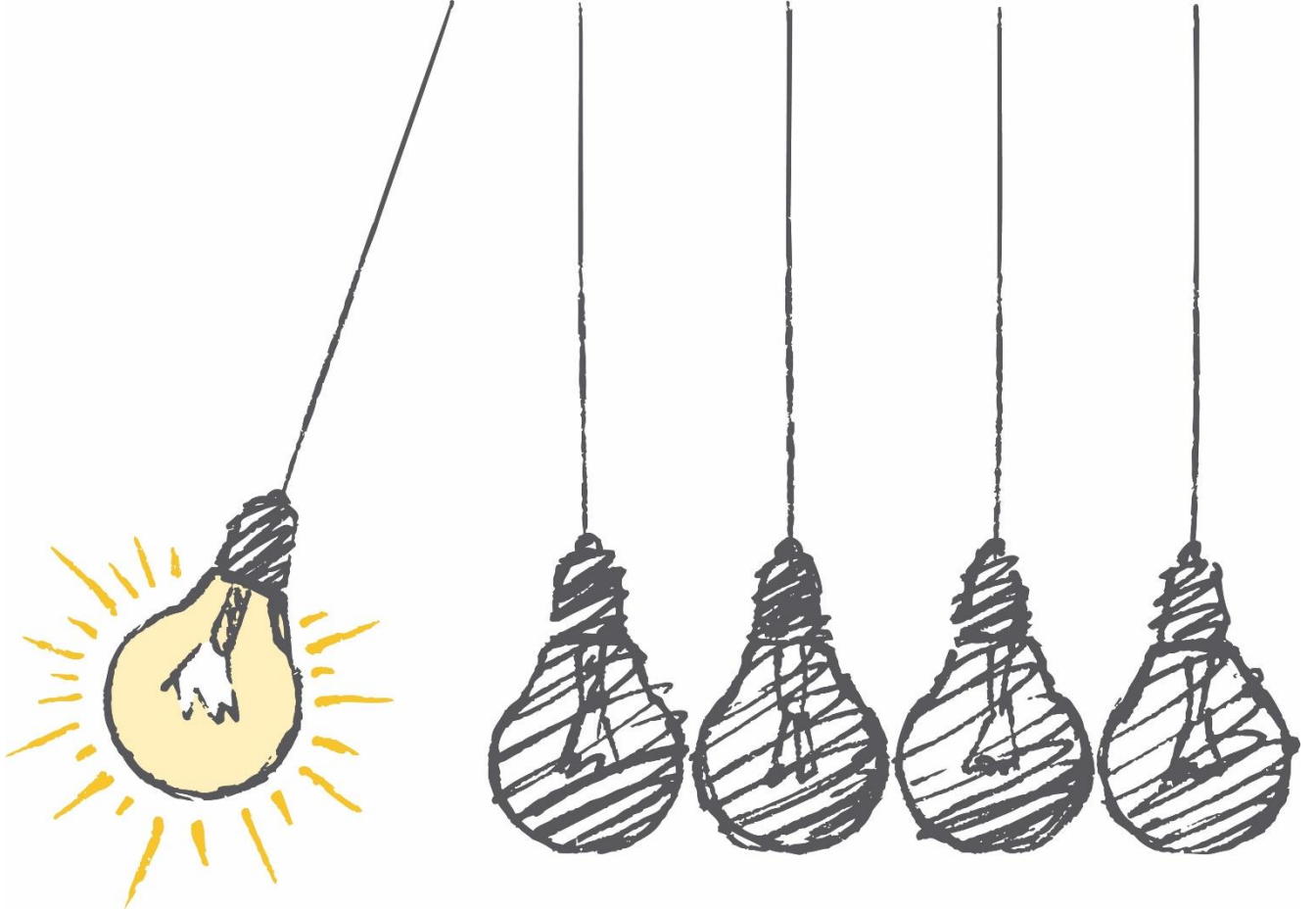
DIME analytics



Research Ethics in Practice:

What RAs need to know and do

WORLD BANK GROUP

UKaid from the British people

Norad

DIME Research Standards

Pillar 1 - Research Ethics

- Researchers must secure ethics approval from an institutional review board (IRB) and the appropriate authority in the study location, for studies directly involving human subjects or using personally-identifying information
- All research team members that handle personally-identifiable information must have up-to-date Human Subjects Research Certification.
- Researchers must ensure confidentiality, privacy, and anonymity of study participants; study participants must have the opportunity to provide informed consent, and revoke that consent at any time.

Ethics Approval

DIME Standard

Researchers must identify and secure ethics approval, from an institutional review board (IRB) and the appropriate local authority, for studies directly involving **human subjects** or the use of **personally-identifying information**.

What is a human subject?

A **human subject** is “a living individual about whom an. investigator conducting **research** obtains (1) data through intervention or interaction with the. individual, or (2) identifiable private information.”

What is an IRB?

Institutional Review Boards review and monitor human subjects research, to protect the rights and welfare of human subject research participants

The Federal (US) Policy for the Protection of Human Subjects ("Common Rule") outlines criteria for IRB review and establishes minimum ethical principles

Most academic IRBs follow the Common Rule, regardless of research funding

Institutional Review Boards

What IRB to use?

- The World Bank does not have an IRB. DIME projects should:
  - Seek IRB approval from partner institution if any
    - e.g. university of external PI, IPA
  - Seek IRB approval from certified independent IRB otherwise
    - e.g. Western IRB

What happens if IRB isn't followed?

- IRBs have the power to retroactively deny the right to use data which was not acquired in accordance with an approved protocol

When to seek IRB approval

At the beginning of a study

Initial Protocol Review

- After survey instruments finalized, but before any interventions are fielded or data collected.

Prior to any changes

Amendment Review

- Any changes to study design, informed consent procedure, survey instruments, or research team membership

Every year of the study

Continuing Review

- Report on progress annually, even if no change to protocols

Local ethics approval

Local institutions will ensure that your study is compliant with the laws of the country where the data originate

The requirements are different for each context (by country, district, etc.)

DIME Analytics is working on building a dashboard compiling local ethics approval required by country

RA Role

SUPPORT PREPARATION OF IRB APPLICATIONS, AMENDMENTS AND RENEWALS, AND IN-COUNTRY ETHICAL APPROVALS

ENSURE THE IDENTITY OF INDIVIDUALS IS PROTECTED BY CAREFUL DE-IDENTIFICATION PRIOR TO PUBLICATION

SAFEGUARD PERSONALLY IDENTIFIABLE DATA BY USING SAFE SOLUTIONS FOR STORAGE AND SHARING, AND LIMITING ACCESS TO PEOPLE ON IRB

Human Subjects Research Certification

DIME Standard

All research team members that handle personally identifiable information must have up to date Human Subjects Research Certification.

- DIME-affiliated research team members may obtain the certification through DIME's PHRP subscription.
- Certificates for all team members must be shared through this link for record-keeping.

RA Role

COMPLETE THE HUMAN SUBJECTS RESEARCH TRAINING (EXPIRES EVERY 3 YEARS)

FOLLOW-UP WITH RESEARCH TEAM MEMBERS THAT NEED TO RENEW THEIR CERTIFICATION

ENSURE THAT CURRENT CERTIFICATES ARE FILED FOR ALL MEMBERS OF THE RESEARCH TEAM

Informed Consent

Informed consent

Most IRBs require that the entire written consent is shared with the participants and their signature is taken on another copy retained by the research team

If the written consent is too long to read out, recommend reading the oral consent to respondents and giving them a printed copy of the written consent

IRBs often have their own informed consent templates

DIME has new templates for oral and written consent *(feedback welcome)*

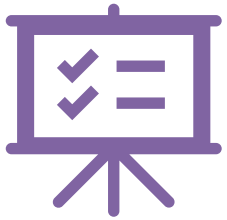
Contents of informed consent

Purpose	Study procedures	Participation and withdrawal	Risks and benefits	Privacy and confidentiality	Identification of investigators
The purpose of the research in lay language	What their participation entails	Confirmation that participation is voluntary	Any foreseeable benefits, risks or discomfort	How identity will be protected	Include local contact person for questions / concerns
Why they were selected to participate	e.g. duration of interview	Consent can be revoked at any time	Payment for participation, if applicable	What information will be disclosed and to whom	

RA Role

IF NOT YET EXISTING, DRAFT INFORMED CONSENT FOR YOUR PROJECT, USING THE TEMPLATES AND RESOURCES PROVIDED

MAKE SURE INFORMED CONSENT IS INCLUDED IN ALL SURVEY INSTRUMENTS



PROGRAM SURVEYS SUCH THAT PARTICIPATION DEPENDS ON INFORMED CONSENT

resources

IRB

- DIME Wiki article on IRB page
- MIT COUHES
- IPA IRB

Informed Consent

- DIME Wiki article on Informed Consent
- IPA checklist
- UC Berkeley checklist
- MIT template

Thank you!

Questions?