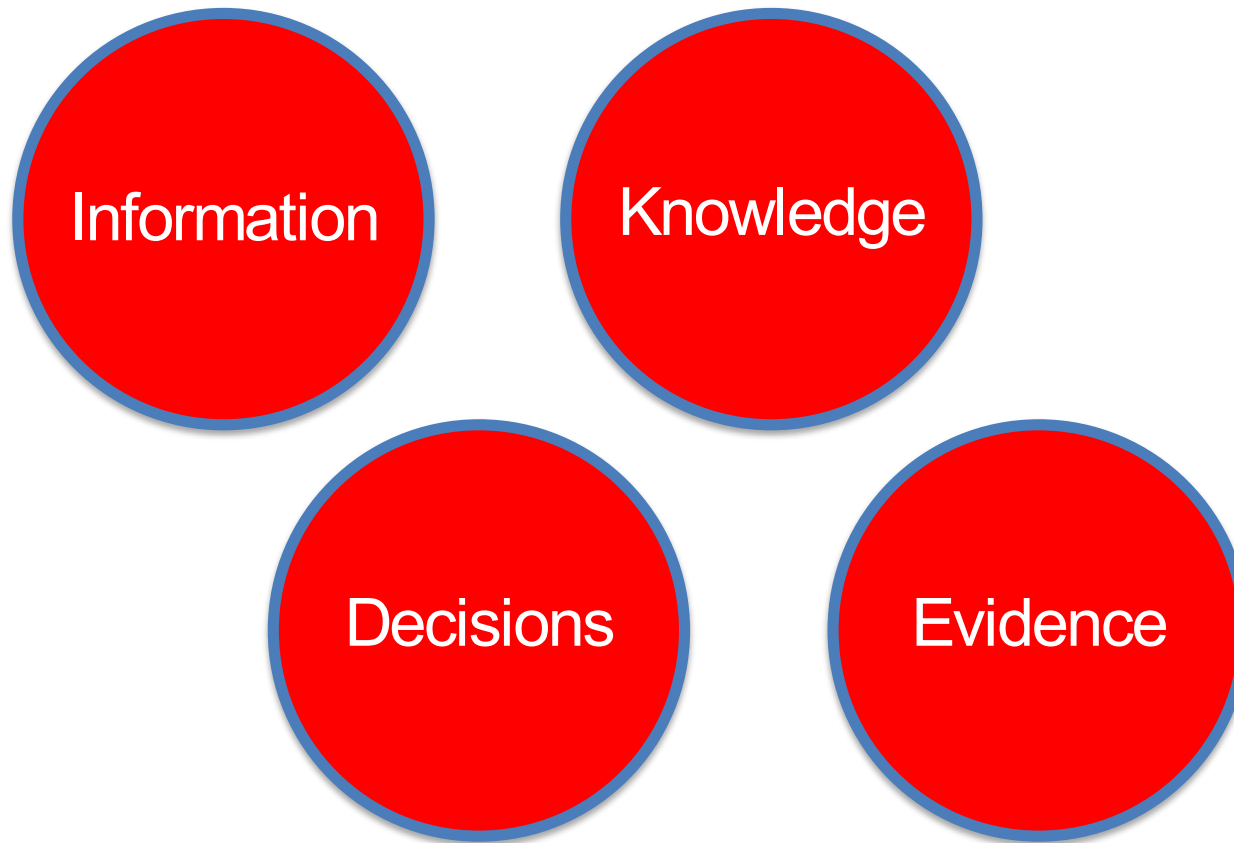


What is Evidence

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Data can lead to:



What is Evidence?

Data can translate to more than numbers or statistics: a dataset, observation, interview transcript, or picture.

Evidence is **facts** or **information** indicating whether a belief or proposition is *true or valid*.

Evidence is..

a sound theory can equal =

a coherent set of testable hypotheses (e.g. a theory or idea) of *why* something is *likely* to work + robust data to validate and refine these hypotheses.

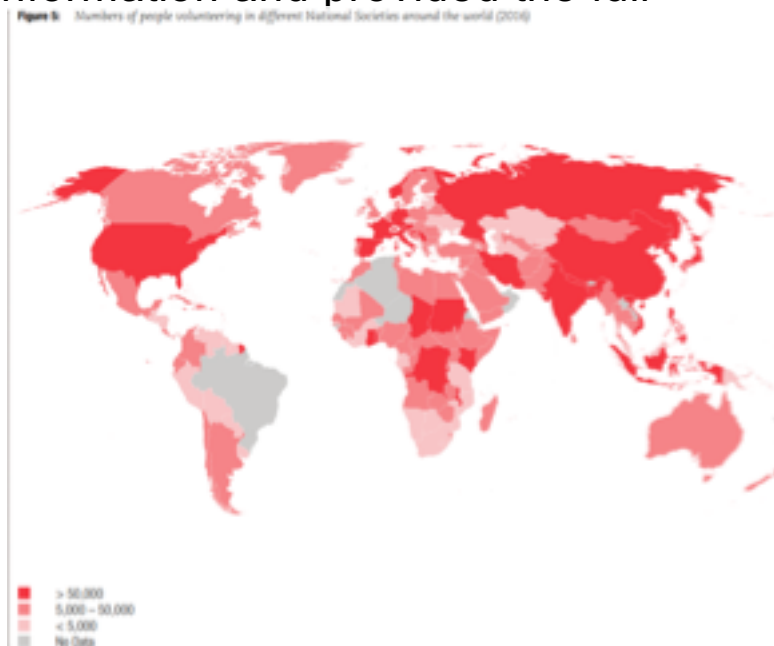
It can be achieved with:

- A theory of change - what type of change expected
- Data (Qualitative and Quantitative)
- Context, knowledge
- Ability to validate, test, and refine.

Example: Volunteer Data as Evidence

- *Evidence* is in our reporting activities.
- “IFRC has 11,650,327 million volunteers” as per the Federation-wide Databank Reporting System (FDRS) .
- This data was **obtained** and **validated** by the FDRS and from the National Societies. The FDRS team aggregated the information and provided the full evidence on the website.

Source: <http://data.ifrc.org/fdrs/overview/table>
(2016 data)

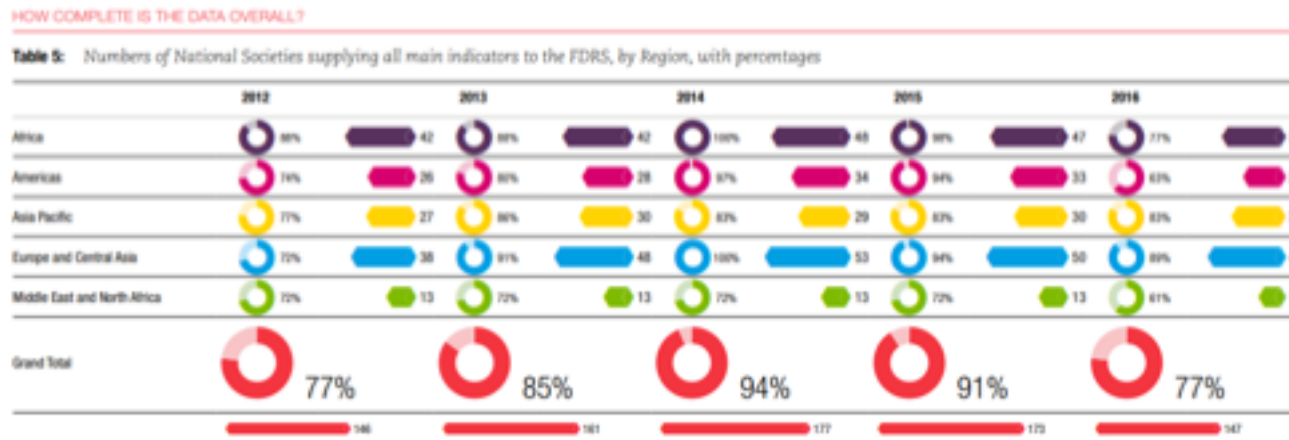


Counting People

National Societies follow processes to count people. They consult and verify information in partnership with their chapters and local units/branches. The Regional Offices and the IFRC Secretariat also consolidate and verify this data.

These processes for counting people have refined over time. We have teaching materials and verification processes to ensure the most valid data is presented as **evidence. Only validated data is published on FDRS's website.** This data is also used for analysis.

To learn more about this process see the **Everyone Counts Report** <http://data.ifrc.org/fdrs/report>



From Data to Policy

*“**Volunteerism** will need to play a central role in attaining the future Sustainable Development Goals by ensuring their localisation and scaling-up. The shift from volunteers merely as service deliverers towards volunteers as development actors, and thus a critical component of civic action and resilience, is the way forward.”*

Enabling Action 1 - Volunteering in a Changing World

Everyone Counts Report

<http://data.ifrc.org/fdrs/report>

Chapter 3: We look at the numbers of National Society volunteers worldwide: **is it true that fewer people are volunteering?**

Figure 6: Change in total National Society volunteer numbers since 2012: more accurate figures excluding National Societies which had changed their reporting system (red line) compared to original figures (grey line)



From Research to Action

IFRC and National Societies are using the ‘*evidence*’ from FDRS and the Everyone Counts Report.

This data raises awareness about volunteer engagement. It is also a **key result** (denominator) used as evidence to influence strategy and policy. Data and analysis are provided to decision-makers to design policies adapted to the context and to implement relevant actions.

Questioning evidence

- How can we be sure that our humanitarian work is **evidence-based**?
- What is **evidence** in a complex and volatile world where what seemed *true* yesterday is *obviously* wrong today?
- How **reliable is evidence** when facts and figures are filtered by six or more layers of bureaucracy with competing interests, siloed expertise and differing worldviews?
- How can any kind of evidence help **predict a project's success** or the **consequences of a policy**?

THANK YOU