

DFID Data Disaggregation Action Plan

Better Data for Better Lives



Data Disaggregation Action Plan

In September 2015, world leaders adopted the Global Goals which frame development for the next fifteen years. The Global Goals focus on equity and universality in order to ensure that the furthest behind are reached and that no one is left behind. In order to track progress at the national, regional and global level, a large amount of high quality, timely and disaggregated data is needed. Low Income Countries must be supported to build their statistical capacity in order to increase the availability of good data. While it may be complex and costly, it will not be possible to realise and evidence delivery of the Global Goals without significant improvements in the gathering, analysis and use of disaggregated data.

Our commitment

At the United Nations General Assembly in 2015 the UK led a pledge to ensure that:

- Every person counts and will be counted,
- Every person has a fair opportunity in life no matter who or where they are, and
- People who are furthest behind, who have least opportunity and who are the most excluded, will be prioritised.

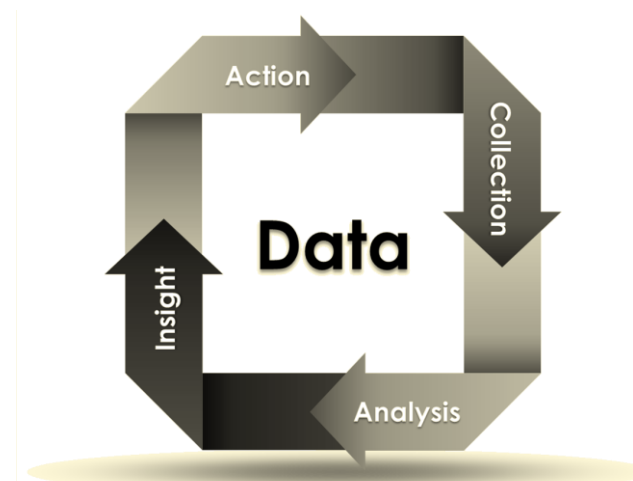
The [UK's Aid Strategy](#) sets out our ambition for the Global Goals. The strategy pays particular attention to our role in ensuring that the Global Goals Leave No One Behind.

DFID's approach to ensuring that we Leave No One Behind in our policy and programmes covers three areas- Understand, Empower and Include. For DFID, 'Understand' means strengthening our understanding of whom and where people are, or at risk of, being left behind and the analysis of why. Improving collection and use of disaggregated data to inform decisions, and continuing to build evidence of what works in different contexts is essential to enable us to empower and include those at risk of being left behind.

On 3 May 2016 DFID hosted a conference on age data disaggregation together with partners from Civil Society and the United Nations. This action plan is a direct response to that day, and addresses data disaggregation more widely than age alone. Achieving full disaggregation across all social groups as outlined in the Global Goals will be a complex and long term undertaking. This action plan sets the foundation for immediate short term change now within DFID, and work across the global development system to get tools, methods and standards in place to support a longer term change so we can collectively achieve the Global Goals for everyone everywhere.

This action plan has two objectives – to build the culture within DFID on disaggregated data, and to work with others to change the international development system on disaggregated data. It sets out the steps that DFID will take to promote, provide and make use of our own development and humanitarian programme data which can be disaggregated on the basis of sex, age, disability status and geography (in the short term). We have taken a conscious decision not to push disaggregation further than these four variables within DFID at this stage knowing there will be challenges to achieving disaggregation against these four variables in the shorter term. By starting with these the aim is to create an incentive for culture change,

recognising this will take some years to embed across the organisation. Not including other disaggregation variables does not mean they are not important, but a focus on these in the first instance should enable DFID to reorient our approach and raise our ambition whilst we work across the international system to develop tools, methods and guidance on the wider Global Goal disaggregation variables.



DFID will review progress and will conduct a detailed stocktake in 2020. Once we have successfully delivered the actions in this plan we will consider whether it is possible to raise our level of ambition further. DFID remain committed to the goal of full data disaggregation for all social groups under the Global Goals but our approach will be iterative and we will progressively realise our ambitions on data disaggregation while working to bring stakeholders and suppliers along with us on each step of our journey.

Enablers for success

Partnering for data



In 2030 all DFID suppliers gather, report and use high quality disaggregated data

To create the change DFID needs on data disaggregation we will need to work with our existing partners as well as forging new relationships. We will work with our partners to build capacity while using influence to lock capability on data disaggregation into national, regional and global statistical architecture. We will ensure that our approach to data disaggregation flows right through our supply chain and is reflected in our programmes and contracts. We will continue to work toward the active engagement of communities as equal partners in data collection and use.

Influencing



In 2030 the UK is the recognised global leader on data for development. Others look to the UK to set pace, direction and standards

We will communicate with partner governments and development agencies on our increased ambition on data disaggregation and invite them to follow our example while working to formalise this shared commitment and momentum through the establishment of a United Nations City Group on age and ageing data. We will advocate for the disaggregation of data by sex, age, disability status and geography in any administrative systems we support and we will use our influence to encourage partners to do the same. We will use our influence to support the development and adoption of methods, standards and tools for data disaggregation to increase data quality and disaggregation by multilateral agencies.

Capacity building



In 2030 partner government National Statistics Offices, suppliers and multilaterals have the technical and resource capacity to gather, report and use high quality disaggregated data

We will provide tools and training to our programme managers on data disaggregation and will pay specific attention to our Statisticians, Evaluators, and programme managers. We will develop guidance for our research, project monitoring and evaluation to facilitate collecting data which can be disaggregated by sex, age, disability status and geography wherever possible and relevant. This guidance will be created by drawing on practical experience of data disaggregation gained through programme design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation. Guidance will be underpinned by the Human Rights Based Approach to data.

We will assess culture and behaviour change across the organisation relating to awareness, appetite and ability to disaggregate data through the programme cycle (baseline set in 2016) and test progress at the end of this Parliament with a view to raising our ambition again.

Management information, research, analysis and reporting



In 2030 there is high quality standardised disaggregated data to evidence that no social group has been left behind. All data is open source and everyone has access.

We will establish a baseline and set targets for enhanced disaggregation of our programme data with internal management information systems, including information on the proportion of our projects which contribute towards our headline Single Departmental Plan indicators which can be disaggregated by sex, age, disability status and geography. To ensure that our approach to data disaggregation is mainstreamed in our existing reporting structures we will explore data disaggregation boundaries for our Single Departmental Plan indicators which can be disaggregated by sex, age, disability status and geography. Our ambition is to report key headline results disaggregated by sex, age, disability status and geography where relevant/appropriate under our Single Departmental Plan by the end of this Parliament.

We will continue to conduct analysis and develop illustrative examples of why data disaggregation is critical by clearly demonstrating some of the existing limitations of national level data in illustrating marginalisation and exclusion while working with others to consider options for alternative data collection methodologies such as citizen data. We will increase the proportion of research and evaluation which specifically looks at the differential effects of development and humanitarian programmes on different population groups and will target our research based on identified gaps in knowledge and understanding.

Trailblazer country programmes

The promise to ensure that the Global Goals Leave No One Behind applies to all of our work, but some of our country programmes are well placed to lead on this agenda. Acting as a source of learning and inspiration for the wider organisation, these trailblazer countries are provided with additional support and guidance and will go on to inform practice across DFID.

Bangladesh



We will build on our country strategy on Leave No One Behind and will analyse our programmes. This analysis will inform better targeting of our programmes. We will engage with partners to build their capacity on data generation, disaggregation and presentation. We will support the Government to develop their capacity to carry out data disaggregation so that they can identify the groups who are at risk of being left behind.

Nepal



We will develop a country specific strategy which sets our vision for delivering on the promise to Leave No One Behind in Nepal, which will be underpinned by the need to produce and use high-quality, disaggregated data. We will strengthen data in this area in two main ways. Firstly, we will work with our partners to improve their understanding of our requirements on Leave No-one Behind, with the ambition to strengthen their capacity to collect disaggregated data and act on this to adapt their programmes effectively. Secondly, we will strengthen Government of Nepal capacity to generate data and undertake analysis on those who may be left behind through the statistics capacity building element of our portfolio.

Zimbabwe



We will develop a flexible country specific strategy which sets out how we will ensure no one is left behind. This strategy will set out the steps we will take to build the capacity of our partners to disaggregate data by age, sex, disability status and geography, and improve the analysis, presentation, dissemination, and access to data. We will undertake a number of studies in Zimbabwe to build the evidence base on Leave No One Behind, including on: the views and experiences of Zimbabwe's Youth and older people, to better understand who the most vulnerable are, and what works for their development; the geographic footprint of our programmes to ensure a focus on reaching the most marginalised. We will integrate this in sector strategic plans while spelling out how to achieve Value for Money while Leaving No One Behind.

Rwanda



We will share good practice on administrative data and Civil Registration and Vital Statistics and will continue to support statistical capacity building through our partnership with the Government. Through this we will work toward the registration of **all** births and deaths. This will be supported by the development and implementation of a new programme of support for the National Institute of Statistics Rwanda to support their production and provision of high quality disaggregated statistics. We will ensure the main household survey has a panel which tracks the impact of social protection programs on groups at risk of being left behind and will support Ministries to develop management information systems. We will develop systems to enable our programme partners to better measure results by the end of 2017.

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