**I-GUIDE PRIMER ON FAIR INCLUSION IN GEOSPATIAL RESEARCH**

Fairness is about ensuring that the **benefits and burdens** of research are **equitably distributed**, and especially do not reinforce existing social inequalities, and that **people are meaningfully included** in ways that respect their values and interests. To achieve fairness, the following four dimensions should be considered (in practice, it is almost always impossible to ensure all four dimensions are truly adhered to, but try to adhere to each as much as you can):

1. **FAIR DISTRIBUTION OF BENEFITS:** Nobody should have an unfairly high chance of benefiting from the research based purely on their membership of a particular group (e.g., sex/gender, race, income, disability status, sexual orientation, geographic location)

* Research should **not disproportionately benefit only powerful or well-resourced groups;**
* Ensure that **people and communities who contribute** to the research have a chance to **benefit from the research;**
* **Share findings in accessible formats.**

1. **FAIR DISTRIBUTION OF HARMS:** Nobody should have an unfairly high chance of being harmed by the research based purely on their membership of a particular group

* Consider whether some groups are being unfairly burdened, e.g., through surveillance; stigmatization; or misuse of spatial data, such as land use patterns, that invite exploitation;
* Engage communities in conversations about potential risk.

1. **FAIRNESS TO THIRD PARTIES:** People who are not direct participants should not have an unfairly high chance of benefiting from or being harmed by the research based on their membership of a particular group

* Geospatial data often includes **locations, communities, or ecosystems** that involve people **who didn’t consent to participate**, yet are affected. Particularly sensitive data can relate to **land rights, migration, or community boundaries;**
* Consider long-term downstream effects of public data release or model deployment.

1. **FAIR INCLUSION:** All groups of people who might be affected by research outcomes should be well-represented in the study population

* Make extra efforts to recruit research participants from hard-to-reach populations;
* Translate materials or use culturally appropriate methods where needed.

**These four dimensions are adapted from:**

MacKay, D., & Saylor, K. W. (2020). Four faces of fair subject selection. *The American Journal of Bioethics*, *20*(2), 5-19.

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