

# Package: idem (via r-universe)

June 3, 2026

**Title** XLSForm Comparison and Validation

**Version** 2026.6.3

**Description** Reads and compares XLSForm survey files, validating that a target form is consistent with a development form.

**License** MIT + file LICENSE

**URL** <https://impact-initiatives.github.io/idem/>

**Encoding** UTF-8

**Roxygen** list(markdown = TRUE)

**Depends** R (>= 4.1.0)

**Imports** cli, lifecycle, purrr, readxl, rlang (>= 1.2.0), stats, stringr, tibble, tidyr

**Suggests** dplyr, knitr, rmarkdown, testthat (>= 3.0.0)

**Config/testthat/edition** 3

**LazyData** true

**Config/Needs/website** rmarkdown

**Config/roxygen2/version** 8.0.0

**Config/pak/sysreqs** libicu-dev

**Repository** <https://impact-initiatives.r-universe.dev>

**Date/Publication** 2026-06-03 08:50:53 UTC

**RemoteUrl** <https://github.com/impact-initiatives/idem>

**RemoteRef** HEAD

**RemoteSha** fba1f8f96bef950e57b01320196312afb85376a2

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idem\_passing\_lists      *Default list names skipped by validate\_choices()*

---

### Description

A character vector of XLSForm list names whose choice options are expected to differ between forms (admin boundaries, cluster IDs, enumerator IDs). Used as the default for the `passing_lists` argument of `validate_choices()` and `validate_xlsform()`.

### Usage

```
idem_passing_lists
```

### Examples

```
idem_passing_lists
```

---

msna\_template\_required  
*MSNA template XLSForm (required questions)*

---

### Description

An `xlsform` object containing the required questions from the Multi-Sector Needs Assessment (MSNA) template form. This dataset serves as the reference (development) form against which collected XLSForms can be validated with `validate_xlsform()`.

### Usage

```
msna_template_required
```

**Format**

An xlsform object — a named list of two tibbles with class `c("xlsform", "list")`:

survey — 313 rows × 17 columns: # nolint: line\_length\_linter.

**type** XLSForm question type (e.g. "select\_one", "integer").

**name** Variable name.

label::english (en) Question label in English.

label::french (fr) Question label in French.

hint::english (en) Enumerator hint in English.

hint::french (fr) Enumerator hint in French.

**calculation** XLSForm calculation expression.

**required** Whether the question is required (TRUE/FALSE/NA).

**relevant** XLSForm relevance expression.

**constraint** XLSForm constraint expression.

**default** Default value.

**repeat\_count** Repeat count expression for repeat groups.

constraint\_message::english (en) Constraint violation message in English.

constraint\_message::french (fr) Constraint violation message in French.

**appearance** XLSForm appearance attribute.

**choice\_filter** Choice filter expression.

**parameters** Additional XLSForm parameters.

choices — 549 rows × 8 columns: # nolint: line\_length\_linter.

**list\_name** Choice list identifier referenced in survey\$type.

**name** Choice option value.

label::english (en) Choice label in English.

label::french (fr) Choice label in French.

**parent\_country** Country-level cascade filter value.

**parent\_admin1** Admin1-level cascade filter value.

**parent\_admin2** Admin2-level cascade filter value.

**parent\_admin3** Admin3-level cascade filter value.

**Versioning**

The dataset carries a `version` attribute recording the package version under which it was generated. Inspect it with:

```
attr(msna_template_required, "version")
```

The dataset is updated in lockstep with package releases, so the version attribute ties each snapshot of the reference form to a specific release.

**Source**

Derived from the MSNA template XLSForm bundled in `inst/extdata/form.xlsx`. Regenerate with `data-raw/msna_template_required.R`.

**See Also**

[read\\_xlsform\(\)](#), [validate\\_xlsform\(\)](#)

**Examples**

```
msna_template_required
xlsform_questions(msna_template_required)
attr(msna_template_required, "version")
```

---

read_xlsform	<i>Read an XLSForm file</i>
--------------	-----------------------------

---

**Description**

Reads an XLSForm `.xlsx` file from disk and returns an `xlsform` object — a named list of tibbles (one per sheet) with the source file path stored as an attribute. This is the standard entry point for working with XLSForms in `idem`.

**Usage**

```
read_xlsform(
  path,
  required_sheets = c("survey", "choices"),
  optional_sheets = character()
)
```

**Arguments**

<code>path</code>	Path to the <code>.xlsx</code> file.
<code>required_sheets</code>	Character vector of sheet names that must be present in the workbook. Defaults to <code>c("survey", "choices")</code> . An absent required sheet is an error.
<code>optional_sheets</code>	Character vector of sheet names to read if present. Defaults to <code>character()</code> . An absent optional sheet produces a warning and is silently excluded from the returned object.

**Details**

By default the `survey` and `choices` sheets are required. Pass additional sheet names (e.g. `"external_choices"`) via `required_sheets`, or request sheets that may not be present (e.g. `"settings"`) via `optional_sheets`.

**Value**

An xlsform object: a named list of tibbles, one per sheet successfully read, with a path attribute holding the source file path and class `c("xlsform", "list")`.

**See Also**

`xlsform()` to construct an xlsform object from in-memory data frames.

**Examples**

```
path <- system.file("extdata/form.xlsx", package = "idem")

# Read the default sheets (survey + choices)
form <- read_xlsform(path)
form

# Inspect the survey sheet directly
form$survey

# Opportunistically read the settings sheet (no error if absent)
read_xlsform(path, optional_sheets = "settings")
```

---

 validate\_choices

*Validate choice options between two XLSForms*


---

**Description**

For every list name that exists in *both* target and dev's choices sheets, checks that each choice option name present in target also exists in dev. Returns a tibble row for each option found in target that is absent from dev for the same list.

**Usage**

```
validate_choices(target, dev, passing_lists = idem_passing_lists)
```

**Arguments**

target	An xlsform object representing the authoritative reference form.
dev	An xlsform object representing the form being validated.
passing_lists	A character vector of list names to skip entirely. Defaults to <code>idem_passing_lists</code> . Pass character(0) to disable all bypasses.

## Details

### Scope of this check:

This check only compares lists that are defined in *both* forms. Lists that appear in target but are entirely absent from dev are not reported here — use `validate_list_names()` to catch those gaps first.

A typical validation workflow runs `validate_list_names()` before `validate_choices()`, or simply calls `validate_xlsform()` which runs both.

## Value

A tibble with columns `check`, `severity`, `name`, `list_name`, and `detail`. Has zero rows when all choice options in target are present in dev for every shared list.

## See Also

`validate_xlsform()` to run all checks together; `validate_list_names()` for checking that lists themselves exist in dev; `xlsform_choices()` to extract choice options from a form.

## Examples

```
target <- read_xlsform(system.file("extdata/form.xlsx", package = "idem"))

# No issues: all choice options in target also exist in dev
validate_choices(target, target)

# Issues found: drop one option from a non-passing list
non_passing_row <- which(
  !is.na(target$choices$list_name) &
  !target$choices$list_name %in% idem_passing_lists
)[1]
dev_trimmed <- xlsform(
  survey = target$survey,
  choices = target$choices[-non_passing_row, ]
)
validate_choices(target, dev_trimmed)

# Extend the default passing_lists with a project-specific list
validate_choices(
  target, target,
  passing_lists = c(idem_passing_lists, "l_my_project_list")
)
```

---

validate\_list\_names      *Validate defined list names between two XLSForms*

---

## Description

Checks that every list name *defined* in target's choices sheet also exists as a defined list in dev's choices sheet. Returns a tibble row for each list name present in target's choices but absent from dev's choices.

## Usage

```
validate_list_names(target, dev)
```

## Arguments

`target` An xlsform object representing the authoritative reference form.  
`dev` An xlsform object representing the form being validated.

## Details

### Relationship to other checks:

This check is a prerequisite for [validate\\_choices\(\)](#): because [validate\\_choices\(\)](#) only compares options for lists that exist in *both* forms' choices sheets, any list that `target` defines but `dev` omits would be silently skipped. [validate\\_list\\_names\(\)](#) catches those gaps explicitly.

To verify that the same lists are also actively *used* in both forms' survey questions (not just defined in choices), see [validate\\_survey\\_list\\_names\(\)](#).

## Value

A tibble with columns `check`, `severity`, `name`, `list_name`, and `detail`. Has zero rows when all list names defined in `target`'s choices are also defined in `dev`'s choices.

## See Also

[validate\\_xlsform\(\)](#) to run all checks together; [validate\\_survey\\_list\\_names\(\)](#) for the complementary survey-side check; [xlsform\\_defined\\_list\\_names\(\)](#) to extract defined list names from a form.

## Examples

```
target <- read_xlsform(system.file("extdata/form.xlsx", package = "idem"))

# No issues: all lists defined in target's choices are also defined in dev
validate_list_names(target, target)

# Issues found: dev has no choice lists at all, but target defines some
dev_empty_choices <- xlsform(
  survey = target$survey,
  choices = data.frame(list_name = character(), name = character())
)
validate_list_names(target, dev_empty_choices)
```

---

`validate_question_names`*Validate question names between two XLSForms*

---

### Description

Checks that every question name present in target's survey sheet also exists in dev's survey sheet. Returns a tibble row for each question name found in target but absent from dev.

### Usage

```
validate_question_names(target, dev)
```

### Arguments

<code>target</code>	An xlsform object representing the authoritative reference form.
<code>dev</code>	An xlsform object representing the form being validated.

### Details

This check catches situations where the authoritative target form contains questions that the work-in-progress dev form has not yet included — for example, a localised adaptation that dropped required questions, or a form version that has fallen behind the central reference.

### Value

A tibble with columns `check`, `severity`, `name`, `list_name`, and `detail`. Has zero rows when all question names in target are present in dev.

### See Also

[validate\\_xlsform\(\)](#) to run all checks together; [xlsform\\_questions\(\)](#) to extract question names from a form.

### Examples

```
target <- read_xlsform(system.file("extdata/form.xlsx", package = "idem"))

# No issues: every question in target also exists in dev
validate_question_names(target, target)

# Issues found: target has a question that dev is missing
extra_row <- target$survey[1L, ]
extra_row$name <- "required_question"
target_extra <- xlsform(
  survey = rbind(target$survey, extra_row),
  choices = target$choices
)
validate_question_names(target_extra, target)
```

---

`validate_survey_list_names`*Validate survey-referenced list names between two XLSForms*

---

## Description

Checks that every list name *referenced* in target's survey questions is also referenced in dev's survey questions. Returns a tibble row for each list name actively used by target's survey that is absent from dev's survey.

## Usage

```
validate_survey_list_names(target, dev)
```

## Arguments

<code>target</code>	An xlsform object representing the authoritative reference form.
<code>dev</code>	An xlsform object representing the form being validated.

## Details

**How it differs from `validate_list_names()`:**

`validate_list_names()` compares the lists *defined* in each form's choices sheet. `validate_survey_list_names()` compares the lists actively *used* by survey questions — the second token in type values like `select_one list_a`.

The two checks are complementary. A list can be defined in choices but never used in the survey (orphaned list), or — after a question type change from `select_one list_a` to `text` — it may still be defined in choices while no longer referenced in any survey question. This check surfaces the latter case.

## Value

A tibble with columns `check`, `severity`, `name`, `list_name`, and `detail`. Has zero rows when all list names referenced by target's survey are also referenced by dev's survey.

## See Also

`validate_xlsform()` to run all checks together; `validate_list_names()` for the complementary choices-side check; `xlsform_referenced_list_names()` to extract referenced list names from a form.

## Examples

```
target <- read_xlsform(system.file("extdata/form.xlsx", package = "idem"))

# No issues: all lists target's survey uses are also used in dev's survey
validate_survey_list_names(target, target)
```

```

# Issues found: dev's survey has all select questions replaced by text,
# so none of target's referenced lists appear in dev's survey
dev_no_selects <- xlsform(
  survey = data.frame(
    type = rep("text", nrow(target$survey)),
    name = target$survey$name
  ),
  choices = target$choices
)
validate_survey_list_names(target, dev_no_selects)

```

---

validate\_xlsform      *Validate an XLSForm against a reference form*

---

## Description

Runs one or more validation checks comparing a dev (work-in-progress) XLSForm against a target (authoritative reference) XLSForm. The default direction checks that everything present in target also exists in dev — i.e., target is a valid subset of dev.

## Usage

```

validate_xlsform(
  target,
  dev,
  checks = c("question_names", "list_names", "survey_list_names", "choices"),
  passing_lists = idem_passing_lists
)

```

## Arguments

target	An xlsform object representing the authoritative reference form.
dev	An xlsform object representing the form being validated.
checks	A character vector of check names to run. Defaults to all four checks: c("question_names", "list_names", "survey_list_names", "choices").
passing_lists	Passed to <a href="#">validate_choices()</a> . A character vector of list names whose choice options are not compared. Defaults to <a href="#">idem_passing_lists</a> .

## Details

This is the main entry point for form validation. It delegates to the individual `validate_*`() functions and combines their results into a single tibble.

### Available checks:

Check name	What it tests
------------	---------------

"question_names"	Every question name in target must exist in dev.
"list_names"	Every list name <i>defined</i> in target's choices sheet must also be defined in dev's choices sheet.
"survey_list_names"	Every list name <i>referenced</i> in target's survey questions must also be referenced in dev's survey questions.
"choices"	For every shared list, every choice option in target must exist in the same list in dev.

**Return value structure:**

Each row in the returned tibble represents one validation issue:

Column	Description
check	Which check produced this issue.
severity	Currently always "error".
name	The name of the offending question or choice option.
list_name	The choices list involved (NA for question-level checks).
detail	A human-readable description of the problem.

**Value**

A tibble with columns check, severity, name, list\_name, and detail. Has zero rows when no issues are found.

**See Also**

[validate\\_question\\_names\(\)](#), [validate\\_list\\_names\(\)](#), [validate\\_survey\\_list\\_names\(\)](#), [validate\\_choices\(\)](#) for the individual checks.

**Examples**

```
target <- read_xlsform(system.file("extdata/form.xlsx", package = "idem"))

# No issues: a form is always a valid subset of itself
validate_xlsform(target, target)

# Run only a subset of checks
validate_xlsform(target, target, checks = c("question_names", "choices"))

# Introduce issues: dev is missing a question and a choice option
non_passing_row <- which(
  !is.na(target$choices$list_name) &
  !target$choices$list_name %in% idem_passing_lists
)[1]
dev_trimmed <- xlsform(
  survey = target$survey[-nrow(target$survey), ],
  choices = target$choices[-non_passing_row, ]
)
issues <- validate_xlsform(target, dev_trimmed)
issues

# Extend the default passing_lists with a project-specific list
validate_xlsform(
```

```

target, target,
  passing_lists = c(idem_passing_lists, "l_my_project_list")
)

```

---

xlsform

*Construct an xlsform object from data frames*


---

## Description

Builds an xlsform object directly from in-memory data frames, without reading from a file. The resulting object is structurally identical to one produced by `read_xlsform()`, making it useful for testing, creating minimal reproducible examples, or programmatically assembling forms.

## Usage

```
xlsform(..., path = NA_character_)
```

## Arguments

...	Named data frames, one per sheet. Names become the sheet names (e.g. <code>survey =, choices =</code> ). All arguments must be named and must be data frames.
path	A string recording the (notional) source path. Defaults to <code>NA_character_</code> for in-memory objects.

## Details

Most idem functions expect at least a survey sheet and, for choice-related operations, a choices sheet.

## Value

An xlsform object: a named list of data frames with class `c("xlsform", "list")` and a path attribute.

## See Also

[read\\_xlsform\(\)](#) to load an xlsform object from an .xlsx file.

## Examples

```

# Minimal form with two select_one questions sharing a yes/no list
survey <- data.frame(
  type = c("select_one yn", "select_one yn", "text"),
  name = c("consent", "satisfied", "comments")
)
choices <- data.frame(
  list_name = c("yn", "yn"),
  name      = c("yes", "no"),
  label     = c("Yes", "No")
)

```

```
)  
form <- xlsform(survey = survey, choices = choices)  
form  
  
# In-memory forms can be passed directly to validate_xlsform()  
validate_xlsform(form, form)
```

---

xlsform\_choices      *Get choice options from an XLSForm*

---

## Description

Returns a named list of character vectors, where each name is a list name and each element contains the choice option name values for that list. Both the choices sheet and, when present, the external\_choices sheet are combined.

## Usage

```
xlsform_choices(x, ...)  
  
## Default S3 method:  
xlsform_choices(x, ...)  
  
## S3 method for class 'xlsform'  
xlsform_choices(x, ...)
```

## Arguments

x	An xlsform object.
...	Ignored; present for S3 method compatibility.

## Details

This is useful for inspecting which options are available for a given `select_one` or `select_multiple` question, and is used internally by `validate_choices()` to compare option sets across two forms.

## Value

A named list of character vectors. Each name is a list name; each element is the character vector of option name values for that list. Rows with NA in either `list_name` or `name` are silently dropped.

## See Also

`xlsform_defined_list_names()` for just the list names; `validate_choices()` to compare choice options across two forms.

**Examples**

```
form <- read_xlsform(system.file("extdata/form.xlsx", package = "idem"))

# All choice options, organised by list name
xlsform_choices(form)

# Options for a specific list
xlsform_choices(form)[["yn"]]
```

---

```
xlsform_defined_list_names
```

*Get list names defined in the choices sheets of an XLSForm*

---

**Description**

Extracts unique list names from the `list_name` column of all available in-workbook choices sheets. Two sheets are recognised:

**Usage**

```
xlsform_defined_list_names(x, ...)

## Default S3 method:
xlsform_defined_list_names(x, ...)

## S3 method for class 'xlsform'
xlsform_defined_list_names(x, ...)
```

**Arguments**

<code>x</code>	An xlsform object.
<code>...</code>	Ignored; present for S3 method compatibility.

**Details**

- `choices` — the standard sheet used by `select_one`, `select_multiple`, and `rank`.
- `external_choices` — the optional sheet used by `select_one_external` and `select_multiple_external`. Included automatically when present in the loaded form.

**Note on file-based question types:**

`select_one_from_file` and `select_multiple_from_file` reference external CSV/XML/GeoJSON files rather than any in-workbook sheet. This function cannot resolve those references and emits a warning for each such type it encounters.

**Difference from `xlsform_referenced_list_names()`:**

`xlsform_referenced_list_names()` returns lists *referenced* by survey questions; `xlsform_defined_list_names()` returns lists *defined* in the choices sheets. The two sets should match for a well-formed form, but can diverge when a question type is changed without updating the choices sheet (or vice versa).

**Value**

A character vector of unique list names drawn from all available in-workbook choices sheets.

**See Also**

`xlsform_referenced_list_names()` for list names referenced in the survey sheet; `xlsform_choices()` for the full choice options per list; `validate_list_names()` to compare defined lists across two forms.

**Examples**

```
form <- read_xlsform(system.file("extdata/form.xlsx", package = "idem"))

# All list names defined in the choices sheet
xlsform_defined_list_names(form)

# Cross-check: lists defined in choices vs. lists used in survey
# (both should be identical for a well-formed form)
all.equal(
  sort(xlsform_defined_list_names(form)),
  sort(xlsform_referenced_list_names(form))
)
```

---

`xlsform_questions`

*Get question names from an XLSForm*

---

**Description**

Returns the values of the name column from the survey sheet, excluding any rows where name is NA (such as `begin_group` / `end_group` rows that carry no name).

**Usage**

```
xlsform_questions(x, ...)

## Default S3 method:
xlsform_questions(x, ...)

## S3 method for class 'xlsform'
xlsform_questions(x, ...)
```

**Arguments**

`x` An `xlsform` object.

`...` Ignored; present for S3 method compatibility.

**Details**

The returned vector is used internally by `validate_question_names()` to compare question inventories across two forms.

**Value**

A character vector of non-NA question names from the survey sheet.

**See Also**

`xlsform_referenced_list_names()` for list names referenced in the survey; `xlsform_defined_list_names()` for list names defined in the choices sheet.

**Examples**

```
form <- read_xlsform(system.file("extdata/form.xlsx", package = "idem"))

# All question names in the form
xlsform_questions(form)

# Count questions
length(xlsform_questions(form))
```

---

`xlsform_referenced_list_names`

*Get list names referenced in an XLSForm's survey sheet*

---

**Description**

Extracts the unique list names that are actively *referenced* in the type column of the survey sheet — that is, the second space-separated token for question types that link to a choices list:

**Usage**

```
xlsform_referenced_list_names(x, ...)

## Default S3 method:
xlsform_referenced_list_names(x, ...)

## S3 method for class 'xlsform'
xlsform_referenced_list_names(x, ...)
```

**Arguments**

`x` An `xlsform` object.

`...` Ignored; present for S3 method compatibility.

**Details**

Question type	Example type value	Extracted list name
select_one	select_one yn	yn
select_multiple	select_multiple colors	colors
select_one_external	select_one_external regions	regions
select_multiple_external	select_multiple_external items	items
rank	rank priority	priority

select\_one\_from\_file and select\_multiple\_from\_file are excluded because they reference external CSV/XML/GeoJSON files rather than any in-workbook choices sheet.

**Value**

A character vector of unique list names referenced in the survey.

**See Also**

[xlsform\\_defined\\_list\\_names\(\)](#) for list names *defined* in the choices sheet; [validate\\_survey\\_list\\_names\(\)](#) to compare referenced lists across two forms.

**Examples**

```
form <- read_xlsform(system.file("extdata/form.xlsx", package = "idem"))

# Lists actively used by survey questions
xlsform_referenced_list_names(form)

# Compare with lists defined in the choices sheet
xlsform_defined_list_names(form)
```

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