



UNHCR-WBG Joint Data Center on Forced Displacement

Status as of August 2019

Work in progress, not to be quoted

Background

Why do we need data on forced displacement?

Forced displacement has significant socio-economic impacts:

- About 26 million refugees, an estimated 41.3 million internally displaced persons (IDPs), large numbers of Stateless, and host communities – most living in about 15 countries.

Data is critical to effectively manage forced displacement situations and implement programs:

- In a resource-constrained environment, data is critical for efficiency and effectiveness.
- At the global level, data underpin the *international agenda* and *political debates*.
- At the country level, data is key to *policy-making* and *programming*



What do we mean by data?



“Data” in the context of the Joint Data Center refers to:

- *Population data* (aggregate numbers, age and gender disaggregation, location, etc.)
- *Socio-economic data* (including anonymized “micro” data on income, consumption, skills, health status, economic activity, etc.).
- It does NOT include protection-related data (e.g., case interviews etc.)

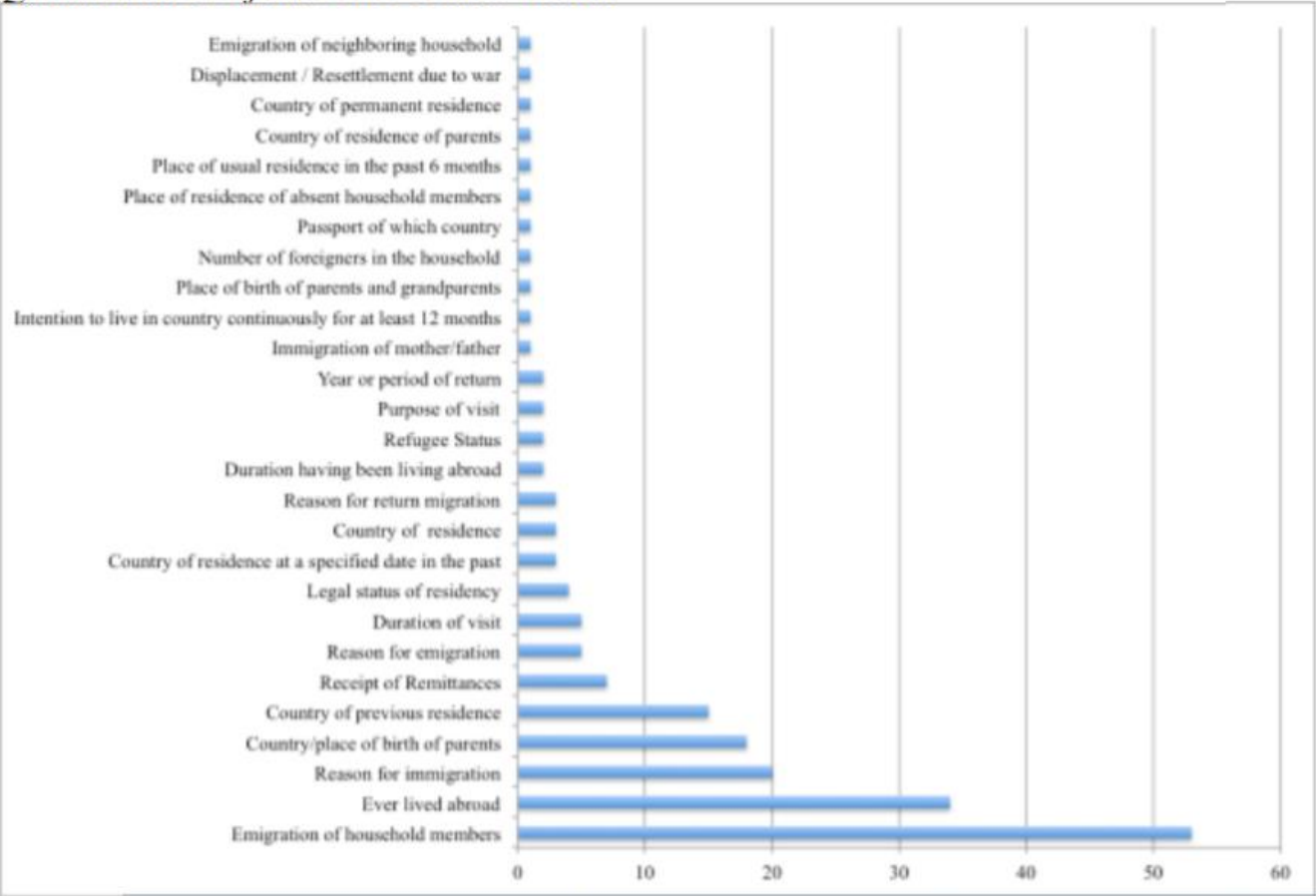
“Microdata” are individual, household or entity-level data, including:

- Censuses (population, refugees, IDPs, etc.)
- Sample Surveys (HBS, LSMS, DHS, LFS, RCTs, etc.)
- Registries (proGres, WFP, MoIs, MoSP, etc.)
- Operational data (HH data collected from programs’ beneficiaries)

What data exist?

No Data
from
Censuses

Figure 4. *Frequency of Additional Questions Related to International Migration in Questionnaires of the 2010 Census Round*



Source: United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs: Statistics Division (2016)

Few data from *Surveys* in public repositories (WB Microdata Library)

- Home
- About the Microdata Library
- Deposit Data or Metadata
- Latest Additions
- Terms of use
- Using the Catalogs
- Resources
- Frequently Asked Questions
- Contributing Catalogs
- Gallup World Poll 2016 - Data access terms and conditions

Collections

Central Data Catalog

Regional Collections

East Asia and Pacific

Europe and Central Asia

Latin America and the Caribbean

Middle East and North Africa

HOME > CENTRAL MICRODATA CATALOG

Central Microdata Catalog

COLLECTIONS DATASETS CITATIONS

Found 12 studies out of 7989

Reset search

IDPs

Sort results by: **Relevance** | Country | Year | Title | Popularity

Showing 1-12 of 12 studies



Food Security and Nutrition Survey 2004

Azerbaijan, 2004

By: World Food Programme - United Nations

Created on: Feb 05, 2014 Last modified: Feb 05, 2014 Views: 485



National Household Survey 2005-2006 - World Bank SHIP Harmonized Dataset

Uganda, 2005-2006

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COLLECTIONS DATASETS CITATIONS

Found 42 studies out of 7989

Reset search

refugees

Sort results by: **Relevance** | Country | Year | Title | Popularity

Showing 1-15 of 42 studies

1 2 3 Next >



Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey 2006, Palestinian Refugee Camps

Syrian Arab Republic, 2006

By: Central Bureau of Statistics

Created on: Oct 24, 2011 Last modified: Sep 24, 2013 Views: 27

LOGIN

SEARCH BY KEYWORD

in study description

refugees

in variable description

Search Reset

FILTER BY YEAR

Show studies conducted between

1890 and 2018

FILTER BY DATA ACCESS

- All
- Open data access
- Direct data access
- Public use data files
- Licensed data files
- Data available from external repository
- Data not available

Some microdata from *Registries* – but no public access

UNHCR proGres registration system

- Not centralized yet and not publicly available; only UNHCR persons of concern; 7m registered against 14m refugees

World Food Program

- Not publicly available; 20m registered, but how many refugees/IDPs?

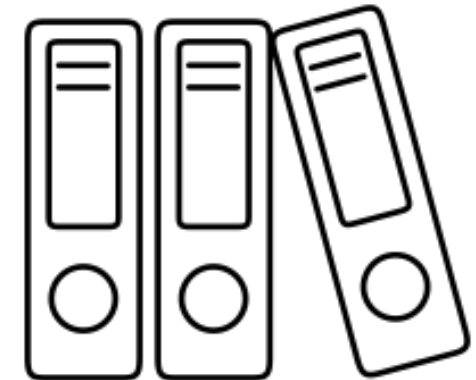
MoI/MoSP registries

- Only available occasionally to selected people/organization

Other registries of beneficiaries of humanitarian programs

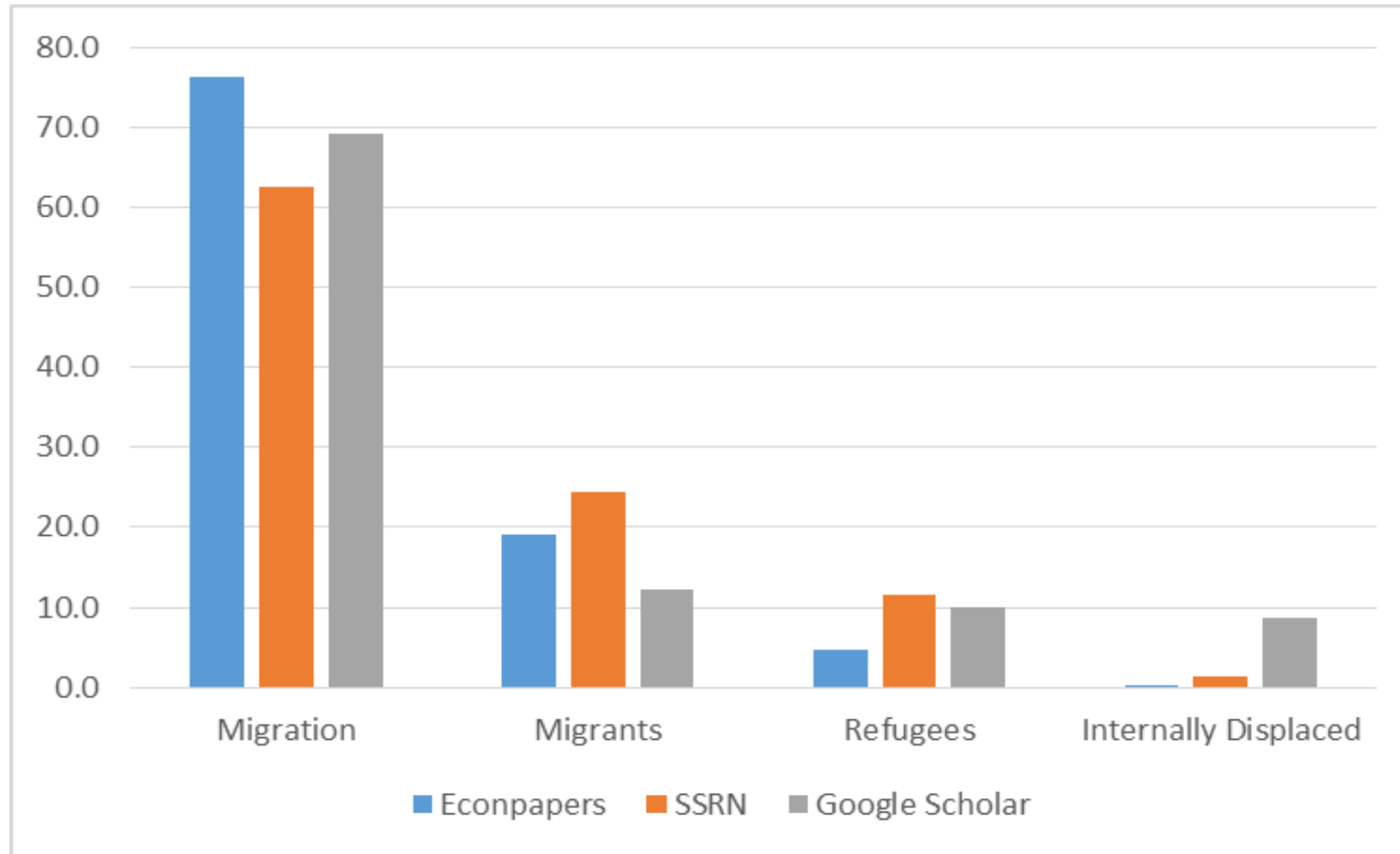
- Not available for public use

Data refer to a self-selected group and are rarely representative of populations



Lack of FD research based on microdata

(Economics, 2014)



Real consequences

Scarce microdata lead to scarce research

- Researchers are typically disconnected from policies, projects and programs – unless they reside in development or humanitarian organizations
- Almost no research trickles down into policy, projects and programs design
- Policy, projects and programs design is mainly driven by anecdotal evidence, group data or aggregated statistics which cannot help to establish correlations and causality, what works and what doesn't.



What do we need to do to get the data we need?



There have been tremendous efforts to collect data and build evidence on forced displacement – but there are challenges:

- Methodological issues (definitions, sampling, etc.)
- Political impact of numbers
- Practical challenges (access, capacity, etc.)
- Tension between external data collection and use of country systems
- Resource availability
- “Invisible” or “less visible” groups (IDPs, stateless)

There is a global consensus on the need to invest in forced displacement data and build evidence on what works as set out in the Global Compact on Refugees.

A foundation on which to build

- ❑ **UNHCR and the WBG established a strong partnership over the past few years**
 - A series of joint analytical works in the Horn of Africa, MENA, and the Lake Chad Basin
 - Joint work with government institutions to expand the collection of microdata
 - Extensive support by UNHCR to the WBG for the programming of IDA18 resources – including a number of joint missions and assessment of protection framework.

- ❑ **To address data challenges and support implementation of the Global Compact on Refugees UNHCR -WBG have decided to commit to the establishment and operation of a *Joint Data Center on Forced Displacement (JDC)*.**

JDC Mission and Objectives

Mission Statement

The Joint Data Center on Forced Displacement aims to enhance the ability of stakeholders to make timely and evidence-informed decisions that can improve the lives of affected people.

Scope

Affected people include refugees, internally displaced persons, stateless people, returnees, asylum-seekers, and host populations.

Focus

Focus is on collection, analysis and dissemination of primary microdata.

Four Objectives

Ensure population and socioeconomic data are systematically collected and analyzed

Facilitate open access to forced displacement data, with adequate anonymization and safeguards to ensure the integrity of the legal protection framework

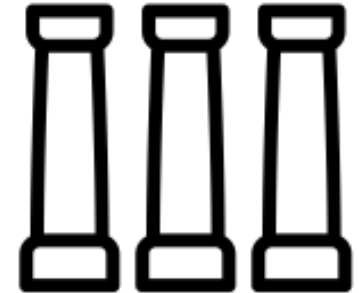
Promote innovation to enhance forced displacement data

Strengthen the sustainability of a global data collection system, based on common norms, definitions, and methodologies, with a particular effort on strengthening country systems where necessary

Proposed Institutional Arrangements

Key Principles

- The JDC’s structure shall be “fit for purpose” (to achieve its objectives).
- The JDC will be “real” (not virtual), and work in partnership with other interested stakeholders.
- The JDC will have a lean structure (no “empire building”), to maintain incentives to leverage other parts of UNHCR and the World Bank.
- The JDC will have a dynamic structure, to adjust to changing circumstances – for example through a formal review three years after inception.
- The JDC will be jointly owned and managed by UNHCR and the WBG, with adequate checks and balances (no one institution dominating).



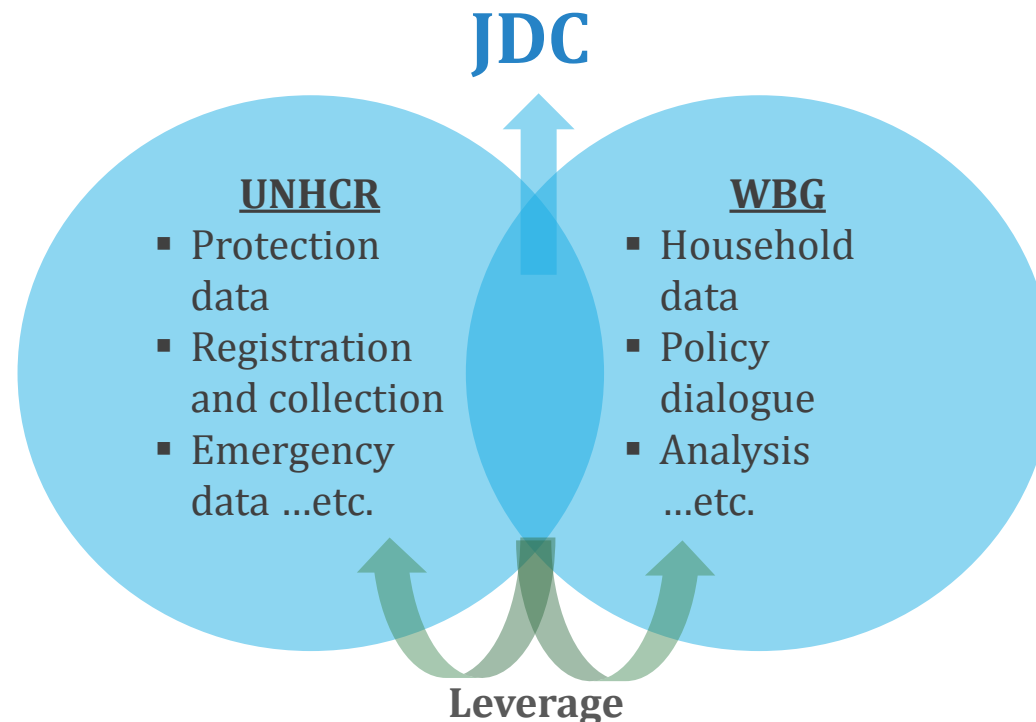
Proposed Institutional Arrangements

- No separate legal entity: the JDC will be legally part of UNHCR and the WBG. The WBG will administer the Trust Fund established for the financing of the JDC. “
- The JDC is located in the UN City in Copenhagen, neither in UNHCR nor in WBG premises to avoid “absorption” (and disinterest by the other partner). Its location should reduce costs (e.g., by being able to use shared services).
- A joint management: the JDC will be governed by a Management Committee with equal representation from the WBG and UNHCR as well as representative(s) of JDC donors.
- Indicative size: the JDC will be gradually staffed to about 10-15 people. It has an indicative budget of US\$ 32 million over 4 years (with the bulk of the funding for activities, e.g., household surveys). Government of Denmark has provided US\$ 17 million.

Value-Added

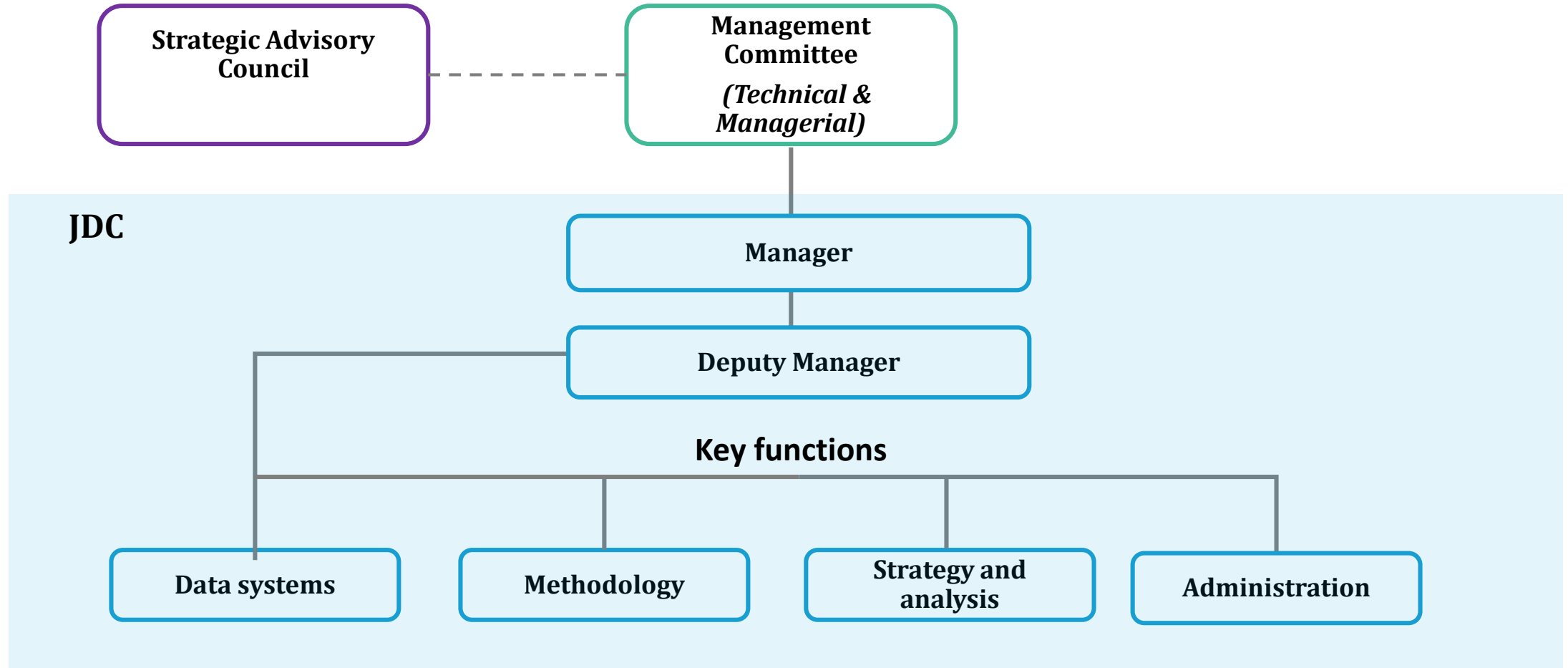
The JDC will focus on **what UNHCR and WBG can achieve better together** than they would do alone, including (1) by pooling their strengths to influence the global agenda on forced displacement data and (2) by achieving efficiency gains and developing synergies (e.g., collecting data of interest to both organizations in a single effort).

The JDC will aim to **catalyze and leverage** activities by “the mainstream” of both organizations: it will not work alone, but be a “seed” to stimulate work across both institutions.



The JDC will aim to **provide value to all data users**, including UNHCR and the WBG, as well as governments, private sector, civil society, researchers, etc.

Governance Structure



Strategic Advisory Council



- The Advisory Council will be constituted of a range of interested stakeholders. First meeting September 30th
- Will provide the Management Committee with advice on the general direction of JDC activities.
- Not a decision-making body, but a forum for the exchange of experience and ideas.
- Will act as an open space for the provision of guidance, advice and discussion with the JDC.
- JDC Management will serve as secretariat to the Advisory Council.

Illustrative priority activities for the first phase

- Develop and implement (in cooperation with others) an action plan to significantly enhance the quality and timeliness of population data on refugees, IDPs and stateless people, within a 2-year horizon.
- Develop methodological tools (building on the work by the UN Statistical Commission- EGRIS), including standards, sampling methods, framework for collection, and work towards their adoption by all key financiers of data work.
- Facilitate the collection of microdata through household surveys and implementation of poverty assessments of refugees and host communities - prepare a first set of global reports (e.g., number of refugees living below poverty line).
- Establish policies and platform for data sharing.
- Develop and start implementing capacity-building programs for data collection in refugee-hosting countries.

