**Digital Data Collection Notes from MEL CoP October 2018: Kobo Toolbox and DHIS2**

Thanks to over 40 of our colleagues participating in our CoP session yesterday on digital data collection and a very special thanks to our presenters Antoine Attiogbe (Antoine.Attiogbe@care.org), Ekene Osakwe (Ekene.Osakwe@care.org), Muhamed Bizimana (Muhamed.Bizimana@care.org), and Dora Curry (Dora.Curry@care.org).

* What is "MDC?"
  + Mobile Data Collection
* Are the Activity and Logframe moduls also within Kobo?Or the data is being trasferred from Kobo to an other system?
  + well! logframe is the basis for building the data management system
  + data collected using kobo need to be analysed using analytics software. there are different analytics solutions out there
* In contexts with high insecurity, taking smart phone or tablet with you to the field is a big threat, would like to learn from your experience in this regard.
  + Insecurity is a permanent features of some of the context we are working in. our recommendation is always to use the very basic (entry level) of android enabled phone
* In Sierra Leone last week we were talking about connecting Kobo and data collected in Excel to Power BI, an analytics software CARE already pays for
  + So do you use a separate analytics software to feed data under relevant indicators?
  + that's the plan--we're building the prototype now. Both Kobo and Excel can feed directly into Power BIKobo's analytics capacities are pretty basic
  + hmm very interesting...it should work with ODK too
  + I think so. You might have to export the ODK data into Excel, but it has a function for that
  + I think CARE SL has budgets for this and that reflects in specific grants, and sometimes generous. There are over 30 tablets and phones for that task in CO
  + on ODK export to Excel - almost anything you can do in kobo, you can do in ODK. Kobo is built on ODK
  + currently, we have export from ONA to excel if we want to do analyses - it would be really helpful to automate it .
    - on which analytics to use, once you export from kobo to excel you can use anything. We use SPSS
* Thanks very much for sharing. Can you indicate how you are addressing some of the already known limitations/barriers of using Kobo and other ICT tools particularly on;1. Data ownership and utilization. How do ensure that data collection team (Community agents or frontline staff) are able to own and store the data shared over at their aggregation level.
  + SAFPAC works within the routine HMIS of the health system so our data is extracted from client health records and sevice delivery records already established and owned by the health workers
* 2. What feedback mechanism are put in place to ensure localized analysis is done and improvement made
  + Our monthly supervision is organized around data review. we track progress (on a hard copy , hand drawn wall grpahic) on a limited number of key indicators and interpret and action plan with community/health facility committeeWe also carry out quarter data reviews and action planning at the district level
  + Clement's Q2 is really important! If people who collect the data can't use it, they're less likely to pay much attention to it. We need to ensure that we build in processes like Dora describes on data review at local/district level so people can see why it matters
  + And , to Clement's Q on data use for Kobo, yes, equally important with data collected with kobo. SAFPAC has used kobo as well and fed those results into the same data use processes
* 3. How do you ensure that effective data audit is done? Experience has it that due to the validations build in Kobo and any ICT based data collection, manipulation of data is sometimes difficult to detect.
  + SAFPAC includes data validation among multiple original data sources and reports in the monthly supervision. We also have a number of validation rules built into our data entry
* Would be good to hear from both examples how they are managing privacy concerns re participant data and the need for participants to consent to the use of their data (GPDR, etc.)?
  + A very, very good question! In SAFPAC we don't extract any client-level data, due to privacy/secuirty issuesI will touch base with the CHAMP team in Cameroon, though, and see how they handle that issue, using CommCAre with kep populations for HIV work and would love to hear from others on the same
* Does Kobo require a server where the data to be stored?
  + Data are stored on the kobo humanitarian cloud platform. But a user can (has the possibility) choose to save her/his data on own server or another cloud-based store platform
  + It really depends. KoBoToolbox being an OpenSource platform if for any reason (security/ confidentiality etc..) you want to host it by yourself on your own server or in the cloud infrastructure, yes, you could. (we have done such deployment for some partners in the past, But you need an administrator who is good in Linux and Django). However for most cases you can just use the sponsored cloud hosted solution provided by kobotoolbox.org  humanitarian section (Which free and safe).
  + CARE can host its own instance in a cloud, in a near future for the entire organization when digital strategy backs this move. I will recommend that.
* From the first presentation, which system have you used to integrate the KOBO tool to pick up outputs
  + The flow of system data that will be collected using Kobo is informed by the log frame. This will need to be designed with project staff.
  + Kobo provides a basic data management system and  basic analysis that can quickly help you have a an acceptable insight about your data, frequency analysis, standard deviation, cross variable analysis and interactive maps for basic location intelligence. But if you really want to go beyond that there is good news.
  + Kobo provides a comprehensive data interface (API) that helps extracting the data into another system directly without further interaction. You could automate this process as well.
  + You could also export the data after/for cleaning into a different system for further processing(csv, Excel, SPSS, KML etc… format are available)
  + Whichever way you use to extract your data, you can use at the other end, SPSS, R , Python, PowerBI, Google data Studio just to name few, to play with the data. For us we are developing an Entire MIS (The integrated system we are developing in Django) that is fed directly by data collected through Kobo to feed our indicators that need data table for their source, and other structural information as well.
  + Generally just for the purpose of reporting either web based or document we can use any of the tools mentioned above.