

“It is a tightrope walk between standardisation and flexibility.”

The story I want to share

In 2018 Helvetas made digitalisation a priority for 2019 – 2020. Digitalisation affects not only the way we work, but also the development challenges we address.

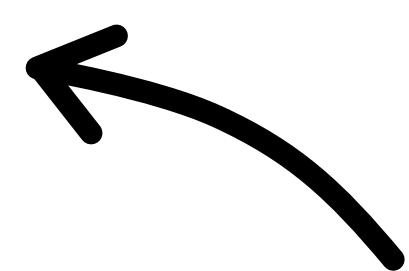
→ **We want to be more efficient and increase the availability, analysis and visualisation of data.**

In recent years Helvetas country offices have proactively started to test digital tools for monitoring, evaluation, accountability and learning (MEAL). In particular, we want to develop digital data collection and the existing field knowledge for an organisation-wide system.

→ **Our goal is to have the digital means for data collection, aggregation, cleaning and analysis available in 80% of the countries in which Helvetas engages by the end of 2020.**

Objective: replace Excel documents with a more efficient and timely use of data to help steer results-based decision making.

→ **Our data should be useful, and not end up in data cemeteries.**



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*Efficiency, effectiveness and fun with data collection and monitoring:
our path to digital solutions.*

Lessons learnt

- Working on digitising our monitoring, evaluation, accountability and learning (MEAL) system means engaging with our MEAL culture.
- The digital MEAL tool itself is just the 10% icing on the cake – the rest revolves around data and the engagement of staff and partners in MEAL.
- Digitalisation is about change management: the various project realities, and the multi-cultural and multi-stakeholder contexts add an additional layer of complexity.

The four workstreams of our digital transformation

1. ICT4D
2. Digital communications
3. Internal processes
4. Digital MEAL, for which Helvetas is already working with digital data collection tools in several projects, such as KoBo Toolbox and Akvo Flow.

