

To protect the privacy of vulnerable populations,

mind the five.

www.mindthefive.org



Humanitarian organizations often focus on helping migrants. However, it is easy to overlook the additional vulnerabilities and unintended risks that the careless collection, storage, and use of personal information about migrants can cause.

The use of information and communication technologies also involves data- and privacy-related risks, as electronic data can be subject to security breakages, leaks, hacks, inadvertent disclosure, and disclosure through legal processes (e.g., subpoenas, court orders).

In certain cases, the inadvertent or malicious exposure of personal data can significantly exacerbate the risks for particularly vulnerable populations. In the case of undocumented migrants, disclosure of sensitive information and documents may expose them to detention, deportation, and other forms of physical and psychological violence.



1. Exercise prudence.

Limit the collection of personal information; include only information that is necessary.



2. Protect and secure information from and about migrants.

Pay attention to mitigating risks from both technological and human factors.



3. Provide training.

Ensure that volunteers and staff are aware and trained regarding privacy- and security-related protocols. Empower migrants to be more privacy aware.



4. Share-alike.

Work with collaborators and partners to improve privacy and security practices, based on ongoing evaluation and refinement.



5. Practice non-discrimination.

Provide humanitarian services to everybody, including those who prefer not to share their personal information.

Mind the Five was created by information and privacy experts Ricardo Gomez, Bryce Newell, and Sara Vannini as an effort to provide resources and best practices to better protect undocumented and vulnerable populations.