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 this investment proposing to share data?

★

**Stage 01 – Data unintentional**

The investment does not commit to sharing any data, even internally.

*or*

The investment appears to propose the creation of a new platform and/or standard as part of the project but doesn’t clearly articulate the need for one.

★★★★

**Stage 02 – Data aware**

The investment identifies a need to share data with external actors, but these are limited to specific stakeholders in a similar sector.

Methods of sharing data appear to be restrictive (e.g. data sharing agreements or licence permissions).

The need to consider formats and standards when sharing data has been identified and there is an intention to adopt existing standards and best practice. There is an awareness of needing to understand user needs.
Stage 03 – Data purposeful

The investment plans to share data with actors from multiple sectors (i.e. public, private, third sector) and to do so under a clear licence that is as open as possible, drawing on a wide body of best practices and using existing well established and widely adopted data sharing platforms and standards to ensure the maximum findability and reuse of data.

Existing standards and best practice used within the data ecosystem have been identified. There is a clear plan to engage potential users to understand their needs.