



ODDC1 Follow-up Outcome Evaluation Report: Management Response

This document outlines our key learnings and action points based on the independent [Follow-up Outcome Evaluation Report of the Exploring the Emerging Impacts of Open Data in Developing Countries – Phase 1 \(ODDC1\) project](#), carried out by Diogo Pereira da Silva and Elise Montano and delivered to the World Wide Web Foundation on 10 June 2016.

The Follow-up Outcome Evaluation Report offers valuable and detailed feedback on the ODDC1 project. Two years after the first [evaluation report](#), which focused on the project's process and initial outcomes, this report looks into the medium-term outcomes and initial impacts of the project.

We are proud of the project's success in realizing “significant, continued positive outcomes” by creating “an impressive group of people who have become promoters, advocates, and experts in OD in their own countries”, as the evaluators wrote. We are particularly happy to see that a research project like ODDC1 can result in impacts on open data policy and practice in the researchers' countries where “awareness of key concepts linked to openness have shifted, and where attitudes and policies are already beginning to change”.

The report contains a number of valuable lessons, some specific to ODDC1, some applicable to similar open data research projects. Below we focus on those that we found to be most relevant to our current and future open data research and wider programmatic agenda:

- **Integrated capacity-building:**

Strengthening the capacity of research partners was a key element of the ODDC1 project. From general research skills to open data specific concepts and tools, delivered through workshops, mentoring and webinars, we aimed to increase the relevant knowledge, expertise and skills to help partners produce high-quality research. The evaluation report finds that capacity was strengthened at both the personal and organizational levels, and that partners better understand the nuances of open data and are better placed to undertake open data related work.

Based on the lessons learned from the ODDC1 project, we have continued to pursue an integrated approach to open data capacity-building in which we try to embed suitable approaches, including training, mentoring and coaching, in research and innovation projects. In initiatives like the [Harnessing Open Data for Development Results in Asia and Africa](#) or the various projects of the [Open Data Lab Jakarta](#) we seek to develop customized capacity-building solutions for the partners we work with. Moreover, with the [Open Data Educational Research Institute](#) project, we're supporting partners in Kenya and the Philippines in developing competency frameworks as a way to assess skills in order to build customized trainings.

- **Supporting local agendas and actors:**



The evaluation report finds that ODDC1 project partners have become recognized experts in the open data space either in their home countries or globally. Moreover, ODDC1 helped increase the diversity of voices and opinions in the open data space by strengthening the expertise and visibility of Global South researches and advocates.

This approach is followed by projects across the [Open Data program](#) wherein we seek to enable local stakeholders to set the agenda for open data research and action in order for them to identify and develop solutions based on context-specific knowledge. By convening local experts in events like the regional open data agenda-setting workshops held in [Jakarta](#) and [Addis](#) in 2015 we aim at facilitating a dialogue among those open data stakeholders most knowledgeable of the specific circumstances and conditions in a particular region or country.

- **Influencing policy and practice:**

Originally conceptualized as a research project to [explore the emerging impacts of open data in developing countries](#), the evaluation report shows that researchers can have a significant impact on policy and practice by engaging with civil society groups, government officials and journalists. ODDC1 partners managed to increase the general understanding of and interest in open data; they influenced government policy; and they shaped regional and national open data trends and concepts.

This result confirms our focus on partnering with local organizations with strong relationships and access to decision-makers and thought leaders in government and wider civil society. ODDC1 shows that research can be an effective instrument to influence open data policy and practice for greater open data supply, use and impact. We will continue putting research at the center of our advocacy work for greater access to and use of government data across the globe. Complementing our research work, we have started to explore [experimental approaches](#) that seek to build and test different hypotheses of how we can unfold open data's full potential.

- **Advancing the open data agenda:**

The evaluators identified strong connections between the results of some ODDC1 research projects and current debates in the open data community focused on empowerment and rights. There is a growing awareness among open data advocates of the importance of non-technical factors such as power, politics and socio-economic context in conceptualizing and implementing open data initiatives. ODDC1 through its [methodological framework](#) emphasized the importance of understanding these dimensions to derive at a holistic understanding of open data initiatives. While, according to the evaluators, it is too early to measure the spread of ODDC1 research according to the evaluators, the number of research papers cited has doubled since the first evaluation two years ago, indicating an increased uptake of the ODDC1 research findings.

Building on ODDC1, we have continued to explore and implement open data programs by trying to enable partners to understand, develop and test context-aware



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approaches that take into account the wider ecosystem in which open data initiatives take place. Through platforms and networks like the [Open Data for Development \(OD4D\) group](#), we are committed to share our learnings and engage with partners facing similar challenges in order to advance the global open data agenda by continuously adjusting and adapting our strategies, approaches and tactics.

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