Supported Learning Session on Tracker TGHN LAC Pathfinder Clinic

27 May 2025

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Building an online tool to track Pathfinder studies
WHY?

The goal of Pathfinder studies is to identify **common roadblocks and solutions** across a wide range of host studies set in many different contexts

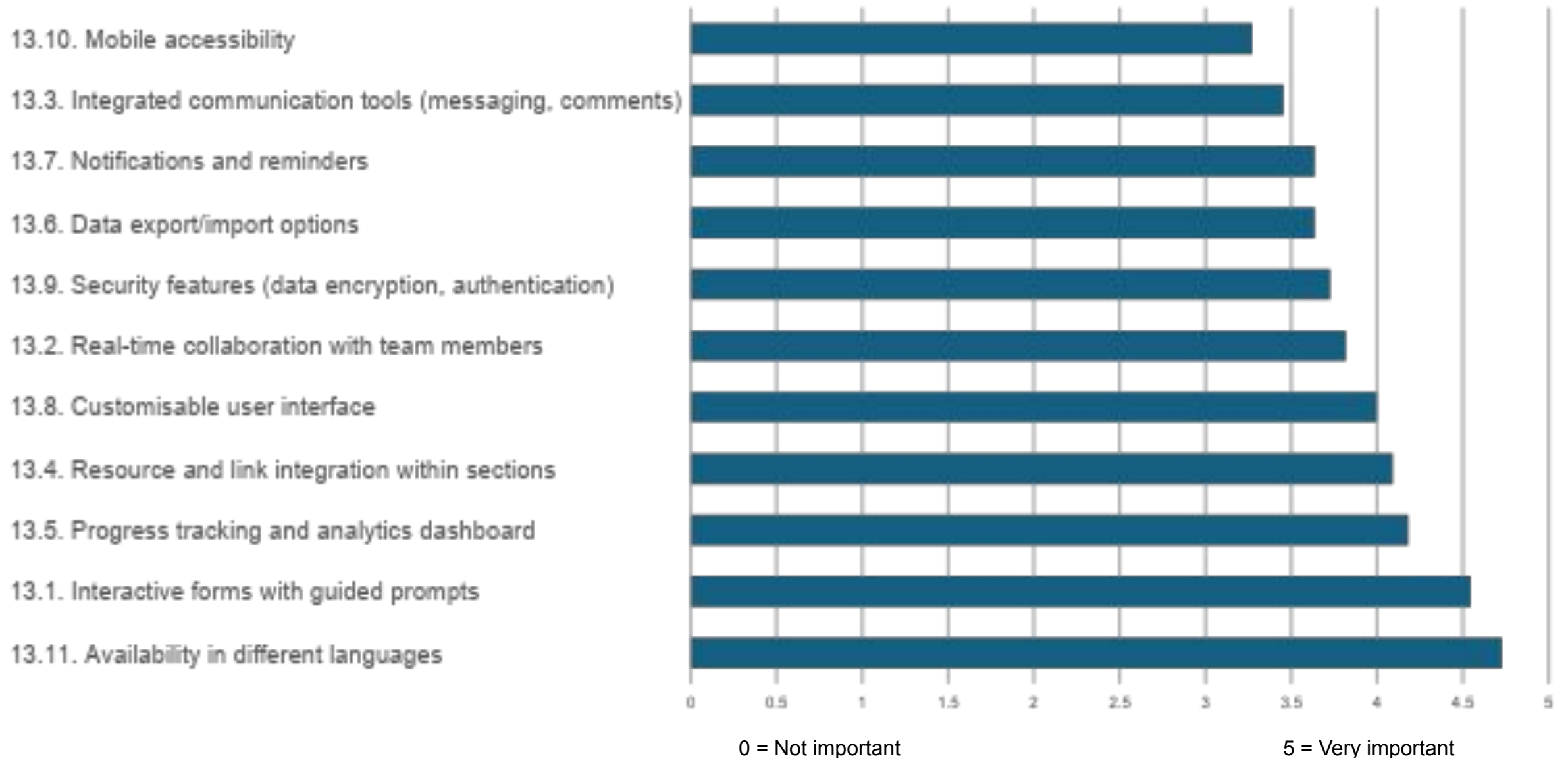# Building an online tool to track Pathfinder studies
Process

March 2025 Survey	→ **April 2025** Focus Group Discussion	→ **May 2025** Follow-Up Technical Discussion

Building an online tool to track Pathfinder studies
Challenges with current methods

- Structure is too rigid
- Time consuming data entry
- Limited access to resources/tools
- Difficulty in collaboration

Building an online tool to track Pathfinder studies
What features should an online tool include?

0 = Not important   5 = Very important

Building an online tool to track Pathfinder studies

There will be an option to view other studies – **not** the detailed trackers of each study, but rather, a process map that summarizes the tracker

The host study process will be divided into a few key stages, as it is in the current Pathfinder tracker

Access will be managed, and roles can be assigned to different Pathfinder team members

There will be fields to populate, just like the current Pathfinder tracker. We will have one pre-populated example to guide Pathfinder teams. The fields will be quite open-ended so that Pathfinder teams can customize them.

We'll have several languages available

Screenshot content:

- View all studies
- Home
- Preview the steps
- Help
- Create account/Login
- English

View or start a 1000 Challenge study
1000 challenge study
English

Stage 1: Research Question

The initial step you must take is to identify a specific challenge or gap in your field of work (The Research Problem). After you identify the problem, you need to analyse the problem (e.g. the causes, and the consequences of it) to justify the importance of conducting the research and refine the framing of your research question. It may be that you have a hypothesis to test such as 'Could a specific new hygiene practice reduce maternal deaths in rural health care settings in East Africa' or 'Could sending informative text messages to nurses help them explain to HIV patients how to take their treatments'. Having a clear research question helps you in various ways when developing your study including narrowing down your data collection and analysis efforts to the essential points, and helps the reader understand what the objectives of your study are. A very helpful framework to guide you in formulating your research question is the PICO or PECO Framework.

1. What problem or gap have you identified in your environment?
Text

2. Why do you think it is a problem?
Text

3. What published evidence (information/data) have you found on the problem you have identified?

Other updates

Pathfinder methods paper submitted to BMC Medical Research Methodology, currently under review

Next: TGHN LAC Pathfinder Paper?