...a new colleague asks you what your organization’s policies on data management are?

...a woman in a focus group in a refugee camp asks you what is going to happen to the information she gives?

...you’re using a digital system to register people for aid distributions and someone refuses because they’re worried about who will see the data?

...your Head of Media asks you to take photos of malnourished children for an urgent newspaper article that will give your organization really good coverage?
...an interviewee gives a long and emotional answer to a sensitive question, but the translator only tells you a short summary of what was said?

...you’re interviewing a youth who doesn’t know their age and has no parent or guardian, but looks quite young?

...you want to interview girls under 18 and your organization’s guidelines state that you must get a parent/guardian’s permission, yet many are married with children, and it doesn’t seem right to ask their husbands’ permission?

...national data protection laws set different standards to your own organization?
...you include a survey question to check that respondents understand the terms of informed consent, and several respondents give incorrect answers?

...young men who’ve agreed to be interviewed for an assessment start to look uncomfortable and worried as you go through your questions?

...data shows that enumerators you hired for a digital data collection activity spent less than a minute explaining the consent process?

...your organization has introduced a cash distribution registry system that requires photos of subscribers, but one minority group doesn’t allow women to be photographed?
...someone who initially consented to share their story with you later calls to say they’ve changed their mind?

...you’re planning focus groups with women and girls, and a colleague explains that many of them are likely to be survivors of sexual assault?

...all humanitarian agencies receive a letter from a government ministry requesting them to hand over all participant data?

...a UN staff member asks you to send sensitive personal data in an Excel spreadsheet because they can’t decrypt the encrypted version you’ve sent?
...a colleague in another agency refuses to share their assessment findings, citing ‘data security’ as the reason?

...someone desperately wants you to make their story public so ‘the world’ will know what happened to them, but it could be extremely risky for them if you do?

...your team creates an assessment with 100 questions, which they think are all essential?

...a colleague wants to come to a focus group on early marriage to take photos and gather stories for media use?
What would you do if...

...an interviewee tells you that a prominent local politician abused them and others in their community?

...you find materials from 10 years ago in a data archive, even though consent was only given to hold them for six years?

...you're under pressure to buy a specific digital tool, but can't get clarity on where data will be stored?

...a colleague in another organization sends you a spreadsheet with the names, addresses, ID card data and HIV test results of everyone in a particular district?
...you’re taking photos at a women’s refuge that is supported by your organization, but must conceal the location and identities of the women, children and staff?

...you’re asked to sign off on a crowd-sourced platform allowing people in conflict zones to send details of security incidents that will be plotted on a publicly-available online map?

...you want to collect stories from people who escaped after being forcibly recruited into a militia group?

...your organization is asked if it should publicize a photo story about a man whose granddaughter was abducted by a group that rape and sexually enslave girls?
...the family of a child in a stock photo you used in an expensive fundraising campaign ask you to remove the image, as the child died a year ago and the photo is very distressing for them?

...refugees from a minority ethnic group ask to be trained as enumerators for some new research, so they can learn a new skill and earn some money?

...enumerators collecting field data start having nightmares about the terrible stories they hear as they collect the data?

...when you look at data from key informant interviews in one village, there are strongly conflicting data from different participants?
WHAT WOULD YOU DO IF...?

...interviewees in an undeveloped rural area consent to details about their impoverished situation being used on your website, as long as their relatives in the capital city don’t see it?

WHAT WOULD YOU DO IF...?

...you see extracts from a blog that you wrote reproduced elsewhere in a misleading way?

WHAT WOULD YOU DO IF...?

...your colleagues support responsible data management in theory, but resist all your efforts to put it into practice?