DFID's

Action Plan

DFID Inclusive Data Charter Action Plan

Every person counts and will be counted

Contents

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Foreword from the Secretary of State

I am proud to sign DFID up to the Inclusive Data Charter, and to announce this at the Global Disability Summit 2018.

This Action Plan lays out the actions and next steps we will take over the short, medium and longer term to better understand the situation of the poorest and most marginalized, and make better decisions that positively impact all people's lives.

The actions address how DFID will put into action the five principles outlined in the 'Inclusive Data Charter Vision and Principles' to make data more inclusive, improve disaggregation, draw data from all available sources, ensure those responsible for the collection of data and production of statistics are accountable, and build human and technical capacity to do this.

This work means challenging the assumption that progress in general is progress for all. We need to track progress for people with different characteristics or in different situations that may affect their development status. The Global Goals strive for progress for <u>all</u>. Disaggregated data is a necessary precondition for inclusion.

Our commitment runs wider than disaggregation to include data being open, free of charge, available in structured and standardized formats to support interoperability and effective use/reuse. And ultimately it is about using the valuable data we invest in to learn and improve what we do so that the poorest people across the world benefit.

In this Action Plan I commit DFID to ensure every person counts and will be counted.

This plan builds on our successful Data Disaggregation Action Plan. But we are raising our ambition even further and accelerating our actions on inclusive data. Disaggregated data is a commitment that we must collectively hold to, even and especially in the most difficult, fragile or humanitarian contexts. We must also increase investment in building statistical systems and user generated data to achieve the Global Goals.

By getting, sharing and using nationally generated disaggregated data we can collectively work to eradicate extreme poverty and improve people's lives.

Rt. Hon. Penny Mordaunt, Secretary of State for International Development

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Introduction

1. In September 2015, the world agreed and adopted the Global Goals which frame development for the next fifteen years. The Global Goals are a universal call to end poverty, protect the planet and ensure that all people enjoy peace and prosperity. The UK played a key role in creating a set of goals that are universal and inclusive, and are underpinned by a commitment to leave no one behind. These goals are focused on ending chronic poverty forever, for everyone, everywhere.

2. At the United Nations General Assembly in 2015 the UK together with the US and others 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.

3. 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.   Our approach covers three areas - Understand, Empower and Include. For DFID, 'Understand' means strengthening our understanding of whom and where people are, or are at risk of, being left behind and the analysis of why. Improving collection and use of data that is disaggregated and inclusive, 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.

4. No data exist for two thirds of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) indicators and in order to track progress at the subnational, national, regional and global level, a large amount of high quality, timely and disaggregated data is needed – as referenced in Target 17.18 (box 1) of the Global Goals. Achieving this full disaggregation across all social groups across the SDGs will be a complex and long term undertaking, requiring significant improvements in the gathering, analysis and use of disaggregated data.

Box 1 - Agenda 2030

Data, monitoring and accountability
SDG Target 17.18: By 2020, enhance capacity-building support to developing countries, including for least developed countries and small island developing States, to increase significantly the availability of high-quality, timely and reliable data disaggregated by income, gender, age, race, ethnicity, migratory status, disability, geographic location and other characteristics relevant in national contexts

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Current work and commitments on disaggregated data

5. On 3 May 2016 DFID hosted a conference on age data disaggregation together with partners from Civil Society and the United Nations. This led to the development of DFID's Data Disaggregation Action Plan, launched by the UK National Statistician at the World Data Forum in Cape Town in January 2017.

6. The disaggregation action plan set out the initial practical steps that we would take to move the agenda forward within our own organisation and through the global system, focusing on four key disaggregations - sex, age, disability status and geography. We focused on these four in the first instance to enable DFID to reorient our approach and raise our ambition whilst we worked across the international system to develop tools, methods and guidance on the wider Global Goal disaggregation variables.

7. We committed to making particular progress in DFID's four Leave No One Behind trailblazer countries (Rwanda, Bangladesh, Zimbabwe and Nepal) so that we could generate and share learning across our organisation. We also committed to advancing practice through influencing, partnership, capacity and systems.

8. In implementing the Data Disaggregation Action Plan DFID has delivered a range of specific capacity building resources and events. These have included;
- the development of a Data Disaggregation Resource Library;
- sharing and showcasing early learning from partners in collecting and using disaggregated data, and demonstrating not only the technical aspects of gathering data but also how this is beginning to inform decision making;
- delivery of seminars and learning on the Human Rights Based Approach to Data;
- developed a DFID guide to disaggregating programme data by disability;
- updated the DFID Smart Guide on logical frameworks to include disaggregation;
- supported a one year action-research project that is testing and assessing the use of Washington Group questions on disability status in humanitarian response contexts;
- developed thinking on collecting and using age disaggregated data in our programme work;
- and targeted sessions with teams and offices with a particular focus on using the Washington Group questions for disability status.

9. Our partners tell us that our engagement on age statistics and age-disaggregation has been instrumental in bringing together a coalition of committed partners.   We are proud that the UK Office for National Statistics, with support from DFID, has led on the establishment of a new international group to improve data on aging and age disaggregation – the Titchfield City Group. This was agreed by the United Nations Statistical Commission March 2018 and will go on to play a leading role in driving quality in ageing and age disaggregated data systems around the world. The ICAI review on DFID's Approach to Disability in Development, May 2018 (page ii) praised both our role in ensuring disability was a central concern in the Sustainable Development Goals, and in driving efforts to create an international consensus on the collection and use of disaggregated data on disability.

10. At the Family Planning Summit in July 2017 we made a public commitment to include provisions for the specific needs of adolescents in all our future reproductive health service delivery programming and to fast-track our pre-existing commitment to age-based data disaggregation, with an initial focus on health sector programming.

11. DFID is an anchor member of the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development Data and has been part of the development of the Inclusive Data Charter concept. DFID is pleased to sign up to the Inclusive Data Charter Vision and Principles (Annex 1) and this action plan sets out how we aim to implement and achieve them.

What is new or different?

12. The Inclusive Data Charter is underpinned by five principles:

> ➢ **Principle 1:** All populations must be included in the data.
> ➢ **Principle 2:** All data should, wherever possible, be disaggregated in order to accurately describe all populations.
> ➢ **Principle 3:** Data should be drawn from all available sources.
> ➢ **Principle 4:** Those responsible for the collection of data and production of statistics must be accountable.
> ➢ **Principle 5:** Human and technical capacity to collect, analyse and use disaggregated data needs to be improved, including through adequate and sustainable financing.

13. DFID's Inclusive Data Charter Action Plan builds upon our Disaggregation Action Plan objectives – to embed a culture within DFID of disaggregated and inclusive data, and to work with others to improve the international development system on disaggregated and inclusive data. More and better data is fundamental to achieving the SDGs – and supporting partner countries to gather this data, do it inclusively and to disaggregate it, remain key priorities for DFID.

14. We have defined **inclusive data** as data that;

> - covers all people,
> - is routinely disaggregated,
> - is collected in an inclusive manner (ensuring that there are no systematic biases and that no vulnerable groups are systematically excluded, for example those living outside of households), .
> - is open, interoperable and accessible.

15. This plan relates to DFID's programme data.

16. This action plan focuses on getting, sharing and using data and is structured around these three areas. It builds upon our work to make all DFID data open, free of charge, available in structured and standardised formats to support interoperability, traceability, and effective reuse.   Actions are short term (to be done over the next year), medium term (over the next four years of this government) or long term (over the next 5-10 years).

17. This action plan is a living document and as such will be monitored, reviewed, refreshed and updated every two years in advance of the World Data Forums. We will invite feedback from our partners to help us collectively better address the challenges of inclusive data. We will continue the spirit of peer review in which this action plan was developed and seek to meet with our peers to help us assess the individual and collective impact of these Inclusive Data Charter Action Plans over the coming years.

18. We will bring an inclusion lens to all our aid programming (developmental and humanitarian, in fragile and non-fragile contexts), and continue to encourage and support others to sign up to the Inclusive Data Charter.

19. No data exist for two thirds of Sustainable Development Goals indicators – so we will continue to support, and advocate for others to support, partner countries official statistical systems and alternative data sources (such as citizen generated data) to deliver the SDGs – as outlined in the 2017 DAC Development Co-operation Report[1]. We will work to make this data inclusive, disaggregated, accessible and used.

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[1] Development Co-operation Report 2017: Data for Development (http://www.oecd.org/dac/development-co-operation-report-20747721.htm)

20. We will build upon and extend our work towards making all of DFID's non-confidential programme data open, accessible, free of charge, and available in structured/standardized formats to support interoperability, traceability, and effective reuse.

GET – SHARE - USE

21. This action plan focuses on getting, sharing and using inclusive data to the maximum effect and is structured around these three areas.

GET

> "Sustainable Development Goal indicators should be disaggregated, where relevant, by income, sex, age, race, ethnicity, migratory status, disability and geographic location, or other characteristics, in accordance with the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics"
>
> General Assembly Resolution 68/261

22. We will invest in the fundamentals. We will continue to support, and advocate for others to support, partner countries official statistical systems and alternative data sources (such as citizen generated data) to deliver the SDGs – as outlined in the 2017 DAC Development Co-operation Report[2]. We will work to make this data inclusive, disaggregated, accessible and used.

23. As we design new programmes we will use disaggregated data, that wherever possible is from country statistical systems. Disaggregation should cover but not be limited to **sex, age, disability status and geography**, to ensure that those groups of people who need the outputs and outcomes of our programme most are explicitly considered. To monitor our programmes we will prioritise working together with partners to invest in data coming from country systems, and actively assess the distributional impact of our programmes.

24. We are developing better systems to gather, capture, store and use this results data from implementing partners for our programme use. This may mean a radical resign of our data model and the tools (logframes) we have to capture results.

25. We retain our ambition to be able to report key headline results disaggregated by at least sex, age, disability status and geography where relevant/appropriate under our Single Departmental Plan by 2022. We are establishing clear guidance on what is needed for our Single Departmental Plan reporting from both our partners and parts of our business.

26. We aim to fully embed a culture of disaggregation, recognising this may take some years to become standard across the organisation, our implementing partners and the wider international system. Our short term focus will remain on four disaggregates (sex, age, disability status and geography) in the first instance to help us reorient our approach and raise our ambition whilst we work with others in the international system to find and develop tools, methods and guidance on the wider Global Goal disaggregation variables.

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[2] Development Co-operation Report 2017: Data for Development (http://www.oecd.org/dac/development-co-operation-report-20747721.htm)

27. DFID remains 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.

For **sex (key focus)**:
- We will disaggregate by female/male, and this will be based on actual data about our beneficiaries rather than estimates or models.

For **disability status (key focus):**
- We will systematically use the Washington Group question sets as the tool for disaggregation, and look for existing programmes to update their M&E where feasible.
- Where we have used the Washington Group question sets we will analyse and publish the data and analysis we have.
- We will increase the share of Single Departmental Plan results that can be disaggregated by disability status up from our baseline of 5% in September 2017 .

For **age (key focus)**;
- By August 2018 we will have developed guidance for DFID staff and partners on how to do age disaggregation in their programme M&E.
- We will establish the baseline of Single Departmental Plan results that can be disaggregated by age in the short term and work to improve upon that baseline over the medium term
- We will work together with others to support data collection beyond the 15-49 year age range so that we have a full picture of all need and progress. We will support analysis and use of this data.

For **Geography (key focus)**;
- Geocoding our centrally managed programmes by country split is now mandatory for all our centrally managed programmes. However, there is still a gap in our understanding of the distribution of our programmes within countries. We will seek sub national geographical breakdowns (ideally below a rural/urban split) where possible and safe/appropriate (do no harm)

For **Income**;

- The [Equity Tool](#) offers a simple and easy-to-use way to measure relative wealth of our beneficiaries/respondents and to compare that to the national or urban population in over 30 countries.   Working with others that have used this tool such as Sightsavers, we will learn more about it and explore feasibility and options for if and how it could be used in our programmes, alongside exploring other alternatives for disaggregation by income/wealth/poverty.

For **Race, Ethnicity** and **Migratory Status**;
- We will seek out examples of effective collection of race, ethnicity and migratory status information from across DFID country contexts and wider, and share that learning across the organisation.
- We will support the draft [Global Compact on Migration's](#) first objective to "Collect and utilize accurate and disaggregated data as a basis for evidence-based policies"

28. We will continue to learn about the challenges with gathering and using data that **intersect** across the different disaggregation dimensions, and explore options of presenting and understanding better the data and what it tells us, for example through Power BI and analytical tools.

29. We will design programmes and monitoring and evaluation systems in a way that allows us to learn what works, as well as to account for who benefits from our spending. Wherever possible we will invest in and use nationally available data so we do not undermine those national systems by collecting our own monitoring data. To understand if we are achieving this we will keep a record of programme costs that are devoted to collecting data for monitoring and evaluation purposes alongside what we are investing in national systems, including for data disaggregation. Throughout we will ensure people are protected, so that we do no harm.

30. We will work with partners and national systems to collect, and disaggregate data by the variables which they have prioritised.

31. But we will work to also go beyond disaggregation in our approach to promoting inclusive data. For example; for **disability status** we will go beyond disaggregation to collect further data relevant to disability inclusion where feasible, for example on barriers and enablers. For **age** we will maintain an active role in the Titchfield City Group on Ageing and Age Disaggregation, feeding learning from the group on age specific surveys back into DFID work.

32. With 44% of countries worldwide not having comprehensive birth and death registration data, we will both advocate for and support partner countries to; undertake national censuses, and build their Civil Registration and Vital Statistics (CRVS) systems as a key source of national disaggregated data; build their capacity on inclusive collection of data and on disaggregation; and to build appropriate disaggregation into their administrative systems. We will use our influence to encourage partners to do the same.

>   For **disability status**;
>   - Where we support national censuses, surveys and administrative systems we will advocate for and support use of the Washington Group disability status question sets for disaggregation.
>   - We will work with others to test the feasibility of, and develop guidance for using the Washington Group disability status questions for administrative systems and programme M&E processes.
>   - We will continue to support Disabled People's Organisations in their push internationally for use of Washington Group disability status questions for disability disaggregation.

33. To complement our support of national or official statistics, we will also support user generated or user led data, as a vital component of a data eco-system. This will include encouraging disaggregation and open/accessible/interoperable data.

34. Some parts of society still remain outside of official statistics by statistical design (such as those living in institutions, slums, the homeless, those above a certain age), due to legislation (LGBT is illegal in some countries) or by their own choice (to avoid stigma and discrimination). Ensuring we do no harm, we will continue to learn from and work with others to understand and share knowledge on how to cover known and unknown missing populations – including for example experience of removing age limits on international surveys, developing age specific surveys, how to capture information on those outside of traditional household structures, of different ethnic backgrounds or gender identities.

35. We will look at others' experience in developing data ethics and data governance frameworks and assess how we can best use them.

36. When we gather data from beneficiaries, we will endeavour to ensure that that information is fed back to them in an accessible manner, and will ensure their personal information is protected, in line with the General Data Protection Regulation.

Share

> "There's a digital revolution taking place both in and out of government in favor of open-sourced data, innovation, and collaboration."
>
> Kathleen Sebelius, Former United States Secretary of Health and Human Services

37. The greatest benefit will be as we learn together and share that learning with each other. We commit to be open and share our and others learning, guidance, methodologies and tools widely. We will explore and build upon learning from, for example, the Humanitarian Data Exchange, the Humanitarian Exchange Language, Oxfam's Responsible Data Management and Responsible Data Initiative.

38. DFID will continue to play a leadership role working through partners such as the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development Data to strengthen data systems in a coordinated, strategic way; and ensure that they deliver data that is disaggregated and therefore meaningful to those most often left behind or harder to reach.

39. We will extend our work to make all DFID's non confidential programme data open, accessible and available in re-usable formats which will increase our accountability and transparency. We will work with implementing partners to understand and improve their data quality and make their data open and accessible, whilst also working with partners and users across the sector to refine those standards to improve interoperability.

40. We will look to improve the way partners share their disaggregated results with us, ideally using open standards such as IATI, HXL, learning from others that are already doing this such as the

[Humanitarian Data Exchange](#) and [IOM Data Portal](#). All the disaggregated results data should be open and accessible where possible - subject to ensuring data confidentiality and doing no harm.

41. We will undertake analysis in 2018 of our Single Departmental Plan results that are disaggregated and share that analysis widely. This will be our baseline to improve upon, and we will use this to push for greater disaggregation across the organisation.

42. We commit to in the short term developing minimum sets of standards for data collection, use and accessibility and work with our partners and suppliers over the medium term on implementing them.

43. Where we have supported data collection we will work to ensure the data and the analysis are appropriate and safely available and shared. For example to inform the Global Disability Summit in July 2018 we have supported a brand new Disability Data Portal to enhance global efforts to strengthen disability data. The platform brings together disability data from countries across the world in one accessible tool; and provides a snapshot of the current picture for people with disabilities in four key areas: inclusive education, economic empowerment, technology and innovation; and stigma and discrimination. The open source platform allows for further updates to be made as more information becomes available.

44. We will widely share our learning of what works from our programmes.

45. Working with others we will build and share the evidence base for the impact of disaggregated data on policy and decision making.

46. We will continue to consider how we can best influence other funders and international financing institutions to support more and better disaggregation of data.

47. Our partners tell us that they would like to see us advocating for others to gather, share and use disaggregated data in the development sector. So we are now regularly assessing how partners will approach data disaggregation as part of their applications for UK aid funding and we will continue to do this, taking it into account in the decisions we make. We will also look for opportunities to complement our strong digital advocacy and knowledge sharing on data disaggregation with partners in more traditional settings, whilst reiterating our own ambition to be able to report key headline results disaggregated by at least sex, age, disability status and geography where relevant/appropriate under our Single Departmental Plan by 2022 and that by 2030 there is widely available high quality standardised disaggregated data to evidence that no social group has been left behind.

Use

"Good analysis is very useful when you want to convert a political decision into an investment. It can also go the other way and drive policy"

Hans Rosling

48. We will use disaggregated data to design inclusive programmes which are targeted at those who need the outputs and outcomes of our programmes most – increasing Value for Money (equity) for DFID.

49. We will use disaggregated data to assess the distributional impacts (ie which beneficiaries and where are deriving the most value) of our programme outputs and outcomes, and to monitor our programmes throughout their lifecycle to see if they are inclusive and reaching those most in need. We will re-orient our development and humanitarian programmes where we discover they are not reaching those intended, or not representative of the population.

50. We will use disaggregated data and evidence as part of our analysis to understand the drivers of conflict in fragile contexts, and monitor those drivers throughout our work – ensuring we do no harm.

51. Our focus will continue to be on the tangible benefits for the beneficiaries rather than on the data itself. This requires a strong emphasis on the use of disaggregated data to improve programming and policy making and not just for the sake of disaggregation. Therefore, we will gather examples that demonstrate impact and use of disaggregated data for program purposes, alongside evidence and knowledge of when it is and when it is not useful to disaggregate.

50. We will co-ordinate with others to support our partners (government, civil society, citizens and media) to build their capacity to find, analyse and use data to inform policy and decision making, and to help them challenge when decision making is not evidence informed. The real test of open disaggregated data will be whether data is used by citizens, civil society and the media. Disaggregated data can be a powerful tool to hold those in power accountable to citizens, but only if it is used.

51. Wherever possible we will invest in and use nationally available analysis and evidence so we do not undermine those national systems by collecting and using our own monitoring and decision making data.

52. We will continue to invest in the Titchfield City Group and others to understand what new data on age ranges outside 15-49 years means for programming and policy making, particularly for the fragile contexts in which we work.

53. We will help our colleagues (programme managers and advisers) to become more confident with accessing and using a variety of disaggregated data for programme and policy decisions. Work to deliver this would include sharing information, providing training and guidance, and developing automated frequent feedback, analysis and visualisations of disaggregated data (working with ONS). We will pay particular attention to humanitarian contexts by sharing lessons from our Humanitarian Innovation and Evidence Programme.

54. We will continue to learn about what data that **intersect** across the different disaggregation dimensions tells us, and explore options to most effectively communicate what it tells us and how it may change our policy and programming across fragile, development and humanitarian contexts.

55. We will work with our development partners to focus more on those that the data show us are most marginalised, often where different vulnerabilities intersect.

56. We will learn from, and look to expand, our core funding payment-by-results arrangements with a number of United Nation agencies where disaggregated data (particularly for disability) plays a key role.

57. We will deliver cutting-edge evidence and learning that informs inclusive programming in DFID and beyond (particularly on disability).

58. We will seek out and learn from examples such as the [Humanitarian Data Exchange](#) of how to feed information back to those we have collected it from, how to share data proactively with others to minimize respondent burden and reduce multiple needs analysis.

59. We will extend our ambition to work towards making all DFID's programme related data open, free of charge, and available in structured and standardized formats to support interoperability, traceability, and effective reuse. This will include supporting programmes (particularly rapid onset humanitarian emergencies or health outbreak situations) to budget for associated open data requirements such as data entry, data management, and data sharing.

60. Over the medium term we will develop a DFID approach to quality assurance of analysis based on the AQuA Book.

61. In line with the UK's open Government Partnership National Action Plan, we will improve the accessibility and quality of the range of transparency data published by the Government. We will consider how the transparency data can be enhanced and made useful as possible to the public, business, the voluntary sector, Parliament and Government itself.

62. Building on our successful advocacy for a new DAC policy marker on Disability Inclusion, we will support analysis and policy orientated use of both the DAC Gender Equality and Disability Inclusion markers.

63. We will ensure we hold and use data responsibly and in line with the General Data Protection Regulation.

64. We are looking at how to improve the user experience for both internal and external data that will maximise its value and use.

65. Where we fund or support data collection in a partner country we will prioritise the analysis and use of that data. This will include but not be limited to supporting; publication of key statistics disaggregated by sex, age, disability status, geography, and where possible the important intersections of these; publication of inclusion analysis; support for users to understand what the data is telling them and how it could change their policy or programme area.

Annex

http://www.data4sdgs.org/sites/default/files/2018-07/IDC-HLPF-twopager-FINAL.pdf