



ActivityInfo

Choosing the Right Information System in the Social Sector

Patterns, Trade-offs, and True Costs

Starting shortly, please wait!

Presenters



Alex Bertram
Executive Director



Brendan O'Neill
Commercial Director

Presented by the ActivityInfo Team


All in one information management software for humanitarian and development operations.

- Track activities, outcomes
- Beneficiary management
- Surveys
- Work offline/online

The screenshot shows the ActivityInfo website homepage. At the top, there is a navigation bar with links for Features, Pricing, Customers, Support, News, Contact us, and a Log in button. The main content area features the ActivityInfo logo and the text: "Information management software for the social sector. Everything you need for your data collection and reporting needs. No-code relational database builder. Integrated analysis tools and advanced user management capabilities." Below this, a section titled "ActivityInfo is perfect for" lists four categories: Case Management, Monitoring and Evaluation, Humanitarian coordination, and Cash & Voucher Assistance. A "Our key features" section lists: Mobile data collection, Data entry, Data management, and Analysis & visualization. On the right side, there is a large graphic showing a map of East Africa with several colored bubbles of varying sizes, each containing a number, representing data points across different regions.

Agenda

- Information management system implementation patterns
- Information management systems with ActivityInfo
- ActivityInfo demo



Information management system implementation patterns

Information management systems



Monitoring and Evaluation



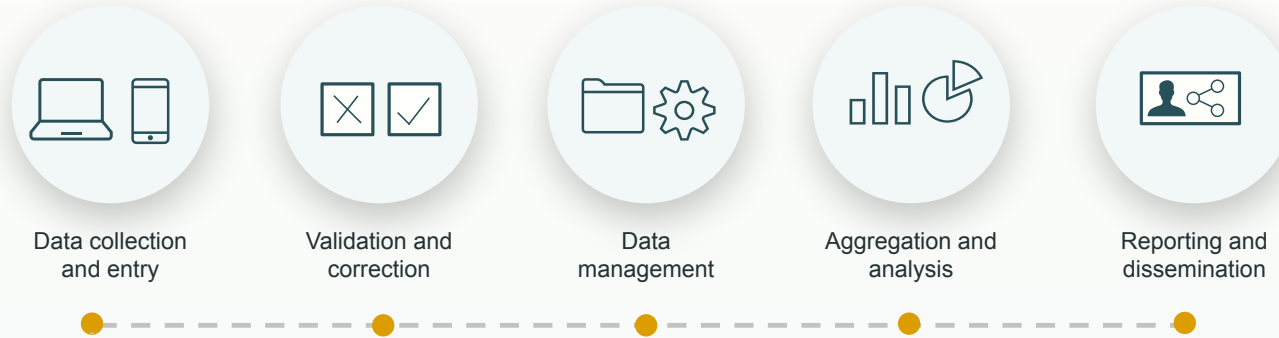
Distribution of goods and services



Case Management

Modern information management systems

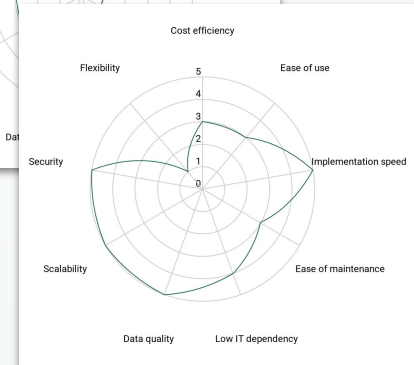
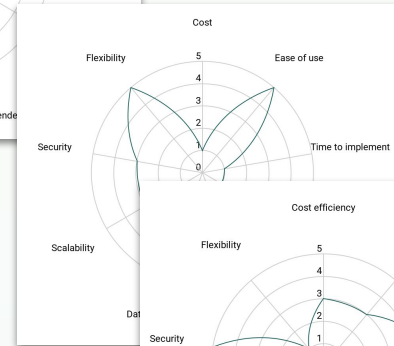
Data collection, management, analysis, and dissemination



ActivityInfo

Common implementation patterns

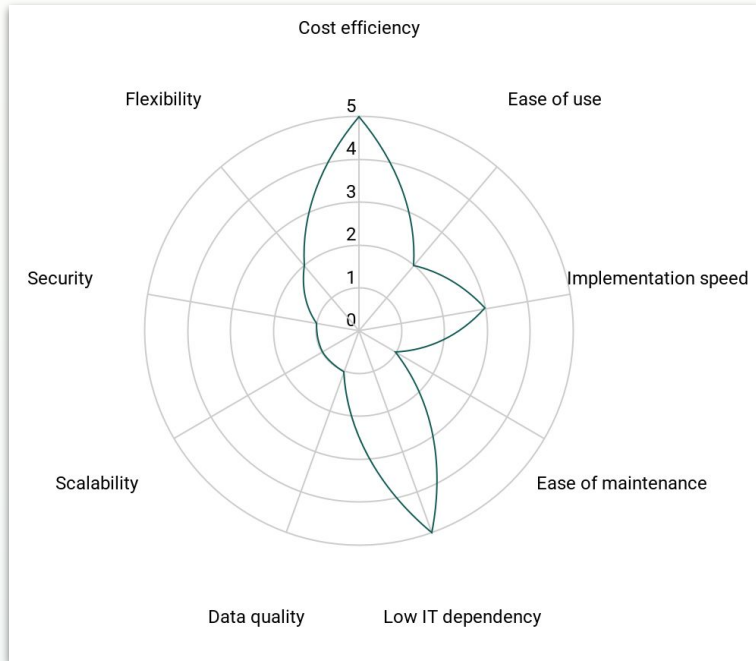
- Spreadsheet-centric systems
- Custom developed systems (external)
- Custom developed systems (internal)
- Commercial-off-the-shelf (COTS)



Spreadsheet-centric systems

A loosely integrated ecosystem of spreadsheets, survey tools, and dashboards acting as a de facto database.

Spreadsheet-centric systems



Potential advantages

- Familiar
- Low cost

Challenges

- Data quality
- Data security
- Key-person risk
- Doesn't scale

Good for individuals, small teams, short projects

Spreadsheet case study

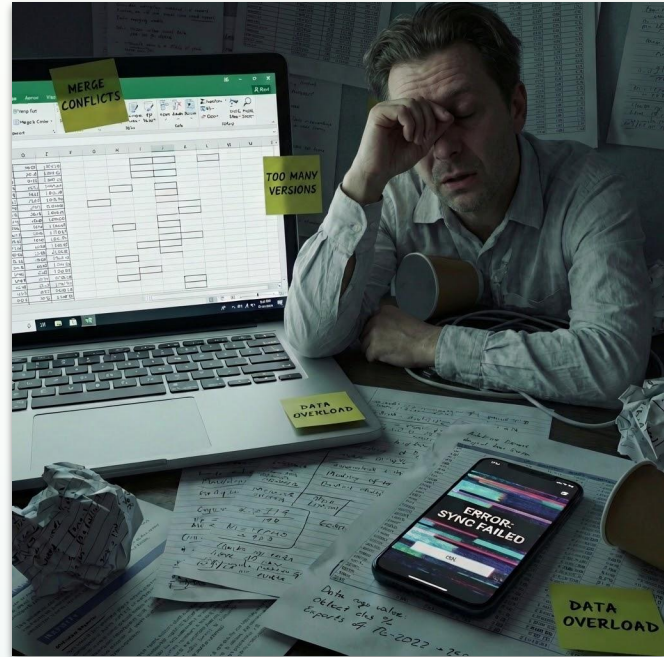
Cash Consortium

Technology

- Mobile application + spreadsheets

Problem

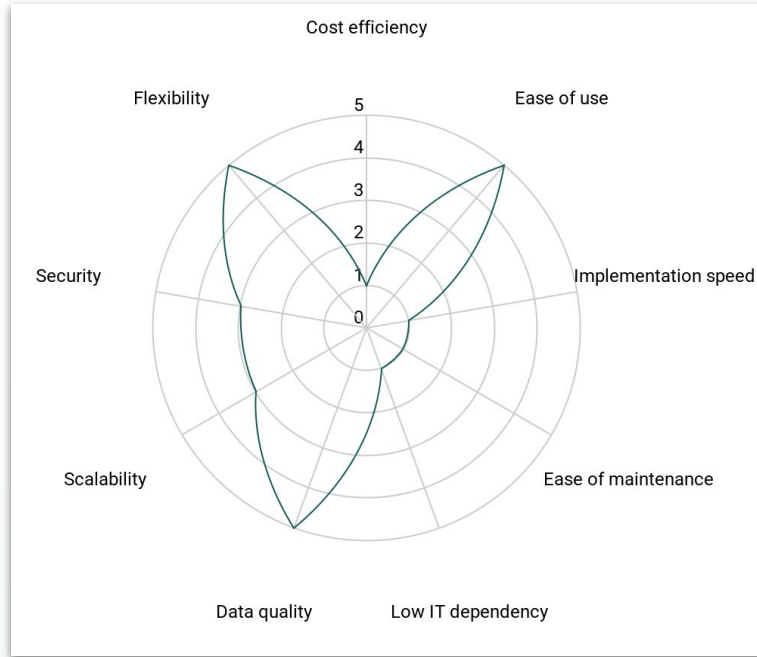
- Too much data
- Too many people involved
- Constantly merging spreadsheets together



Custom developed systems (external)

A solution built by a consultancy or vendor to your specifications.

Custom developed systems (external)



Potential advantages

- Control

Challenges

- Costs - upfront and maintenance
- Long deployment timeline
- Vendor dependency

Good for organizations with fixed requirements and stable funding

Externally developed system case study

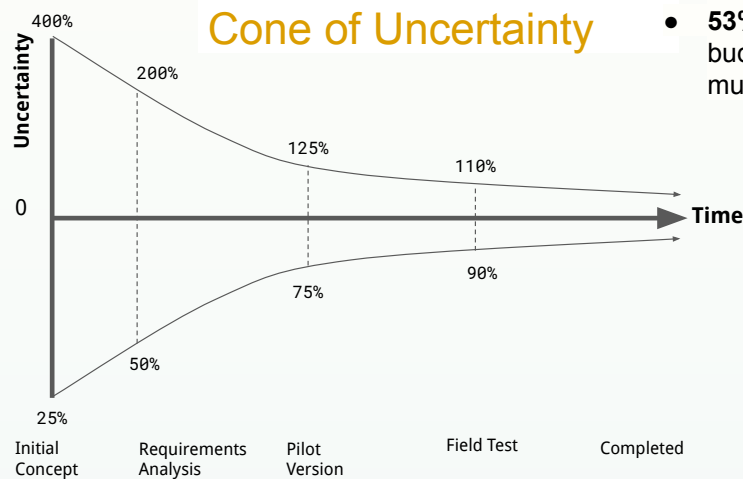
UN agency

Technology

- Custom full stack web application

Problem

- Fixed budget
- Scope creep
- Final product - proof of concept
- Incentives not aligned



- 31% projects will be canceled
- 53% of projects over budget by nearly twice as much (189%)

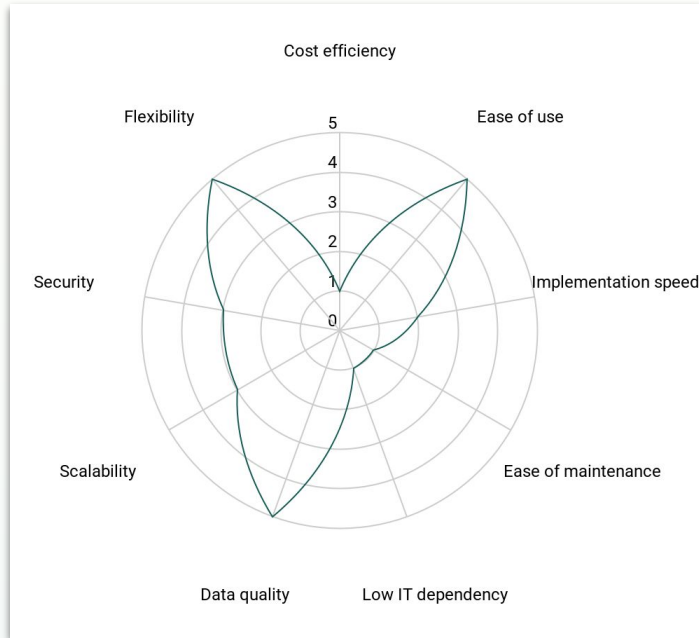
[The Standish Group](#)

Source: [Software Estimation](#), Steve McConnell

Custom developed systems (internal)

In-house software development and infrastructure management.

Custom developed systems (internal)



Potential advantages

- Control

Challenges

- You become a software developer
- Security, infrastructure, maintenance

Good for organizations with fixed requirements and stable funding

Internally developed system case study

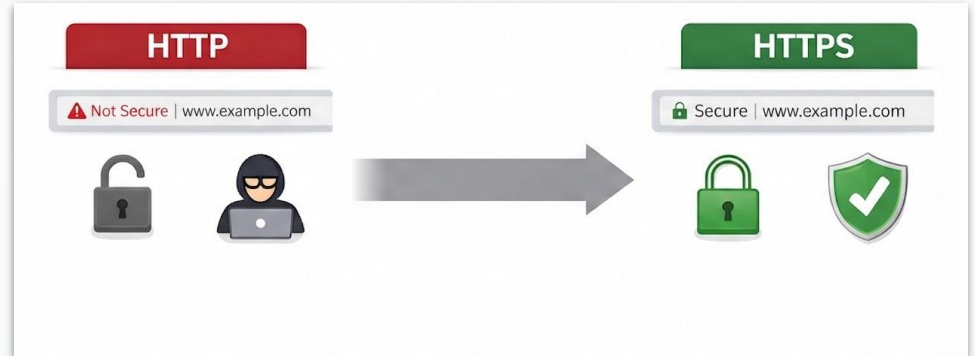
UN agency

Technology

- Custom full stack web application

Problem

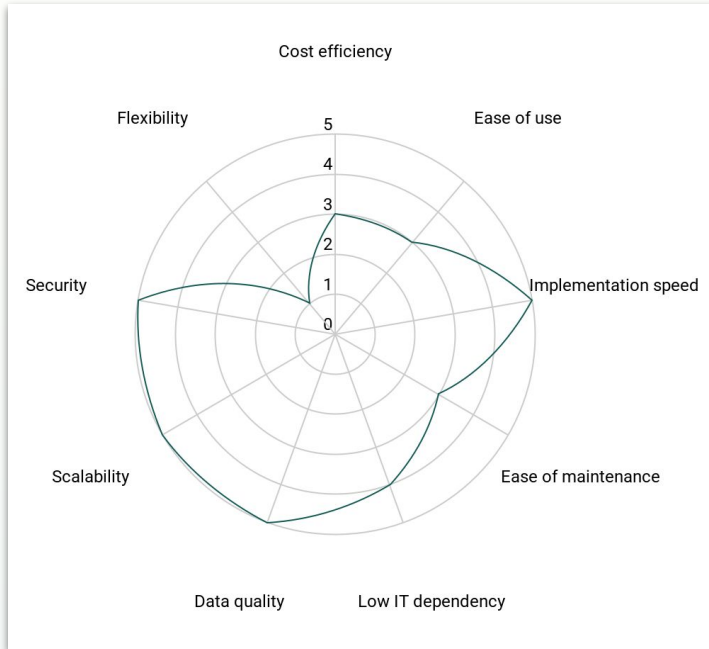
- Required large team
- Funding cut
- Security update too expensive to complete



Commercial Off-The-Shelf (COTS)

A configurable platform maintained by a vendor.

Commercial Off-The-Shelf (COTS)



Potential advantages

- Faster deployment
- Predictable costs
- Managed infrastructure
- Built by experts

Challenges

- Less control
- Vendor dependency
- Might still need specialist support

Good for organizations needing sustainable, scalable systems

COTS system case study

Education INGO

Technology

- CRM for activities tracking

Problem

- Powerful tool - but complex to configure
- Expensive
- Company not aligned with social sector



Implementation pattern summary

Spreadsheet systems

- ✓ *Pros*
 - Low cost
 - Familiar tools

- ✗ *Challenges*
 - Poor governance
 - Manual work
 - Doesn't scale well

- 🎯 *Good for*
 - Individuals, small teams, short projects

Custom development (external)

- ✓ *Pros*
 - Tailored solution
 - Flexible design

- ✗ *Challenges*
 - Expensive
 - Vendor dependency
 - Long development time

- 🎯 *Good for*
 - Organizations with fixed requirements and stable funding

Custom development (internal)

- ✓ *Pros*
 - Maximum control
 - Fully aligned

- ✗ *Challenges*
 - Engineering team
 - Security & infrastructure
 - Risk of deprioritization

- 🎯 *Good for*
 - Organizations with fixed requirements and stable funding

COTS platforms

- ✓ *Pros*
 - Faster deployment
 - Predictable costs
 - Managed infrastructure

- ✗ *Challenges*
 - Less architectural control
 - Vendor dependency

- 🎯 *Good for*
 - Organizations needing sustainable, scalable systems



Information management systems with ActivityInfo

ActivityInfo

A highly configurable COTS platform used to implement information systems for program data in the social impact sector.

Quick to implement and easy to use



No-code configuration



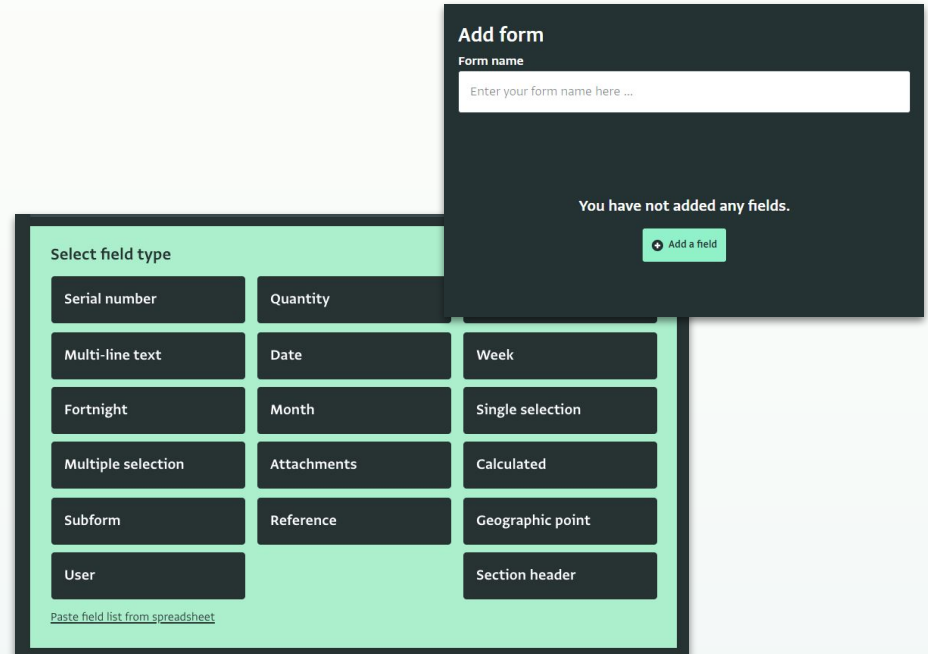
Rapid deployment (weeks, not months)



Intuitive data entry via web and mobile apps



Collection links for easy partner data submission



Strong governance and improved data quality



Structured data model (forms, relationships, reference data)



Built-in validation rules and required fields



Role-based permissions and workflow control



Full audit trail of data changes

The screenshot shows a web interface for 'Database settings'. The breadcrumb trail is 'DATABASES > CASH BASED INTERVENTION > DATABASE SETTINGS'. The 'Roles' section is active, showing a list of roles with their initials in a circle: 'A Administrator', 'RO Read only', 'P Partner', and 'C Case management officer'. There is a '+ Add role' button at the top of the roles list. On the left sidebar, other menu items include 'Database design', 'User management', 'Roles' (highlighted), 'Problems', 'Audit log', and 'Translations'.

Easy to maintain without IT support



No software development or DevOps required



Configuration managed by program teams, not engineers



BeDataDriven-managed infrastructure, security, and updates



Built-in support and help desk

[Help Center](#) / [ActivityInfo Help](#)

ActivityInfo Help

Welcome! You can raise a request for ActivityInfo Help using the options provided.

What can we help you with?



Request support

Request support from the ActivityInfo team.



Suggest a feature

Tell us your idea for a new feature or improvement.

ActivityInfo help desk

Scalable and sustainable



Scales across projects, partners, and countries



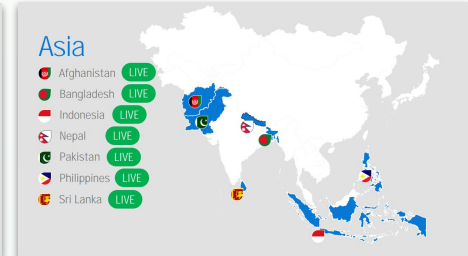
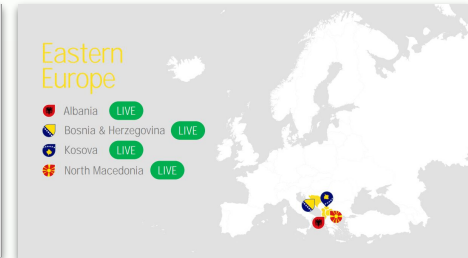
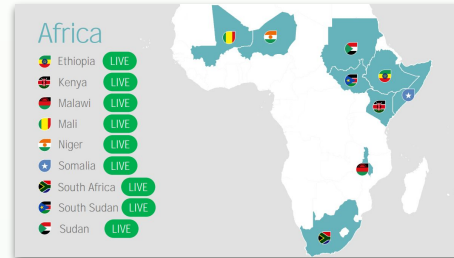
Standardize templates for reuse across programs



Predictable subscription pricing



No rebuild required as needs evolve



Islamic Relief Worldwide - Global roll out of ActivityInfo

Secure and self-controlled



Secure cloud hosting with strong access controls



Fine-grained user permissions (down to record and field level)



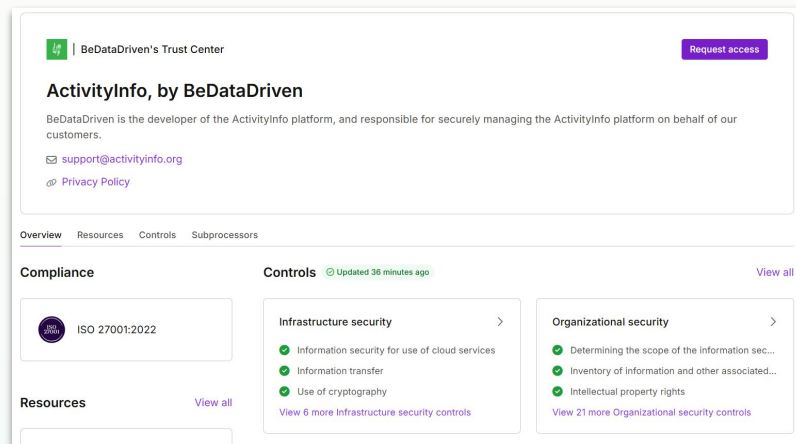
Audit logs for compliance and accountability



Full data export via UI and API (data portability)



Self-managed option available



ActivityInfo trust center

Flexible



Configurable and adaptable data model (no fixed schema)



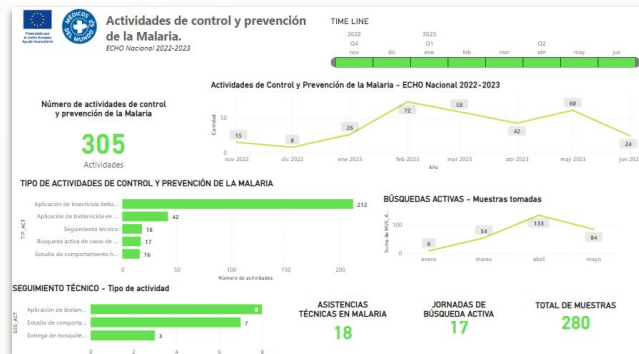
Supports diverse use cases (MEL, partner reporting, case tracking, etc)



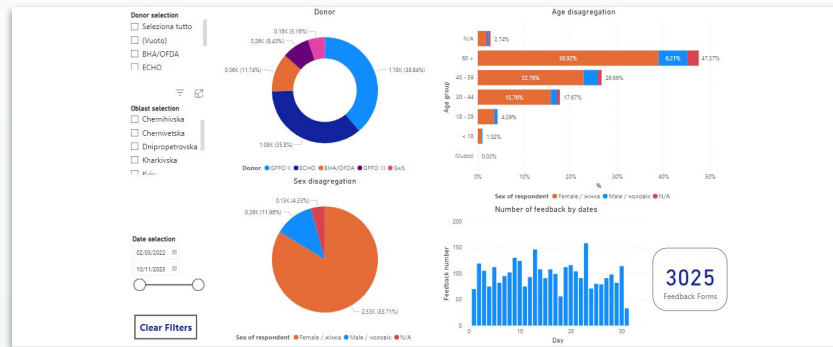
Adaptable to changing program requirements



Integrations via API with other systems

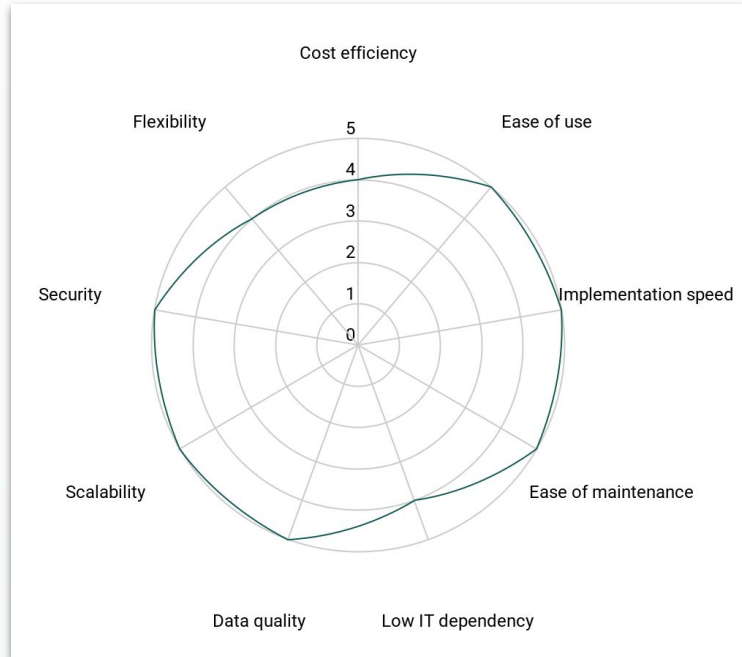


Médicos del Mundo - ECHO funded project in Venezuela



Médicos del Mundo - Ukraine Feedback and Complaints

ActivityInfo



Potential advantages

- Faster deployment
- Predictable costs
- Managed infrastructure
- Built by experts
- Flexible

Challenges

- Change management

Good for organizations needing sustainable, scalable systems for program data

ActivityInfo Users



Aga Khan Agency for Habitat





ActivityInfo demo

Questions?

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