



Opening the Appetite: Data Skills for Global Development Careers

Student Training Programme: TEAM PROJECT BRIEFING

Background to Tackling Data Blind Spots Team Projects

When data doesn't exist, or doesn't exist broken down by important characteristics, it creates blind spots in our understanding of how to plan to support populations & ensure the most vulnerable are supported. One of the core goals of the Data Revolution in Development is to tackle these data blind spots.

Data Blind Spots for Team Projects

Data Blind Spot	Initial Background Reading
<p>Asthma & African Populations: Data related to asthma is often drawn from non-African populations, which limits our understanding of how Asthma affects African populations.</p>	<p>Adeloye, D., Chan, K.Y., Rudan, I. and Campbell, H., (2013) An estimate of asthma prevalence in Africa: a systematic analysis. Croatian medical journal, 54(6), pp.519-531. [CLICK HERE TO ACCESS]</p>
<p>Homelessness & Gender: The causes and solutions to homelessness globally often vary by gender, however there is poor availability of data on homelessness in general across the world let alone broken down by gender.</p>	<p>Moses, J. and Janasko, J. (2018) Demographic Data Project: Part 2: Gender and Individual Homelessness. Homeless Research Institute. [CLICK HERE TO ACCESS]</p>
<p>Unemployment & Poverty during the COVID-19 Era: Data on unemployment & poverty during the COVID-19 era broken down by <i>multiple</i> characteristics (e.g. age, gender, sexuality, ethnicity, nationality, disability) is often not available – which limits our ability to understand who is most vulnerable.</p>	<p>Richards, K. (2021) The questions we should be asking about intersectionality and data. Data for Sustainable Development Goals Blog [CLICK HERE TO ACCESS]</p>
<p>Education in Humanitarian Emergencies: Complete data on education settings in humanitarian emergencies is often missing, which makes it difficult to plan responses and monitor progress.</p>	<p>UNESCO (2021) Strengthening education data systems in emergencies and crises [CLICK HERE TO ACCESS]</p>

Task & Outputs

In your teams you should produce 2 outputs for your selected data blind spot – a 10 minute presentation to be presented on Day 5 and a 1 page written summary briefing paper to be submitted after the programme finishes. The outputs should respond to the following key questions:

- **What is the data blind spot?** – here you should seek to define the blind spot and visualise the related data that does that exist
- **Why should we fill the data blind spot?** – here you should make a compelling case as to why the intended audience should invest in filling the blind spot. Consider a range of benefits that would appeal to different parts of the audience. This might include making reference to the current development agenda, for example would it help it help achieve one or more of the UN's [Sustainable Development Goals](#).
- **How should we fill the data blind spot?** – here you should outline your own strategy for creating and/or collating the data necessary to fill the blind spot.

Purpose

The purpose of the outputs should be to secure support and funding to implement your ideas on how we should fill the data blind spot.



Intended Audience

Participants at the [UN World Data Forum Conference](#). The World Data Forum is a movement that brings together data experts and data users from across governments, civil society, the private sector, the donor community, academia, the media and other professional bodies globally. The goal is to foster data innovation and high-level support for data for sustainable development. It is supported by the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs. **This means you have a diverse audience so you should try to pitch your outputs in a way that will appeal to a diverse range of organisations and stakeholders.**

Project Planning

The latter portion of each day's live online tutorial will be dedicated to progressing the team projects. The table below summarises the main activities which will be covered each day.

Day	Activity	Tasks
1	Introduction to Projects	<p>The whole group will be introduced to the different data blind spots. Your tasks will be to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Explore the initial background reading on the data blind spots (see links in the table on the first page of this document) 2) Submit your preference for which data blind spot project you would like to work on
2	Team Formation & Existing Data Scoping	<p>Teams will be announced and initial team meetings will be held to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Get to know your team members 2) Plan research into existing knowledge and data on your team's data blind spot. In particular: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Why is it important? • What data already exists? • Is there any related data that would be useful (even if it is not an exact match to the data blind spot)?
3	Visualizing Existing Data & Information	<p>Team meetings will be held to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Share findings from previous day's research with teammates. 2) Consider how to visualise/represent the data you have found (or how to visually highlight data gaps). 3) Decide which team member/s will create the data visualisations for your outputs ready for day 5.
4	Developing Strategy for Filling Data Blind Spot	<p>Team meetings will be held to (i) develop a strategy to fill the data blind spot and (ii) consider how to build a compelling narrative that will convince different types of organisations they should invest in your ideas. Here are some questions you may wish to consider:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How would you make best use of existing data? • How would you collect additional data if necessary? • How will you ensure your proposal is ethical and good value for money? • How will you ensure your proposal is effective and delivers impact?
5	Creating Outputs	<p>Create presentation and plan briefing paper, ready for the afternoon presentation session.</p>