

A Process of automating research administration data of the Ministry of Health by using a customized software: RedCap

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## Outline

- Background and introduction to the domain
- Objectives
- Methodology
- Results
- Discussion
- Conclusion and recommendations





## Introduction

- The government of Sri Lanka is geared to improve the research culture among state officials
- As per the 2011 budget proposals and subsequent circulars, government officials can obtain research allowance
- Eligible officers in the Ministry of Health
  - Senior level administrators
  - Medical officers
- Vigorous administrative process
- Research committee chaired by the Secretary- Health
- Operationalized by the Education, Training and Research Unit of the Ministry of Health





## Introduction

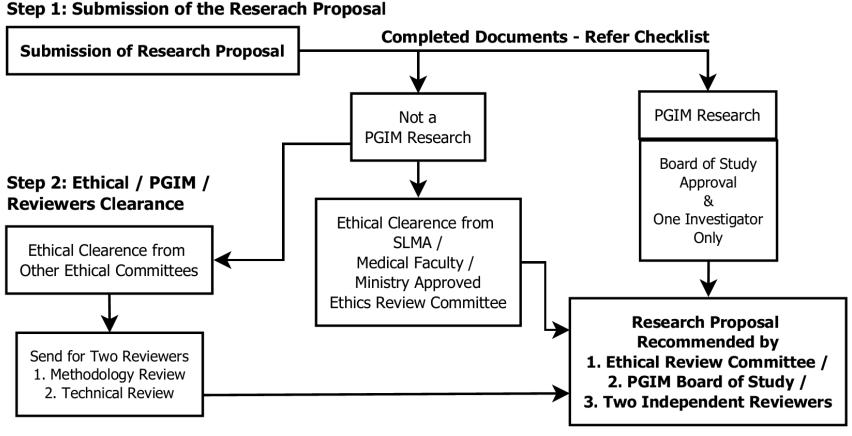
- Number of research files reaching 1100
- Difficulty in handling paper based data for administrative and analysis purposes
- Type of primary data: Case based non aggregated
- Difficulty in proper storage and analysis of the collected data on papers
  - Does not facilitate searching and updating
  - Physical space
  - Difficulty in tracking existing research
  - Difficult analysis





## Process of management









nformatics

Quality Information for Better Healthcare

## Process of management

#### **Step 3: Payment for 1st 6 Months**



#### **Step 4: Payment for 2nd 6 Months**



Depending on the nature of the research, the research committee can decide to approve payment to carry out the research up to a maximum of 3 years



## Process of management

#### **Step 5: Payment for 2nd Year**



# Certified Copies and Originals of Evidence of Publication in an Accredited Journal Recommendation of the Research Sub Commmitee of Ministry of Health Recommendation Approval of the DGHS and Secretary Health





## Objectives

- 1. To capture the administrative data of the research allowance process electronically
- 2. To generate technical and audit related reports on time





## Methodology

- Governing principles
  - Participatory approach
  - Iterative development
  - Free and Open Source solution with adequate support
  - More focus on quality of case based research administrative data capturing than aggregation of data
  - Mandatory 3 tier architecture
  - Only to be deployed in the LAN

#### Steps

- Requirement analysis
- Customization of the software solution
- Implementation
- Testing
- Maintenance



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#### Customizable solution

## REDCap

- Research Electronic Data Capture software
- Secure, web-based application used to build and manage research based primary and administrative data
- REDCap was developed by Vanderbilt University
- Used extensively by clinical and translational science researchers and research administrators
- Free and open source
- PHP based
- Built in to 3 tier architecture
- Customizable
- Needs bilateral agreement between the Vanderbilt University and the implementing institution and obtain consortium partnership





#### Customizable solution

## REDCap

- Super users can define the data to be captured, including how it will be displayed and stored
- Can make changes to the program at any time, even after data capturing has begun
- Can control access to the project and use the audit trail to monitor activity
- Validation of data types (e.g. number, date, time, email, phone number)
- Range checks for numbers and dates
- Branching logic to hide fields until appropriate, based on values in other fields (e.g. hide questions about ethical approval board until ethical clearance number field is entered)
- Calculated fields (e.g. enter job class, the total allowance could be calculated)



### Results

Customized solution:

## User profiles

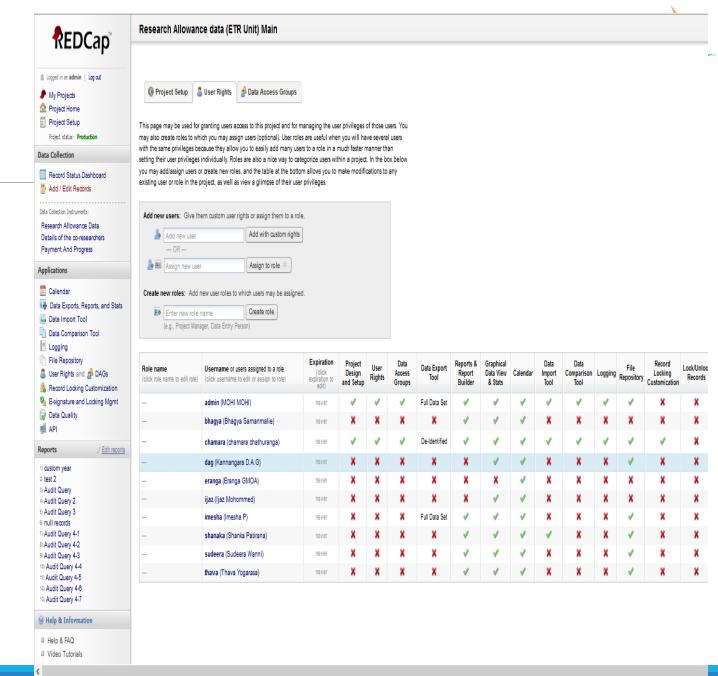


If you wish, you may edit your User Profile information below. This information will not be given out to anyone but will be used to help us better keep track of who is using REDCap and also in case you need to be contacted regarding your access to REDCap.

Return to previous page

Basic Information				
First name:	моні			
Last name:	моні			
Primary email:	mohi@health.uk			
	Save Basic Info			
Password-related Options	:			
Reset password Reset password recovery question				
secondary and tertiary email addre	s used for receiving emails and notifications from REDCap, your sses can only be used when sending out emails from REDCap which they appear as the 'From' address in the email.  Add email			
Tertiary email:	Add email			
User Preferences Set your preferences for how dates,	timestamps, and numbers appear to you in REDCap.			
Date and time format:	DD/MM/YYYY and 12-hour AM/PM time (e.g., 12/31/2004 22:57 or 31/12/2004 10:57pm)			
Number format - decimal character:	, (comma) v (e.g., 3.14 or 3,14)			
Number format - thousands separator:	. (period / full stop) (e.g., 1,000,000 or 1.000.000 or 1.000.000)			
	Save Preferences			

# Results Customized solution: User rights







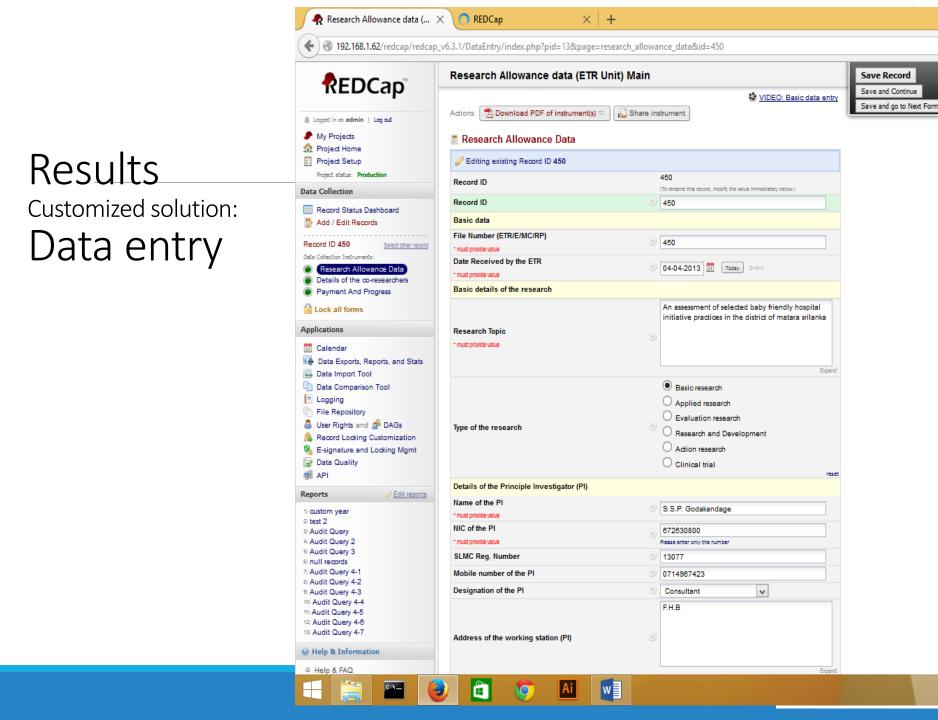




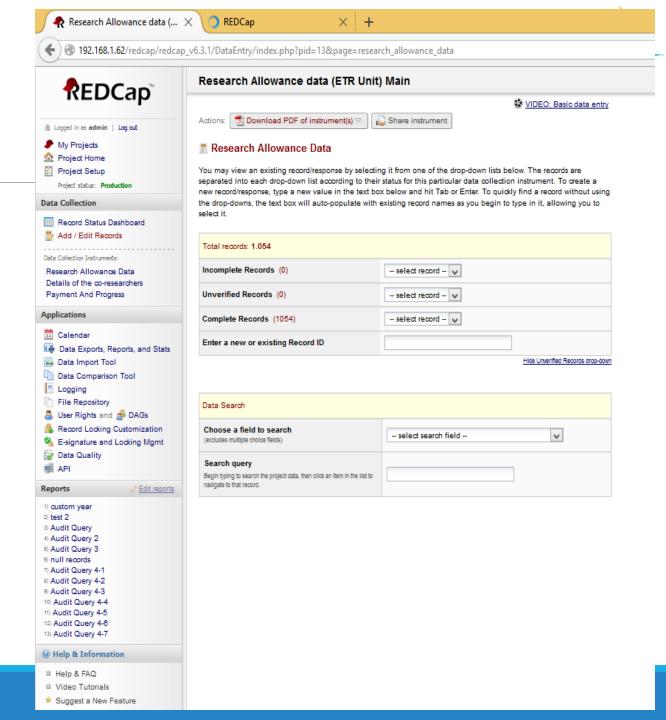








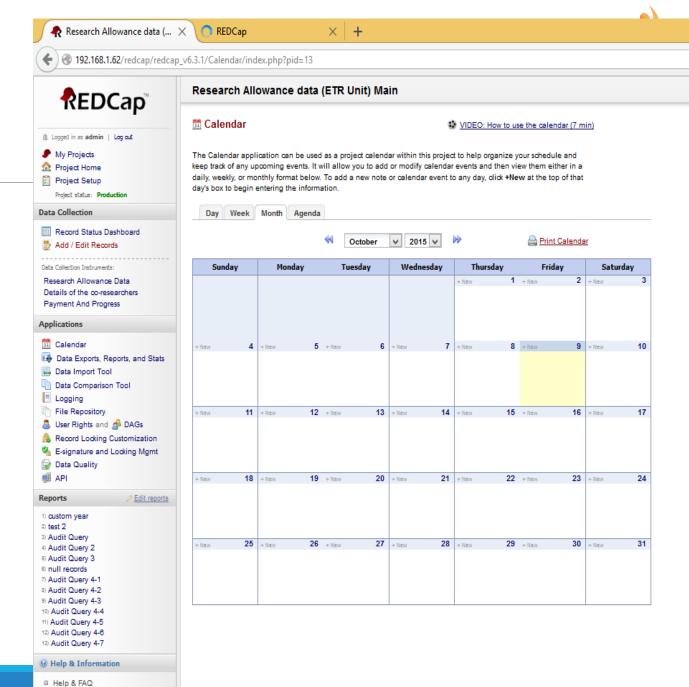
# Results Customized solution: Searching records

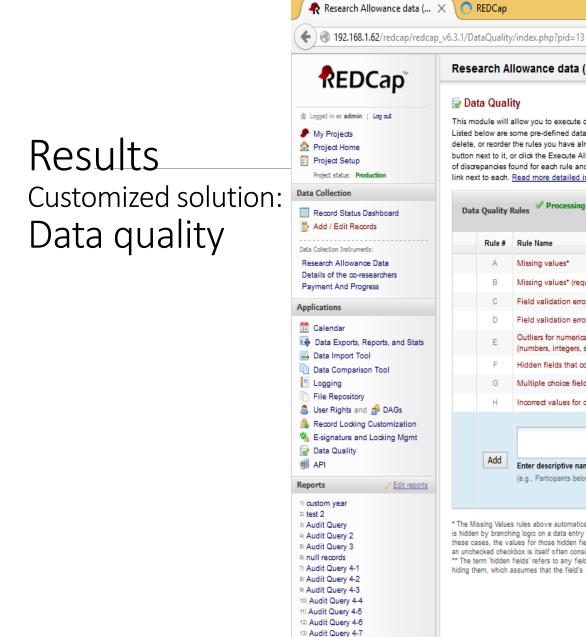


# Results Customized solution: Scheduling and the calendar

□ Video Tutorials

★ Suggest a New Feature



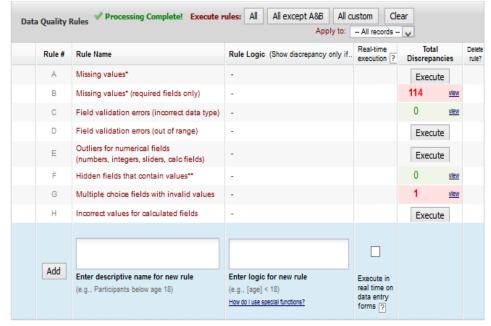


Help & Information ■ Help & FAQ Video Tutorials Suggest a New Feature

#### Research Allowance data (ETR Unit) Main

#### Data Quality

This module will allow you to execute data quality rules upon your project data to check for discrepancies in your data. Listed below are some pre-defined data rules that you may utilize and run. You may also create your own rules or edit, delete, or reorder the rules you have already created. To find discrepancies for a given rule, simply click the Execute button next to it, or click the Execute All Rules button to fire all the rules at once. It will provide you with a total number of discrepancies found for each rule and will allow you to view the details of those discrepancies by clicking the View link next to each. Read more detailed instructions.



- \* The Missing Values rules above automatically exclude fields hidden by branching logic when searching for missing values. If a field is hidden by branching logic on a data entry form or survey, then it is expected that such a field would not have a value. Thus for these cases, the values for those hidden fields will not be classified as missing. Additionally, checkbox fields are also excluded since an unchecked checkbox is itself often considered to be a real value.
- \*\* The term 'hidden fields' refers to any fields on a survey or data entry form that are not being displayed because branching logic is hiding them, which assumes that the field's value should be blank/null.



□ ▼ C □ Q Search

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## **REDCap**

Results

Customized solution:

Program selection











#### Welcome to REDCap!

REDCap is a mature, secure web application for building and managing online surveys and databases. Using REDCap's stream-lined process for rapidly developing projects, you may create and design projects using 1) the online method from your web browser using the Online Designer; and/or 2) the offline method by constructing a 'data dictionary' template file in Microsoft Excel, which can be later uploaded into REDCap. Both surveys and databases (or a mixture of the two) can be built using these methods.

REDCap provides automated export procedures for seamless data downloads to Excel and common statistical packages (SPSS, SAS, Stata, R), as well as a built-in project calendar, a scheduling module, ad hoc reporting tools, and advanced features, such as branching logic, file uploading, and calculated fields.

Learn more about REDCap by watching a 😵 brief summary video (4 min). If you would like to view other quick video tutorials of REDCap in action and an overview of its features, please see the Training Resources page.

NOTICE: If you are collecting data for the purposes of human subjects research, review and approval of the project is required by your Institutional Review Board.

If you require assistance or have any questions about REDCap, please contact Research data administrator.

#### REDCap Features

Build online surveys and databases quickly and securely - Create and design your project rapidly using secure web authentication from your browser. No extra software is required.

Fast and flexible - Conception to production-level survey/database in less than one day.

Export data to common data analysis packages -Export your data to Microsoft Excel, PDF, SAS, Stata, R. or SPSS for analysis.

Ad Hoc Reporting - Create custom queries for generating reports to view or download.

Scheduling - Utilize a built-in project calendar and scheduling module for organizing your events and appointments.

Easily manage a contact list of survey respondents or create a simple survey link - Build a list of email contacts, create custom email invitations, and track who responds, or you may also create a single survey link to email out or post on a website.

Send files to others securely - Using 'Send-It', upload and send files to multiple recipients. including existing project documents, that are too large for email attachments or that contain sensitive

Save your data collection instruments as a PDF to print - Generate a PDF version of your forms and surveys for printing to collect data offline.

Advanced features - Auto-validation, calculated fields, file uploading, branching/skip logic, and survey stop actions.

REDCap API - Have external applications connect to REDCap remotely in a programmatic or automated fashion

Data Queries - Document the process of resolving data issues using the Data Resolution Workflow

Piping - Inject previously collected data values into question labels, survey invitation emails, etc. to provide a more customized experience.







#### 192.168.1.62/redcap/redcap\_v6.3.1/DataImport/index.php?pid=13

## Results Customized solution Data Collection Data import



#### Research Allowance data (ETR Unit) Main

#### 🔤 Data Import Tool

This module may be used for importing data into this project from a CSV (comma delimited) file. Below are the steps you will need to follow in order to import your data successfully into this project.

#### Instructions:

- 1.) Click the link below to download your data import template as a CSV (comma delimited) file. Save it locally to your computer and then open it to begin filling it with the data you wish to import.
  - Download your Data Import Template (with records in rows)
  - Download your Data Import Template (with records in columns)
- 2.) In each column of the Data Import Template file that you downloaded, place the data for each record that you wish to import. Once all your data has been added, save the file.
  - Be sure not to change the Variables/Field Names in the file or an error may occur.
  - · Also, for all of the 'dropdown' or 'radio' fields in the project, you must make sure that the numerical value (rather than the text value) is entered in those cells, or else it cannot be processed.
  - · Any empty rows or columns in the file can be safely deleted before importing the file. Doing this reduces the upload processing time, especially for large projects.
- 3.) Click the 'Browse' or 'Choose File' button below to select the file on your computer, and upload it by clicking the 'Upload File' button.
- 4.) Once your file has been uploaded, the data will NOT be immediately imported but will be displayed and checked for errors to ensure that all the data is in correct format before it is finally imported into the project.

Record format: The file to be uploaded has its records stored as separate Rows Format for date and datetime values: DD/MM/YYYY or YYYY-MM-DD V Upload your CSV file: Browse... No file selected. Upload File

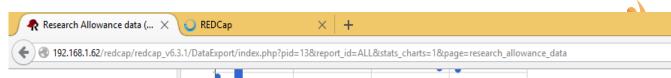


\* Suggest a New Feature

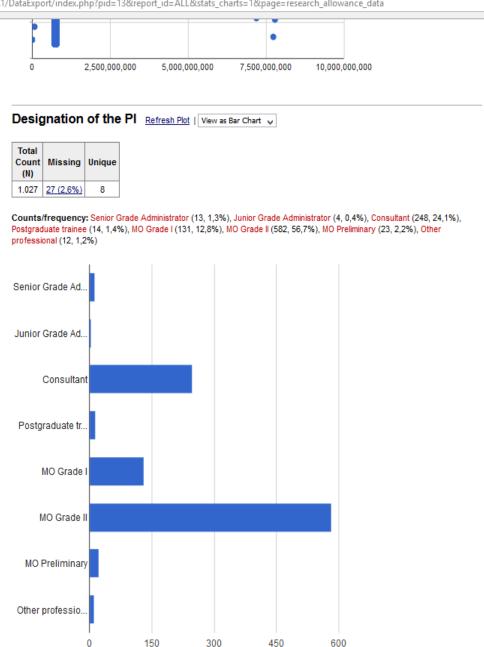
Results

Data export

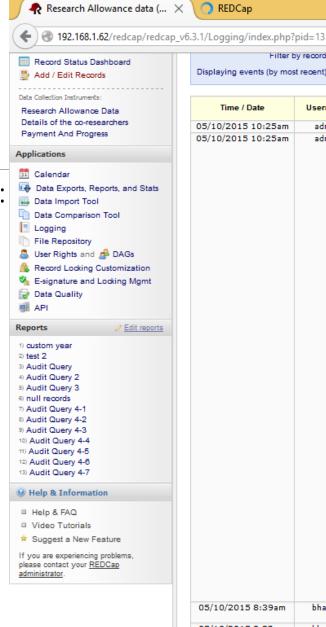
#### 192,168,1,62/redcap/redcap v6,3,1/DataExport/index.php?pid=13 Research Allowance data (ETR Unit) Main Data Exports, Reports, and Stats VIDEO: How to use Data Exports, Reports, and Stats My Reports & Exports - Create New Report PDF & Other Export Options This module allows you to easily view reports of your data, inspect plots and descriptive statistics of your data, as well as export your data to Microsoft Excel, SAS, Stata, R, or SPSS for analysis (if you have such privileges). If you wish to export your \*entire\* data set or view it as a report, then Report A is the best and quickest way. However, if you want to view or export data from only specific instruments (or events) on the fly, then Report B is the best choice. You may also create your own custom reports below (if you have such privileges) in which you can filter the report to specific fields, records, or events using a vast array of filtering tools to make sure you get the exact data you want. Once you have created a report, you may view it as a webpage, export it out of REDCap in a specified format (Excel, SAS, Stata, SPSS, R), or view the plots and descriptive statistics for that report. My Reports & Exports Report ID ( Report name View/Export Options Management Options (auto-generated)



# Results Customized solution: Data analysis



## Results Customized solution: Audit trails



Filter by record: All records ♥

Displaying events (by most recent): 1 - 100 ♥

Time / Date	Username	Action	List of Data Changes OR Fields Exported
05/10/2015 10:25am	admin	Manage/Design	Download exported data file (CSV raw)
05/10/2015 10:25am	admin	Data Export  Updated Record	report_id: ALL, export_format: CSV, rawOrLabel: raw, fields: "record_id, fileno, date_recieved, res_topic, type_of_the_research, sri_lanka_clinical_trials, name_of_the_principle_inve, nic_of_the_pi, slmc_reg_number, mobile_number_of_the_pindesignation_of_the_pinves, address_of_the_working_sta, salary_paying_institution, previously_obtained_allowa, pi_allow_already_file, allow_already_startdate, has_the_ethical_clearance, name_of_the_ethical_clearan, date_of_the_ethical_clearan, date_of_the_ethical_clearan, thical_clearance_number, has_the_research_been_appr, name_of_the_board_of_study, comments_and_remarks, proceed_for_approval research_allowance_data_complete, number_of_researchers_invo, nameco1, nicco: slmcco1, designationco1, currently_co1, allowfileco1, reallco1, paying_officerco1, nameco2, nicco2, slmcco2, designationco2, currently_co2, allowfileco12_178, reallco2, paying_officerco12_039, nameco3, nicco3, slmcco3, designationco3, currently_co3, allowfileco3, reallco3, paying_officerco3, nameco4, nicco4, slmcco4, designationco4, currently_co4, allowfileco4, reallco4, paying_officerco4, nameco5, nicco5, slmcco5, designationco5, currently_co5, allowfileco5, reallco5, paying_officerco5, nameco6, nicco6, slmcco6, designationco6, currently_co6, allowfileco6, details_of_the_coresearchers_complete, date_of_primary_appr, reason_for_rejection, payement_comm_date, date_of_primary_appr, rea
05/10/2015 8:37 am	bhagya	497 Updated Record	
		407	
05/10/2015 8:35am	bhagya	Updated Record 407	
05/10/2015 8:02am	bhagya	Updated Record 15	
05/10/2015 6:22am	bhagya	Updated Record	



Biomedical

## Discussion

#### Implementation issues

- Deployed in the local network, can login within the ministry premises
- Data entry to clear the back-log: Operator variability caused data quality problems
- Data security (Administrative, hardware and software levels)
- Although we can make changes to most elements after the project is in production mode, it is better and easier to do it while it is in development mode

#### Sustainability

Leadership

System need driven implementation

REDCap consortium support

User participation

- Positive impact on the outcome
- Resulted in successful iterations
- Time consuming
- Not clear about the requirements resulting new data element incorporation even after data entry has completed Eg. Audit unit



## Discussion and key learnings

- Balancing software and system needs
  - REDCap design and needs gap
  - Modifying the need vs the design

#### Key outputs

- Routine, daily basis file management
- Audit report 01/01/2014 to 30/07/2015
- Aggregated data provision for the SLMA session on "workplace based research"

#### Limitations

REDCap has less focus on aggregated data analysis







- •FOSS-HMIS as cost-effective and adoptable solutions to increase the efficiency in administrative information management
- Participatory approach in customization
  - Builds the rapport
  - Practical negotiations for the gaps between needs and the software capability
  - Be prepared to the changing or unidentified needs of the users





## Thank you!

