What is personal data

Personal data

Personal Data means "any information relating to an **identified** or **identifiable natural person** ('data subject'); an identifiable natural person is one who can be identified, directly or indirectly, in particular by reference to an identifier such as a name, an identification number, location data, an online identifier or to one or more factors specific to the physical, physiological, genetic, mental, economic, cultural or social identity of that natural person".

Identified - Natural person uniquely identified from other persons;

Identifiable - Ability to identify an individual based on available data and/or possibilities for and capabilities of controller;

Directly identifiable - Unique and characteristic data (address, date of birth etc.);

Indirectly identifiable - link-able to a person. Especially, when someone can be singled out within a group of persons, even when name is unknown.

Here are some **examples** of personal data we use in MSF India:

- personal Identification (e.g. name, date of birth, gender, marital status, personal identification numbers)
- contact information (e.g. e-mail address, physical address, telephone number, social media indentifiers)
- location data (e.g. information from the network or service about the location of a phone or other device)
- browsing Information (e.g. online identifier, browsing behaviour)
- financial data (e.g. account number, debit/credit card)

<u>Special categories of personal data</u>

Special category of personal data which are subject to additional protection. In general organisations require stronger grounds to process special categories of personal data then with regular personal data. Special categories of personal data contain:

Sensitive personal data, which are data revealing:

- racial or ethnic origin
- political opinions
- religious or philosophical beliefs
- personal identification number
- genetic data
- biometric data
- financial data
- data concerning health

- data concerning a natural person's sex life or sexual orientation
- data relating to criminal offences and convictions may, in general, only be processed by national authorities

<u>Pseudonymised vs. Anonymised data</u>

<u>Pseudonymised data</u>

- pseudonymisation is a technique that replaces or removes information in a data set that identifies an individual
- pseudonymisation may involve replacing names or other identifiers which are easily attributed to individuals with, for example, a reference number
- pseudonymisation of personal data can reduce risks to the individuals and help MSF to meet our data protection obligations
- pseudonymised data are still personal data

<u>Anonymised data</u>

- anonymised data is data which does not relate to an identified or identifiable natural person
- anonymisation is a technique that turns personal data into data from which individuals are no longer identifiable
- personal data that has been anonymised is personal data anymore and therefore is not subject to the GDPR