FAIR data in investments – what does good practice look like?

This document is for program officers and grantees to:

• **Understand what good practice looks like** for making data findable, accessible, interoperable and reusable (FAIR) in investments and be able to self-evaluate their grant.

• **Identify where there may be further action or support required** to ensure the data generated and used in a grant is shared as widely as possible.
What good practice looks like for FAIR data implementation

The terms below refer to the investment. They indicate the current maturity of the investment in terms of implementing FAIR data principles with proper attention to ethics and privacy. There are three stages:

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**Stage 01 – Data unintentional**

The investment will generate, access, use or share data. It does not consider how it will ensure FAIR, ethical and equitable access to data that is as open as possible.

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**Stage 02 – Data aware**

The investment will generate, access, use or share data. There are limited plans for accessing, using and sharing data within the investment, and limited understanding of the data ecosystem. The investment recognises the need to work towards ensuring FAIR, ethical and equitable access to data that is as open as possible.

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**Stage 03 – Data purposeful**

The investment will generate, access, use or share data. There are clear plans to implement the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation open access policy and ensure FAIR, equitable and ethical access to data, making it as open as possible. The role of the investment in the wider data ecosystem is understood.
Is this investment proposing to collect, access, use or share data or information?

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**Stage 01 – Data unintentional**

The investment has not considered whether activities in the grant will generate or use data.

or

The investment has considered the above and is comfortable no data will be generated or used from their activities.

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**Stage 02 – Data aware**

The investment is aware that some activities will require the generation or use of data and is working towards identifying these and the data they will require or generate.

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**Stage 03 – Data purposeful**

The investment has identified a large number of datasets in their grant that will be generated, accessed, used and shared. These range from primary data, necessary to achieve the grants aim, to secondary data that is generated or collected as part of the project lifecycle (e.g. M&E data).