

Handout 5. Examples of Data Collection Software

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Type	Name of Software	Description/Notes	Free?	Online?
Comprehensive MEL tools suitable for SMOs				
Comprehensive	Impact Mapper	Custom survey tool, dashboards, qualitative text analysis, data visualization, coding and meta-analysis, impact reports	No	Online/ Offline
Comprehensive	LogaAlto	Logframe-focused, collaborative, focused on data collection. Dashboards. Customisable, user friendly, data security.	No	
Comprehensive	Toladata	End-to-end platform. Intuitive form builder, integration to 3 rd party tools. Also provides data management, results framework & indicators, dashboards.	No	Online
Tools for Online Forms/Surveys				
Online Form/Survey	SurveyMonkey	Create surveys and questionnaires, collect data and analyse, filter and export results.	No*	Online
	Google Forms	Create custom forms for surveys and questionnaires. Gather data in a spreadsheet. Analyse in Google Sheets or export data to Excel.	Yes	
	Microsoft Forms	Create surveys, quizzes, polls. Collects responses in real time and provides charts to visualize data. Can export to Excel. Microsoft Forms may not be as advanced as some other tools for detailed data collection or analysis. Better suited for simple, quick surveys.	No	
	LogaAlto	Create forms for online data collection. Can create in Excel and import.	No	
	ODK (Open Data Kit)	Build powerful forms. Include photos, videos, GPS locations, external datasets, multiple languages. Used in development & crisis response.	Yes	
	XLSForm	Create surveys and forms for ODK based applications (e.g. ODK Central, CommCare, KoBoToolBox). Uses MS Excel.	Yes	
	QuestionPro	Create engaging and conversational surveys, collect and analyse. Survey templates, drag-and-drop.	No*	
Online/offline	GeoPoll	Mobile surveys via SMS, voice and web. Widely used in developing countries to reach hard-to-access populations.	No*	Online/ Offline

Tools for On-Site (Enumerator-Administered) Surveys				
Survey App (android/apple)	SurveyMonkey	See above.	No*	Offline
	HarvestYourData	iPad and Android survey app for mobile offline data collection. Design mobile survey with drag-and-drop editor. Capture data on smartphone, iPad or tablet. Real time survey results. Manage one or hundreds of devices and field workers.	No	
	LogaAlto	Create forms for online data collection. Can create in Excel and import.	No	
	SurveyCTO	Collect data on Android and iOS mobile devices in a secure way. Monitor and visualize data. End-to-end encryption. Allows for case management. Used globally for field research and MEL.	No	Offline/ online
Offline Survey App (android only)	KoBoCollect	Used for primary data collection in the field. Enter data from interviews to device. Visualize, analyse, share, download collected data.	Yes	Offline/ Online
	ONadata	Collect data on Android and iOS devices. Survey support, data management.	No*	
	Survey Solutions	Flexible questionnaire design, mobile data collection, real-time data monitoring, export in various formats, data encryption.	Yes	
Tools for Data Collection via Text Messaging (SMS) and Voice-Based Tools				
SMS/IVR	FrontlineSMS	Used by organizations to distribute and collect information via text messaging (SMS). The software works without an internet connection and with a cell phone and computer.	Yes	Offline
	TextIt	Build and deploy SMS and voice-based surveys.	No*	
	Viamo	Voice-based surveys and interactive voice response (IVR), useful in regions with low literacy rates.	No*	
Tools for Live Surveys				
Live Survey	Polleverywhere	Create a poll with instant results during your workshop/presentation. Export data for further usage.	No*	Online
	Mentimeter	Audience uses their smartphone to answer surveys and questionnaires. Visualize their responses in real time. Share and export results for further analysis.	No*	
	Slido	Live polling and Q&A platform for virtual and in-person meetings.	No*	

Tools for Spreadsheets				
Spreadsheet	Excel	Create, view, edit, share spreadsheets. Formulas, graphs, charts.	No	Offline
	Google Sheets	Pre-made spreadsheet templates, built-in formulas. Charts and graphs. Works with Excel. Live collaboration.	Yes	Online
Tools for Crowdsourcing and Participatory Approaches				
Crowdsourcing	Ushahidi	Enables the rapid collection, management and analysis of crowdsourced information and incident monitoring via SMS, email and web. Often used in crisis response, community monitoring.	No*	Online
Tools for Case Management				
Field data collection	Agile CRM	Customer relations management software that can be used for participant tracking.	No*	Online
	SurveyCTO	See above.	No	
	CommCare	Data collection on phone or tablet: build your own mobile app. Used by frontline workers and for case management. Allows for recording of video, audio, images, signatures, and GPS data. Data visualization and exportation into Excel, Tableau and others. Used by WHO, UNICEF, Save the Children, World Bank +	No*	Offline/ online
Tools for Collecting Qualitative Data				
Interviews, focus group discussions, workshops	Zoom GoToMeeting Microsoft Teams Google Meet Cisco Webex Meetings	Data conferencing software. Include such features as conference calling, breakout rooms (for group discussions and exercises), chat, recording, screensharing. Audio only, audio and video. GoToMeeting and Zoom have a transcription feature. Microsoft teams has file sharing. All of these apps allow for the “human connection” factor that can be missing with online surveys.	No* No No* No* No*	Online
Text files, images, video, audio, survey data	NVivo	Organize, analyze and visualize data from various sources, such as interviews, written survey responses, research literature, meeting minutes and observational field notes. Automated transcription, coding, AI-powered theme extraction, sentiment analysis, integration with survey platforms	No	Offline/ Online

Photos	KoBoCollect (android)	Use a KoBo form for structuring your photos, with fields to note what are you taking the picture of, to rate its characteristics, or to add other information about it.	Yes	Offline
Audio (interview recordings)	Google Voice to Text (part of Google Docs)	Play back your recording to Google Voice to Text, let it transcribe it, then revise this text.	Yes	Online
	Transcribe by Wreally	Convert interviews to text with automatic transcription. Convert speech to text with dictation.	No	Offline
Stories	Sensemaker	Collects participant micro-narratives sourced from people's lived experiences, that participants interpret themselves.	No	Online/Offline
	Sprockler	Story-based inquiry to collect actual experiences and narratives. Immediate visualize the data and interpret them together.	No*	Online/Offline
Word clouding	Word Art , MonkeyLearn , Word Cloud Plus	Generate word clouds from text you provide.	Yes	Offline/online
Videos	Videos for Change	Collect one-minute videos on what has changed for target populations thanks to your project.	No	Online
Remote Sensing and Geospatial Tools				
Satellite imagery	Google Earth Engine	Cloud-based platform for processing satellite imagery, used for monitoring environmental changes, deforestation, agriculture, etc.	Yes	Online
Satellite data	MODIS	Moderate Resolution Imaging Spectroradiometer (MODIS) provides environmental data for use in sectors like disaster management.	Yes	Online
Satellite imagery	Planet Analytics	Satellite imagery from Planet's daily datasets, with change detection algorithms, object classification and time-series analysis. Monitor program implementation, environmental changes, and infrastructure development from a distance and across geographies.	No	Online

No* : Some features or a limited version are available for free.