STATE OF DATA

How can we get a pulse on the ‘state of data’ in our offices, sectors, or the wider organization? There are techniques to map out the systems and the processes. Beyond referring to the technology and processes by sector etc., it is helpful to involve the staff (leaders, sectors, and self-identified ‘data curious’) to gain their perspectives on data use and get a ‘pulse check.’ (This exercise was piloted with the IFRC Africa Regional office.)

- **People:** 5 to 30 people
- **Time:** 60 to 90 Minutes
- **Difficulty:** Hard
- **Materials:** Flipchart paper, sticky notes, sticky dots, and markers

PREPARATION

It is very important that senior leadership is engaged in this conversation. Do brief them well in advance and provide them with this exercise worksheet to support advocacy. Be sure to engage with all the stakeholders in advance to encourage them to join the dialogue. Invite them to prepare some observations and potential solutions. There are often different reasons for data - data for reporting and data for programming.

Here are some questions to share in the invitation notice and in your communications:

- How is data used at [add organization/division/region name]?
- What are some of the skills and tools/technology around being data-driven? Are there challenges/gaps/opportunities?
- What are some of the data workflows? Do we have the right data?

THE SESSION

For the session, create two flip charts with the following key questions:

1. What is the “State of Data” in [add organization/division/region name]?
2. How might we use our data for leadership?

The room for the session should have chairs /tables setup in a circle. This design helps shape the conversation as ‘equal’. Depending on the size of the group, work with your informal data working group /data helpers. There should be 1 helper per 6 people to support, drive, and document the conversation.