The CONTROL

(COgNitive Therapy for depRessiOn in tubercuLosis treatment)

to improve outcomes for depression and TB in Pakistan and Afghanistan

Funded by: RIGHT3, NIHR

Reference: NIHR201773

“Open Data Kit (ODK) TRAINING ”

17th October 2024

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Capacity development is an integral component of CONTROL study as the research team comprises of: early careers researchers as Research Assistants, qualitative and quantitative researchers, data input administrators, DOTs facilitators, master's students, Ph.D. scholars, Post Doc Fellows. Developing their knowledge, skills and attitude will in turn contribute to the quality of project deliverables.

The training session on Open Data Kit (ODK) was held on 17th October 2024 at the Video Conference Room, 4th floor, Academic Block from 11 am to 4 pm at Khyber Medical University. The purpose of this session was to equip trial staff with essential knowledge and practical skills to use ODK for efficient data collection, management, and analysis. The training is facilitated by Raheel Shahab Khan who covered both theoretical and hands-on aspects, ensuring participants gained a comprehensive understanding of ODK's features and applications. This report will narrate the proceeding of a one-day ODK training.

INTRODUCTION

In the context of the CONTROL trial, accurate and reliable data collection is vital for monitoring and evaluating project success. To support this, ODK is introduced as a powerful open-source tool that can streamline and enhance data collection processes. The training aimed to familiarize trial staff with the functionality of ODK, helping them apply it effectively in their fieldwork.

Objectives

- Introduce participants to the ODK tool and its benefits.
- Demonstrate how to enter data collection forms.
- Provide hands-on practice with ODK for offline data collection and entry
- Address common field challenges and provide solutions for troubleshooting.

Facilitators

- Raheel Shahab Khan (ODK expert)

Participants

The training was attended by 39 participants, all engaged in the CONTROL clinical trial and senior staff of CONTROL.

Workshop proceeding

Introduction to ODK:

The workshop began with a comprehensive introduction to the ODK (Open Data Kit) tool, emphasizing its role as a powerful and flexible platform for data collection, management, and analysis. Participants were familiarized with ODK's features, including its ability to function offline, its user-friendly interface, and its adaptability to diverse data collection needs. The session highlighted the tool's benefits, such as its cost-effectiveness, scalability, and efficiency in improving data accuracy and reliability. Real-life case studies and examples were shared to demonstrate how ODK has been successfully utilized across sectors like healthcare, education, agriculture, and humanitarian aid. This introduction laid a solid foundation for participants, helping them appreciate the relevance and significance of the tool in their work.

Data Collection:

This segment of the workshop focused on the step-by-step process of creating and entering data collection forms in ODK. Participants were guided through designing

forms using the ODK Build tool, including adding various question types such as text fields, multiple-choice questions, and numeric fields. The session covered advanced features like conditional logic, cascading selects, and media attachments (e.g., images, videos, and audio files). Additionally, the process of uploading these forms to the ODK Aggregate server or Google Drive for deployment was explained. Live demonstrations ensured participants could visualize each step, while best practices for creating efficient and user-friendly forms were discussed to enhance data collection quality.

Data Management and Export:

Guidance was given on how to clean, save, and export collected data for further analysis. A key component of the workshop was hands-on practice, enabling participants to work directly with the ODK platform. Attendees were given pre-designed forms to practice downloading and completing them using the ODK Collect mobile application. Emphasis was placed on using ODK in offline environments, showcasing its ability to store data locally and synchronize with the server once connectivity is available. Participants practiced capturing data, including geolocation, photos, and barcodes, to simulate real-world scenarios. Facilitators provided guidance throughout the exercise, addressing individual queries and

ensuring that every participant gained confidence in using the tool effectively for offline data collection and entry.

Q&A and Troubleshooting:

Participants discussed challenges they faced during data collection and shared their experiences. The facilitator addressed common issues, shared best practices, and provided tips for efficient fieldwork.

Conclusion

The feedback from participants indicated that the training was highly effective and well-received. The hands-on approach helped participants feel confident in using ODK, and they appreciated the clarity and detailed explanations. Participants expressed that this training would significantly improve their ability to collect and manage data, making the process more reliable and efficient. Many highlighted that they were now better equipped to tackle data collection challenges in fieldwork.