Opening the Appetite: Data Skills for Global Development Training Programme

COURSE SYLLABUS

The course syllabus was informed by expert interviews with development professionals about data skills needs in the sector. A full analysis of the interviews has been published in Open Access format in the Journal of International Development: Bringing about the data revolution in development: What data skills do aspiring development professionals need?

One of the interviewees suggested we need to ‘Open the Appetite’ of future professionals to the possibilities of data for global development – mastering some basics and developing confidence to deepen and expand their skills in the future as what’s possible to achieve with data evolves. ‘Opening the Appetite’ became the theme for the course – with each of the five modules relating to a stage in preparing a meal. The modules and the key questions they address are:

MODULE 1: Opening the Appetite
- How are data & data skills useful for global development?
- What’s the reality of using data in global development?
- What are the career possibilities of using data in global development?
- What is a data strategy?

MODULE 2: Assembling the Ingredients
- What is data and what are the most frequent types of data social researchers use?
- How can we obtain data?
- How to assess and ensure data quality?
- How can we be ethical in our use of data?

MODULE 3: Preparing the Meal
- What is data visualisation and why it is important?
- How can we describe and analyse tabular data?
- How can we describe and analyse continuous data: graphical and numerical approaches?

Module 4: Digesting the Meal
- What can data tell us about the real world (…and what it cannot tell us)?
- How can we communicate data messages to non-experts & support the use of data for decision-making?

Module 5: Still Hungry?
- Where to go to further develop data skills & keep up to date?
- What opportunities are there to put new skills to good use?