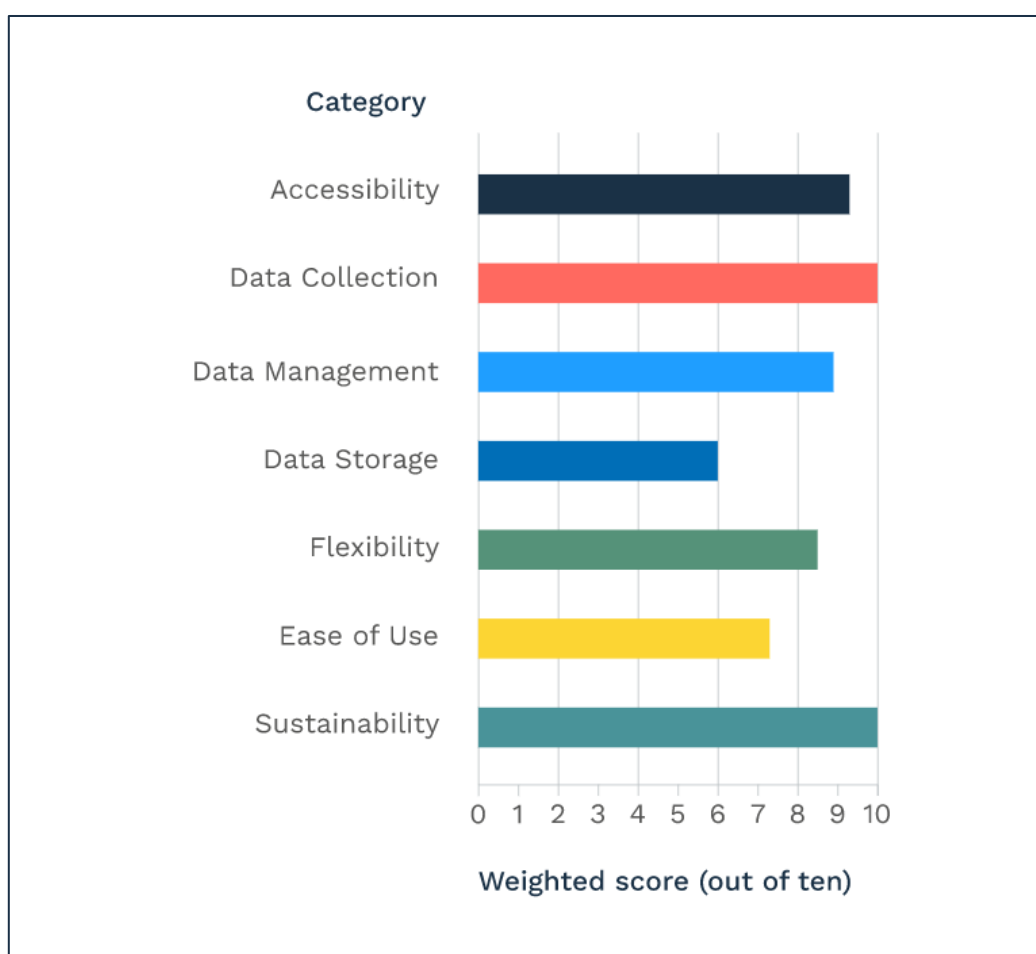




Guide for the evaluation of Surveillance and Information Sharing Operation Tool for Rabies (SISOT-R)

Version 1, October 2026





1.0. Using this document

This document provides guidance for evaluators of rabies specific tools, using the SISOT-R evaluation matrix (available at: <https://pradamodellinglab.shinyapps.io/SISOT-R/>).

The initial evaluation of a tool shall be provided by the tool developers, as highlighted in 'The Process' section in the document below. Users of a tool can provide evaluations at any point, which will serve to regularly update the United Against Rabies Forum toolbox.

Ideally, additional evaluations will be provided by users with direct experience with the tool and its functionality, independently from the developer.

The tool evaluation workstream of the United Against Rabies Forum, with support from the United Against Rabies Forum Steering Group, will ensure that all pertinent tools to rabies control and elimination that have been submitted are made available and easily accessible to any interested stakeholder in the [United Against Rabies Forum Toolbox](#).

With your help, we will have a single, freely accessible, comprehensive, and useful repository of all tools that can support rabies control and elimination. This repository will guide stakeholders, not only as to what tools are available for their use, but also as to which tool is most applicable to their own situational needs.

For more information, please contact globalabiescoordinator@woah.org

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* Affiliations reflect the positions held by individuals at the time of their contribution to the Tool Evaluation workstream.

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2.0 Background

Surveillance and Information Sharing is an integral component of a functional One Health system for zoonotic diseases, and platforms have been developed, implemented, and maintained using tools that provide guidance and other resources. Despite the availability of many tools to assist in developing coordinated or joint One Health surveillance capacity, there was no repository or standard assessment for identifying the most useful tools for creating, implementing, and/or maintaining One Health surveillance and information sharing platforms. To this end, the concept and development of the Surveillance and Information Sharing – Operation Tool (SISOT) was initialized.

Following this, members of the United Against Rabies (UAR) Forum evaluated the SISOT to determine its applicability and functionality to global rabies efforts. After extensive evaluation and discussions, the UAR Forum Tool Evaluation workstream felt it necessary to adapt and extend the SISOT tool evaluation instrument into a rabies-specific evaluation matrix to make it directly applicable and pertinent to rabies control and elimination specifically, assisting interested partners and stakeholders.

SISOT-R

The SISOT-R (Surveillance and Information Sharing Operational Tool – Rabies) has been developed as an independent tool assessment matrix that has been specifically customised for rabies. The SISOT-R working group has developed a standardized set of criteria upon which rabies-specific tools can be evaluated to determine their fit for purpose.

The SISOT-R will assist in generating a fair assessment of each tool, highlighting the strengths and weaknesses attributed to the assessed tool. To this end, the SISOT-R generates a score per category (Accessibility; Data collection and needs; Data management and utility; Data storage and protection; Flexibility; Ease of use and training needs; and Sustainability), as well as an overall score for the tool.

This score has been designed to help demonstrate areas of strength when comparing tools and has not been designed to rate tools against one another. Instead, the SISOT-R evaluations will assist rabies personnel in choosing the most appropriate tool for their current interests/situation by comparing strengths and weaknesses across tools within the same category. All of the tools evaluated using the SISOT-R are freely available on the UAR Forum website (<https://www.unitedagainstrabies.org/resources-toolbox/>).



3.0 The Process

Developers of tools relating to rabies control and elimination efforts should contact the Global Rabies Coordinator (globalrabiescoordinator@woah.org) to submit the documentation needed for their tool to be included.

Only one document needs to be submitted:

- a complete evaluation of the tool using the SISOT-R scoring (<https://pradamodellinglab.shinyapps.io/SISOT-R/>)

Note: While one evaluation by the developers of the tool is required to initiate the process, additional evaluations by users of the tool can also be sent to the Global Rabies Coordinator (globalrabiescoordinator@woah.org) to be considered by Tool Evaluation workstream and the Steering Group of the United Against Rabies Forum.

Once submitted to the Global Rabies Coordinator, the evaluation will be reviewed by the Tool Evaluation panel. The review process is to simply proof-read and ensure that all requested content has been appropriately provided. The review may also include some basic questions from the panel to determine whether all the information provided has been appropriately interpreted.

If the tool has undergone multiple evaluations (by the developer and end-users), the panel will review the evaluations and determine a combined final score for each tool. The panel may independently seek further evaluators for the tool being assessed. The revised evaluation and information will be uploaded onto the UAR website.



3.0 Workflow

A tool developer submits a rabies-specific tool evaluation and its background to the Global Rabies Coordinator (globalrabiescoordinator@woah.org).



The documentation is passed to the panel, who will evaluate the request and review all the documentation. The panel may independently request additional evaluations. Expected timeline is 20 working days, depending on whether additional evaluations are carried out.



All documentation is compiled and checked.



OR



The documents (and preferably the tool, where possible) are accepted and placed on the UAR website.



The documents are returned to the developer for revision or further edits.**

***Please note: You may be contacted again if there is still missing information or further clarifications are required.*



4.0. SISOT-R Evaluation

Completing the evaluation

The evaluation is completed through the online tool (<https://pradamodellinglab.shinyapps.io/SISOT-R/>). After providing some basic information, the evaluator needs to answer a series of pre-defined questions across seven categories.

The most appropriate answer is selected from the options provided, with a corresponding score being attributed to that answer. All the scores within a category are combined into a category score (all questions are weighed equally). Similarly, all the category scores are combined to provide an overall score for the tool (all categories are also weighted equally).

You will be able to visualise the changes in the scores on the right-hand side of the evaluation tool as more answers are provided.

Evaluation criteria

The evaluator will assess the following categories, in the context of the application of the tool to support rabies control and elimination efforts:

Accessibility (6 questions)

- These questions focus on i) logistics for accessing and using the tool, ii) the platforms on which the tool runs (if applicable), iii) relevant costs, and iv) the level of user support that is provided by the developer/manufacturer.

Data collection and needs (7 questions)

- These questions focus on the type of data that is captured by the tool. Note: For this section, one question (line 33) is a free-text field where the evaluator can input additional information relating to the type of data collected (if applicable).

Data management and utility (7 questions)

- These questions focus on the data analysis and outputs provided by the tool.

Data storage and protection (4 questions)

- These questions focus on data ownership, protection and storage.

Flexibility of tool (4 questions)

- These questions focus on the interoperability of the tool and its adaptability for use in different contexts or scenarios.

Ease of use and training needs (6 questions)

- These questions focus on the training requirements, including the level of complexity and difficulty to navigate and understand the tool as well as the technical or operational skillsets that are required to use the tool.

Sustainability (5 questions)

- These questions focus on the different scenarios that indicate how sustainable the tool has been and whether it has been thoroughly field-tested for implementation, laying credibility to the manufacturer's claims.

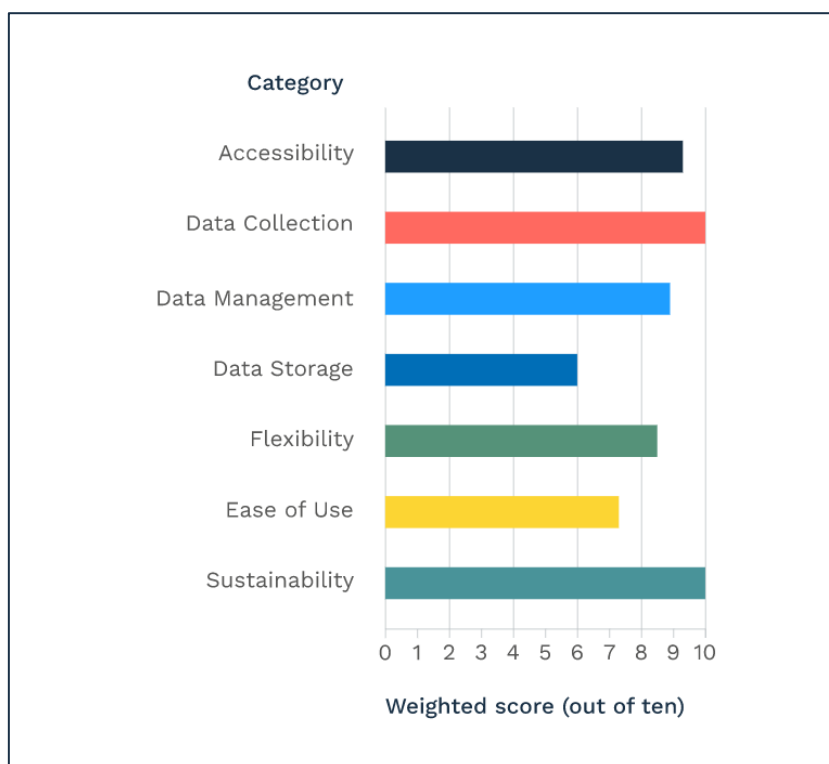
Scoring

Unlike many assessment tools, the scoring system is clearly visible to the user. This has been purposefully done for two reasons:

- The developers may see where there are shortcomings within their tool so that they may potentially improve upon this in future development.
- A potential user of the tool can clearly see the evaluation criteria, and thus the strengths and weaknesses of a given tool.

The SISOT-R scores each question on a scale of 0-4 based on the answer provided by the evaluator.

A score of "4" is the highest possible value and indicates the most desirable outcome for the criterion asked. In contrast, a score of "0" is the lowest possible value and indicates tool limitations for the criterion. Some questions have a "Not Applicable" option which does not attribute a score to that question, so selecting "N/A" will not bias/influence the category score or the total score. Every category will have at least one question that must be selected (i.e. no 'Not applicable' option is available) to ensure that the scoring remains objective and that each category has been completed.



A bar chart is generated as the evaluation is being completed, combining and converting the scores for each of each of the questions in a category into a 0-10 scale. A high score indicates a strong tool for that category. The bar chart enables an "at-a-glance" summary of the strengths and weaknesses of the tool for those possible interested users. This same bar chart will be visible in the tool page once the tool is approved and uploaded to the UAR Forum website.

Ranking the final scores between different tools is not the objective of the evaluation process. Instead, by defining each tools' strengths and weaknesses, interested stakeholders will be able to determine the most relevant, fit-for-purpose tools for their unique situational needs. As such, the category scores are most relevant to the user as these will indicate the strengths and weaknesses of each tool within defined, critical areas. We understand that no tool is perfect and that some compromise is needed; potential users must use their own discretion to determine the tool that better suits their requirements.



6.0. Frequently Asked Questions

What is the SISOT-R Evaluation Matrix?

The SISOT-R evaluation matrix is a web-based tool that was developed by the Tool Evaluation workstream of the United Against Rabies Forum to evaluate tools relevant to rabies control and elimination efforts in endemic countries. Evaluated tools can be accessed at <https://www.unitedagainstrabies.org/resources-toolbox/>

How do I use the SISOT-R Evaluation Matrix?

Click on the link provided (<https://pradamodellinglab.shinyapps.io/SISOT-R/>) and follow the instructions. Alternatively, the GitHub codebase (<https://github.com/Prada-Modelling-Lab/SISOT-R>) containing the code for the app can be downloaded and used without the need for an internet connection. The first section that needs to be completed includes information relevant to the person completing the evaluation, followed by the "Tool Description" section, and the evaluation itself for each category, where you will be required to select the most appropriate answer/s.

What constitutes a "Tool"?

Any resources and/or documents that rabies stakeholders can use to assist the creation, implementation, or maintenance of rabies control or elimination efforts, including, but not limited to:

- Models and templates for standard operating procedures and processes
- Draft terms of reference or agreements, e.g., for data sharing
- Templates and tools for data collection, evaluation, and reporting
- Workbooks and materials to guide intersectoral collaborative activities and working groups

Therefore, a "Tool" can be anything from a verbal autopsy questionnaire, a mobile phone application, an Excel tool (such as the SARE or GDREP), an M&E Framework, etc.

For tools that have multiple functionalities (e.g., Rabies Epidemiological Bulletin, which has multiple components focussing on IBCM, vaccination tracking, etc.) we request that you assess each of these functional components individually, rather than as one single tool if possible.

As such, **for the tool to be categorized appropriately in the UAR Forum website, multiple SISOT-R evaluations will be required – each focussing on a specific functional aspect of the tool.**

How are evaluation data and reviewer identities handled?

The SISOT-R evaluation tool does not save any information entered into the app. Completed evaluations should be sent to the Global Rabies Coordinator (globalrabiescoordinator@woah.org) to be considered by the Tool Evaluation workstream and the Steering Group of the UAR Forum.

Additional evaluations submitted by users may be considered alongside the initial evaluation provided by the tool developer and may contribute to a combined final score for the tool.

No evaluation or reviewer name will be included on the UAR Forum website or made publicly available without the agreement of the person submitting the evaluation.