**Brief introduction to Mobile data collection**

**Why Mobile data collection?**

To improve information management

| * Better implementation * Better analysis * Better reporting | * Increased transparency * Improved accountability * Increased Timeliness |
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* Collecting DATA, creating INFORMATION
* Incorporating geospatial analysis with program/ operational reporting
* Promoting improved information products (dashboard solutions, maps, interactive graphs, etc.)
* Open data formats, open source software, and open community
* Responding to increased donor reporting requirements

It’s all about data:

* Good data is the goal, mobile data collection is the tool
* It's not about the gear, it's about the data
* You get good data by asking good questions

Advantages:

* **FASTER**
  + Surveying and encoding combined into one step
  + Data can be analyzed as it is being collected
* **ACCURATE**
  + Automatic skip logic and constraint checks
  + No encoding means no transcription errors
* **INFORMATIVE**
  + GPS coordinates, photos, automatic timestamps, and more

More time can be spent analysing the data and making useful information products because less time is spent on collecting data.

**2 tools are combined**

* **Web platform** (like KoBo Toolbox): Online repository for forms and collected data that is automatically compiled and available for download
* **Data collector on mobile device** (like ODK Collect) to collect field data, filling in each survey 1 by 1

**Mobile data collection VS paper collection**

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| **Steps** | | **Paper Collection** | **Mobile Data Collection** |
| **1** | Survey questions | Agree on | |
| **2** | Survey form | Design,  + print | Design  + encode & upload once on device |
| **3** | Survey | Conduct | |
| **4** | Completed surveys | Gather all forms  + encode all | Upload |
| **5** | Share survey data to information management team member | Email | View and download from platform |
| **6** | Update master data file | Analyse the data and create/update reports, charts, graphs, maps, etc. | |