

CaribData Meeting Summary (May 2025)

Introductions

- Chris Hillier, CEO of Angry Health, joined the project to lead the storytelling and training component.
- Rowan, the new project assistant, also introduced herself as a qualitative researcher and marketer.

Component 1 Data Infrastructure

- Zenodo (hosted by CERN) was selected as the official data-sharing platform due to its sustainability and zero cost.
- Project scope adjusted to include support for data collection via REDCap.
- REDCap training and funding for staff to support NSOs in data storytelling are included.
- Admin changes to formalize these updates are in progress.

Component 2 Data Storytelling and Training (Angry Health)

Chris Hillier outlined four activities under this component:

1. Training Programme

- Aims to upskill NSO and university staff in modern data storytelling.
- Covers topics such as infographics, interactive data, and communicating with mobile-first audiences.
- Emphasizes the growing influence of content creators and how data can compete for attention.
- Targets four countries: Belize, Guyana, Jamaica, and Trinidad & Tobago.

2. Storytelling Platform

- A new online platform will host and disseminate data stories to various audiences, including policy makers and the public.

3. Annual Datathon

- Regional competition with prizes, themes, and wide promotion.
- First DataThon planned for February.
- Smaller workshops may be held in between.

4. Sustainable Business Model

- Inspired by Cape Fear Collective in the US.
- Aims to turn insights into a revenue-generating ecosystem using non-traditional funders (e.g. CSR, philanthropists).
- Highlights the importance of storytelling to drive funding and social impact.

Component 3 Data Sharing and Policy

- After completing legislative reviews, the team will explore internal NSO policies to support secure, efficient data sharing.
- Guidelines and suggested processes will be co-developed with NSOs.

REDCap Training

- Guyana has adopted REDCap as their main data collection tool.
- Training will be offered to both admins and data users.
- Other NSOs invited to express interest.
- A detailed training plan will be circulated.

Feedback from Participants

- Broad support expressed from Belize, Guyana, Jamaica, and IDB.
- NSOs welcomed the shift from technical reports to broader storytelling that engages public interest.
- Participants emphasized:

Telling data-driven stories across borders.

Leveraging shared challenges like climate and health.

Improving data comparability and harmonization.

Using underutilized data to strengthen decision-making and policy.

- REDCap was welcomed as a user-friendly, secure, open-source tool with strong compliance credentials.

Closing

- NSOs encouraged to consider their data collection needs and respond to upcoming REDCap training materials.
- Participants expressed excitement about the potential of storytelling to build public understanding, support regional collaboration, and strengthen funding opportunities.