



INTERNATIONAL CENTER FOR ADVANCED RESEARCH AND TRAINING (ICART)

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Figure 1: Training in ODK by the ICART –PRIO team

About ODK, "The use of ODK allows me to gain time during data collection and compilation and hence minimizes the cost," said Tony



Figure 2: Mr. Tony training ODK to UEA staff



Figure 3: ODK participants and their trainers

SUCCESS STORY: From a trainee to a trainer

CONTEXT: The mission of the International Center for Advanced Research and Training is to build the local research capacity and establish research collaborations between local and international researchers.

ICART in partnership with PRIO conducted training in November 2015 on the use of Open Data Kit (ODK) for questionnaire design and data collection, data analysis and academic writing.

Local researchers including ICART staff, some staff from UEA, Panzi Hospital and from Panzi Foundation attended the training. Mr. Tony Samamba from Panzi Foundation, whose story we will be sharing with you today, was trained as well.

DEVELOPEMENT: Tony James graduated from the Institute of Scientific and Technological Research (ISP/Bukavu) in IT Management in 2006. After his graduation, he worked in several organizations as a monitoring and evaluation officer including at Panzi Foundation. Tony's interest in research is to find evidence-based solutions for people affected by armed conflicts and natural disasters by systematically identifying and assessing their needs. Developing projects that meet the needs and expectations of people affected by socio-political conflicts is also one of his main research interests. To achieve this, Tony decided to learn statistical software including ODK for professional and efficient quantitative data collection. Tony wanted to improve and have new ways of designing a questionnaire and collecting data. When ICART invited him to a training in ODK, he was very excited as this opportunity was an answer to his biggest question: Leaving the traditional data collections tools on sheets of paper towards digital data collection on tablets or phones.

After the test, Tony was among the best. He had the highest score: 100%.

One month later after the training, Tony signed a consultancy contract with the Evangelical University in Africa to teach their students how to use ODK for data collection. Thanks to the knowledge he acquired at ICART and with the support of ICART tablets, Tony trained more than 30 people on how to develop research forms with ODK. This training cost some few hundreds US dollars for UEA. It could have cost thousands and of US dollars if the trainer came from abroad.

IMPACT: "The training changed my research approach. It led me to many horizons and opened me to amazing opportunities. I am so proud





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to be an ODK trainer. After the training at UEA, I was also asked to conduct a training with doctors of the FARC (Congolese armed forces) at a military hospital in Bukavu. For me, the training in ODK was the beginning of a new era in research," said Tony.

Mr Tony also said he is now confident to conduct a scientific research in professional manner, and feels motivated and encouraged to transmit his knowledge to other persons. Based on this experience, Mr Tony wants to start a club of "ODK lovers in his hometown," the first in Bukavu.

CONCLUSION: The International Center for Advanced Research and Training pursues its goals through "a results-based approach". With regard to the experience described above, ICART feels motivated and encouraged to pursuing its mission of training local researchers, providing them with a favorable space for research, give them all the needed materials for this end, and guide them throughout the research process from design to the publication of their work .

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Prepared by the ICART Team

