# Monitoring and Evaluation Tools

Here is a comprehensive list of M&E software tools. Choose most aligned to your goal and use [See M&E Comparison Table](https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1-Gy7SyrZnmFknKY7kA1mePdZod7Mkl2vp7PiE2LV0oo/edit?gid=20047513#gid=20047513) to personalize your feature needs.

### **1. DevResults**

**Overview:**

* A specialized platform designed for international development and humanitarian organizations.
* Offers features for project tracking, indicator management, geospatial mapping, and automated reporting.
* Emphasizes user-friendly dashboards and advanced data visualization.

**Why It’s Popular:**

* Intuitive interface for non-technical users.
* Strong focus on monitoring frameworks (logframes, theories of change).
* Customizable analytics and dynamic reporting.
* [See M&E Comparison Table](https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1-Gy7SyrZnmFknKY7kA1mePdZod7Mkl2vp7PiE2LV0oo/edit?gid=20047513#gid=20047513)

### **2. TolaData**

**Overview:**

* A cloud-based platform primarily built to help NGOs and development agencies with comprehensive M&E tasks.
* Provides end-to-end solutions from project setup and indicator planning to data collection and reporting.

**Key Features:**

* Real-time data input and analytics.
* Integration with survey tools (e.g., ODK, KoboToolbox).
* Logframe and results framework tracking.
* [See M&E Comparison Table](https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1-Gy7SyrZnmFknKY7kA1mePdZod7Mkl2vp7PiE2LV0oo/edit?gid=20047513#gid=20047513)

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### **3. LogAlto**

**Overview:**

* A web-based application offering result-based management, with an emphasis on data collection and impact measurement.
* Integrates with popular data collection apps, and provides visual dashboards for project performance.

**Key Benefits:**

* Flexible indicator setup and performance monitoring.
* Built-in form design for mobile data collection.
* Ability to manage multiple projects and programs from one platform.
* limited as they have no major presence and may not even be operating

### **4. ActivityInfo**

**Overview:**

* A data collection and M&E platform designed often for humanitarian projects and crisis response.
* Supports form building, multi-user data entry, offline capabilities, and real-time dashboards.

**Why It’s Used:**

* Scalability for both small projects and large, multi-country initiatives.
* Strong collaboration and user access control.
* Geospatial analysis for location-based reporting.
* [See M&E Comparison Table](https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1-Gy7SyrZnmFknKY7kA1mePdZod7Mkl2vp7PiE2LV0oo/edit?gid=20047513#gid=20047513)

### **5. Clear Impact (Scorecard)**

**Overview:**

* A performance management and M&E solution widely used for public sector and community impact initiatives.
* Known for the “Results-Based Accountability” (RBA) methodology and the Clear Impact Scorecard tool.

**Key Features:**

* Facilitates setting targets, tracking progress, and generating reports.
* Emphasizes population-level outcomes alongside program-level outcomes.
* A structured approach for measuring and improving performance.
* Elimited Very limited and no integration

### **6. DHIS2**

**Overview:**

* An open-source platform originally designed for health data management at a national level.
* Flexible and highly customizable for large-scale data collection and analysis.
* Extensively used by governments and large international organizations (e.g., WHO, UNICEF).

**Advantages:**

* Free and open-source with a large support community.
* Robust for complex, large-scale M&E setups (especially in healthcare).
* Offline data capture features via Android apps.
* Advanced, Requires Significant Customization and Primary Focus on Healthcare

### **7. KoboToolbox**

**Overview:**

* An open-source suite of tools for data collection and basic monitoring, created by the Harvard Humanitarian Initiative.
* Commonly used by humanitarian and research organizations.

**Notable Capabilities:**

* User-friendly form builder, offline data collection, and multilingual support.
* Integrations for deeper reporting or analytics.
* Free for non-profit and humanitarian use (hosted instance available).
* Limited: Just Survey for Offline Data Collection

### **8. SoPact (Impact Cloud)**

**Overview:**

* A platform with a focus on impact measurement and social impact investing.
* Provides logic models, data collection integrations, and analytics on outcomes and impact.

**Why Organizations Choose It:**

* Strong emphasis on outcome-based measurement frameworks.
* Tools for nonprofit, CSR, and impact investors in one environment.
* Customizable dashboards and automated reporting.
* [See M&E Comparison Table](https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1-Gy7SyrZnmFknKY7kA1mePdZod7Mkl2vp7PiE2LV0oo/edit?gid=20047513#gid=20047513)

### **9. Power BI & Tableau (Business Intelligence Tools)**

While not M&E-specific, many organizations use **Power BI** (Microsoft) and **Tableau** for M&E data analytics and visualization. They require more setup and configuration to track indicators and frameworks, but they offer:

* Highly sophisticated data visualization.
* Advanced drill-down analytics.
* Integration with a wide variety of data sources.
* General purpose data visualization tool and not primarily designed for M&E use cases. As a result requires a lot of skills to customize that meets your needs. While popular most nonprofits are not able to manage this without large data, technology and M&E team

## **How to Choose the Right M&E Software**

1. **Scope and Complexity of Projects:**
   * If you’re handling complex, multi-year initiatives with diverse data sources, look for platforms with advanced indicator tracking, custom forms, and integration options (e.g., DevResults, TolaData, LogAlto).
   * Smaller projects with basic M&E needs might benefit from simpler or open-source tools like KoboToolbox.
2. **Budget and Cost Structure:**
   * Open-source solutions (DHIS2, KoboToolbox) can reduce licensing costs.
   * Cloud-based subscription models (TolaData, LogAlto, DevResults) typically offer predictable pricing but may have user or project limits.
3. **Technical Environment and Ecosystem:**
   * Consider Salesforce-based solutions like Amp Impact if your organization is already invested in the Salesforce platform.
   * If you require robust data visualizations and custom analytics, using a BI tool like Power BI or Tableau alongside a data collection platform may be beneficial.
4. **User Friendliness and Support:**
   * Evaluate how intuitive the interface is for staff and partners.
   * Some solutions have dedicated onboarding, training, and customer support (e.g., DevResults, ActivityInfo).
5. **Data Security and Privacy:**
   * Ensure compliance with relevant data protection regulations (GDPR, HIPAA, etc.) if working with sensitive information.
   * Look for enterprise-level security features and user-access controls.

# Monitoring and Evaluation Tools Rubric

| Category | Criteria | Weight (%) | Scoring Guide (1–5) |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Data, Technology, and Impact Management Advisory | Comprehensive advisory for data strategy, technology integration, and impact measurement and management. | 15% | 5: Expert advisory integrated with flexible tools for building impactful data and technology solutions. 3: Basic advisory with limited customization options. 1: No advisory services provided. |
| Needs Assessment | Ability to streamline needs analysis processes and collect baseline data for program design | 5% | 5: Comprehensive needs analysis tools integrated with data visualization.  3: Basic needs analysis tools.  1: No support for needs analysis. |
| Theory of Change | Tools to build, implement, and track a Theory of Change framework | 5% | 5: Fully customizable Theory of Change builder integrated with data collection tools.  3: Limited customization options.  1: No Theory of Change functionality. |
| Data Centralization | Ability to unify data from multiple systems (Salesforce, Asana, etc.) | 10% | 5: Robust data integration with real-time syncing.  3: Integration support with middleware.  1: No integration capabilities. |
| Data Pipelines with Flexibility | Ability to design data pipelines with flexibility for manipulation using SQL, R, and AI tools. | 10% | 5: Fully customizable pipelines supporting advanced manipulation and integration with SQL, R, and AI. 3: Limited customization with basic SQL support only. 1: No data pipeline or manipulation capabilities. |
| Survey Design and integrated survey | Optimization of pre/post survey designs to measure program impact | 10% | 5: Advanced survey customization with built-in AI-driven insights.  3: Standard survey capabilities with limited analytics.  1: No survey design tools. |
| Dashboards & Reporting | Real-time dashboards and embeddable reporting on website | 15% | 5: Interactive dashboards with live data pipelines and multi-stakeholder views. 3: Basic reporting capabilities.  1: No dashboard or reporting functionality. |
| AI-Driven Insights | Use of AI to analyze qualitative and quantitative data, providing actionable insights | 10% | 5: Fully integrated AI analysis for all data types.  3: Partial AI capabilities for quantitative data only.  1: No AI-driven insights. |
| Stakeholder Engagement | Tools for collecting ongoing feedback via surveys, forms, and other channels | 5% | 5: Multi-channel feedback collection integrated into data pipelines.  3: Limited feedback collection methods.  1: No feedback collection tools. |
| Funder Reporting | Ability to generate professional, storytelling-based reports for funders | 10% | 5: Customizable, automated reports with storytelling and visual evidence.  3: Standardized templates with minimal customization.  1: No funder reporting capabilities. |
| Scalability | Capacity to scale for growing organizational needs | 5% | 5: Highly scalable platform with full support for large datasets.  3: Limited scalability for moderate needs.  1: Not scalable. |
| Cost & Value | Pricing model aligned with nonprofit budgets and scalability needs | 10% | 5: Cost-effective with flexible, scalable pricing for nonprofits.  3: Moderate cost with some flexibility.  1: High cost or rigid pricing. |