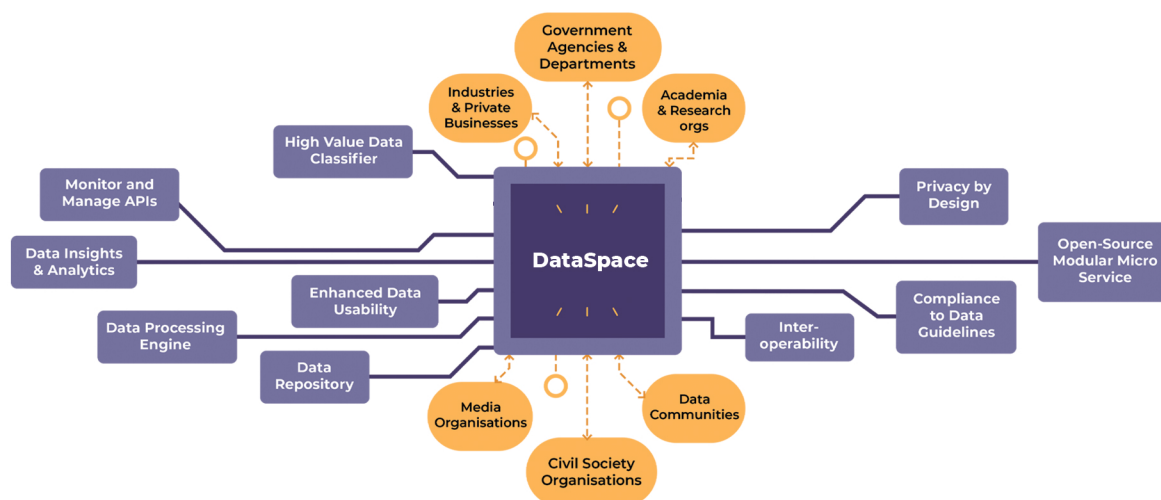# DataSpace

Strengthening data collaboratives to create an inclusive and participatory digital public infrastructure

CivicDataLab is committed to **strengthening the data-for-public-good ecosystem** and has developed various interventions to harness open-source knowledge movements and best practices to enhance digital public infrastructure (DPI) and build resilient digital public goods (DPGs). We want to enhance citizen participation, improve data accessibility and usability with the aim of accelerating evidence-based decision making and policy reform for the attainment of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
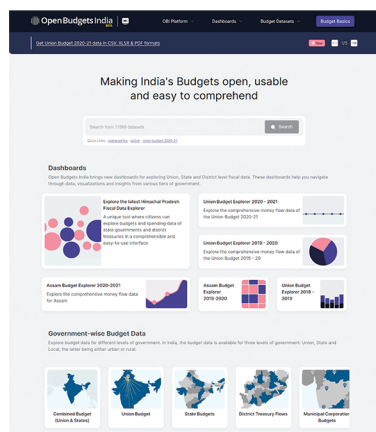

We build open-source sectoral Data Collaboratives and platforms as well as co-create AI Use-cases. Our data-tech interventions have paved the way for more effective, sustainable and innovative solutions.

Data collaboratives emerge when different stakeholders, like private entities, research institutes, government agencies and philanthropic organisations come together to build, reuse and exchange data and expertise to help solve public problems. Here, by '**use-case(s)**' we mean any specific sector or domain data led interventions that can be applied to address some of the most pressing concerns from hyper-local to the global level.
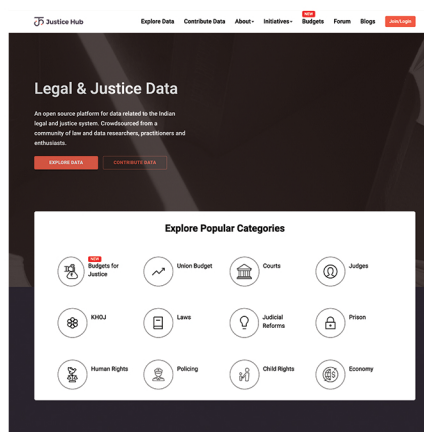
We find there is an urgent need for an inclusive and participatory open-source DataSpace, that goes beyond the concept of just making data accessible but also focuses on strengthening data usability, exchange, reuse and enhance community participation.

Combining datasets and resources that are typically siloed and fragmented within organisations, uncover insights that would be difficult to achieve in isolation. As a result fostering innovation and resilience in data-driven policy reform.
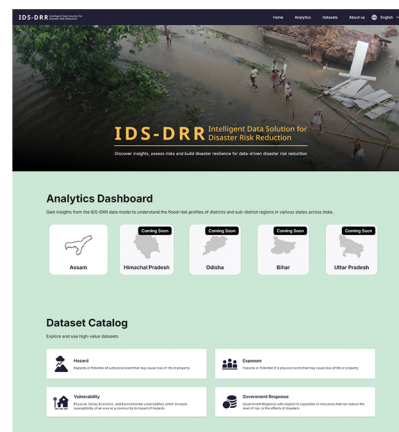
Some examples of CivicDataLab's existing Data-Collaboratives and AI use-cases:

OpenBudgetsIndia

JusticeHub

Intelligent Data Solution for Disaster Risk Reduction (IDS-DRR)

Fragmented and Siloed Data
The absence of cohesive data collaboratives has led to fragmented and isolated datasets hampering the ability to generate holistic insights and create unified, scalable interventions.

Lack of Simple Publishing Systems
Absence of streamlined processes and standards results in data being published in very different formats, standards, applications and systems. This de-incentivises users to share, exchange or publish data

High Costs of Independent Data Platforms
Building and maintaining independent platforms is resource-intensive, making it challenging to sustain these efforts in the long run.

Limited Engagement and Participation Opportunities
causes such platforms to become data dump sites or graveyards reducing accessibility and usability.

Our Solution

A collaborative model is designed to encourage broader engagement by involving a diverse set of stakeholders in decision-making processes.

Data collaboratives provide a cost-effective alternative by pooling resources to create shared data for public good and amplifying collective value. They can ensure long-term operationality, increasing access to and use of DPGs. They facilitate integrated data sharing and analysis, advancing common goals for DPGs and DPI.

They enable shared access, encouraging data custodians to contribute to public data pools and support both public and private stakeholders in fostering inclusive, citizen-centred solutions.

Through inclusive governance structures, data collaboratives could empower citizens, ensuring that DPGs reflect and are responsive to a wider range of community needs and perspectives, fostering greater societal impact.

Our Offerings

Globally recognised data standards for interoperability between datasets

Intuitive and simple data publishing

High-value datasets classifiers

Support **Sectoral Data Collaboratives** with High-Impact Use Cases

Community forum for **better engagement** between stakeholders

Digital Public Goods & Infrastructure @CivicDataLab

We are co-creating people-centric Digital Public Goods and Infrastructure (DPGs and DPI), especially Open Data Platforms, Data Exchanges, Data Science Models, and Citizen-led Apps for improving participatory data-driven governance and attaining the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). We adhere to privacy practices and applicable laws. DPI and DPGs are critical enablers of digital transformation, and evidence-based decision-making and are helping to improve public service delivery at scale.

Let us build strong DataCollaboratives for inclusive and responsible digital infrastructure, which can foster:

Innovation • Enhanced Data Usability • Accelerate SDGs • Enable Data Capacities • Inclusive Decision-Making
Scalability & Sustainability • Social Impact • Collective Ownership • Participatory Policy Reform

About CivicDataLab

We work at the intersection of data, technology, design and social science to strengthen access to public information, evidence-based decision-making and citizen participation in governance. CivicDataLab (CDL) harnesses the potential of open knowledge movements to strengthen the data-for-public-good ecosystem and enable citizens to engage in matters of public reform. We work closely with governments, non-profits, think tanks, media houses and universities to enhance their data and technology capacity to better data-driven decision-making at scale.

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