

Innovation lab:

Making Forcibly Displaced and Stateless Persons Visible in National Statistics

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In the last two days we have examined ways to strengthen development cooperation to advance the protection, inclusion, and solutions for displaced and stateless persons.

The discussions have underscored the crucial value of socioeconomic data. By collecting data that is comparable, reliable and consistent over time, the needs and characteristics of the forcibly displaced, the hosts and stateless persons become visible. This enables inclusive government policies and development plans that, based on representative statistics, benefit all population groups.

Regular nationally owned surveys can produce this data when the displaced and stateless are included. However, they rarely are.

UNHCR and the World Bank, with the World Bank-UNHCR Joint Data Center on Forced Displacement and the Expert Group on Refugee, IDP and Stateless Statistics are working to improve the production and use of high-quality, nationally owned socioeconomic data to better protect displaced, stateless and host communities.

In recent years, countries have made progress by including displaced and stateless people in their statistical systems. In 2019, several countries including Uganda, Rwanda and Tajikistan made pledges to this effect. Other countries made progress even in the absence of pledges. For example, Brazil has included refugees in its 2022 Census, and, this year, Chad is including refugees in a national household survey for the second time in three years.

Seizing this momentum, UNHCR, the Joint Data Center and the Expert Group on Refugee IDP and Stateless Statistics have developed an Innovation Lab that aims to build a critical mass of stakeholders to advance these efforts.

A dedicated event initiated the Lab this week. It provides a roadmap for stakeholders to exchange knowledge, share experiences and to identify areas of further collaboration and partnership. The initiative is open to all states and actors interested.

We call on all stakeholders to increase pledges and make progress on existing commitments to include those displaced and stateless in national statistics as we approach the next Global Refugee Forum and as part of the campaign to end statelessness.