Data for Better Lives

World Development Report 2021
Data saves lives

Odisha’s investment in data: from 10,000 fatalities to just 38
Data for development: 3 pathways

Data production and collection

- Individuals, Civil Society and Academia
- Government and International Organisations
- The Private Sector

Development
Citizens can create data to fill gaps in public and private data, to address the problems they face. HarassMap is a citizen-generated map based on individual reports of sexual harassment.
Data for development: 3 pathways

- Demand / create transparency
- Hold data on individuals
- Create / use data in production process

Individuals, Civil Society and Academia

Government and International Organisations

The Private Sector

Data production and collection

Development
Data for development: potential benefits

- Greater accountability
- Policy design / evaluation
- Service delivery
- Business opportunities

Data production and collection

Development

Individuals, Civil Society and Academia

Government and International Organisations

The Private Sector
Data for development: potential harms

- Criminal activity
- Dark net
- Corruption
- Surveillance
- Widening inequality
- Market concentration

Data production and collection

Individuals, Civil Society and Academia

Government and International Organisations

The Private Sector

Development
Not just another report on data

- A poverty lens on the value of data
- Prioritising poor people and poor countries

The Government of Madagascar provide 80,000 extreme poor households with regular cash transfers, such as here in Betrafo.

Photo credit: Mohammad Al-Arief / World Bank
Unlocking potential by reusing data

- Individuals, Civil Society and Academia
  - Reuse
  - Combine
  - Share

- Government and International Organisations
  - Reuse
  - Combine
  - Share

- The Private Sector
  - Reuse
  - Combine
  - Share
Bogota

Improving public safety

Using citizen generated data

The map-based mobile app Safetipin allows users to report mobility and safety issues in cities related to lighting, walk paths, visibility, public transport, and security. In Bogotá, Colombia, the city government used this tool to improve safety around bike paths.

Source: Safetipin 2016

Note: Safety ratings of poor to excellent for Bogotá bike paths are based on safety scores.
Throughout the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, gaps in sex-disaggregated data have been pronounced, rendering at best, a partial understanding of the differential impacts of the crisis on men and women. In March 2020, only 61% of reported COVID-19 cases were disaggregated by sex, with only 26 countries providing these data. By November 2020, reporting had grown to 80 countries, but the proportion surprisingly still stood at 60%.

Figure B2.3.1 Proportion of COVID-19 cases reported with sex-disaggregated data for 190 countries

Source: WDR2021, Data for Better Lives. Based on contributions from Mayra Buvinic (Center for Global Development), Lorenz Noe (Data2x), and Eric Swanson (Open Data Watch), with inputs from the WDR 2021 team.
The social contract for data
Economic and social value comes from sharing, reusing, and combining data sources to generate greater insight.
Equity

Data capture, infrastructure, and trade need to include poorer communities and countries equitably.
Personal data and data infrastructure must be protected from misuse to avoid discrimination and cybercrime.
The three elements of a social contract for data: Value, Equity and Trust
Working towards an integrated national data system (INDS)
Data in the INDS must be:

- Produced
- Protected from misuse
- Open
- Quality controlled
- Used and reused
Participants in the INDS create and share data

Government entities

International and regional organisations
Institutions

Civil society and individuals

Private sector

Academia
Four pillars support the INDS

Institutions → Infrastructure policies

Economic policies → Laws and regulations
Five foundations sustain the INDS
Figure 8.7 Features of well-functioning institutions for effective data governance

- **Coordination**: Create incentives to encourage collaborative and user-centric decision-making.
- **Leadership**: Mobilize data champions in positions of power to create a culture of data sharing and use.
- **Multistakeholder governance**: Sustain outcomes through inclusive and legitimate stakeholder engagement.
- **Transparency**: Build trust by promoting participation and accountability in policy making.
- **Functional autonomy**: Promote institutional independence and autonomy for effective performance.
- **Data literacy**: Invest in increasing technical capacity, resources, and data skills for civil servants.

Source: WDR 2021 team.
Summary of main messages

1. We need a new social contract for data based on value, trust and equity
2. We still have a long way to go on data governance
3. Data governance is a matter for international cooperation
4. We should aspire to the vision of an Integrated National Data System
5. Building gender aware data systems is critical for meeting the goals of the gender equality agenda.
Download the report and explore Data Stories at https://wdr2021.worldbank.org/

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