken place in Asia and the Pacific over the past decade, although the short-term nature of this displacement often induces fragmentation of data collection and longer-term data gaps.[105] As recognized in the relevant guidance and framework, IDPs remain under the sovereign jurisdiction of their own state, which has the primary duty and responsibility to provide them with protection, support, and ultimately durable solutions.[106]

Political will can be gauged through states' activities to protect their IDP populations and develop dedicated national policy frameworks or national development plans. Indeed, when a national policy is developed, it means the government is taking ownership and this opens ground for progress, such as the development of national statistics on a regular and long-term basis. While it is true that the UNSG Action Agenda did not include many pilot examples from the region, several recent developments merit attention.

In Bangladesh, the government has long been at the forefront with national plans to address internal displacement caused by natural hazards such as storms and rising sea levels. In 2015, Bangladesh adopted a National Strategy on the Management of Disaster and Climate Induced Internal Displacement, followed by a Bangladesh National Strategy on Internal Displacement Management and a related National Action Plan (2022–2042).[107] The latest strategy and action plan outline preventive and adaptative measures, and present sector programs to create conducive environments for solutions. While there is room for progress and investment, the strategy also aims to better understand displacement through disaggregated data and recommends including displacement questions in the national census and surveys.[108]

The Philippines is also notable for recent efforts to establish legal frameworks on displaced populations and include them into its census. Legislation was adopted at the regional level, particularly the Rights of Internally Displaced Persons of the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region Act of 2024.[109] Reportedly, this is the "first legal framework within Southeast Asia that is IDP-focused and rights-based."[110] The law entered into force in January 2025 and the implementing rules and regulations came into effect in March.[111] This comprehensive instrument considers the causes and various phases of displacement as well as durable solutions. It includes data-related considerations such as conducting special mobile registration and coordination with national agencies, e.g., to restore civil registry documents destroyed or lost during displacement. The law also ensures the protection of IDPs' personal data. At the national level, the Philippines addresses internal displacement mostly through the lens of disaster displacement. As one of the countries most affected by this phenomenon, it has developed one of the best monitoring systems worldwide for disaster displacement, including a National Disaster Risk Management Plan for 2020–2030 and a National Climate Change Action Plan for 2011–2028, which includes displacement prevention.[112] While not directly focused on solutions, the Disaster Response Operations Monitoring and Information Center brings expertise and capacities in collecting data that could inform more solutions-oriented approaches.

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[104] UNHCR. 2025. *Global Report on Law and Policy on Internal Displacement: Implementing National Responsibility*. p. 38.
[105] ADB and IDMC. 2024. *Harnessing Development Financing for Solutions to Displacement in the Context of Disasters and Climate Change in Asia and the Pacific*. p. 10.
[106] UN. 1998. *Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement*. Principle 3.
[107] Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) 2021. National Strategy on Internal Displacement Management.
[108] IDMC Global Repository of Good Practices. *Bangladesh National Strategy on Internal Displacement Management (2021) - National Action Plan (2022-2042) to Implement the National Strategy on Internal Displacement*.
[109] Republic of the Philippines. 2022. *Bangsamoro Autonomy Act No. 62; An Act Protecting the Rights of Internally Displaced Persons of the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao*.
[110] UNHCR. 2025. *Global Report on Law and Policy on Internal Displacement: Implementing National Responsibility*. p. 38.
[111] UNHCR. 2025. BARMM IDP Law Takes Effect, Breathes Renewed Hope into IDP Protection Efforts. News release. 24 January; and UNHCR. 2025. Stronger Protection for Those Internally Displaced in Bangsamoro Within Reach, News release. 25 April.
[112] ADB and IDMC. 2024. *Harnessing Development Financing for Solutions to Displacement in the Context of Disasters and Climate Change in Asia and the Pacific*. p. 28.

Finally, in PNG, as mentioned above, a strong collaboration exists between the government and IOM, including on displacement data collection and analysis. On this basis, between 2022 and 2024 the Department for Provincial and Local Government Affairs worked with IOM to develop a national policy on internal displacement.[113] The draft policy was released in March 2025 and reflects a strong commitment from the government to develop solid foundations and a comprehensive governance framework for the protection, support, and durable solutions for displaced persons and communities in PNG. It includes a specific policy strategy on coordination and management of IDP data and information directing for the "collection, analysis, storage, retrieval, reporting, and dissemination of IDP-specific information, ensuring data is consistently updated, standardized across all agencies and provinces, and aligned with international standards for internal displacement data." It promotes "data for solutions assessments and community planning processes to inform community recovery and durable solutions, plans, strategies, prioritization processes, and associated budgeting cycles".[114] It is also noteworthy that a census has been planned in PNG since 2021. Under the theme "Be counted! No one left behind," the objective was to focus on both citizens "and non-citizens" living in the country.[115]

Those examples constitute advances in terms of political will, opening a space for increased data capacity on solutions to internal displacement, bringing together operational data actors and government institutions. The extent to which populations are affected by natural hazards, and the potential for necessary relocation due to climate change, is an important dimension particularly for Pacific island countries.[116] Core areas of action, including staying in place as well as relocation, are important data for solutions dimensions that could benefit from further investments to address knowledge and data gaps which can support appropriate planning and adaptation.[117]

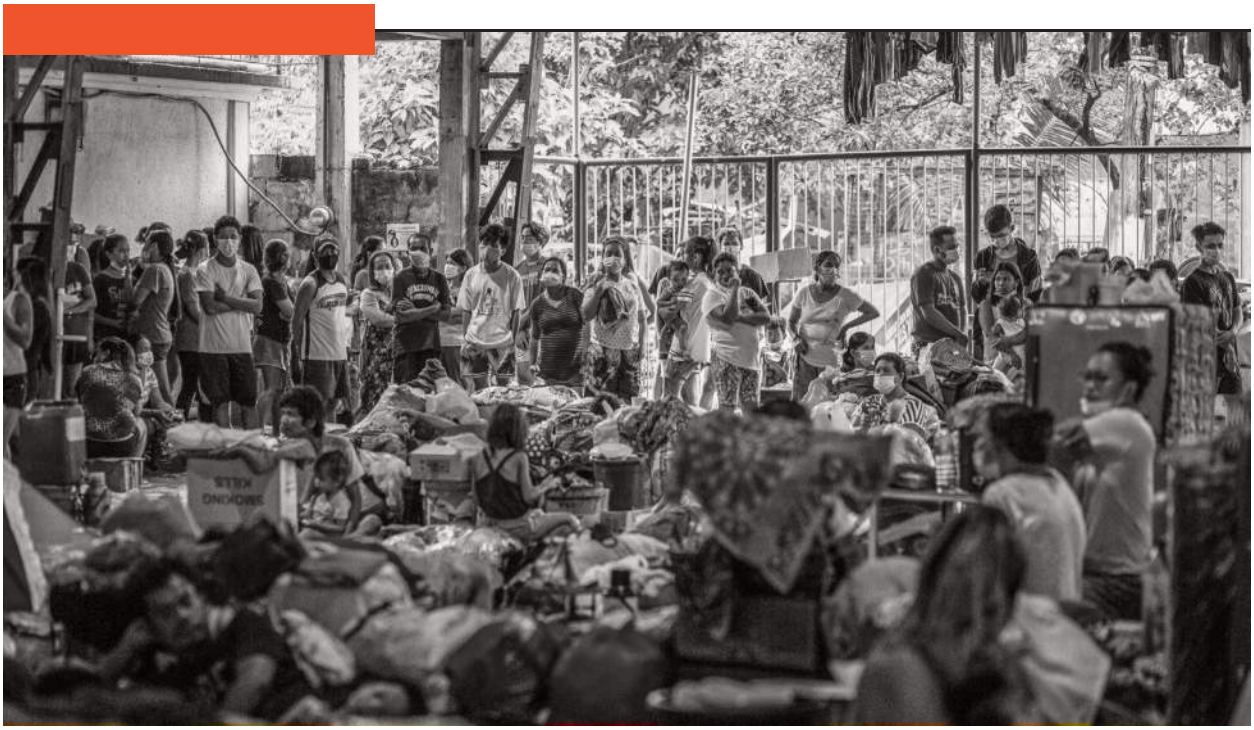
The Impact of Funding Shortfalls on Data Actors and Systems

Over the past decade, regional capacities to develop, disseminate, and analyze data on displacement has increased. Progress has been more prominent for operational data than with official statistics. It has not necessarily focused specifically on the production of data to inform solutions to displacement, but datasets covering socioeconomic perspectives are likely to inform relevant planning and development approaches. This study has also confirmed that developing and maintaining data infrastructures is resource demanding and a long-term investment.

However, since January 2025, the world has entered a new era of declining humanitarian and development funding with liquidity challenges, primarily due to substantial reductions in donor contributions and the suspension of key programs.[118] As a result, the aid sector is going through drastic downsizing, restructuring, and re-prioritizing exercises, with potentially severe implications. While processes are ongoing at the time of writing, the UN and its agencies have announced reductions in staffing worldwide and in the region. In March 2025, the UNSG launched "UN80," a comprehensive reform agenda aimed at ensuring the global institution remains fit for purpose as it enters its 80th year.[119] NGOs are also adjusting to this new environment, reducing their presence in the region and reorganizing their governance structures and activities. While there is little information and evidence available yet on the direct consequences for countries in the region, the declining aid capacity is likely to have a major impact on fragile and conflict-affected situations. The evolving trade and economic landscape is also likely to affect development dynamics, states' resources, capacities, priorities, and political dynamics.

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113 IOM. 2024. Papua New Guinea Takes Major Step Forward with New Policy for Internally Displaced Persons. News release. 5 October.
114 Government of PNG. 2025. *National Internally Displaced Persons Policy 2025–2034*. para. 44.
115 Government of PNG. National Statistical Office.
116 Of note: 52nd Pacific Islands Forum. 2023. *Pacific Regional Framework on Climate Mobility*.
117 Platform on Disaster Displacement (PDD). 2021. *In-Depth Report | Planned Relocation in the Pacific: A Regional Snapshot*; and PDD. 2021. *In-Depth Report | Planned Relocation in Asia: A Regional Snapshot*.
118 A. Sabow et al. 2025. A Generational Shift: The Future of Foreign Aid. McKinsey & Company. 6 May.
119 J. Ryan. 2025. UN80 and the Reckoning Ahead: Can Structural Reform Deliver Real Change? *The Global Observatory*. 8 May.



The potential impact on the aid data ecosystem is no less concerning. News outlets reported that "the vast information networks that inform the humanitarian system are teetering on the brink of 'collapse'."[120] As the latest report from the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs on the State of Open Humanitarian Data highlights, "As the humanitarian system severely contracts due to unprecedented funding cuts and threats to principled humanitarian action, the data ecosystem that supports it will experience the same pressure."[121] The impact on development data systems and solutions-focused data actors is inevitable due to the interconnected nature of these systems since "these data streams are not independent but deeply interwoven: The failure of one can trigger cascading failures across multiple domains."[122] Moreover, reorganization and cuts at the global level will undermine national and regional efforts because of a loss of support and coordination functions from headquarters. A decline in global and regional capacity to generate operational data is approaching, and national capacities will also be impacted.

Key informants for this study were concerned that the current situation could compromise or even reverse progress made in the region on building data systems and capacity. One international agency, for example, indicated that its data department might see a 50% reduction from its 2024 personnel capacity, forcing re-prioritization. Another had to cancel plans to conduct research and collect data on solutions in a country affected by disaster displacement. There will be reduced financial and human resources to conduct regular surveys, anonymize datasets, and provide support to governments through training and specific projects (footnote 77). The reduction in capacity might also threaten engagement with government agencies as "creating relationships with national statistical offices requires time, investments in building an understanding of the relevance of including displaced populations in data systems, and in navigating political considerations" (footnote 79). These efforts have only begun to yield results at the technical level and need to advance to higher political levels. On the other hand, key informants also recognized that this moment could create momentum

[120] W. Worley. 2025. Humanitarian Data Drought: The Deeper Damage Wrought by US Aid Cuts. *The New Humanitarian*. 25 March.
[121] UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs. 2025. *The State of Open Humanitarian Data 2025*. p. 4.
[122] A. Stoddard et al. 2025. The Data Streams that Underpin Humanitarian Response are About to Collapse. *The New Humanitarian*. 10 March.

toward new partnerships and rationalization of data efforts, also further exploring innovation including the responsible use of artificial intelligence (footnote 79). It also provides opportunities for national authorities to fill gaps that are left behind.

The months and years to come will therefore be marked by major evolutions in the aid sector that will redefine how displacement data is collected, disseminated, and analyzed. Preserving progress made over the past decade and filling gaps in resources and capacity will be a major challenge, with important implications for development approaches to displacement and planning for durable solutions. It will be crucial to find the right mechanisms to sustain momentum.[123]



[123] Y. Jai. 2025. Sustaining the Momentum. IDMC. 6 May; and M. Bradley and J. Welsh. 2025. Falling Back into the Shadows? How to Keep Internal Displacement on the Humanitarian Agenda. *The Conversation*. 21 May.



5 Overview of Data Use

In addition to examining how data for solutions is produced in the region by key data actors, this study explores how data is used and the lessons that can be drawn from this perspective. It is important to understand how data is mobilized to contribute to durable solutions and reflect progress in achieving those. The latest UN Guidance on Solutions to Internal Displacement explains that "data is the cornerstone of solutions to internal displacement," however, its impact is largely dependent on its use and dissemination.[124]

Examining data use starts with focusing on the initial purpose for collecting and producing it. Since the primary objective is to develop evidence-driven solutions, data should be produced with set objectives, priorities, and intended application, which can be short term or long term. Official population statistics are crucial since they provide a structured, reliable picture of a population at a specific point in time, based on international standards. Governments use such statistics for policy development and planning, especially as it relates to resource allocation, social services delivery, infrastructure development, and environmental management. Official statistics are also meant to inform development plans and devise strategic approaches. Population statistics can help ensure governments are on track with national development objectives and international commitments such as the SDGs.[125] The "leave no one behind" principle means that "nearly every SDG is relevant to internal displacement, and vice versa."[126] Moreover, while initially there was no mention of refugees or displacement, in 2019, a new, specific indicator on refugees[127] was included in the SDG Indicator Framework to ensure focus on and monitor their situation.[128] Including displaced persons into official statistics also allows for comparisons between displaced and nondisplaced persons, thus providing the opportunity to measure progress toward durable solutions as per the IASC framework and IRIS methodology. When disseminated publicly, for example, on national statistical offices websites as recommended by EGRISS, this data can feed into broader analysis conducted by other states, UN agencies, academic institutions, or CSOs.[129]

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124 UNSDG-IASC. 2025. *Guidance on Solutions to Internal Displacement*. p. 21.
125 EGRISS. Sustainable Development Goals.
126 C. Cazabat. 2018. The Importance of Monitoring Internal Displacement. *Forced Migration Review*.
127 The new indicator under target 16.3 considers the number of refugees by country of origin as a proportion of the national population of that country of origin.
128 P. Nahmias and N.K. Baal. 2019. Including Forced Displacement in the SDGs: A New Refugee Indicator. UNHCR Blogs. 2 December.
129 EGRISS. 2020. *International Recommendations on Internally Displaced Persons Statistics (IRIS)*. p. 86.

However, all this remains relatively theoretical since, as explained above, refugee and IDP inclusion into official statistics still has limited traction worldwide and especially in the region.[130] This remains sensitive and often perceived as a risk, notably when reflecting negative living conditions of displaced populations. While some progress has emerged over the past few years, this trend will have to be confirmed and maintained to ensure the data is used to its full extent. So far, it appears that governments are making more use of operational data collected by or in partnership with UN agencies, such as the UNHCR and UNICEF collaboration with the Government of Bangladesh described above. The Government of PNG has also partnered with IOM for many years, relying on its expertise and capacity to collect data on internal displacement, but the data is still ultimately housed in IOM systems, not with the government.

Therefore, there is a broad use for operational data on displacement as reflected in the number of actors involved. Operational data on displacement and solutions is used to inform policy and advocacy. For example, CSOs, UN agencies, and MDBs such as ADB "can use available data on the economic impacts of displacement to advocate for targeted investments aimed at reducing the underlying drivers of displacement, while addressing both immediate needs and long-term development goals."[131]

Key informants for this study stressed that operational data is often used first and foremost by the data producers themselves to inform operations on the ground, from preparedness to response and planning for solutions, as well as in support of service delivery (footnote 65). In the region, a growing use of data on displacement is related to prevention rather than solutions, to address and mitigate the displacement impacts of disasters. It is also used to monitor, evaluate, and report on activities. Advancements in data utilization have arguably enhanced the efficiency of aid delivery, enabling better targeting of needs, bridging gaps, and identifying areas in need of further investment. According to a key informant, monitoring progress over time has enabled organizations to "have more evidence-based and less creative reporting" (footnote 65). However, this also means that data use is often linked to time-bound projects and programs—typically humanitarian in nature—and focused on specific geographic areas and population sectors. Therefore, in their use of data, actors lack the capacity to go beyond using their data for the specific purpose it was gathered. Operational data production should better integrate the core concepts of sustainability, aiming to (i) ensure ongoing benefits after interventions end and (ii) emphasize projects' scalability and lasting results.[132] One way could be to further embed or bridge operational data with national data systems.

Those perspectives are related to the fragmented nature of operational data described in earlier sections, which limits interoperability and comparisons. Fragmentation and heterogeneity are also evident in the way operational data is made available, itself a key component of how data is used. Dissemination is done by each data actor, often through elaborate websites, Power BI dashboards and portals, micro data libraries, and publications. While this variety of data repositories represents a rich compendium of displacement data relevant to solutions in the region, it is also disparate and often difficult to navigate. The differences between datasets and systems are reflected in the lack of coherence and absence of guidance about where to find information needed and how not to miss crucial data on specific topics or countries. Potential data users are often left with the feeling of facing a giant data puzzle that limits efficiency as navigating existing data sets is complex.

Finally, it is important to mention that data protection and privacy should be at the center of dissemination considerations. Data actors considered during this study have indicated that they take concrete steps to comply with this principle, notably through efforts to anonymize data before making it publicly available. However, the growing lack of resources is already showing signs of decreased capacity to undertake this work. This may imply that many disaggregated, raw datasets will now remain internal, unavailable to actors beyond a project or program, thus further limiting more general use of data (footnote 65).

[130] Key Informant Interview 11, 16 April 2025. Interviews also indicated that there is positive momentum developing.
[131] ADB and IDMC. 2025. *Integrating Displacement Considerations in Country Dialogues and Planning: Guidance Note*. p. 7.
[132] Sustainability as defined by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development—Development Assistance Committee.



6 Recommendations

MDBs, particularly ADB, have long been engaged in supporting national administrative data and statistical architectures of its developing member countries (DMCs) (footnote 79). While not directly focused on displacement data or the inclusion of displaced populations in national statistics, strengthening DMC capacities with consideration for displacement will support inclusive, sustainable development in line with ADB's overall mandate as well as global frameworks.

Following are specific, targeted, and realistic recommendations for ADB to that effect.

1. **Support states to collect data on forced displacement relevant to solutions.**

The first entry point in supporting data availability and use is to invest in developing national data systems that can include displacement as a focus. ADB could expand on its longstanding expertise and engagement to support national administrative systems, such as through national statistical offices and relevant ministries, departments, and agencies to incorporate displacement data, in line with international recommendations. This could take the form of ADB providing financing and technical support for the following:

- **Strengthening data collection activities.** Collaborate with national statistical offices to develop new data collection initiatives or modify existing surveys and censuses to support the systematic collection of disaggregated socioeconomic data on forcibly displaced populations.
- **Supporting data integration and/or interoperability.** Assist in consolidating or making data systems interoperable among ministries, departments, and agencies, depending on the best approach in any given context.
- **Enhancing digital public infrastructure.** Build on past activities and recent regional digital initiatives to support advancements toward delivering digital identity systems through civil registration and vital statistics and legal identification. These systems benefit marginalized groups, including displaced and stateless individuals, and are crucial for achieving SDGs and ensuring access to services.
- **Capacity strengthening.** Support training and integration of national statistical offices, ministries, departments, and agencies, particularly regarding international standards such as the IRRS and IRIS, as well as through other mechanisms such as peer-to-peer learning and exchanges.

- **Documenting the economic impact of displacement.** Utilize regional socioeconomic data to enhance understanding of the economic impacts of displacement. This would facilitate the promotion of sustainable solutions and support the development of stronger policy frameworks to institutionalize data collection and use that account for displacement.

This support should align with DMCs' development goals and needs as well as their willingness and readiness to engage. From this perspective, there are varied entry points. For example, for countries experiencing disaster displacement, those having related national strategies in place could be prioritized based on the existing recognition of challenges related to disasters, governments' acknowledgment of their responsibilities, and related concrete efforts to address those challenges. For Pacific countries, regional approaches to identify and support data collection that addresses climate mobility and staying in place will be important. For countries that have e-government strategies or digital public infrastructure projects, inclusive approaches to recognize displaced populations and the "leave no one behind" principle can be leveraged. To develop a more solid basis for programming, ADB could reference existing studies or build detailed country profiles to identify needs and opportunities for enhancing national systems for inclusive data collection and use, while supporting country dialogues.

2. **Support the development and use of operational data for solutions to forced displacement.**

Data produced by nongovernment operational actors is important especially in contexts where states are unable or unwilling to address displacement issues. While there is a need for more coherent methodologies, operational data is often more timely and complements national data. Over the past decade, the region has built dedicated capacities that now need to be sustained and consolidated, especially at a time when these gains are at risk due to the ongoing decline in humanitarian and development funding. ADB can bring added value in supporting the following:

- **The continuation and consolidation of displacement data capacity in the region.** While direct support to UN agencies and CSOs is circumscribed, ADB could use existing instruments to support and collaborate with these actors through strategic partnerships. Such support could particularly target data actors who collaborate with national statistical offices or national disaster management organizations. Where ADB works through novel financing arrangements with international organizations in specific countries only, ADB could support operational data as part of their project engagements to fill specific gaps.
- **Increased understanding of data needed for solutions.** ADB could support the identification of data necessary to measure and support solutions to forced displacement in the region, capitalizing on expertise and experience developed globally and in other regions.[133]
- **Data dissemination and coherence.** ADB and regional partners could support the development of a common regional data repository, pooling together relevant datasets in an organized manner and supporting regional cooperation. This would facilitate access, analysis, and use beyond the initial project or program the data was collected for. This could also include support for anonymization efforts, which are critical to ensure data availability.

[133] For example, in the Americas, the Inter-American Development Bank has supported migration data collection and sharing through a regional approach so that national statistical offices can compare returning migrants' situations with local households.



Moreover, ADB could initiate internal efforts to guide its staff on existing data on solutions to displacement and enable them to make ADB data available in a digested and tailored manner to inform its interventions on displacement for program operations. This could build on the example of ADB's *Guidance Note on Integrating Displacement Considerations in Country Dialogues and Planning*.[134]

3. **Engage further with global and regional dialogues and forums.**

This study has highlighted a relative gap in regional contribution and representation in dialogues and processes on displacement, solutions, and data, while noting the dividends that can result from regional visibility in such forums. ADB could continue coordination with regional initiatives such as the Asia Pacific Disaster Displacement Working Group and Pacific Regional Framework on Climate Mobility to support governments on data for solutions and national data systems. It could also engage further in the following global and regional forums:

- **EGRISS.** Support increased adherence to international data standards, for example, through integrating EGRISS instruments into its projects and capacity-strengthening activities with national statistical offices, noting that several of its members are ADB DMCs.
- **Global Refugee Forum.** Highlight support to governments on data for solutions at the next Progress Review Meetings (December 2025) to serve as a basis for further engagements under the Joint Commitments by the MDB Coordination Platform on Economic Migration and Forced Displacement, of which ADB is a member. In those spaces, ADB would benefit from exchanging experience and lessons learned with other regional MDBs, the World Bank, and the International Monetary Fund.
- **Hub for Coordination of Solutions to Internal Displacement:** Based on its engagement with the UNSG Action Agenda structures in 2022–2024, ADB could invest in participating in relevant new forums such as the Global Solutions Working Group and the Global Solution Data Platform.

Moreover, ADB should continue its collaborative efforts to develop, consolidate, and disseminate knowledge on data for solutions to displacement from the perspective of the Asia and Pacific region.

[134] ADB. 2025. *Integrating Displacement Considerations in Country Dialogues and Planning Guidance Note*.





APPENDIX 1
What Is Data for Solutions? An Expanded Working Definition

"Data for solutions to forced displacement" refers to the collection, analysis, and use of statistical evidence to inform policies, programs, and interventions aimed at achieving durable solutions for forcibly displaced persons.[1] It also supports the monitoring of progress made by individuals and communities toward these solutions and helps identify the barriers that hinder their realization.

While this process includes counting those who have achieved—or are on a pathway to achieving—a durable solution, it extends beyond basic stock-and-flow figures to also measure the extent to which displacement-related vulnerabilities are being addressed. This involves assessing whether displaced individuals can fully enjoy their rights, regain agency, rebuild the capacity to pursue personal development goals and aspirations, contribute meaningfully to national and local development, and ultimately move beyond aid dependency.

This entails collecting socioeconomic data to assess the degree of (re)integration into society. Experts have proposed a range of indicators for this purpose, which are commonly grouped into three core categories: legal safety, physical safety, and material safety.[2] Whether displaced internally or across borders, measuring progress toward durable solutions begins with evaluating the extent to which displaced individuals have regained or been granted permanent legal status, documentation, and civic rights, along with access to effective remedies and justice. Indicators on physical and material safety include the restoration of personal security, adequate living conditions, access to livelihoods, health care, and education, as well as the recovery of housing, land, and property. The variety of indicators allows for approaches tailored to the specificity of populations groups and contexts.

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1 The working definition of data for solutions adopted for this study is based on the literature reviewed, including the United Nations guidance and frameworks mentioned in footnote 2.

2 The main references to identify indicators include: Inter-Agency Standing Committee. 2010 *Framework on Durable Solutions for Internally Displaced Persons*; Joint Internal Displacement Profiling Service. 2018 *Interagency Indicator Library and Analysis Guide*; Expert Group on Refugee, Internally Displaced Persons, and Statelessness Statistics. 2018. *International Recommendations on Refugee Statistics*; Expert Group on Refugee, Internally Displaced Persons, and Statelessness Statistics. 2020. *International Recommendations on Internally Displaced Persons Statistics (IRIS)*; Data for Solutions to Internal Displacement Taskforce. 2023 *Proposal for Improving Data for Solutions to Internal Displacement (DSID)*; and UN Development Programme. 2024 *Monitoring Progress Towards Solutions to Internal Displacement: A Development-Oriented Indicator Framework*.

To enable comprehensive analysis and meaningful comparisons, such data should be disaggregated—particularly by age and gender—and ideally collected through complementary approaches under three categories:[3]

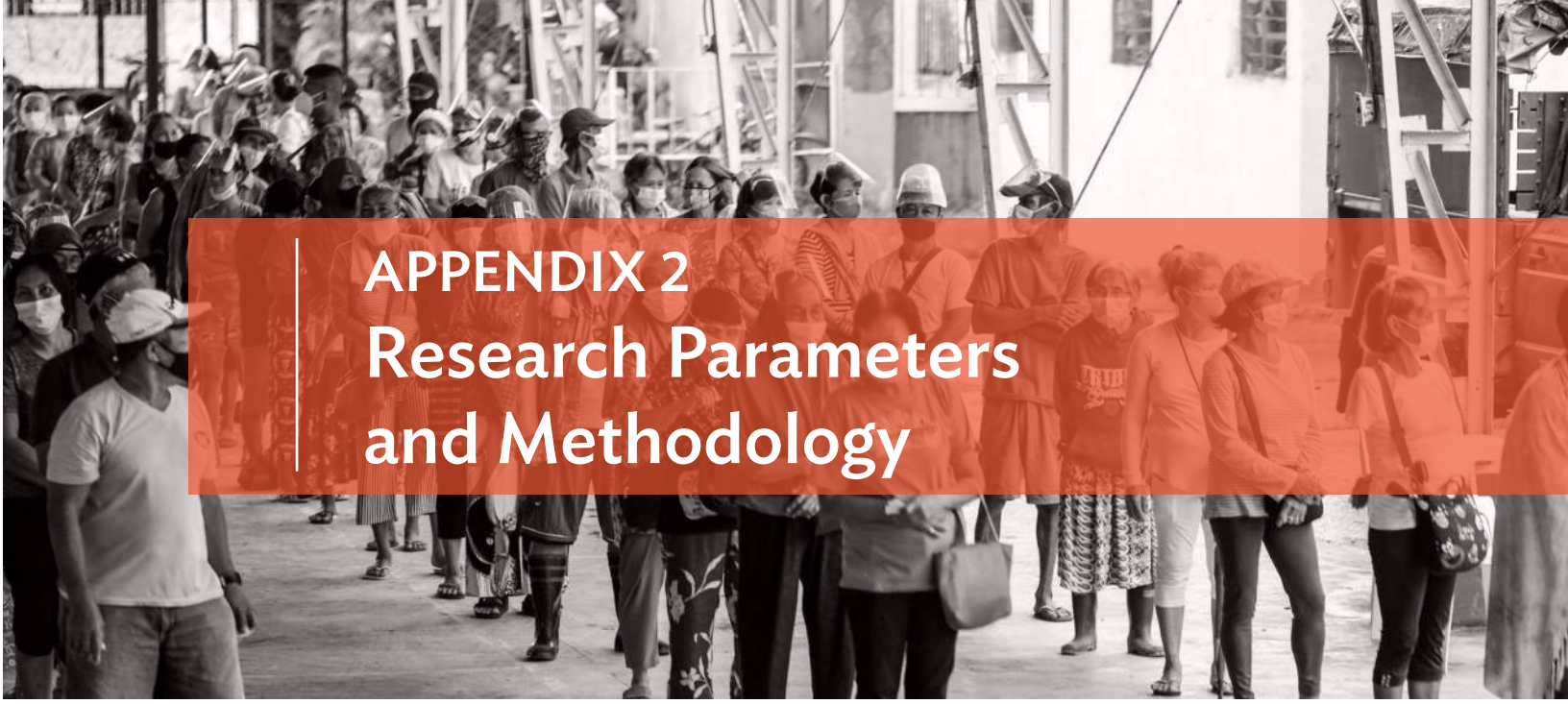
- **Official statistics.** These are produced using scientific and professional methods and published by national statistics offices or by statistical units within government ministries that form part of national statistical systems. These systems comprise agencies regulated by national statistics laws and other relevant statistical regulations and standards. They rely on both traditional and nontraditional sources, including sometimes operational data or administrative data.
- **National statistics.** Broader than official statistics, these are produced within a country and used for national purposes but may not fully meet the quality criteria or production processes of official statistics.
- **Operational data.** Collected by a range of organizations, including government ministries and humanitarian and development actors, operational data primarily informs decisions concerning programming, responses, and resource allocation associated with humanitarian action. Some, but not all, use professional and scientific methods. Operational data tends to be timelier than official statistics, but may not be subject to the same rigor and validation. At times, this may be the only type of data available, especially where national statistical systems are not functioning or lack significant capacity.

To measure progress toward durable solutions, indicators allow for different comparative methods:

- comparing the situation of displaced with nondisplaced populations to assess variations (the approach of the 2010 Inter-Agency Standing Committee framework);
- comparing the situation of displaced populations with (minimum) standards on access to legal, physical, and material safety; and
- comparing to situations predating displacement, which allows to monitor progress as well as evolving needs of the identified population.

An additional approach consists in addressing "soft barriers" to solutions, i.e., information on feelings of belonging, acceptance, and social cohesion in host areas as well as areas of return. This more qualitative aspect is rarely covered by data yet important to ensure durable solutions.

[3] The below definitions are mostly derived from EGRISS. 2020. *International Recommendations on IDP [Internally Displaced Person] Statistics (IRIS)*, especially pp. 74–75.



APPENDIX 2
Research Parameters and Methodology

The objective of this background study is to provide a succinct overview that (i) investigates the situation of data availability on forced displacement in the Asia and Pacific region; (ii) examines the extent of this data's quality; (iii) identifies potential gaps and challenges in data collection, analysis, and use; and (iv) recommends how the Asian Development Bank may position itself on the regional and global data landscape to support its developing member countries and its operations.

Scope and parameters: The study focuses on data relevant to the three internationally recognized durable solutions to forced displacement: voluntary repatriation/return, local integration, and resettlement/relocation. The study includes data at national and regional level, covering the full spectrum of displacement contexts (i.e., situations of internal and cross-border displacement related to persecution, conflict, and disasters).[1]

Methodology: The research employed a mixed-methods approach that included the following:

1. **Desk review:** A review of existing databases, online repositories, reports, methodological manuals, and other relevant publications from key stakeholders within the United Nations (UN) system, civil society, and government actors. This included a review of both global data initiatives, and selected national and regional efforts, as well as recent intergovernmental and UN initiatives on solutions.
2. **Stakeholder mapping and key informant interviews:** Engagement with data producers and users to understand capacities, methodologies, challenges and evolutions. Thirteen semi-structured interviews were conducted with experts in UN agencies and other international and nongovernment organizations to gather information to be shared without attribution between December 2024 and June 2025.
3. **Data categorization and analysis:** Identified data sources were catalogued to capture key attributes (e.g., geographic coverage, thematic focus, collection methodology, frequency, granularity, disaggregation, accessibility, and other strengths and weaknesses). A gap analysis identified areas with limited or no data and assessed challenges and opportunities.

[1] Note that although the study acknowledges the significance of this issue in the Asia and Pacific region, it does not include situations related to statelessness within its scope.

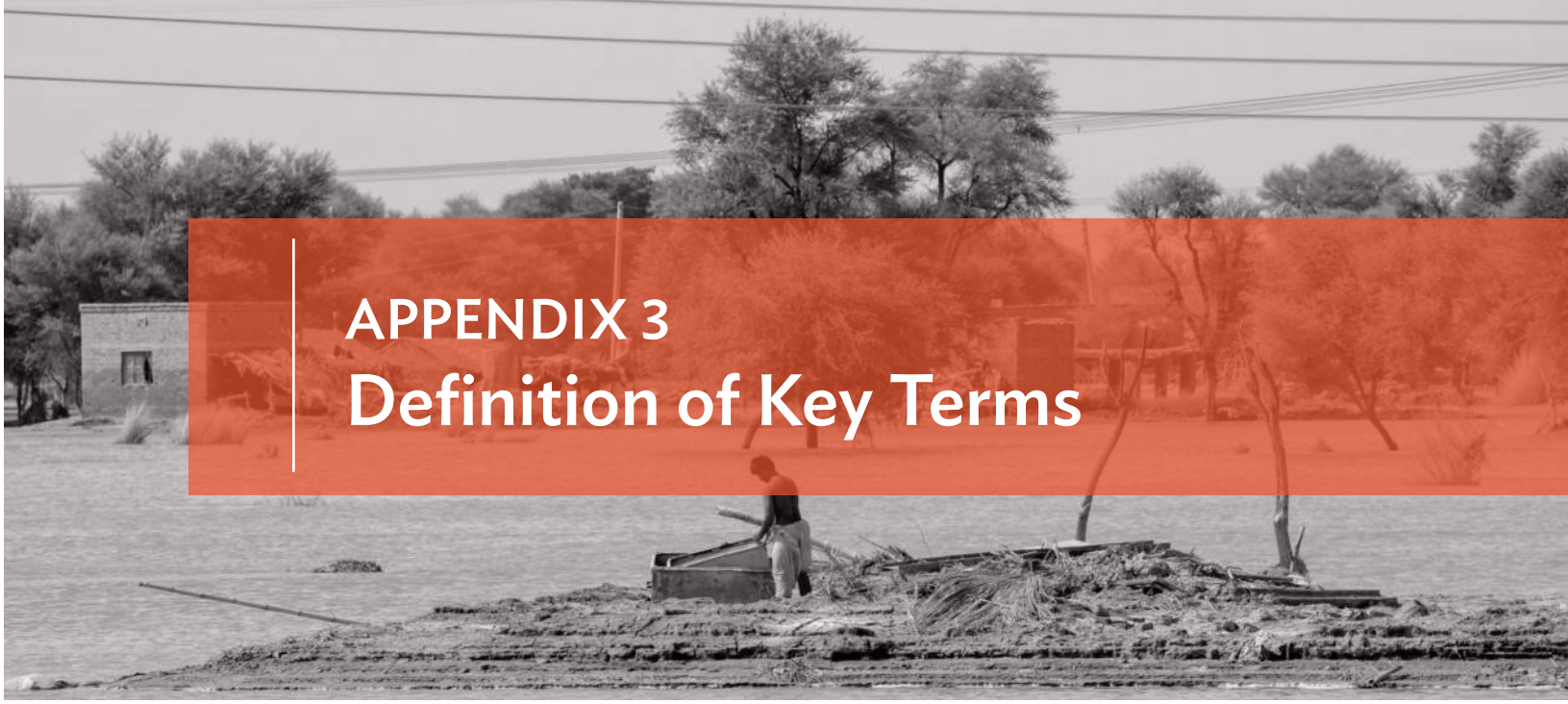
4. **Validation:** A preliminary version of this study was shared with selected stakeholders for feedback, ensuring accuracy and relevance, and validation of findings and recommendations. Preliminary findings and draft recommendations were also presented to the Multilateral Development Bank Platform on Economic Migration and Forced Displacement Working Group.

Analytical framework: This study considered the conventional stock-and-flow data approach, particularly in quantifying the number of individuals who may be on a durable solution pathway (e.g., number of refugees resettled or repatriated/relocated within a year). Moreover, it followed an analytical framework based on the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) Framework on Durable Solutions for Internally Displaced Persons and other global standards that emphasize the importance of socioeconomic data related to physical, material, and legal safety.[2]

Following the standards produced and promoted by Expert Group on Refugee, Internally Displaced Persons, and Statelessness Statistics, especially the *International Recommendations on Refugee Statistics* and the *International Recommendations on IDP Statistics (IRIS)*, the study was also attentive to analyzing the role of data produced by government entities (e.g., national statistical offices) and "operational data" produced by nongovernment actors (e.g., UN agencies and civil society organizations) or time-bound projects.

Limitations: The study has certain limitations, as it was designed to offer a concise and non-exhaustive scoping analysis to guide ADB's future engagement on the topic. The study was also conducted during a period of significant disruption and restructuring within the humanitarian and development sectors, the main implications of which had not yet fully emerged by the time the study was completed.

[2] Regional Durable Solutions Secretariat. 2018. *ReDSS Durable Solutions Framework*.



APPENDIX 3
Definition of Key Terms

The section below provides definitions of key terms used in or directly related to this study. The definitions are mostly derived from the United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) master glossary of terms, International Organization for Migration (IOM) Glossary on Migration, and the World Bank Data Help Desk.[1]

Asylum seeker: A general term for any person who is seeking international protection. In some countries, it is used as a legal term referring to a person who has applied for refugee status or a complementary international protection status and has not yet received a final decision on their claim. It can also refer to a person who has not yet submitted an application but may intend to do so, or may be in need of international protection.

Complementary pathways for admission to third countries: Existing legal admission pathways that are adjusted for persons in need of international protection, as well as newly created programs that provide for lawful stay in a third country where the international protection needs of the beneficiaries are met. These programs are additional to and separate from resettlement programs. They are solutions-oriented and progressive pathways to permanent residency or citizenship.

Cross-border displacement: The movements of persons who have been forced or obliged to leave their homes or places of habitual residence and move across international borders.

Data disaggregation: The breakdown of summary data into smaller units or categories, such as by sex, age, ethnicity, disability status, geographic location, or other characteristics, to better understand inequalities and support evidence-based policymaking.

Data protection: The systematic application of a set of institutional, technical, and physical safeguards that preserve the right to privacy with respect to the collection, storage, use, and disclosure of personal data.

Disaster displacement: Situations where people are forced to leave their homes or places of habitual residence as a result of a disaster or in order to avoid the impact of an immediate and foreseeable natural hazard. Such displacement results from the fact that affected persons are exposed to a natural hazard in a situation where they lack the resilience to withstand its impacts.

[1] UNHCR. Master Glossary of Terms; IOM. 2019. International Migration Law No. 34 - Glossary on Migration; and World Bank. Data Help Desk.

Durable solution (refugees): In the refugee context, a durable solution requires (re-)establishment of a permanent legal status and generally involves voluntary repatriation, local integration, or resettlement.

Durable solution (internally displaced persons): For internally displaced persons, a durable solution is achieved when they no longer have any specific assistance and protection needs that are linked to their displacement and can enjoy their human rights without discrimination on account of their displacement.

Flows: Illustrate movements, capturing the arrival or departure of displaced populations in or from a place over a defined period of time. Flows are critical to track movement dynamics—how many people are displaced in or out within a timeframe.

Forced displacement: The movement of persons who have been forced or obliged to flee or to leave their homes or places of habitual residence (whether within their own country or across an international border), in particular as a result of or in order to avoid the effects of armed conflict, situations of generalized violence, violations of human rights, or natural hazards.

Forced migration: A migratory movement which, although the drivers can be diverse, involves force, compulsion, or coercion.

Forced return: The return of foreign nationals to their country of origin or country of transit against their will.

Host community: A community that hosts large populations of refugees or internally displaced persons, whether in camps, integrated into households, or independently.

Host country: The country in which a non-national stays or resides, whether legally or irregularly.

Humanitarian–development–peace nexus: This is intended to ensure strong cooperation, collaboration, and coordination between humanitarian, development, and peace-building efforts at the national level 3 to ensure collective outcomes on the basis of joined-up, coherent, complementary, and risk-informed analysis, planning, and action.

Internal displacement: The involuntary or forced movement, evacuation, or relocation of persons or groups of persons within internationally recognized state borders.

Internally displaced person: A person who has been forced or obliged to flee from their home or place of habitual residence, in particular as a result of or in order to avoid the effects of armed conflicts, situations of generalized violence, violations of human rights, or natural hazards, and who has not crossed an internationally recognized state border.

Local integration: A durable solution for refugees that involves their permanent settlement in a host country. Local integration is a complex and gradual process, comprising three distinct but interrelated dimensions: legal, economic, and sociocultural. The process is often concluded with the naturalization of the refugee. Local integration can also apply to internally displaced persons.

Microdata: Unit-level data obtained from sample surveys, censuses, and administrative systems. They provide information about characteristics of individual people or entities such as households, business enterprises, facilities, farms, or even geographic areas such as villages or towns. They allow in-depth understanding of socioeconomic issues by studying relationships and interactions among phenomena. Microdata are thus key to designing projects and formulating policies, targeting interventions, and monitoring and measuring the impact and results of projects, interventions, and policies.

Person displaced in the context of disasters and climate change: A person who is forced or obliged to leave their home or place of habitual residence as a result of disaster or in order to avoid the impact of an immediate, foreseeable natural hazard including the adverse impacts of climate change. Most often, such persons are displaced within their own country, but they may also be displaced across an international border.

Planned relocation: In the context of disasters or environmental degradation, including when due to climate change, a planned process in which persons or groups of persons move or are assisted to move away from their homes or place of temporary residence, are settled in a new location, and provided with the conditions for rebuilding their lives.

Refugee: Any person who meets the eligibility criteria under an applicable refugee definition, as provided for in international or regional refugee instruments, under the mandate of the UNHCR, or in national legislation. Under international law and UNHCR's mandate, refugees are persons outside their countries of origin who need international protection because of feared persecution, or a serious threat to their life, physical integrity, or freedom in their country of origin as a result of persecution, armed conflict, violence, or serious public disorder. Under international law, a person is considered a refugee as soon as they meet the relevant criteria, whether or not they have been formally recognized as a refugee. A person does not become a refugee because of recognition, but rather is recognized because they are a refugee. Sometimes—notably in statistical contexts—the word "refugee" is used to designate individuals or groups who have been formally recognized by states or UNHCR as entitled to refugee status following an asylum or other status-determination procedure. When this limited nonlegal meaning is intended, it should be clearly indicated. The clearest designation in such contexts is recognized refugee.

Refugee status determination procedure: The legal or administrative process by which governments or UNHCR determine whether a person seeking international protection is considered a refugee under international, regional, or national law.

Reintegration: A process which enables returnees to regain the physical, social, legal, and material security needed to maintain life, livelihood, and dignity, and which eventually leads to the disappearance of any distinction or discrimination in relation to their compatriots.

Relocation (internally displaced persons): The transfer and integration of internally displaced persons into another geographic area within the same country as one of the three forms of durable solutions.

Resettlement (refugees): The selection and transfer of refugees from a state in which they have sought treaty protection to a third state that has agreed to admit them—as refugees—with permanent residence status. The status provided ensures protection against refoulement and provides a resettled refugee and their dependents with access to rights similar to those enjoyed by nationals. Resettlement also carries with it the opportunity to eventually become a naturalized citizen of the resettlement country. As such, resettlement is a mechanism for refugee protection, a durable solution, and an example of international burden and responsibility sharing.

Registration: The recording, verifying, and updating of information on forcibly displaced individuals with the aim of protecting, assisting, and documenting them and of implementing durable solutions.

Return: In a general sense, the act or process of going back or being taken back to the point of departure. This could be within the territorial boundaries of a country, as in the case of returning internally displaced persons.

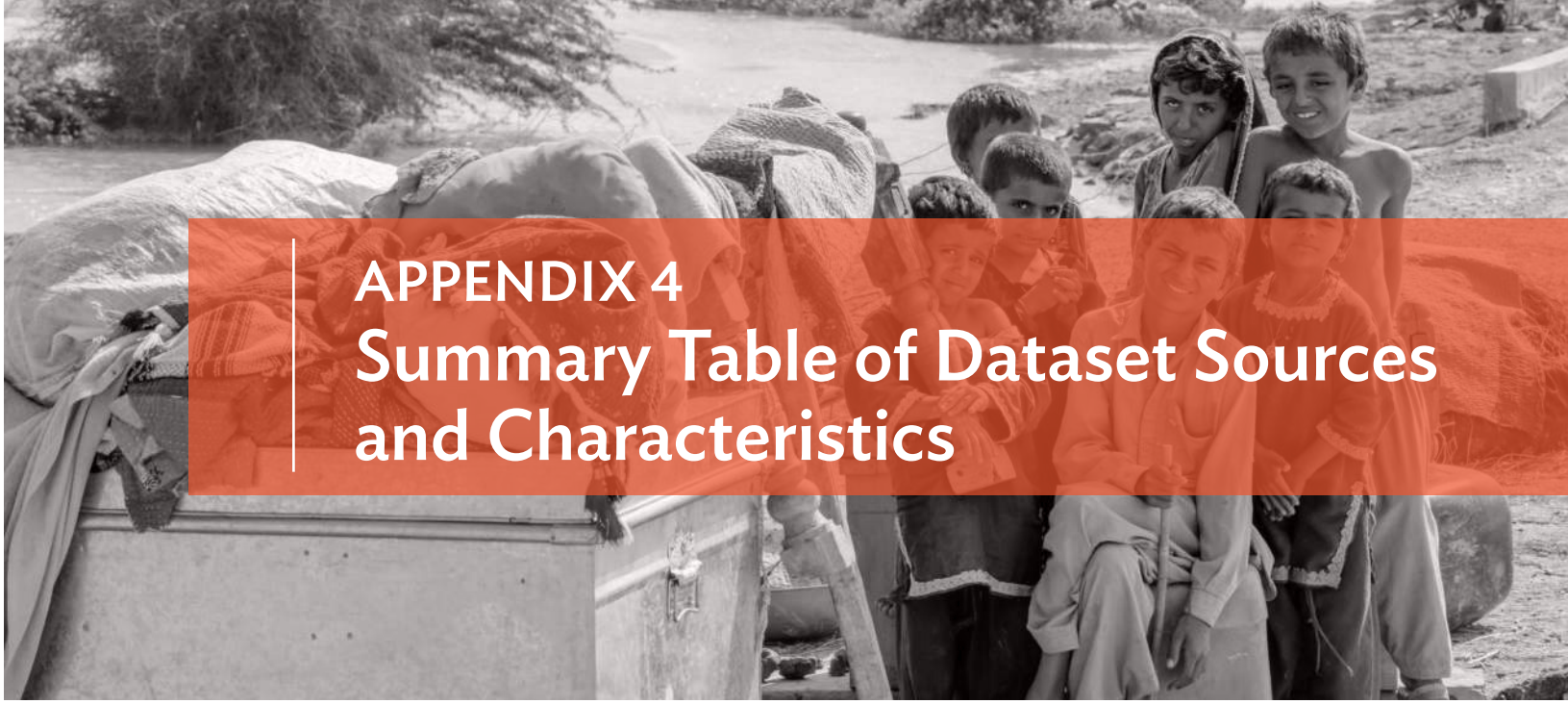
Returnee: A former refugee or internally displaced person who has returned from a host country or a place of internal displacement to their place of origin or former habitual residence, spontaneously or in an organized fashion, with the intention of remaining there permanently and who is yet to be fully integrated.

Socioeconomic data: Information that relates to both social and economic factors of a population. This data are used to analyze the well-being, living conditions, and financial situation of individuals or communities. This kind of data can help make informed decisions about resource allocation, policy development, and service provision, among other areas.

Stocks: Provide information about the total number of displaced persons in a place at a given time, usually the end of the year. Stocks capture the snapshot of how many displaced people are currently present, reflecting cumulative movement plus births, deaths, returns, or resettlement/relocations.

Third-country solutions: Safe and regulated avenues that provide recognized refugees and other persons in need of international protection with lawful stay in a country other than the country of origin or first host country.

Voluntary repatriation: The free and informed return of refugees to their country of origin in safety and dignity. Voluntary repatriation may be organized (i.e., when it takes place under the auspices of the concerned states and/or UNHCR) or spontaneous (i.e., when refugees repatriate by their own means with little or no direct involvement from government authorities or UNHCR).



APPENDIX 4
Summary Table of Dataset Sources and Characteristics

Agency	Data System/ Repository	Description/ Key Features	Primary Geographic Coverage	Frequency of Updates	Level of Disaggregation	Primary Focus of Data	Methodology/ Sources
UNHCR	Refugee Population Statistics Database (Refugee Data Finder)	Contains information about forcibly displaced populations spanning over 70 years of statistical activities. Also reflects the different types of solutions for displaced populations such as repatriation or resettlement.	Global, with capacity to focus on regional or country-level.	UNHCR publishes population statistics every 6 months (IDP stock data sourced from IDMC updated on a yearly basis; data on refugees under UNRWA's mandate updated on a quarterly basis).	Data disaggregated by year, type of population, country of asylum and origin. Disaggregation by sex and age mostly since 2001. Also some disaggregation by urban/ rural location, accommodation type.	Stocks, flows, solutions data, and other metrics (e.g., asylum applications and decisions).	Primarily from governments and UNHCR operations. Sources include UNHCR annual statistical activities; data provided by UNRWA and by IDMC (limited to internal displacement due to conflict or violence).
UNHCR	UNHCR Operational Data Portals	The initial scope of coordination of refugee emergencies has evolved to include other types of situation views (e.g., on refugee returnees, mixed movements). It includes dashboards and data on major crisis responses, maps, infographics, and a wide range of reports.	Global, with focus on specific regional situations and country-specific portals.	Regular updates depending on context and type of data, visualization tool, report.	Provides data and information on all persons of concern to UNHCR, with various levels of disaggregation depending on the context and output (e.g., sex, age, disability, location, registration and documentation, access to education, livelihoods).	Stocks, flows, solutions data, and other metrics (e.g., socioeconomic data).	Wide combination of primary and secondary sources, depending on the context, population, and location. UNHCR prioritizes field-based, verifiable data collection, but also collaborates closely with governments, partners, and other UN agencies

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Agency	Data System/ Repository	Description/ Key Features	Primary Geographic Coverage	Frequency of Updates	Level of Disaggregation	Primary Focus of Data	Methodology/ Sources
UNHCR	UNHCR Microdata Library	Centralized platform with unit-level data on forcibly displaced and stateless people. Reference point for publicly available microdata collected by UNHCR and its partners. Many datasets are open access, but some require registration and approval due to sensitivity.	Global coverage with country and local level focus. Library collection of Asia and the Pacific countries with over 150 datasets.	Continuously updated as new datasets become available. Data collection is not necessarily repeated over time (e.g., may reflect one-off initiatives), although there is increasing inclusion of longitudinal surveys.	Disaggregated data, primarily at the individual and household level (e.g., location, age, gender, disability, legal/protection status, time/ duration, service access, livelihoods, intentions/ perceptions).	Broad range of anonymized individual- or household-level survey data types, primarily focused on socioeconomic data, while also including elements of stock, flows, and intentions, depending on the type of survey. Operational/ real-time data not included.	Variety of mainly primary, field-collected survey data typically derived from surveys led or supported by UNHCR (e.g., household, returnee, and intention surveys; needs and livelihoods assessments; education or health surveys; longitudinal studies).
UNHCR-World Bank Joint Data Center	UNHCR-World Bank Joint Data Center on Forced Displacement Microdata Library	Collaborative microdata open access repository launched to enhance availability of household- and individual-level survey and census data concerning both forcibly displaced populations and their host communities.	Global to date, with a few surveys in the Asia and Pacific region: Afghanistan (2), Bangladesh (13), Indonesia (1), the Philippines (2).	Continuously updated as new datasets become available.	Disaggregated, often at the household and individual levels, with vulnerability markers, according to, e.g., disability status, age, gender, location, displacement status, time, and socioeconomic dimensions.	Socioeconomic conditions and well-being of forcibly displaced populations and host communities in low- and middle-income countries. Emphasis on, e.g., demographics, displacement status, livelihoods, education, housing, food security, health, social cohesion.	Data collected by UNHCR, the World Bank, and/or partners, through structured, primary data collection efforts. Includes household surveys (sometimes combined with national surveys), individual interviews, phone surveys, longitudinal surveys. This library includes datasets also available in the UNHCR Microdata Library and from other sources.

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Agency	Data System/ Repository	Description/ Key Features	Primary Geographic Coverage	Frequency of Updates	Level of Disaggregation	Primary Focus of Data	Methodology/ Sources
IOM	Migration Data Portal	Aims to make international migration data more accessible and visible, and easier to understand through pulling together key global data sources on migration in one place. Reviews available migration data in various fields of migration, explains concepts and definitions, and describes key strengths and weaknesses of available data sources.	Global coverage, including data for all UN member states and regional/ subregional breakdowns.	Data presented in the world map and materials available in the tools section are updated as new data and tools become available; new thematic pages are published every 2–3 months; blogs or videos every 1–2 months; and the section on migration governance data is updated on an ongoing basis.	Moderate disaggregation, primarily at the national level, with some indicators further detailed by region, sex, age, migration status, and time, depending on the dataset and source.	Mainly migration stocks and flows, supplemented by selected socioeconomic, vulnerability, and governance indicators. Includes a section on migration governance tracking how data can support member states in achieving the migration-relevant SDGs and in implementing the GCM.	Draws on 70 migration data indicators from over 20 different international data sources broken down by country, region, and subregion. Most data are publicly available and provided by numerous international agencies.
IOM	Asia-Pacific Migration Data Portal	Seeks to provide a unique regional platform that enables policymakers, practitioners, researchers, and the general public to access comprehensive information on migration.	Provides trends analysis at regional, subregional, and country levels.	Updated regularly as data sources are themselves updated.	Mainly aggregate-level data with some disaggregated data on demographics, remittances, type of migration, policy.	Mainly provides stock-and-flow data, quantifying displacement and tracking how it evolves over time.	Consolidates key migration indicators from diverse data sources (e.g., other UN agencies) into a central data warehouse.

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Agency	Data System/ Repository	Description/ Key Features	Primary Geographic Coverage	Frequency of Updates	Level of Disaggregation	Primary Focus of Data	Methodology/ Sources
IOM	Displacement Tracking Matrix	Gathers and analyzes data to disseminate critical multilayered information on the mobility, vulnerabilities, and needs of displaced and mobile populations that enables decision-makers and responders to provide these populations with better context-specific assistance.	Global, with data on over 80 countries, including situations of conflict, climatic shocks, complex emergencies, and prolonged crises. In the Asia and Pacific region, DTM operations are active in eight countries: Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, the Philippines, Solomon Islands, and Thailand.	DTM regularly updates its data at varying frequencies depending on the component and country, but usually more than once a year.	Multilayered information on the mobility, vulnerabilities, and needs of displaced and mobile populations (IDPs, returnees, migrants). DTM identifies vulnerable groups and gathers sex- and age-disaggregated data where possible to enhance inclusivity of response activities.	Primary data provider that collects data mainly on population flows, locations, conditions, needs and vulnerabilities. DTM operations are also collaborative exercises, engaging with partners and national authorities to ensure wide coverage and access, usefulness and relevance of data, and trust in results.	Decentralized approach collecting data from primary and secondary sources, depending on local conditions and needs. Main methodologies (mobility tracking and flow monitoring) combine key informant interviews, household surveys, direct observation, government data when available, and partners' inputs depending on the context.
Internal Displacement Monitoring Center	Global Disaster Displacement Risk Model 2.0	Data-driven tool that aims to help governments and their partners to estimate potential disaster displacement so they can plan accordingly.	Global with displacement risk estimates for most countries and territories worldwide, with a particular focus on disaster-induced internal displacement.	The dashboard aims to offer near-real-time, continuously updated displacement risk estimates and event data.	Mainly disaggregated at national level, with some subnational level granularity. There is also a hazard-specific disaggregation (e.g., from floods, storms/cyclones, droughts, earthquakes) and some level of population and vulnerability disaggregation.	Mainly presents risk projections rather than traditional migration stocks or flows, complemented by hazard and exposure data as well as socioeconomic and vulnerability indicators such as housing quality, poverty levels, infrastructure resilience.	Wide range of peer-reviewed, globally recognized, scientific, and international sources used to generate displacement risk projections, notably hazard data and exposure/ vulnerability data. IDMC also draws on its own database and on IOM DTM and uses risk modeling methodologies.
Internal Displacement Monitoring Center	Global Internal Displacement Database	World's leading database on internal displacement. It provides annual data on internal displacement resulting from conflict, violence, and disasters.	The database aims to provide comprehensive information on internal displacement worldwide. It covers all countries and territories for which IDMC has obtained data on situations of internal displacement.	Updated periodically, with curated and validated estimates released after being collected and refined from IDMC's Internal Displacement Updates and other sources.	Presents disaggregated data, especially by location, displacement cause, and time, and sometimes by population group (sex- and age- disaggregated data).	Combination of stocks, flows, and some contextual data. It does not include direct socioeconomic indicators. Some entries include information on IDPs achieving durable solutions (e.g., returning home or resettled).	Extensive range of data sources including national and subnational government authorities, UN agencies and other international organizations, related global databases, civil society organizations, news media outlets, and other entities.

DTM = Displacement Tracking Matrix, GCM = Global Compact for Migration, IDMC = Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre, IDP = internally displaced person, IOM = International Organization for Migration, SDG = Sustainable Development Goal, UN = United Nations, UNHCR = UN High Commission for Refugees, UNRWA = UN Relief and Works Agency.

Source: Author's compilation.

Toward Durable Solutions

Mapping and Analysis of Displacement Data in Asia and the Pacific

This publication examines how more robust national data systems can support durable, inclusive solutions to forced displacement across Asia and the Pacific. A collaboration between the Asian Development Bank and the Asia Displacement Solutions Platform, it analyzes existing data systems and identifies how stronger evidence can inform better policies, programs, and interventions for displaced persons and host communities. By highlighting significant gaps and opportunities, the publication urges governments to step up the collection and integration of displacement data. It also underscores the importance of regional cooperation in shaping resilient, long-term solutions for displaced people.

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