Data for Good Exchange 2021
India

Data Matters
Enabling Data Empowerment for India's Most Vulnerable
LANDSCAPE STUDY, JANUARY 2021

Bloomberg  
dasra  
SOCIETAL  
#D4GX
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Bloomberg has partnered with Dasra to launch Data for Good Exchange in India in 2021. Data for Good Exchange forms part of a long Bloomberg tradition of advocacy for using data science and human capital to solve problems at the core of society. Since 2014, Bloomberg has been hosting the annual Data for Good Exchange (D4GX) conference on applications of data science to problems related to the social good. This forum has enabled participants from academia, industry, government, and NGOs to share insights and progress on how best to apply modern machine learning and data science methods to solve problems in the public and non-profit sectors.

Data for Good Exchange India will focus on a series of thought leadership conversations culminating in the D4GX conference. The pandemic has prompted an increased interest among Indian nonprofits, funders, and the government to work towards strengthening the data ecosystem for India’s development sector. There is a real need and opportunity to bring together the best of these minds from data, development, and philanthropy to not only share and learn from their collective experience but also come together as a community to create and support solutions for greater impact. Read more here

Dasra is pleased to partner with Bloomberg and Societal Platform to introduce the Data for Good Exchange in India, further catalysing the efforts of civil society and philanthropists to enable a billion lives to thrive in our country.

The past year has revealed how deeply inequity remains entrenched in India’s development story. The pained voices of millions of displaced migrant workers, children, and abused women remained undetected, as mere pixels in the sea of data points we collect. To truly place the vulnerable at the center, the conversation around data for good needs to move beyond perfecting operational efficiencies, and towards the true empowerment of the communities we work with.

Through this partnership, and the platform we build here, Dasra hopes to focus the data conversation on an end goal that empowers vulnerable communities to demand action, and building a common vision of a data ecosystem that is in the service of data users. The Data for Good Exchange will bring together the best minds from civil society, philanthropy, government, and academia to not only share and learn from their collective experience but also to create and support solutions for greater impact.

Societal Platform Thinking is about orchestrating diverse pathways to deal with hard questions such as: How can we create a more inclusive approach to addressing societal issues as they constantly evolve? How can we give people choice and freedom to innovate? How do we build the next generation of open public goods? How do we create spaces for people, intent and technology to come together to give voice and agency to every individual?

Data for Good Exchange initiative presented us with an opportunity to look at data in the service of these hard questions. We strongly believe in the power of ‘open data’ and its ability to orchestrate large-scale and virtuous interactions among samaaj-sarkaar-bazaar (civil society-government-markets).

Through this partnership with Bloomberg and Dasra, we hope to reach out to a wider network of changemakers to co-create a thoughtful data narrative for India and beyond; one that reframes boundaries and constraints, involves communities, builds trust, and works in the service of society. Our endeavour would be to find support, resources, and investment to build the data empowerment infrastructure for India and increase our collective ability to sense, make sense, and act to accelerate societal impact.
Our Launch Webinar in January 2021 brought together 90+ participants and featured diverse thought leaders

- Neera Nundy | Dasra
- Ashlesh Gosain | Bloomberg
- Rizwan Koita | Koita Foundation
- Sanjay Purohit | Societal Platform
- Tarun Betala | Bloomberg
- Anant Bhagwati | Dasra
- Vandana Ramchandani | Bloomberg
- David Peters | Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health
- Vanessa D’Souza | SNEHA
- Kumar Shailabh | Uplift Mutuals
- Shruthi Iyer | FMCH
- Mohan H L | KHPT
- Meera Mehta | Centre for Water and Sanitation (CWAS)
- Srikanth Viswanathan | Janaagraha Centre for Citizenship and Democracy
- Hiren Doshi | eGovernments Foundation
- Priya Agrawal | Antarang Foundation
- Aakash Sethi | Quest Alliance
- Deborah Thomas | Foundation for Ecological Society

This Landscape Study looks at 10+ models that use data innovatively to address the needs of the most vulnerable in India

- Why?
  - Launch of the D4GX Dialogue Series and Landscape Study | January 2021
    - Co-create a foundational understanding among ecosystem players
    - Build shared goals to enable Data Empowerment for India’s most vulnerable

- How?
  - Building a Network of Changemakers | February – November 2021
    - Amplify innovations by bringing together a strong network
    - Identify key action areas for the ecosystem and the role for philanthropy

- Who?
  - D4GX Empowerment Challenge | December 2021
    - Spotlight curated innovations at the flagship D4GX India event
    - Highlight catalytic investment areas and harness philanthropic capital
India’s most vulnerable are missing from data-driven growth

Worrying Trends

- The pandemic has caused the largest global economic contraction in 80 years
- India now faces major shortfalls in 10 of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals
- 20% of the poorest urban and 7% of the poorest rural families use the internet
- Scheduled Tribes behind on basic literacy by >10% compared to national average

Breakpoints

1. Lack of universally acknowledged actionable metrics
2. Vulnerable communities are not empowered to participate
3. Insufficient feedback loops for enriching the commons
4. Siloed and inaccessible supply with singular purpose data

There is an urgent need to build a Data Empowerment narrative

To truly place the most vulnerable at the ‘first mile,’ we need to activate the virtuous cycle of data

I HAVE the right data and metrics to demand tangible impact for me

I CLAIM my right to access more data to take greater actions

I WISH my feedback informs policy and budgets which affect my community

I CAN create local innovations that use this data for community impact

Ramli, an Anganwadi Sevika is responsible for a varied range of activities in her village. However, she does NOT HAVE access to basic data on the government portal. She CAN’T access funds and resources effectively, and as a result the villagers CAN’T CLAIM their rights across basic government services.

Ashok, the Secretary of Parbatia Sahi Slum Dweller Association (SDAs), HAS data and CAN use it to access budgeted infrastructure development funds. He WISHES to transform the slum into Adarsh Colony and help the community CLAIM their rights.

This will require collaborative action across multiple stakeholders to:

- Activate a network of change makers
- Break out of a siloed data system
- Build incentives to share data and create feedback loops
- Create community access and agency to use to data platforms
- Define data governance principles

For using data in the service of society, it is important to reframe boundaries by involving communities and building trust.
Why start the conversation on Data for Good?
The pandemic has caused the largest global economic contraction in 80 years.

119-124 M new global poor have been induced during 2020 with around 60% living in South Asia.¹
The pandemic has also amplified inequalities further in India, straining our efforts to create equitable growth for the most vulnerable communities. India faces major shortfalls now in 10 of the 17 SDGs, which include — zero hunger, good health and gender inequality.
Data has often been called the **new oil**. In the last decade, data has fostered the advancement of backbone sectors like **Telecom** and **Banking** in India.

- India is the second-largest telecom market, with a tele-density of ~86%. The sector has boomed due to data use.

- By observing data on their own capacities – predictive analysis has enabled optimization of telecom networks.

- Real-time data has enhanced customer experience by improving understanding of the behaviours and service delivery.

- India’s banking sector has grown due to data and digital shifts, with account penetration rising from 54% in 2014 to 80% in 2018.

- Banks have been able to effectively use data services towards better credit management and risk mitigation.

- Furthermore, the sector has been able retain customers and offer improved services with the help of KYC and Aadhar integration.
What stands in the way of enabling Data for Good for the most vulnerable in India?
Worryingly, India’s most vulnerable are still largely missing from the picture of a data-oriented growth trajectory.

- 700M+ internet users (50% of the population)
- ~1B+ mobile users; 70% mobile internet users
- Close to 400M social media users
- Over 1.25B Aadhar card holders
1. The divide between rich/poor and rural/urban is wide, limiting access

- 7% poorest rural households use the internet vs. 27% richest rural
- 20% poorest urban households use the internet vs. 62% richest urban

2. India’s gender gap is pronounced in the use of data and technology

- 48% males between ages 15-29 can use the internet vs. 32% females
- 64% females are literate in India compared with 80% males

3. Vulnerable groups face barriers to data due to inadequate literacy

Scheduled Tribes and Scheduled Castes achieved 59% & 66% literacy vs. 72% literacy nationally

Drop-out rates among tribal adolescents, especially girls, is higher
In the landscape report, we looked at 10+ promising models to map best practices and breakpoints impeding the empowerment of vulnerable communities through data.
An analysis of these promising models highlighted 4 Critical Breakpoints that are barriers to enabling Data for Good.

1. LACK OF UNIVERSALLY ACKNOWLEDGED ACTIONABLE METRICS

2. VULNERABLE COMMUNITIES ARE NOT TRULY EMPOWERED

3. INSUFFICIENT FEEDBACK LOOPS ENRICHING COMMONS

4. SILOED AND INACCESSIBLE SUPPLY

Vulnerable individuals are most often left out of the conversation – whether it is data access and awareness or participation in creating localized solutions.

While data exists, it is siloed and meant to serve singular purposes (usually those of the data owner) with few incentives to be shared widely.
As we decode what addressing these breakpoints implies for India’s most vulnerable, we see a powerful **Virtuous Cycle of Data for Good** emerging.

1. **I HAVE** the right data and metrics to demand tangible impact for me.

2. **I CAN** create local innovations that use this data for community impact.

3. **I WISH** my feedback informs policy and budgets which affect my community.

4. **I CLAIM** my right to access more data to take greater actions.
Let us step beyond our screens and visit Koraput and Dhenkanal
Meet Ramli, a 38-year-old dedicated Anganwadi Sevika working on the frontline. See how these breakpoints affect her!

She is responsible for the functioning of the Integrated Child Development Scheme in her village, aimed at providing basic education and health and nutrition services, with a focus on early childhood development.

For two weeks, the technician couldn’t collect data from the Panchayat office. Ramli was not able to use the data portal herself to raise demand for the ration required. There was no grievance portal to help her at the district level. Ramli managed to make ends meet with the help of other villagers for a week. But after that, resources fell too short. The children were not fed for 15 days, adolescent girls and pregnant mothers missed getting Iron & Folic supplements for 10 days at the Anganwadi Centre.

It does not take much for things come to a standstill in Koraput

- For two weeks, the technician couldn’t collect data from the Panchayat office.
- Ramli was not able to use the data portal herself to raise demand for the ration required.
- There was no grievance portal to help her at the district level.
- Ramli managed to make ends meet with the help of other villagers for a week. But after that, resources fell too short.
- The children were not fed for 15 days, adolescent girls and pregnant mothers missed getting Iron & Folic supplements for 10 days at the Anganwadi Centre.

Data breakpoints that affect Ramli’s work every day

- Siloed and inaccessible supply
- Insufficient feedback loops enriching commons
- Vulnerable communities are not truly empowered
Meet Ashok Rout from Kathagada, Parbatia Sahi Slum, Dhenkanal City, Odisha

Ashok is not just another citizen; he is the Secretary of Parbatia sahi Slum Dweller Association (SDA) that represents the citizens in the slum.

SDAs are an innovation of the Jaga Mission, a flagship program of the Government of Odisha transforming slums into livable habitats.

The Jaga Mission

The Jaga Mission is internationally acclaimed for giving land rights to slum dwellers, and Phase 2 of the Jaga Mission is focused on the economic and political empowerment of slum dwellers as much as it is about providing housing & infrastructure.

What exactly does Ashok do as the Secretary of SDA?

- Convene regular meetings of SDAs, discuss issues of importance, pass resolutions and discuss them with the urban local body
- Assist in Needs Assessments of the slum (i.e. toilets, in-house electricity, street lights, etc.)
- Receive funds in the SDA bank account for local work and undertake work in their own slum and provide livelihood
- Monitor infrastructure work and pay bills as needed
- When work is completed, convene SDA to determine if slum upgradation is complete
- Be part of the process that changes the slum into Adarsh Colony and SDA into Resident Welfare Association
When things work: Virtuous Cycle of Data for Good for Ashok

1. I HAVE
Ashok knows exactly what funds are available as part of the slum infrastructure upgradation budget.

2. I CAN
He then ensures that his slum gets all 6 development verticals delivered by the government as promised.

3. I WISH
As the SDA Secretary, he escalates issues to the Ward Officer and ULB if projects are not implemented as designed.

4. I CLAIM
He uses the data to allocate work to slum dwellers and make payments for their work.

Ashok will rely on data to propose a resolution to delist the slum into a colony!
So how can we empower India’s most vulnerable through data?
The D4GX showcase provides insights from our deep dive of 10+ emerging solutions using data to drive positive social change, while promoting accountability and transparency, as well as facilitating information exchange.
As we mapped innovative models against achievements on the Virtuous Cycle, some key trends emerged.

1. **I HAVE**
   - With an ecosystem level gap between data supply and demand, models lack clearly measurable, universally acknowledged service metrics relevant to communities.
   - Communities lack access to feedback loops or touchpoints that enable multi-level data interaction.
   - Percentage: 65% (Red Circle)

2. **I CAN**
   - Many innovative models are driving demand and empowering communities so they CAN access data with initiatives like community scorecards and user-facing apps, but the landscape lacks linkages to create feedback loops and redressal systems.
   - Percentage: 50% (Orange Circle)

3. **I WISH**
   - Most models are focused on aspects of data supply or demand exclusively, and there is a gap around mechanisms for communities to demand new pieces of data to create further demand.
   - Percentage: 35% (Blue Circle)

4. **I CLAIM**
   - Many supply-focused models lack key community linkages to create a ‘viral demand’.
   - Innovative models cannot achieve their full potential because the landscape lacks in enabling systems and administration to build better accountability and community access to data.
   - Percentage: 20% (Green Circle)
How can we address these gaps and identify opportunity areas that will allow us to collectively build strong, sustainable virtuous cycles for data empowerment?

How do we **create platforms** for easy sharing, usage, analysis and managing of data?

**I HAVE**
the right data and metrics to demand tangible impact for me

How do we **build touchpoints** to enable interaction with data across levels?

**I WISH**
my feedback informs policy and budgets which affect my community

How do we **ensure users have agency** to drive data for improving solutions and services?

**I CAN**
create local innovations that use this data for community impact

How do we **strengthen systems** for better supply of data?

**I CLAIM**
my right to access more data to take greater actions

How can we address these gaps and identify opportunity areas that will allow us to collectively build strong, sustainable virtuous cycles for data empowerment?
Data for the Vulnerable in Health
DATA FOR THE VULNERABLE IN HEALTH

Unmet Needs and Barriers to Growth

Relatively high health risk factors in vulnerable populations, leading to greater health expenditures and a life of indignity

Unstructured and siloed data collection practices resulting in *inaccessibility to patient data* and delay in treatment

Inequalities in accessing health information and poor service delivery results in loss of life across preventable diseases

Limited touchpoints with health services and information for those living on the peripheries of society, delaying and denying access to care

I HAVE

Limited focus on research, despite a large number of medical institutes

Lack of trust on public service delivery systems, resulting in reliance on parallel structures, thereby increasing inequalities in access to care

Significant disease burden, with India ranking #1 globally for diabetes and tuberculosis, and a growing incidence of non-communicable diseases

Lack of linkages and structured growth between health research, health systems and policy expertise

I CAN

I WISH

I CLAIM
The Johns Hopkins India Institute (JHI) aims to bring together the Hopkins-India community to develop knowledge and inform practice on critical topics for health and development, in India and the world, through research, education, strengthening policy and practice, and building human and institutional capacity. JHII’s key activities include:

- **Democratizing access to information** - Deepen focus on current areas of research including infectious diseases, maternal and child health, non-communicable diseases, and health systems, while building local leaders and institutions through capacity building and collaboration.

- **Expanding research in areas of health data and technology** including health surveillance and analytics, and healthcare management.

- **Partnering with Indian institutions to tap into adjacent opportunities** beyond healthcare – like health entrepreneurship, education, policy research and interdisciplinary science and practice.

www.giving.jhu.edu/ways-to-give/international-giving/johns-hopkins-india-institute
KHPT’s interventions have been a unique combination of evidence from extensive health sector knowledge, grassroots community connects, and government engagement to inform decisions. KHPT works across different themes in health to build and empower healthy communities by:

- **Enabling policy decisions** - bridging information gap between government and the citizens via data collection, research and demonstration for designing targeted interventions.

- **Leveraging data for risk management** - improving quality of care and complication management via prediction and tracking of high-risk cases across maternal and child health (MNCH), tuberculosis and HIV.

- **Leveraging grassroot community connects** - establishing a scientific process for robust assessment of critical gaps in health service delivery to drive community ownership and promote health seeking behavior.

www.khpt.org
Uplift Mutuals' Biradaree Model offers mutual insurance as a platform, for different communities to share their health risks. It invites communities, and groups of families to join mutual health risk sharing seamlessly, without having to invest upfront in the setting up and the management of mutual health microinsurance. Their core focus is to deliver on three aspects of the health system:

- **Design preventive health strategies** and develop health protection solutions by leveraging primary care data

- **Feedback data to communities** about the top diseases faced and how they can be managed collectively

- **24X7 helpline** staffed by medical doctors to guide low-income families about where can they get good quality care at rational prices

Currently, Uplift Mutuals is in the process of developing a health record system that will be available as supplementary information via their mutual health insurance app.

www.upliftmutuals.org
Upcoming Innovations: **Society for Nutrition, Education & Health Action (SNEHA), Foundation for Maternal and Child Health (FMCH)**

SNEHA builds replicable, evidence-based solutions with communities, governments and public health systems to improve health outcomes of vulnerable urban women and children. They leverage the TeamCare mobile app through health workers to plan field visits and report high risk cases to supervisors, with a complementary web app that helps the central team to manage on-ground operations in real-time.

[www.snehamumbai.org](http://www.snehamumbai.org)

FMCH works to improve the lives of mothers and children in local communities by providing programs focused on health, nutrition, education, and sustainable skills training. They have developed the NuTree App to aid field officers track beneficiary data and offer accurate medical support, while offering real time feedback to monitor progress and identify vulnerabilities.

[www.fmch-india.org](http://www.fmch-india.org)

The data innovations by these organizations will be further studied through the next edition of the D4GX report.
Questions for Reflection and Actions

1. I HAVE

2. I CAN

3. I WISH

4. I CLAIM

Can common health-research dissemination platforms democratize access to healthcare expertise and reduce the inequity in accessing affordable services, especially for preventable diseases?

Can community health centers serve as real-time convergence points for health assessments, data collection, health research and policy decisions?
DATA FOR THE VULNERABLE IN HEALTH

Critical Next Steps for the Sector

1. Communities should lead the work on the ground. They should be involved from the very first step of the process, such as design, mapping and data collection.

2. There is an increasing need in the sector to look at predictive models for prevention. On the ground, there is already a great openness to adopt and use technology. We have a powerful opportunity to use data across the work of frontline workers.

3. To drive solutions through data, it is important for individual beneficiaries to collect data for themselves as users and reduce dependence on public systems. The community and individual beneficiaries need to be involved in co-opting data to drive local solutions.

4. It is critical to leverage better support and trust from the government by building interaction between them and vulnerable communities. Data must be backed by good governance. Only this will allay the fear of sharing data amongst marginalized communities.

5. Stakeholders can ensure that products are truly community-centric from the very beginning. This can be enabled by using data as an incentive, not a penalty, and creating a common language around data taxonomies.
Data for the Vulnerable in Urban Areas
DATA FOR THE VULNERABLE IN URBAN AREAS

Unmet Needs and Barriers to Growth

**I HAVE**
- No ease of living or doing business, owing to arduous administrative systems
- Lack of public data platforms that comprehensively represent existing government in an easily consumable and usable format
- Inequitable distribution of public resources and services, leading to poor urban spaces
- Feedback loops from citizens are currently not included in the system, risking solutions to be one-sided or siloed

**I CAN**
- Lack of sustainable and equitable access to civic facilities
- Large digital divide between citizens and city administrative systems – very few formal systems of sourcing data from citizens, the ultimate beneficiaries of public services

**I WISH**
- Lack of publicly available data and accountability mechanisms at the Municipal level
- Unmet need of long-term investments from city and state administrations aimed at improving the quality of data and making it available in a consumable way for citizens

**I CLAIM**
Innovation in Focus: Center for Water and Sanitation (CWAS)

The Center for Water and Sanitation was established in 2009 as a pioneering project for the Performance Assessment of Water and Sanitation service delivery (PAS), to create and track common metrics for this system, allowing ULBs to benchmark their performance across different geographic regions.

CWAS is enabling data empowerment in cities by:

- Supporting cities to become open defecation free
- Demonstrating sustainable and equitable sanitation solutions in small and medium cities
- Exploring innovative financing for investments in urban sanitation
- Building capacities of government officials and other stakeholders in sanitation planning and monitoring
- Developing and implementing a Performance Assessment System for urban water and sanitation

www.crdf.org.in/center/center-for-water-and-sanitation
Bridging the digital divide between citizens and administrative services

Creating feedback loops between the vulnerable and their civic representatives

Janaagraha’s mission is to transform the quality of life in India’s cities and towns by working with citizens to catalyse active citizenship in city neighbourhoods and within governments to institute reforms to city governance.

- **Open Works**, one of Janaagraha’s flagship programs, aims at being a real-time platform for opening-up data on the operations and finance of a city by creating open data access, budget briefs, a live MIS platform and Ward Quality Score.

- Complementing this, **MyCityMyBudget** is a unique participatory budget tool for urban centers that allows citizens to play a crucial role in shaping city budgets.

- Additionally, Janaagraha is creating a **4th tier governance model in Odisha (Adarsh Colony)** where slum dwellers can participate in local decision making and monitoring.

www.janaagraha.org
eGovernments Foundation aims to enable urban transformation through multiple initiatives across the demand and supply spectrum of the data empowerment framework.

- **DIGIT is a publicly available digital good that facilitates citizen-centric governance.** It is a set of Open APIs, services, and reference implementations, setup as a public good, to allow government entities, businesses, start-ups, and civil society to use a unique digital infrastructure and build solutions for urban India at a large scale.

- **Municipal services are transformed** by connecting governments, citizens and entrepreneurs to create empowering solutions. The Foundation provides a set of open standards, specifications and documentation to create a level playing field and enable ecosystem players to innovate on the digital stack.

- Through these, **Samaaj** (society), **Sarkar** (government), and **Bazaar** (markets) are catalyzed to identify enabling policies, deploy local solutions, and build capacities.

www.egov.org.in
DATA FOR THE VULNERABLE IN URBAN AREAS

Questions for Reflection and Actions

1. I HAVE

2. I CAN

3. I WISH

4. I CLAIM

Can platforms aimed at improving public systems also enable citizen feedback and showcase successful models which improve services for the most vulnerable, thereby creating proof of concept for uptake at scale?

Can digital and physical platforms enable community interface with elected representatives, fostering a deeper sense of community ownership through demand-led solutions?

Can civil society enable linkages between public financial data, service level information, and deliver comprehensive information to citizens? CWAS and Janaagraha recently signed an MoU to foster such linkages for 1,900 ULBs with PAS through the cityfinance.in platform by MoHUA.
## Critical Next Steps for the Sector

1. Data should be used as a means to a goal. Therefore, it is critical to empower local communities with data by using participatory design, necessary feedback loops and using the local language.

2. Instead of force-fitting solutions that work in one context, we need to use dynamic ‘playbooks’ that help create customized and local solutions. One way of addressing data-related challenges can be by solving for democracy at the grassroots level. Solutions aren’t that linear!

3. The power for taking local decisions should be based at at the city level. The local here doesn’t have to be restricted to wards or municipalities only. Data should be made available across cities in a time sensitive way.

4. Given the quantum of the problem at hand, it is important to prioritize. We need to combine hyperlocal spatial data and platforms of citizen participation. These two processes are in isolation right now.

5. By ensuring that data actually comes from the citizens, the exercise of data collection will itself reveal inherent problems to the political class.
Data for the Vulnerable in Learning to Livelihood
DATA FOR THE VULNERABLE IN LEARNING TO LIVELIHOOD

Unmet Needs and Barriers to Growth

130 million students dropped out of a formal education system due to lack of a career aspiration, guidance and development plans.

- **I HAVE**
  - Lack of authentic and accurate data on career aspirations results in siloed opportunities and de-linked education curriculum.

- **I CAN**
  - Deficiency of employability skills in youth results in the continuation of the cycle of poverty.
  - Lack of participatory design in skilling and employment-related courses often creates a distance between the student and the education, manifested as poor learning outcomes.

- **I WISH**
  - Entrepreneurs lack direct access to markets or open platforms to create efficiencies in supply value chains; financial services do not always address the need for flexible working capital.
  - Students and youth do not have easy access to industry trends and career support, thereby lacking aspirations and clear growth trajectories.

- **I CLAIM**
  - Educational institutions lack awareness, skills, technology and resources to prepare youth for future employment.
  - Few linkages between policymakers and employers, thereby impacting agency and development of the youth.
Antarang is working towards setting up a career exploration and development platform that proposes to bring together youth ability and aspirations, skilling availability and industry demand together in a consumable format, that enables youth and employers make informed career/recruitment decisions. The key tenets of this platform are:

- Creating an accurate data bank about youth aspirations and skills with the ultimate aim of influencing relevant employment creation
- Ensuring data integrity by safeguarding individual data and using it only in an anonymised form for research and advocacy
- Open-source Career Ready App - which provides core employability skills to youth and further links them to Education, Employment or Training (EET) opportunities in accordance with their interest

https://antarangfoundation.org/
**Quest Alliance** aims to transform learning ecosystems through education technology, capacity building, and collaboration between educators, civil society and government. The organization builds 21st century skills for learners and facilitators, and helps youth create purpose for themselves.

- **Open-source online platform for development** - a medium for youth to effectively develop core employability skills, create career pathways and access employment opportunities.
- **Built repository of data** - that can be used to track, report and enable decisions making across impact chain.
- **Designing online tools and strategies** - to enable and empower educators and students with 21st century skills.
FES has initiated the India Observatory (IO) program that brings together 1800+ disparate government and open datasets, crowd-sourced data to create locally relevant decision support tools on Natural Resource Management (NRM), commons (pastures & forests), and entitlements. This program protects community livelihoods by:

- Supporting communities to take **decisions on managing their natural resources**
- **Channel public investment** (e.g. Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme, MGNREGS) into locally suited water recharge structures
- Use **digital technology and databases** to **identify eligible beneficiaries automatically** and work with administration to deliver the entitlements pro-actively
- To **ensure data accuracy**, teams closely work with communities to vet data through ground truthing

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**Innovation in Focus: Foundation for Ecological Society**

**Data Breakpoints Addressed**

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<th>INSUFFICIENT FEEDBACK LOOPS</th>
<th>ENRICHING COMMONS</th>
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<td>VULNERABLE COMMUNITIES ARE NOT TRULY EMPOWERED</td>
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www.fes.org.in
Questions for Reflection and Actions

1. Can research by industry and corporate employers drive the vision for an empowered workforce that thrives with dignity and purpose?

2. Can civil society help in defining key performance indicators within the education system, which are mandated by regulatory action for reporting and review?

3. How can reliable and dynamic data be made accessible to all stakeholders including youth, employers and school systems, for the school-to-work transition?

4. Can localized data on education metrics be pushed via public mediums to drive municipal and district-level accountability?
**DATA FOR THE VULNERABLE IN LEARNING TO LIVELIHOOD**

**Critical Next Steps for the Sector**

Given the dynamic and evolving needs of vulnerable adolescents and youth, we need to keep them at the center, engaging them from the beginning and asking them what they need. It is important to simplify data narratives and create hope and aspiration in their minds.

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<tr>
<td><strong>1</strong></td>
<td>Ensuring relevance, accessibility and transparency in data are key drivers. It is important to build accessible dissemination channels and standardize metrics that help see progress.</td>
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<td><strong>2</strong></td>
<td>Building trust by ensuring safety and consent is an important prerequisite. Also, instead of being at the forefront – stakeholders need to realize that communities can take ownership only after they are reassured about pertinent concerns.</td>
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<td><strong>3</strong></td>
<td>Providing a seamless and collaborative flow of data that helps create interoperability across stakeholder action is necessary. We need to create agile data ecosystems that help deliver actionable solutions.</td>
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<td><strong>4</strong></td>
<td>People in the communities have ideas to transform their localities. We need to supplement their decision making, and use of data and tools. The focus needs to be on the means, rather than the ends.</td>
</tr>
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*Takeaways from Discussions - Launch Webinar, January 2021*
To drive local solutions, communities need to co-opt data, be empowered and remain engaged.

Stakeholders should create an enabling data ecosystem, built on agility, trust and accountability.

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**Closing Notes**

- **Health for All**
  - Focus on predictive models for prevention is key. We have a powerful opportunity to use data, involving frontline workers.
  - Individual beneficiaries should collect data for themselves as users and reduce dependence on public systems.
  - It is critical to build interaction between government and vulnerable communities. Data must be backed by good governance.

- **Urban Transformation**
  - One way of addressing data-related challenges can be by solving for democracy at the grassroots level.
  - The power for taking local decisions should be based at the city level. Data should be made available across cities in a time sensitive way.
  - Hyperlocal spatial data and platforms of citizen participation should be combined.

- **Learning to Livelihoods**
  - Building trust by ensuring safety and consent is an important prerequisite. Communities have ideas to transform their localities.
  - Given the dynamic needs of vulnerable adolescents, data narratives should be simplified, creating hope and aspiration in their minds.
  - Accessible dissemination channels and standardized metrics that help track progress should be enabled.
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