

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:



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.



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.



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 the proposed collection, access, use and sharing of data in line with funder policies and supported by in-country data policies and regulations?



Stage 01 – Data unintentional

The investment does not consider existing data policy, regulations or best practice, either relating to in-country or funder policies.



Stage 02 – Data aware

The investment identifies some existing data policies (funder and in-country) and is working towards understanding them, but gaps remain.



Stage 03 – Data purposeful

The investment identifies in-country and funder policies for data and clearly identifies any mismatches and articulates how to address, and in places exceed, these policies in regards to data collection, access, use and sharing.