

Summary of Breakout Group Discussions

The webinar included a breakout discussion session where participants could share challenges and opportunities to strengthen data responsibility. Below is a summary of key points from the nine groups.

Actions

- **Up-front discussions on expectations, responsibilities and procedures is key to building trust**, both internally and with external partners. Trust is a major enabler – between organizations, with recipients and of private sectors actors. It's difficult to objectively assess partners' data management capacities, which vary significantly.
- Conduct data protection assessments from the outset of a program and give equal attention to context-specific risks, protection risks for recipients, and donor compliance; not just the latter.
- **Minimize data collection wherever possible and be prepared to negotiate** with partners, FSPs and donors to reduce data risks for recipients.
- **Digital literacy is a barrier to consent but it's also an opportunity** to strengthen awareness.
- Continue to de-mystify data protection by reminding stakeholders that fundamentally it's about humanitarian protections and the same principles underpin good data practices.
- Let's **put the Data Responsibility Toolkit into practice** and document the results.

Lessons

- **Context is queen - data management policies must account for context-specific risks which is the heart of the problem.** Global level policies and agreements must build in the flexibility to manage in a compliant manner at the country level, addressing national regulations and contextual risks.
- **High level leadership is needed** to address the complexities of data responsibility as it is a significant and thorny issue. It's about changing the culture and behavior on data management – not an easy task.
- If linkages to social protection are part of the programmatic goals, data sharing policies must be developed accordingly. There is also a need for capacity strengthening with government institutions and personnel.

Challenges

- Resourcing the expertise at country level is a challenge – and ends up as another competing priority for resources.