Getting to Good Human Trafficking Data: Assessing the Landscape in Southeast Asia and Promising Practices from ASEAN Governments and Civil Society

(Jessie Brunner, WSD Handa Center for Human Rights and International Justice, Stanford University, 2018)

This resource comprises a set of practical guidelines and recommendations for organisations seeking to collect and manage human trafficking data responsibly.

Extensive and accessible guidance is provided for frontline practitioners, created with their input as well as inputs from government, civil society, and experts on human trafficking data collection and management.

It highlights that **data collection and storage have legal implications**, and the obligations of an organisation may vary between what 'must' be adhered to given the legal jurisdiction context and what 'should' be adhered to even when not legally required.

The resource is split into **nine key sections with visuals and information boxes** to support navigation and comprehension.

1. **Seven Principles of a Data-Driven Movement** (page 9) details considerations for developing data collection procedures; data storage, and analysis:
   a. **Human trafficking data can mean many things:** Briefly summarizes the types of data that exist in this sector
   b. **Not all data are created equal**: Describes how different datasets can be valuable and how to decide what data might be useful
   c. **You are a central character in your organisation's data story:** Highlights how working in data collection work is highly valuable
   d. **Be a critical creator and consumer of data:** Explains additional ways to gather and assess data sources
   e. **Data should be seen as an asset, not a burden:** Provides advice on why taking time to collect and assess data can help avoid causing harm
   f. **Digital data bring meaningful opportunities, but also challenges:** Provides guidance on how to navigate some of the security concerns around data collection
   g. **Collaboration is key, but it requires trust and care**: Emphasises how key information sharing is to the success of anti-trafficking activity
2. **Data Ethics (**page 26) provides a checklist of considerations to ensure that data collection will not cause undue harm.

3. '**Data Systems'** (page 29) provides guidance on how to set up and protect an organisation data system.
4. **Database** (page 49) provides guidance on what functions a database may need to perform and how to ensure it is functional for your team to use in a fast-paced environment.
5. **Data Storage** (page 55) provides support both on creating a management plan which can be maintained as a reference sheet for users and how to decide which systems will best fit available technology.
6. **Data Security** (page 61) provides invaluable information on how to judge whether your organisation can reasonably guarantee security and how to explore options if a critical level of protection cannot be achieved before sensitive data is collected.
7. **Data Sharing** (page 73) provides guidance on how to create a data sharing plan, draft agreements, protect identities and sensitive information,
8. **Data Analysis and Interpretation** (page 79) provides introduction summary on the scientific method, understanding statistics, assessing the influence of your bias, as well as reflecting the data accurately. It also references additional supporting resources.
9. **Data Presentation and Visualisation** (page 89) provides guidance for after the data is collected, and you are working to critically interpret and accurately reflect the true nature of the data. This includes support on engaging with survivors, presenting data accessibly, reflecting findings accurately, and creating an outreach strategy.

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