

DATA PROTECTION ESSENTIAL PRINCIPLES

Roles in Data protection

Actors in data processing

1 Natural person or Data subject

Technical term for the person to whom particular data relate.

A **natural person** (i.e. an **individual**) whose **personal data is being processed**, who can be **identified, directly ou indirectly**, by reference to that data.

E.g. Traditionally program beneficiaries and employees.

2 Data controller

Refers to the person or organization that, alone or jointly with others, determines the **purposes and means of processing personal data** (ICRC).

A data controller decides how and why to collect and use data.



Actors in data processing

3 Data processor

Refers to the person or organization that **processes personal data on behalf of the data controller** (CICR).

A **data processor** is a separate person or organization (not an employee) who **processes data on behalf of the controller and in accordance with its instructions**.

Data processors have some direct legal obligations, but these are more limited than those of the controller.

A person or organization that **processes and adds value** to raw data, for example by cleaning it, loading it into a searchable database or combining it with data from other sources (OCHA).

E.g. CartONG is the data processor for operational NGOs partners for which it handles data.

Actors in data processing

4 Joint Data controller

If 2 or more data controllers jointly determine the purposes and means of processing the same personal data, they are joint data controllers.

However, they are not joint data controllers if they process the same data for different purposes.

NB: This situation may exist in consortium programmes. Or more simply between an INGO and its local partner.



5 Third-party data processor

A person or organisation contracted in their own name by a subcontractor to process data for a partner.

E.g. The contracting of consultants by CartONG to work on a project.

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