



Committing to channel the voices of the most vulnerable through inclusive data practices

IMPACT Initiatives Inclusive Data Charter Action Plan

2024-2027

Introduction

Created in 2010, IMPACT is a Geneva-based NGO dedicated to supporting a wide range of stakeholders in making better-informed decisions in humanitarian, stabilization, and development contexts. We believe that direct engagement with local communities and their leaders is a key pathway to improved planning and decision-making. As the largest independent data provider in crisis settings, IMPACT plays a vital role in advancing the international commitment to Leave No One Behind and thrives to ensure that humanitarian needs assessments do not overlook the most marginalized segments of the population.



The Inclusive Data Charter Principles

- 1 All populations must be included in the data**

We can only achieve the “leave no one behind” goal by empowering the furthest behind. This means ensuring their voices are heard and their experiences are represented through data and analytics. We need to acknowledge all people, make them visible in the data to understand their lives and include them in the development process.
- 2 All data should, wherever possible, be disaggregated in order to accurately describe all populations**

We recognize that data should be disaggregated by sex, age, geographic location, and disability status and, where possible, by income, race, ethnicity, migratory status and other characteristics relevant in national contexts.
- 3 Data should be drawn from all available sources**

We recognize the need to make high-quality, timely data from official and non-official sources accessible and that these should include new data, where consistent with internationally accepted statistical standards.
- 4 Those responsible for the collection of data and production of statistics must be accountable**

We will balance the principles of transparency - maximizing the availability of disaggregated data - confidentiality, and privacy to ensure personal data is not abused, misused, or putting anyone at risk of identification or discrimination in accordance with national laws and the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics.
- 5 Human and technical capacity to collect, analyze, and use disaggregated data must be improved, including through adequate sustainable financing**

We recognize that collecting and analyzing disaggregated data needs specific skills and these must recognize the need to finance data collection, analysis, and use appropriately and sustainably so that high-quality data can be collected and used by governments as well as by businesses, civil society and citizens.

IMPACT Inclusive Data Charter Action Plan

A major milestone in IMPACT’s efforts to foster inclusive data practices was the signing of the [Inclusive Data Charter](#) in 2023. The subsequent development of IMPACT’s Inclusive Data Charter Action Plan was done in parallel to the development of the 2025-2030 Global Strategy - thus ensuring that these commitments are sustainable over time and align with IMPACT’s overarching goal.*

OVERARCHING GOAL

Through our applied research, IMPACT Initiatives contributes to global and local solidarity in support to the world’s most vulnerable. By 2030, our research will provide the evidence needed for humanitarian, development and climate action to :

**Prioritize
the most
vulnerable**

**Deliver
effective and
accountable
programs**

**Listen to
communities
and leverage
their
capacities**

* The fulfillment of the commitments outlined in the present document remain dependent on IMPACT’s capacity to secure the necessary funding.



PRINCIPLE 1 - All populations must be included in the data

IMPACT has a longstanding commitment to including hard to reach segments of affected populations in humanitarian needs assessments. This commitment is evident in our development of specific methodologies to collect data in remote areas or amongst hidden population groups such as irregular migrants. Over the past two years, IMPACT has been working to ensure that formalized processes are in place to include all populations, by complementing large-scale quantitative approaches on the one hand and piloting new approaches to collect data on marginalized communities on the other. **In order to support these efforts, IMPACT commits to:**

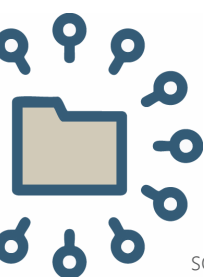
- Develop a guidance to implement **inclusive sampling approaches** for household assessments ensuring we interview a diversity of profile;
- Publish a guidance on **researching marginalized groups** in humanitarian contexts;
- Support the development of a **toolkit focusing on access to connectivity and mobile technology** use to inform digital inclusion programs for refugees and displaced population.

PRINCIPLE 2 - All data should, wherever possible, be disaggregated in order to accurately describe all populations



IMPACT typically applies disaggregation to datasets using variables such as population status, geographic location, and household-level demographic characteristics. However, additional measures are necessary to standardize these efforts across research cycles and methodologies. To address this, IMPACT aims to develop tools that tackle key challenges, including the limitations of randomized sampling approaches in collecting sufficient data on specific subgroups and the absence of a robust intersectional framework to support integrated and streamlined analytical processes. **In order to support these efforts, IMPACT commits to:**

- Include **mandatory household-level disaggregation** in standard information products for multi-sectoral needs assessments;
- Conduct an in-depth review of the use of the Washington Group Short Set of questions in IMPACT's assessments to enable sound **disability-specific disaggregation**;
- Pilot of an individual-level sampling approach and associated **intersectional framework of analysis**.



PRINCIPLE 3 - Data should be drawn from all available sources

IMPACT aims to enable a wide range of stakeholders to utilize the data it produces by improving the standardization and interoperability of datasets, while continuing to deliver high-quality, nuanced, and contextually rich information. To achieve this, IMPACT seeks to highlight the importance of incorporating non-traditional data sources into decision-making processes as a crucial step toward enhancing the inclusion of affected populations' perspectives in response efforts. This includes, for example, data collected through participatory research and studies focusing on the preferences and priorities of affected individuals. **In order to support these efforts, IMPACT commits to:**

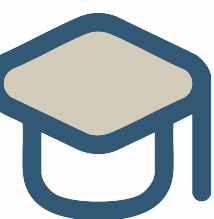
- Develop a community participation toolkit to strengthen **community participation in the research cycle**;
- Pilot approaches for **participatory research** with communities;
- Review the quality and use of perception data related to **self-reported priorities and preferences** with a particular focus on piloting the Hesper Scale.

PRINCIPLE 4 - Those responsible for the collection of data and production of statistics must be accountable



IMPACT aims to be accountable to the humanitarian community by providing resource-efficient, reliable and relevant research. The development of a monitoring and evaluation framework is key to measure this in a transparent way. In the meantime, IMPACT is committed to protecting the affected populations involved in its assessments. Until recently, these efforts have mainly focused on ensuring the protection of personally identifiable information and the respect of Do No Harm principle across research cycles but it is crucial to develop specific protocol tailored to different types of research. **In order to support these efforts, IMPACT commits to:**

- Strengthen **safeguarding protocols** on data collection with children and on gender-based violence;
- Develop and roll out IMPACT's **Community Feedback Mechanism** Standard Operation Procedures and Toolkit;
- Publish annual M&E Review Report using IMPACT's revised **M&E framework** aimed at better measuring IMPACT's progress towards people-centered and ethical research and promoting continuous learning.



PRINCIPLE 5 - Human and technical capacity to collect, analyze, and use disaggregated data must be improved, including through adequate and sustainable financing

As part of its mandate, IMPACT provides direct support to humanitarian coordination bodies to facilitate uptake and analysis both at country-level and through direct involvement in global platforms (JIAF steering committee, IASC). Increased sophistication of data processes, staff turnover, and funding gaps represent key obstacles to ensure these capacity-building efforts have lasting effects. IMPACT has identified key entry points to build technical capacity with lasting benefits for the organization itself as well as national and international partners. **In order to support these efforts, IMPACT commits to:**

- Launch an external-facing **Massive Open Online Course (MOOC) on best practices for applied quantitative research** in complex contexts including modules on research design, data collection and processing for hard-to-reach areas and communities;
- Launch an internal programmatic review of our **partnerships with local actors**.

CROSS-CUTTING COMMITMENT - Global-level advocacy to promote inclusive data practices across the humanitarian response

Through publications, bilateral meetings and participation in key humanitarian events or coordination mechanisms (Humanitarian Partnership Week, World Data Forum, JIAF steering groups), IMPACT commits to advocate for inclusive data practices, high scientific standards and inclusive humanitarian structures and support actors aiming to do so.

