

(See: Responsible Data for M&E in the African Context)



TIP SHEET 1

Common digital data collection tools and software

Digital data collection software allows for qualitative and quantitative data to be collected and stored in electronic format. Digital tools are increasingly replacing paper-based, manual data collection processes.

Most digital data collection apps can store data in the device offline until an internet connection is detected, making their use feasible even in rural areas with limited mobile network coverage. However, in many contexts digital data collection devices are still too expensive for widespread use. There are also some concerns about ensuring that data is protected from unauthorised access. Many of the abovementioned tools are constantly improving their data security and protection features yet, in some cases, improved data protection is only available after purchasing a license and is not with free versions. For this reason, M&E practitioners should be wary of using free online tools and should always review privacy policies and terms of use to ensure that data collected with a digital tool or software is protected from further use or sharing.

Below we summarise some of the digital tools commonly used for M&E.

