

Data Quality: Opportunities and Barriers

Quality data is needed to provide evidence-based decisions. For every data-driven project, there is feedback about the quality of data available. There are many reasons why quality data (quantitative or qualitative) may not be available. This exercise is designed to help teams work through the root cause of 'data quality.' It is important to have diverse stakeholders in the room - data collectors, volunteers, managers, and the data project owner (sector).

- **People:** 2 to 30 people
- **Time:** 30 Minutes
- **Difficulty:** Medium
- **Materials:** Flipchart paper, sticky notes, sticky dots, and markers



THE EXERCISE



Divide people into pairs or groups, but no more than 6. Assign 'barriers' and 'opportunities' to different colours. In part 1, ask people to outline all the 'barriers' to obtaining 'quality data' Then, ask them to document the "opportunities." In plenary, ask the participants to sort the content. Give them an opportunity to discuss and rate the items. The team should then discuss any additional gaps in the data workflow.

Key Questions:

- What are the true costs (time/resources/skills) to achieve 'data quality'?
- What are some of the opportunities and barriers around achieving 'quality data'?
- How can organizations plan for these items while supporting the data literacy journey?

Extra Credit:

- **Assess: the feedback with this Causes Diagram:** <http://diytoolkit.org/tools/causes-diagram/>
- **Dive deeper into Systems Mapping:** <https://medium.com/disruptive-design/tools-for-systems-thinkers-systems-mapping-2db5cf30ab3a>
- **Discuss: What is web or digital literacy?**
- Here are two articles with diagrams to read and potentially share: <https://learning.mozilla.org/en-US/web-literacy> & <https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2016/06/8-digital-skills-we-must-teach-our-children/>

CREDIT

This exercise was co-created by Josse Gillijns, Miki Tsukamoto, Olta Ndoja, Astrid Legaye, Heather Leson, Gabriel Pictet, and Dirk Slater (Fabriders).

