

## SPEAKERS



### OPENING REMARKS

**RACHAEL BEAVEN**

Director  
Statistics Division, ESCAP



### MODERATOR

**PETRA NAHMIAS**

Chief, Population and Social  
Statistics Section, Statistics  
Division, ESCAP



**ESTRELLA LAJOM**

Statistics and Monitoring Specialist  
International Data Alliance for  
Children on the Move (IDAC)



**SABINE HENNING**

Chief, Sustainable Demographic  
Transition Section, Social  
Development Division, ESCAP



**HATAICHANOK CHINAUPARWAT**

Director, Statistical Forecasting Division  
National Statistical Office, Thailand

## BACKGROUND

As of 2020, an estimated 67 million people in the ESCAP region were living outside their country of birth. This estimate represents 24% of the world's total international migrant population (281 million). Of this number, 7.8 million were children, constituting 22% of the world's total child migrant population (36 million). Almost half of these children living outside their country were refugees and asylum seekers (3.8 million).

The scale and magnitude of children's movement in ESCAP countries continue to increase over time. While the child population in the region has been decreasing the number of children living abroad increased over the last 20 years from 6.3 million in 2000 to 7.8 million in 2020. Conflict and organized violence are important drivers for children on the move. Besides the 3.8 million international child refugees and asylum seekers, another 2.9 million children were internally displaced as consequence of conflict. Other children have crossed borders to escape poverty, child marriage, discrimination, personal violence and other forms of exploitation. And yet others have moved for aspirational reasons, to pursue their right to learn or work. No matter the circumstances of their movement, many children commonly see their safety, security and well-being threatened throughout their journeys and in host communities.

However, the real scale of movement among children in the ESCAP countries and across the globe remains unknown, as numbers are often derived from estimation based on incomplete data. Data available are further hindered by large gaps that obscure the most basic information about the circumstances before, during and after migrant and displaced children's journeys. As children tend to be hidden behind the total stocks of migrant and displaced populations, their child-specific protection and development needs remain largely unmet.



## Asia-Pacific Stats Café Series

# Minding the Data Gap on Children on the Move in ESCAP Countries

DATE: THURSDAY 5 MAY 2022

TIME: 12.00-13.00

Bangkok Time (UTC+7)

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