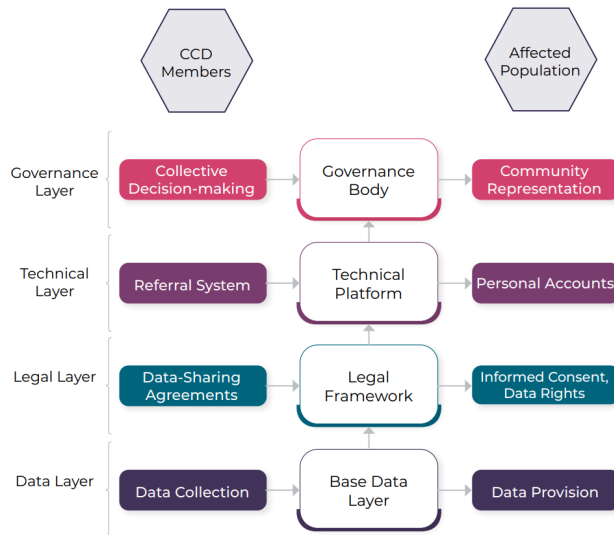


CCD Network / Data Governance Pilot / Key Concepts

In 2023-24 the CCD Network developed pilot projects to address challenges such as referrals and deduplication, while improving data governance. This note explains some key concepts relating to our research and development.

The Stack Model - identifying the gaps



In 2022 and 2023 we carried out a research and design process, holding a series of online design sessions with CCD members.

A critical outcome was the development of the Stack Model (shown to the left) as a framework for understanding how our challenges have multiple layers.

The Stack Model illustrates how we need to work with all four layers - data, legal, technical, and governance - in

order to properly address our challenges.

The Stack Model - defining the layers

The Layers need to be described clearly in relation to the stakeholders, the context, and in particular the specific challenge that the stakeholders are addressing.

Layer	Description
Data	Defines what data is going to be collected, describes in what format it will be shared with others, and other data-related issues.
Legal	Includes any legal arrangements and agreements that will be needed, such as multi-party Data Sharing Agreements.
Technical	Includes the technology (software, and in some cases hardware) that will be needed to be developed and/or adopted by stakeholders.
Governance	Describes the institutional arrangements that are needed to make responsible decisions about how the data will be used.

Data Governance - adding a layer

The humanitarian community often relies too much on the technical layer, and almost completely ignores the governance layer. Data governance involves all of the decision-making structures and processes around data management.

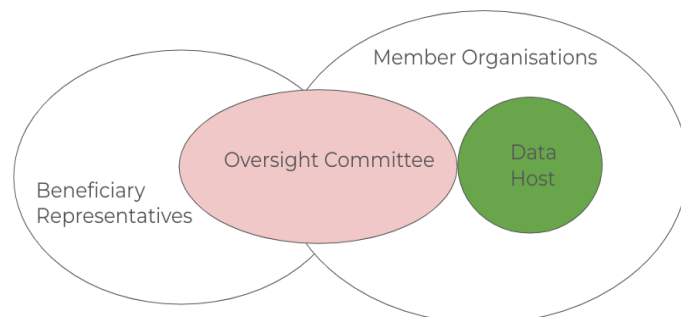
A common mistake is to assume that our data protection policies and processes cover this, but data governance mechanisms are required in order to decide what those policies and practices are, who they apply to, and how they are enforced.

Data Stewardship - proposing a solution

There is no “right” way to develop and maintain good data governance - it depends on the stakeholders, the context, and the challenge. The humanitarian community needs to pilot new forms of data governance that are more coherent with our principles.

We have proposed a new approach to governance - data stewardship. A data steward is an entity that holds data on behalf of the data subjects, mediates requests for that data, and in some cases performs functions on that data (such as deduplication).

The illustration on the right shows a potential data steward form, originally drafted for our pilots. A Data Host is assigned by the Members, who take collective responsibility for that data. Beneficiaries are represented in decision-making, and the Steward tries to give them more control over their data on its platform.



Summary

- The Stack Model provides us with a framework for understanding the different layers of any given challenge that we face - data, legal, technical, governance.
- There is no blueprint for any of the layers - each layer needs to be developed in response to the stakeholders, context and challenge being addressed.
- All four layers need to be addressed at the same time, but the Governance layer is the one that is usually neglected in developing solutions.
- One approach to the governance layer is Data Stewardship, which involves a separate entity mediating between data subjects and service providers.