26. VISUALISING DATA

A diagram, pie chart or other graphic elements that depict relationships or the relative size or percentage of something is often easier to grasp in one glance and communicate than a lot of data and statistics explained in a long and complicated text. Data visualisation can create new insights because the relationship and the categories and hierarchies are immediately visible. Graphics are also an excellent communication tool.

Materials needed: Paper to sketch ideas and computer software to create illustrations and diagrams.

Time required: It depends on the number of and complexity of the data visualisation.

How?

1) Start by studying the data and the information collected. Which data is the most interesting and relevant?

2) Generate ideas for how to visualise the data. Here you can use traditional diagrams like pie charts or bar charts or columns. You could also get inspiration by looking on the Internet and seeing how data visualisation experts are doing it. Think of new ways of illustrating percentage, size and relationships, etc. by using for example objects and photos that would be relevant to the challenge. Use colours!!

3) Look at what you are doing with a critical eye: is it easy to understand, helpful and simple? Is it a truthful representation of the data and the information? If not, then continue developing the visualisation.

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