KOBOTOOLBOX

ARQAAM
MONITORING & EVALUATION

WHAT IS THE KOBOTOOLBOX?

KoBo Toolbox is an open-source tool for mobile and online data collection and analysis optimised for humanitarian contexts.

Why use it?

- Great user-friendly interface.

- You do not need to learn complex coding languages to use it.

- It can work both online and offline.

- Basic data analysis and visualisation is done in real time on the platform.

- Easy data exportation to MS Excel or statistical software for further analysis.

- Minimises data entry errors since data validation can occur in real time during data collection.

- It is free!

What we use it for:

- Creating and conducting surveys.

- Connecting it via APIs to visualisation platforms like Power BI to create real-time dashboards. APIs enable two applications to communicate and exchange data.

KoBoToolbox has a built-in form builder to develop simple forms from scratch and the option to use XLS Forms for complex ones.

Creating a survey on the platform simply involves typing out the questions then selecting the appropriate question types. More on this is discussed here in our resources section.

Other functions supported by the platform include:

- The ability to translate surveys to multiple languages.
- Randomising choice orders to minimise enumerator bias.
- Adding constraints, and skip logics to ensure data validity.
- It is fully compatible and interchangeable with other ODK-based systems.
- Question types featuring complex calculations.
- Signature and audio/video recording and geolocations.
- Reusable question blocks and advanced logic.
- Encryption of data transfer from the app to the server.

Limits of KoBoToolbox

- Cannot set time limits for surveys.
- Not all servers are GDPR compliant.

KoBoToolbox has two servers. One is hosted by OCHA, on a server in Ireland, for humanitarian organisations. The other for everyone else is hosted by the Harvard Humanitarian Initiative is hosted in the USA.

KoBoToolbox though has a community version that can be self-hosted and thus completely secured.