Data Literacy Consortium Planning

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Data is everywhere. Often organizations focus on data science as the output of ‘data ready’ or a ‘data-driven organization.’ We are leaving people behind by not being equitable in the application of technology and the potential opportunities this brings. More and more organizations are making a data culture shift to upskill staff, processes, and infrastructure to be more data savvy. The IFRC Data Literacy Program targets the data curious to the data ready using social learning and human-centered design approaches. In consultation with other humanitarian actors, including the Center for Humanitarian Data, IFRC found that other organizations seek to share and coordinate data literacy activities.

The IFRC Data Playbook Beta project found that humanitarians, development and governmental organizations are keen to collaborate. The Data Literacy Consortium can aim to build on each other’s strengths using a network approach. There are many examples of humanitarians partnering to build out materials and content to improve humanitarian action. The Sphere Handbook and the Cash Learning Partnership are two examples. The Data Literacy Consortium aims to explore how humanitarians can share data literacy planning and delivery. In addition, we are also exploring how the content and consortium could also serve a wider organization niche including development, city, or government actors.

Many humanitarian organisations are currently focusing on improving data literacy. The Consortium would provide a mechanism for humanitarian organisations to share resources and expertise. The foundation for the Consortium is the Data Playbook developed by IFRC which is a collection of social learning resources to drive data literacy. The Data Playbook content has been developed internally in IFRC but is published on an open/creative common license that makes it available for external entities to reuse and modify. The consortium would act as a formal entity to help support the reuse and modification of the Playbook and also collect and integrate other relevant data literacy exercises by other humanitarian organisations.

Draft Consortium Activities

Activity 1: Data Playbook Version 1

- Co-create and transition the Data Playbook Beta to the Data Playbook Version 1
  - Get the wider, deeper, simpler content help
  - Guide the development of content - Advice and support.
  - Review the content as we develop it.
  - Tell us what doesn’t work and what does on the Beta and what else we need.
    - Formats, etc.
Help Identify existing content for the playbook that we may not know about.
Help us figure out how to enable contribution from others and continued growth of the playbook past Version 1

- Partners can fork the content for their audience (and enable feedback loops so we can learn from them)

Activity 2: Workshops/Online engagement/Partnerships

- Building shared content in person and online will reach more humanitarians. Center for Humanitarian Data (HDX) and IFRC are already engaged in these activities.

Activity 3: Collate, coordinate and expand Data Literacy curriculum