

ANNEX III- Preparation of database in REDCap

To encourage data homogeneity and standardisation of results across study areas, we used web-based software called Research Electronic Data Capture (REDCap) to create a database for the project. Descriptively, the REDCap uses instruments such as survey forms as research capture tools and offers a secure database that can be used for normal data entry or for surveys across multiple distinct times and points. The REDCap is generally designed to aid a secured environment that can be used by the research team to store and export datasets into statistical programs such as SPSS, R, Stata, and Epiinfo among other data analysis software. Additionally, REDCap offers more advantage over other web-based software in that it is quick and easy to operate; offers user-level access control (user-friendly); is accessible via mobile app (offline options); support both longitudinal and cross-sectional projects; provides the option to anonymously collect responses; fully customizable (provides the option to modify the database/survey questions at any time during the study); provides data comparison functions; offers access to researchers from various institutions (provided they have the login details); can save collected dataset in various format like pdf, csv, xlsx etc. Therefore, we used the REDCap to create an entry for each variable that is contained in the rodent surveillance (exterior and interior) form and recorded such in the web-based REDCap software for further evaluation.