

Humanitarian Data Transparency Series

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Grand Bargain and transparency agenda

- Grand Bargain launched at 2016 World Humanitarian Summit.
- Aims to tackle humanitarian financing gap.
- Committed to increase transparency in humanitarian spending (Workstream 1).
- Significant gains made since 2016.
- Information needs to be actively used.



Project Objectives

Objective 1

- To increase understanding of the information needs and challenges of humanitarian actors on the ground, in particular local and national responders.

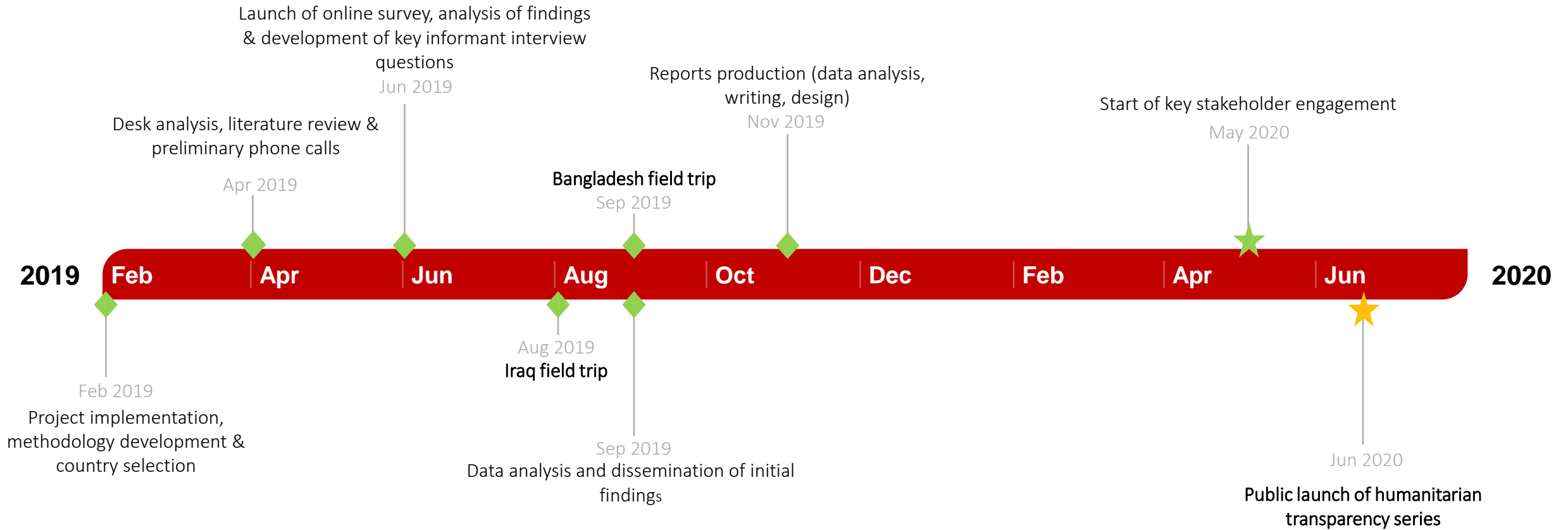
Objective 2

- To identify existing open data standards, platforms and tools, and assess their accessibility and usefulness in relation to meeting the needs and challenges identified.

Objective 3

- To identify possible improvements to open data standards, platforms and tools to better provide the information needed and in a way that makes it accessible to these actors.

Project Timeline



Research Methodology



- **Desk based research**
 - Literature review
 - Phone interviews (50+ stakeholders)
 - Country selection (Iraq and Bangladesh)



- **Online survey**
 - 187 responses from 100+ organisations
 - 109 responses from 63 organisations in Iraq
 - 78 from 54 organisations in Bangladesh



- **Key Informant Interviews (in-country)**
 - 66 interviews
 - 32 interviews in Iraq
 - 34 in Bangladesh

Research Briefs

- **Research Brief 1:** Publication of humanitarian funding data
- **Research Brief 2:** Data collection, analysis, and use in protracted humanitarian crises
- **Research Brief 3:** The use, challenges, and opportunities associated with digital platforms
- **Research Brief 4:** Data use capacity in protracted humanitarian crises

Headline Findings: Research Brief 1



Finding 1a: Funding data is of greater relevance to “coordinators”, while “implementers” need management information.



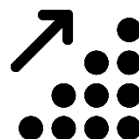
Finding 1b: Funding data, and the auxiliary data that accompanies it, is relevant to coordinators in the field but quality needs to be improved.



Finding 1c: Awareness of IATI data on the ground is low.



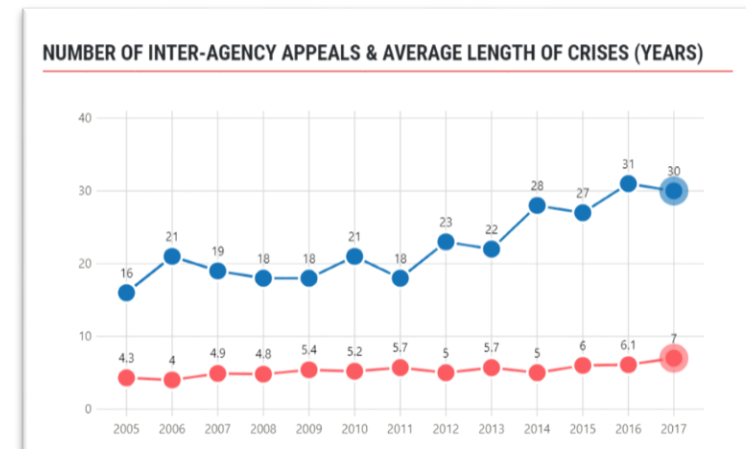
Finding 1d: Awareness of FTS is higher, but the completeness of data is a challenge.



Finding 1e: Other sources of financial flow data face the same quality and timeliness challenges.

Finding 1a - Funding data is of greater relevance to “coordinators”, while “implementers” need management information

- Financial flow data mainly used by coordinators.
- 17% of survey respondents in Iraq and 15% in Bangladesh reported using financial flow data frequently.
- In Iraq 30% of respondents, and 35% in Bangladesh need more financial aid flow data.

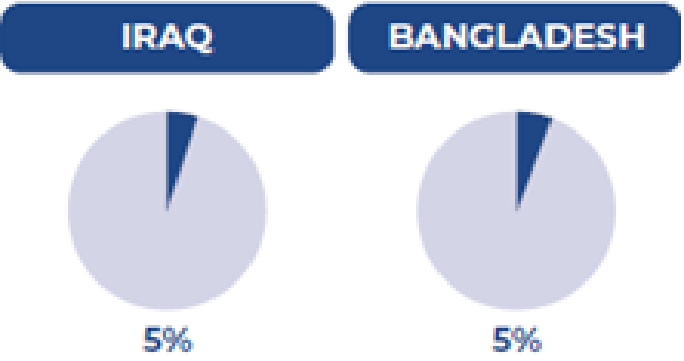


| | IDPs | Returnees | Host Community | Refugees | % Female | % Children, adult, elderly | People in need |
|---------------------------------|--------|-----------|----------------|----------|----------|----------------------------|----------------|
| Health 🏠 | 1.748M | 3.452M | 0.342M | | 49 | 51 46 3 | 5.542M |
| Protection 🧑 | 1.986M | 2.148M | 0.389M | | 49 | 51 46 3 | 4.523M |
| Water, Sanitation and Hygiene 🚰 | 0.654M | 1.341M | 0.197M | 0.113M | 49 | 51 46 5 | 2.305M |

Finding 1b - Funding data, and the auxiliary data that accompanies it, is relevant to coordinators in the field but quality needs to be improved

- Concerns about the quality of data from IATI and FTS
- Questioned data comprehensiveness, timeliness, relevance and accuracy.
- Unable to find any use cases of IATI or FTS data for decision making.
- Coordinators stated a need for results and evaluation data.
- Opportunity regarding non-financial data the IATI Standard can accommodate.

Finding 1c - Awareness of IATI data on the ground is low



- Awareness of IATI globally has increased.
- Awareness remains low at country level.
- 5% of survey respondents aware of IATI.
- IATI use is very low at the field level.

Finding 1d - Awareness of FTS is higher, but the completeness of data is a challenge

- Awareness and use of FTS was higher.
- Challenges with quality and comprehensiveness of data.
- Undermines trust stakeholders held in it.
- Inhibits use of data for decision making.



Finding 1e - Other sources of financial flow data face the same quality and timeliness challenges



- Stakeholders mentioned other financial data sources.
- Not used for on the ground decision-making.
- Data lacks timeliness.

Headline Findings: Research Brief 2



Finding 2a: The quality of data is a concern to on the ground “coordinators” and “implementers”.



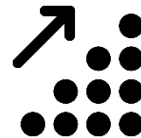
Finding 2b: Information management capacity is more of an immediate issue for “implementers” than “coordinators”.



Finding 2c: Data sharing practices are inconsistent and limited.



Finding 2d: Data sensitivity presents another challenge that stakeholders need to overcome when collecting, analysing, and using data.



Finding 2e: There is a need for clear and robust methodologies with minimum quality control standards for data collection.

Finding 2a - The quality of data is a concern to on the ground “coordinators” and “implementers”

FIGURE 1: HOW SATISFIED ARE YOU WITH THE QUALITY OF DATA THAT IS PUBLICLY AVAILABLE FOR THE IRAQ HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE?

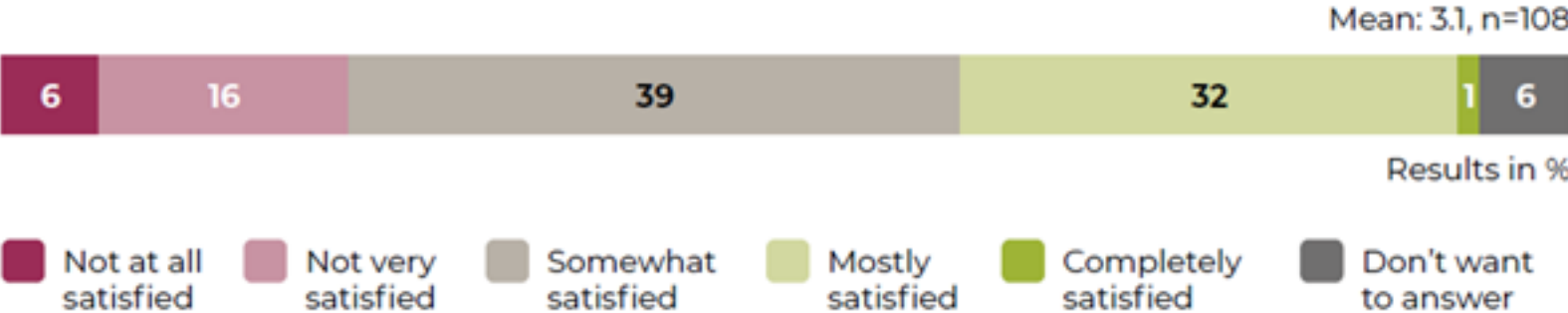
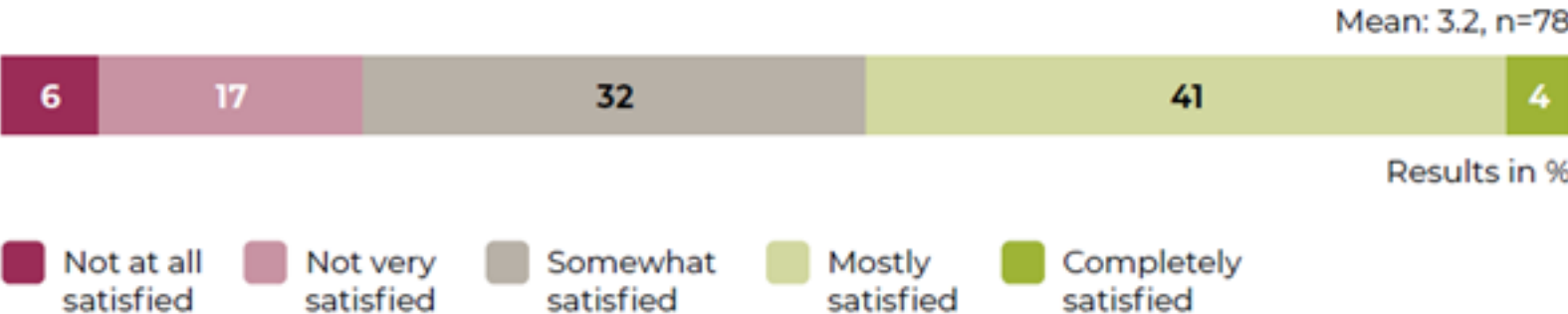


FIGURE 2: HOW SATISFIED ARE YOU WITH THE QUALITY OF DATA THAT IS PUBLICLY AVAILABLE FOR THE BANGLADESH HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE?



Finding 2b - Information management capacity is more of an immediate issue for “implementers” than “coordinators”



- Lack of information management functions.
- IM functions are essential across the responses.
- IM positions are not adequately funded by donors.
- Absence of guidance for effective exchange of information.
- Timely collection, analysis, and sharing of data made difficult.

Finding 2c - Data sharing practices are inconsistent and limited

- On the ground data sharing practices are inconsistent and limited in reality.
- Resulting in a lack of trust while limiting data sharing.
- Decisions are being made without having access to all the information needed to make them.

“ There is competition between agencies over the information being shared ”

Working Group Coordinator, Bangladesh

Finding 2d - Data sensitivity presents another challenge that stakeholders need to overcome when collecting, analysing, and using data

- Disjointed policies around data sensitivity.
- Confusion about what data can be shared.
- Difficult to access sensitive data at all.
- A quarter of survey respondents said data sensitivity is a challenge.

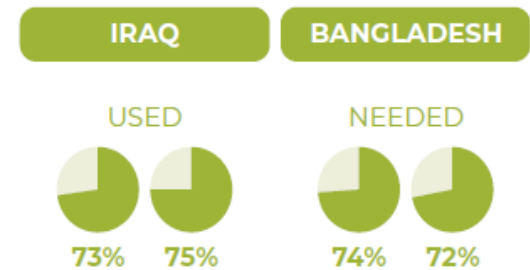


Finding 2e - There is a need for clear and robust methodologies with minimum quality control standards for data collection

- Limited quality control of data collection methods.
- Beneficiaries expected to participate in multiple assessments.
- Lack of oversight on needs assessment methodologies and tools.



Needs assessment data was both the most frequently used type of data (73% in Iraq and 74% in Bangladesh) and the most frequently needed type of data (75% and 72% respectively) among online survey respondents.



Headline Findings: Research Brief 3



Finding 3a: Awareness and use of platforms tended to focus on a few specific platforms.



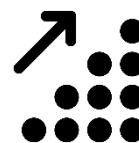
Finding 3b: The number and usability of existing platforms is sufficient for accessing data but users want transparency of raw data and collection methodologies.



Finding 3c: While platforms for uploading reporting data are sufficient, agreement on which to use, and data sharing concerns, create challenges.



Finding 3d: Inconsistency in reporting and underlying data quality issues inhibit use.



Finding 3a - Awareness and use of platforms tended to focus on a few specific platforms

| PLATFORM | IRAQ | | BANGLADESH | |
|--|-----------|-----|------------|-----|
| | AWARENESS | USE | AWARENESS | USE |
| Needs and Population Monitoring/ Displacement Tracking Matrix (IOM) | 77 | 61 | 65 | 45 |
| HumanitarianResponse.info | 69 | 63 | 64 | 45 |
| ReliefWeb | 74 | 49 | 55 | 23 |
| UNHCR Operational Data Portal | 43 | 21 | 53 | 30 |
| HDX | 0 | 0 | 47 | 28 |
| REACH Resource Centre | 59 | 50 | 46 | 13 |
| Bangladesh Government Aid Information Management Systems | N/A | N/A | 28 | 18 |
| Iraq Returns Working Group Dashboard: http://iraqrecovery.org/RWG | 45 | 15 | N/A | N/A |

Highest awareness and/or use
 Lowest awareness and/or use
 Not applicable

Finding 3b - The number and usability of existing platforms is sufficient for accessing data but users want transparency of raw data and collection methodologies

- Ability to download raw data in easily accessible formats.
- Ability to download underlying data collection methodologies.
- Number, type, and usability of existing platforms was sufficient for users' needs.



Finding 3c - While platforms for uploading reporting data are sufficient, agreement on which to use, and data sharing concerns, create challenges

- ActivityInfo and ReportHub most popular platforms for uploading data.
- Issues in three areas:
 1. The sensitivity of data
 2. Data quality
 3. Understanding of the reporting platforms



ActivityInfo

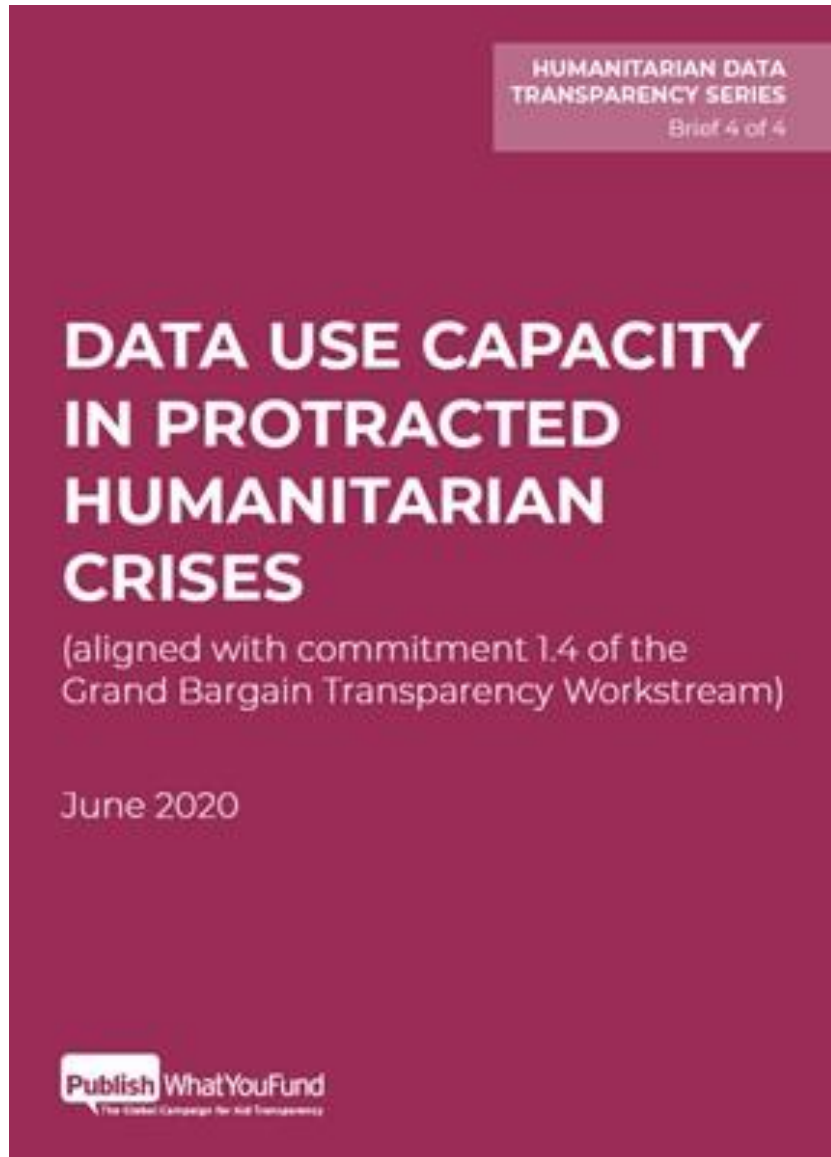


ReportHub

Finding 3d -
Inconsistency in
reporting and
underlying data
quality issues inhibit
use

- Data landscape in both countries is characterised by:
 - Inconsistent reporting
 - Patchy data
 - A sense that much of the data is untrustworthy
- Donors and clusters face challenges with the timeliness of data they receive.
- Untimely or incomplete data risks the creation of data gaps.

Headline Findings: Research Brief 4



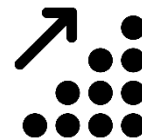
Finding 4a: Current funding models and reporting requirements inhibit data use capacity building.



Finding 4b: Transparency of how data is collected is as important as the data itself.



Finding 4c: Lack of localisation and data management capacity inhibits even basic data use and creates a two-tiered system.



Finding 4a - Current funding models and reporting requirements inhibit data use capacity building

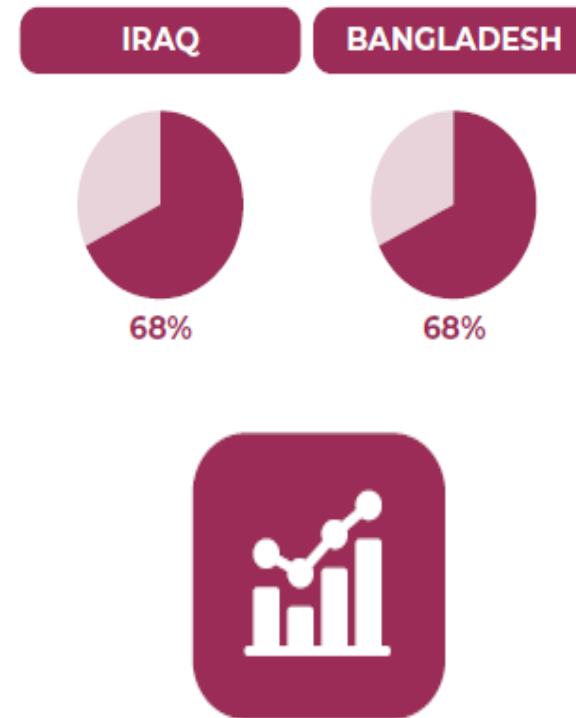
- Limited contribution to indirect costs.
- Local NGOs receive a very small proportion of response funding.
- Impacting the collection, analysis and sharing of data in a comprehensive and timely manner.
- Responsibilities are being shifted to staff who do not have the necessary skills.
- Insufficient funding explicitly for needs assessments.

Finding 4b -
Transparency of
how data is
collected is as
important as the
data itself

- Lack of transparency around data management processes.
- Perceived quality/reliability of data is linked to the transparency of the methodology.
- Risk of unethical data collection.

Finding 4c - Lack of localisation and data management capacity inhibits even basic data use and creates a two-tiered system

- Smaller organisations frequently reported data capacity challenges.
- Unwillingness to prioritise capacity development in local partners.
- Technical capacity of local NGOs eroded by bigger organisations.
- 68% of online survey respondents said that they help manage and create data.



Conclusion

- Positive movement in global publication efforts.
- Data quality is a serious impediment to better use.
- Users struggle to trust the data.
- Issues of coordination, effective data sharing, information management functions, and roles and responsibilities inhibiting data use.
- Need to improve local engagement with data users, data governance and data leadership in-country.
- A more concerted effort to address structural issues.

Recommendations

- To improve the quality of funding data stakeholders need to improve timeliness of reporting and enhance validation processes.
- Consider options for establishing an inclusive data coordination entity.
- Data quality needs to be addressed as a matter of urgency
- Consider capacity building for data users.

Q&A



Thank you for listening

Please take a look at the downloadable versions of the reports via our website at <https://www.publishwhatyoufund.org/>

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