The Data Access and Sharing Policy

The data access and sharing policy sets out the specific procedures (See Annex 1) and prescribes access levels related to various categories of data covered under the policy.

A. **Centre-Specific Data**: When such data are contributed to Network activities they will be subject to the terms of this policy. However, sovereignty over use of the data for centre-specific analyses remains with Member Centres.

B. **Network Core Data**

   a. *Core minimum micro-data sets* will be submitted by all member centres to the iSHARE technical team, who will conduct quality review and disclosure risk assessment on the data in consultation with member centres. Following approval by the iDASC the data will be immediately released for network use and within 12 months will be made available for public use through licensed access on the INDEPTH Data Repository.

   b. *Aggregated data* will be prepared annually by the designated technical team and released after review by a designated subcommittee of the INDEPTH Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC) and subsequent approval by the Executive Director. This data will be shared through open access on the INDEPTH Data Repository as soon as the approval process is completed.

C. **Network Project Data**

   a. Secondary data will be prepared and quality assured by the working group responsible for the specific Network activity with the involvement of the iSHARE technical team. The working group will report to the INDEPTH Secretariat when the data are available (documented, cleaned, in standard format, and locked for analysis). Within 12 months of data availability or as soon as the primary output from the working group has been submitted for publication (if earlier than 12 months after data availability), the Executive Director will be informed of the readiness of the data for sharing. Following approval by the Executive Director the data will be made available for public use through licensed access on the INDEPTH Data Repository.

   b. All Network activities involving primary data collection should ensure that they include a data sharing plan that is consistent with this policy and with the stated commitment of all centres involved. This plan will be reviewed as part of the proposal approval process. Projects will be required to share data. In general data should be shared for public use within 12 months of the completion of data collection, cleaning, and validation through licensed access on the INDEPTH Data Repository. Where specific circumstances require more restrictive access, this should be motivated to the Executive Director for consideration.

D. **Third Party Data.** These data are subject to the terms of this policy unless otherwise determined through prior agreement.