Frequently Asked Questions

What is the purpose of the Inclusive Data Charter (IDC)?

The objective of the charter is to mobilize political support to improve the quality, quantity, financing, and availability of inclusive and disaggregated data as well as the capacity and capability to produce and use it. It is hoped that between now and 2030, the charter will act as a mechanism to spur countries and organizations to accelerate action on data disaggregation and encourage others to do the same.

Why should your government or organization sign up to the charter?

One of the critical ingredients to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) is better data – to ensure resources are being allocated in the best way to maximize benefits. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development commits to Leave No One Behind. To live up to this promise, we need timely, comprehensive, and disaggregated data, to better understand the experiences of the poorest and most marginalized. Through this, we can make better decisions that positively impact all people's lives.

Who can sign up to the charter?

The charter has been designed so as wide a range of organizations as possible are able to sign up, thereby creating a broad movement in support of inclusive data to leave no one behind. This includes governments of high, middle, and low-income countries; city-level governments; multilateral organizations; civil society organizations; and the private sector.

What is included in the charter?

The first component of the charter is a vision and five principles, which form the basis for this broad movement in support of inclusive data. In brief, these principles are:

Principle One: All populations must be included in the data.

Principle Two: All data should, wherever possible, be disaggregated in order to accurately describe all populations.

Principle Three: Data should be drawn from all available sources.

Principle Four: Those responsible for the collection of data and production of statistics must be accountable.

Principle Five: Human and technical capacity to collect, analyze, and use disaggregated data must be improved, including through adequate and sustainable financing.

Alongside the charter, countries and organizations will develop their own tailored action plan, which outlines the practical steps they are taking towards achieving the high-level vision and principles over the short, medium, and long term.

How was the charter developed?

Facilitated by the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development Data, the vision and principles were developed by a task team consisting of representatives from governments (across four continents), UN Agencies, and civil society organizations. Find more information about the task team here, and for more information about the Global Partnership, visit www.data4sdgs.org.

What commitment do you require from countries or organizations signing up to the charter?

Countries and organizations who would like to sign up to the Inclusive Data Charter must commit to:

1. Getting internal (organizational/institutional/governmental) sign off of the charter.
2. Putting in place a public statement of endorsement.
3. Developing an action plan, including an internal process to monitor and evolve the plan over time.
4. Identifying a main point of contact for follow up and for sharing learning with other champions.

When was the charter launched?

The charter was launched at a side event during the UN High-Level Political Forum in New York in July 2018. Ten founding champions (the governments of Ghana, Colombia and the Philippines; the UK Office of National Statistics; UNFPA; UNICEF; Sightsavers; HelpAge International; Data2X; Development Initiatives) publicly endorsed the charter at the event and shared their action plans. At the Global Disability Summit in July 2018, it was announced that the Department for International Development (DFID) in the UK; the Government of Kenya; and the World Bank were signing up to the charter. The charter will be introduced at various global events during 2018 and 2019, including the UN World Data Forum, providing opportunities for additional countries and organizations to sign up.

What support is available to countries and organizations that sign up to the charter?

We're currently developing a repository of information to support current and prospective champions of the charter. This includes an IDC action plan template, example action plans, and case studies of activities around data disaggregation that are underway.

Several champions are also available to provide support, advice, and assistance to others as they develop and implement their action plans. The Global Partnership and the IDC group will help facilitate connections between champions for knowledge-sharing and support. Many of these champions have expertise and focus on specific areas of data disaggregation such as disability, sex, or age.

What is the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development Data?

The Global Partnership for Sustainable Development Data is a growing network of more than 300 partners including governments, businesses, civil society, international organizations, academia, foundations, and statistical agencies. The Global Partnership envisions a world in which governments, UN agencies, and NGOs see data as an essential part of the infrastructure for sustainable development, investing in the technology and people to use it equitably and effectively and using data in decision-making; people are protected from abuses of their personal data and have the data and the skills they need to hold governments to account; companies have the data they need to make investments that promote sustainable development; and rules and infrastructures that govern data sharing and use around the world are fit for purpose, facilitating safe sharing of timely data going where it is needed, when it is needed.

How can I find out more?

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