

2. The CARE principles stress the authority of communities over their own data. In your own experience, who has typically held authority over data? How might shifting that authority impact the outcomes or perceptions of data projects you've been involved in?

Data, in my experience, has often been left in the hands of scientists or institutions where limited follow-up happens, and the community is rarely involved in the process. In my previous role, data was collected and tabulated but rarely used. That form of control limits the value of data and removes it from the very people it is supposed to represent. The CARE principles place great importance on data authority in the hands of the community, and that shifts everything. When data collection, meaning, and sharing are defined by the community itself, data become much more relevant and powerful. This shift would revitalize neglected datasets, foster trust and collaboration, and ensure that data serves inclusive development and improved governance for more equitable outcomes.