

**Primary data** refers to data collected by the researcher through a methodology designed to answer their specific research question. The researcher/data collector is also the first user of the data.

**Secondary data** is data collected for another research project or to answer a different research question.

*Note:* Primary data is not synonymous to **raw data** – that is, clean data before analysis or processing (a data set in CSV format, for instance) – as secondary data can be provided and shared in raw form as well.

In a collaborative environment, such as that promoted by PIM and the Grand Bargain Workstream 5, it would be ideal for data to be shared and used as much as possible in its raw form (with all data protection safeguards in place). Conducting a joint analysis or a secondary data review based on reports or information products such as infographics or dashboards is very limiting.

**Primary data is not inherently better than secondary data.** While primary data might better fit the research question, a researcher might have at their disposal sufficient secondary data source. In other words, a secondary data source might be of better quality than what the researcher's resources and capacity allow to reach – and even save time and resources.