Inclusive Data Charter Action Plan

Introduction

For many countries throughout the world, homeless data is based on rough estimates, outdated census data, or rudimentary counts from major cities. The Institute of Global Homelessness (IGH) is a global advocate for more accurate and representative homeless data. We have worked with member states at the United Nations and cities across the world to improve enumeration methodology. IGH's work with the Inclusive Data Charter (IDC) will expand on this work by including the call for disaggregated data in our advocacy efforts, capacity building with leaders, and dissemination of global homeless data.

About the Institute of Global Homelessness

Founded in 2014 as a joint initiative of DePaul University and Depaul International, IGH is the only organization leading a global movement to end homelessness. IGH envisions a world in which all our neighbors have a home that offers them security, safety, autonomy and opportunity.

To achieve this vision, IGH bridges the gaps between research, policy, and practice. In short, we find what works across contexts and use our robust international network to apply and scale success – all in service towards our primary goal of preventing, reducing, and eventually ending homelessness for individuals and communities all around the world. Driving our work are our core values of urgency, collaboration and partnership, continual learning, and centering people who have lived the experience of homelessness.

Alignment of Current Work with Inclusive Data Charter

Homelessness is noticeably absent from the SDGs, meaning that some of the most vulnerable people will, in fact, be left behind. Our work to raise awareness and knowledge of homelessness through definition and measurement in global cities and at the United Nations (UN) aligns perfectly with the principles of IDC. IGH promotes a shared definition of global homelessness, urges measurement, connects international campaigns, and fosters joint advocacy action. Our global framework for defining and measuring homelessness has been adapted and incorporated into several UN reports, including the policy recommendations of the May 2019 Expert Group Meeting on "Affordable housing and social protection systems for all to address homelessness," the November 2019 Secretary General's report on homelessness, and the 58th session of the UN Commission for Social Development on "Affordable housing and social protection systems for all to address homelessness" in February 2020.

Through our cornerstone A Place to Call Home initiative, IGH staff and partners work in deep collaboration with a cohort of cities to reduce street homelessness. Each Vanguard City conducted baseline counts and has made a commitment to significantly reduce or end street homelessness in reflection of their local context. IGH staff further supports strategy implementation and tracks progress towards each city's goal. A Place to Call Home initiative is designed to support and highlight local expertise and innovation while reaping the benefits of both community and global exchange. Our first cohort of cities concludes in December 2020, and we will launch our second cohort of cities in the latter part of 2021. Through IGH's work in cities, we work to ensure that data is inclusive and representative of the homeless population so that services can be more effective and impactful.

IGH is dedicated to improving the capacity of the homeless sector including on data collection methodology and evidenced-based decision making. Through conferences and leadership programs, we identify, equip, and connect a network of diverse leaders working on the issue of homelessness. These leaders represent a range of sectors including government, academia, non-profit, and business communities. Additionally, we curate an online resource ighhub.org offering best-in-class ideas, research, and practices from around the world.

Overview of Action Plan

In joining with the Inclusive Data Charter, IGH will expand on its work in the measurement and definition of homelessness. IGH will engage with global leaders to increase the availability of comprehensive, timely, and disaggregated homeless data. We will work closely with global leaders to use homeless data to develop strategies and improve programs. IGH also will report on disaggregated data through our Global Homeless Data Map and share reports from member states and partners. IGH aims to expand its work in alignment with IDC principles with respective actions under three objectives:

Objective 1: Through partnerships and advocacy, expand the number of cities and communities defining and measuring homelessness.

Actions	IDC Principle	Timeline
Work with future cohorts of Vanguard cities to conduct inclusive measurements of homelessness in their communities	1-4	Within 6 months
Include collecting disaggregated data in its best practices and share through engagement with Vanguard Cities, leadership conferences, and webinars	1, 2, 5	Within 6 months
Build training modules with tools to increase capacity to collect disaggregated data and share publicly with IGH network and IDC champions	1, 2, 5	Within 1 year
Work with UN Member States to encourage national and international disaggregated data on homelessness	1-4	Within 2 years

Objective 2: Engage with global leaders and communities to use data to make evidenced-based decisions for homeless programs and services.

Actions	IDC Principle	Timeline
Build IGH and Vanguard Cities capacity to incorporate disaggregated data into decision-making for program improvement	2, 5	Within 2 years
Work with NGOs, the United Nations, and its Member States to use their data to develop strategies to end homelessness	2, 5	Within 1 year

Objective 3: Increase the collection and sharing of disaggregated homeless data through research and work with communities across the world.

Action	IDC Principle	Timeline
Report on global homeless data in an interactive map and report on which countries collect disaggregated homeless data	1-5	Within 1 year
Share public reports from UN Member States to our partners	3,5	Within 1 year
Share IGH's work (methodologies, tools, resources) to increase availability of homeless data with network and other IDC champions	1-5	Within 1 year

Conclusion and Commitment

IGH is committed to increasing the availability of inclusive data by working to make homeless data accessible at local, national and international levels. IGH will expand its work to increase the number of countries defining and measuring homelessness with disaggregated data. IGH is committed to the principles of IDC, and we look forward to partnering with other champions to promote and expand the availability of inclusive data.