ODK
OPEN DATA KIT

An open-source toolkit for collecting, managing, and using data in resource-constrained environments
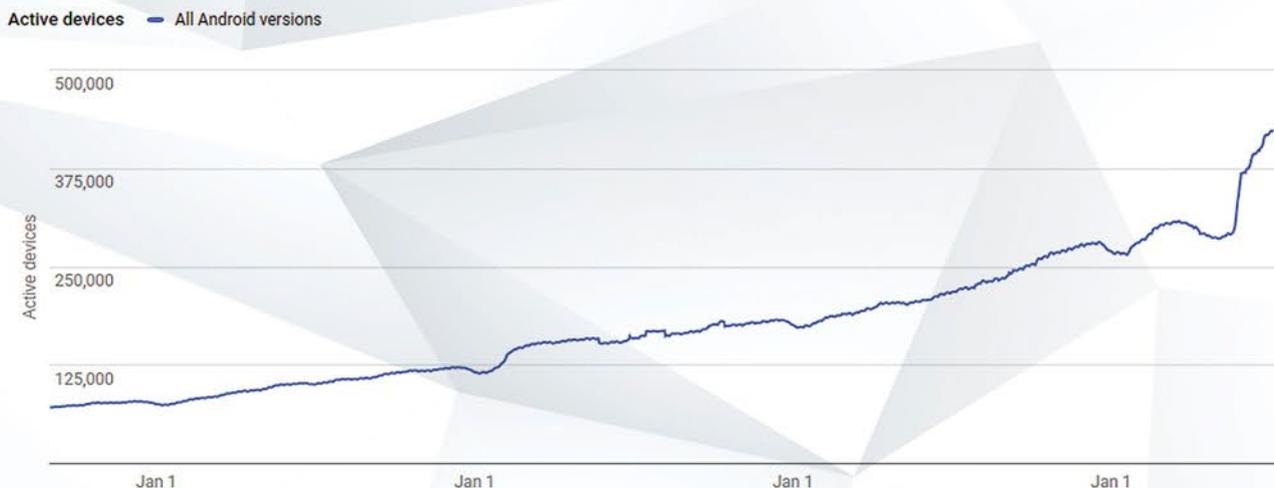
SolDevelo
solutions development

About

The Open Data Kit is an open-source toolkit for collecting, aggregating, managing, and using data in resource-constrained environments. It allows offline collecting data and sending them after connection to the Internet is available. Besides a wide offer of tools to data collection, ODK is first of all the community.

Challenge

Soldevelo started working on ODK in 2016 when the management of the project was in a transition away from the University of Washington's Department of Computer Science and Engineering (UW-CSE in Seattle) towards a community-led the open-source project.

We have improved various tools for implementing new features, fixing existing bugs, supporting users, and providing quality assurance. Our impact on the project is best reflected in the diagram that represents the audience of ODK Collect. There are over 300 thousand more active devices on which ODK is used compared to the number from 2016 when we joined that project.
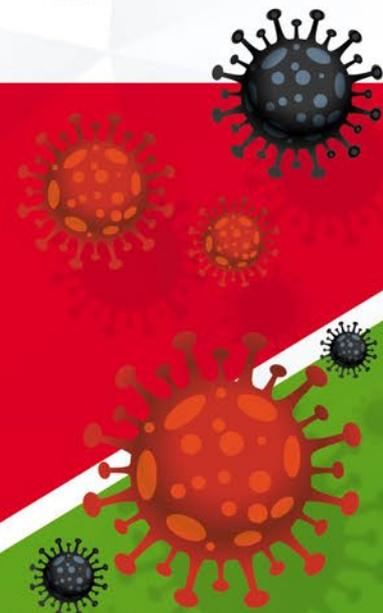

Contribution to fighting with the COVID-19

ODK Collect was used to help fight with the world crisis which the world is facing now: the coronavirus (COVID-19) threat. Inspired by the World Health Organization – Open Data Kit teams digitized WHO's Minimum Data Set Report Form which is the interim report for confirmed and probable cases. This electronic form is freely available for anyone to use in ODK. The Minimum Data Set Report asks for details of the user' health: if the patient has symptoms like eg. fever, cough, runny nose, shortness of breath, nausea, diarrhea, etc. in the meantime the app asks if the date of the first occurred symptoms are known.

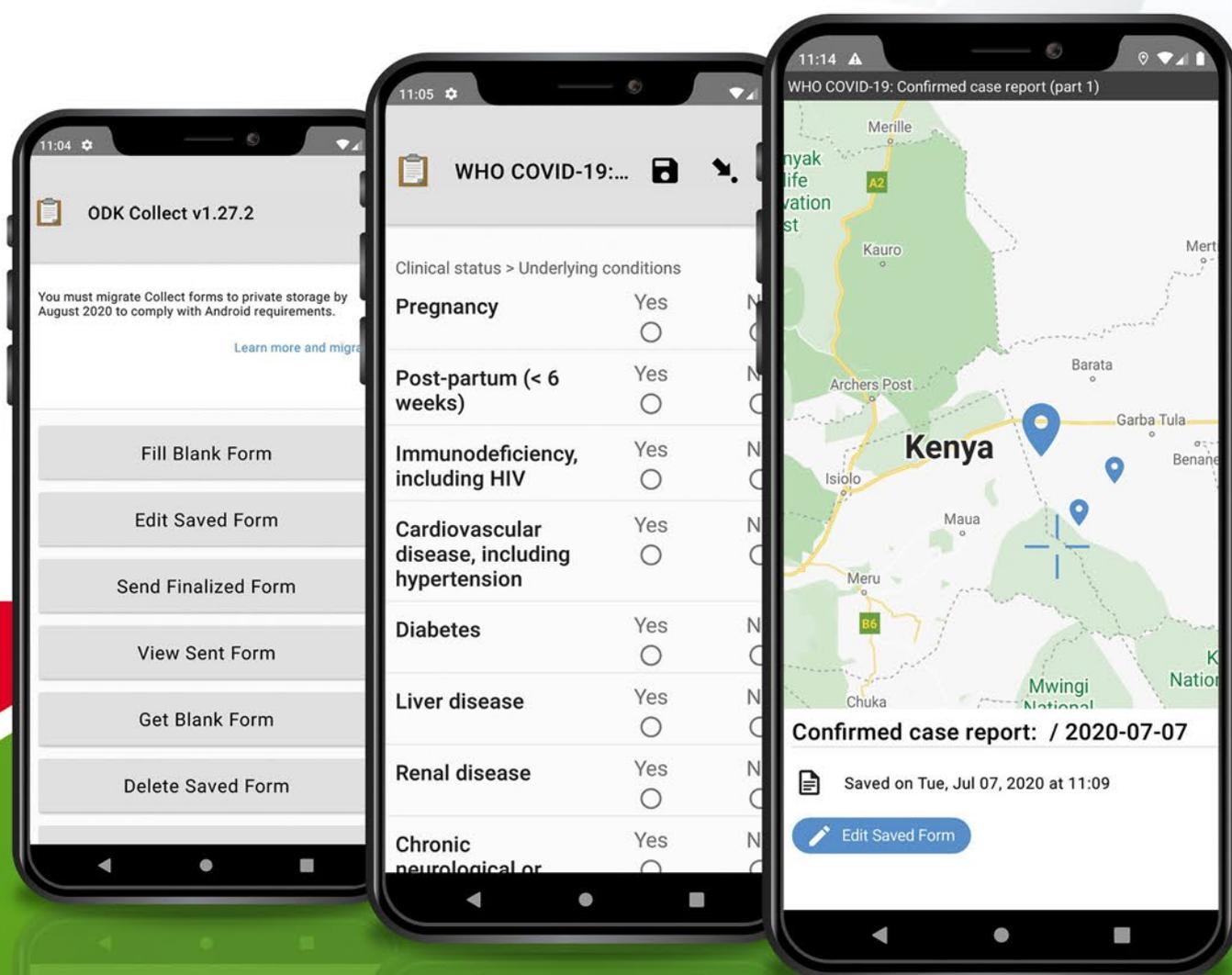See how SolDevelo can help you. Contact us today!

Solution

ODK Collect is an open-source Android app that replaces paper forms used in survey-based data gathering. It supports a wide range of question and answer types, and is designed to work well without network connectivity.

ODK Collect renders forms into a sequence of input prompts that apply form logic, entry constraints, and repeating sub-structures. Users work through the prompts and can save the submission at any point. Finalized submissions can be sent to (and new forms downloaded from) a server.

The form of the survey is customized by its creator. The ODK Collect app gathers survey-based data and supports location, images, audio, and videos, barcodes, signatures, multiple-choice, or numeric answers. It is also possible to collect data from another app. ODK Collect is applicable in many fields- anywhere you need. It was used eg. to digitize natural surveys for better nature experience, collect descriptions of autopsies that help track global deaths or to manage the migration crisis in Greece.

Result

ODK Collect is used by enumerators to collect survey data by filling out forms with participants.

The project has been used mostly in poor countries such as Nigeria, India, Kenya by nonprofits, governments, and researchers working on humanitarian issues at the biggest scales eg. World Health Organization, Red Cross, Red Crescent, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, United States Agency for International Development, and many many others. ODK is widely used because it helps social good projects, regardless of size, collect critical data in the most challenging environments.

Technologies used
#Android, #Java

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