1 How to USE EiE data

KEY MESSAGES

This tip sheet will help you think about what you need data for and who you hope to influence. Ultimately this will enable you to more efficiently find and interpret data.

USES What do you need the data for?

Data for Education in Emergencies (EiE) can help us understand a context. But when the right to education is at risk, understanding is not enough. Action is necessary.

This first tip sheet helps you consider now the ways that you will use data, even if your "use case" is in the future, and even if the eventual audience for the data is someone else.

The data use categories below have been developed by consulting EiE practitioners and policymakers around the world.

The first step is to identify your data uses. They are not exclusive; you may have more than one.

		USE	EXPLANATION
OPERATIONAL USES	☐	**Planning**	To inform the design, execution, and revision of projects, programs, and policy implementation. This includes the initial identification of needs and opportunities. Answers the question: What should we do?
	☐	**Coordinating**	To help multiple people and organizations to more effectively combine efforts, avoid duplication, and more efficiently reach shared EiE goals. Answers the question: How can we work together?
	☐	**Monitoring**	To track what is happening in a project, program, or policy in order to manage efforts, change direction, enforce accountability, and provide feedback. Answers the question: What are we doing?
	☐	**Evaluating**	To assess how outputs, outcomes, or impacts were achieved (or not) and to compare those achievements to goals, costs, and other activities. Answers the question: What worked and how?
STRATEGIC USES	☐	**Policymaking**	To inform the structure and design of policies and regulations of governments and organizations that contribute to the EiE ecosystem. Answers the question: What should official priorities and practices be?
	☐	**Advocating**	To tell the story in order to pressure and convince others to reframe their perception and practice prior to those actors contributing to the other uses above. Answers the question: How do we tell the story of the importance of EiE and convince someone else to change?

If you are not sure how you will use the data yet, move on to the other Tip Sheets and then return to this Tip Sheet afterwards to reconsider your long-term purpose.

USERS Who are the users that you will target?

Now that you know what the data will be used for, it helps to think about who will use it and view it.

The users are both those who will act on your data (actors) and those who will view the data as the audience—sometimes these are the same and sometimes they are different.

Tip 4: Targeting, Think about the type of data users you are targeting and the data characteristics they need.

TYPE OF USER		CHARACTERISTIC OF DATA SOURCES
Are they working locally?	Yes	Local or individual level data
	No	National, regional, or global data
Are they technical data users?	Yes	Raw data and collection methods
	No	Summary data and visual analysis
Are they working operationally?	Yes	More frequent (quarterly to weekly)
	No	Less frequent (annually or less)

Tip 5: Examples, Consider these three illustrative profiles of potential users to help you determine your users.

POLICYMAKER

Not local → Macro data
Not technical → Summary data
Not operational → Low frequency data

Common uses: planning, monitoring, evaluating, policymaking, advocating

M&E STAFF

Local → Local/Individual data
Technical → Raw data
Operational → Moderate frequency data

Common uses: monitoring, evaluating

PROGRAM COORDINATOR

Local → Local/Individual data
Not technical → Summary data
Operational → Maximum frequency data

Common uses: planning, coordinating, monitoring, evaluating

Tip 6: Iterate, Data use is an iterative process, come back to this tip sheet as you move forward with your plan.

You may need to revise your plan for uses and users once you consider what data you can find (**Tip Sheet #2**) and how you can interpret it (**Tip Sheet #3**). You may also realize that you need different data than what are currently available.