



Opportunity Assessment: Health Management Information Systems Overview

By Athena Nguyen

Summary

A health management information system (HMIS) is broadly defined as a system that streamlines planning processes and coordinates health organizations. Some key components include electronic medical records, lab services, and inventory management. As Koe Koe Tech (KKT) rapidly continues to scale its scope of work and impact, it has the opportunity to revolutionize Myanmar's health network through the continued development and implementation of its HMIS.

Myanmar's data and tech-deprived health system has resulted in administrative inefficiency and inadequate health services. Patients have almost no access to technology that can help them understand their health, communicate with their providers, and make informed decisions about their care. Our research challenge was to better understand the potential for KKT's HMIS to increase informed patient engagement with the health sector. To this end, we traveled throughout Myanmar to rural, semi-urban, and urban areas to gather data from potential patients. Over the course of eight weeks, we administered 112 in-person surveys and, after returning to the US, conducted secondary source analysis. The survey included questions regarding demographic information, mobile health behavior, and likelihood to use a patient-portal within KKT's existing HMIS. Our data analyses included the use of statistical software to generate descriptive statistics and ratios to understand specific attitudes towards adoption and engagement with mobile health.

Our findings were condensed into a 22-page opportunity assessment, which has been shared with KKT decision makers. The full report contains a detailed summary of research methods and outcomes, an examination of health networks in other countries, and a summary of security concerns. The document also features recommendations to overcome potential barriers and incentives for uptake, so KKT can understand the needs of both patients and providers in Myanmar. It will be used by KKT to inform and facilitate subsequent discussions as they proceed with the development and implementation of this software.

With the information provided in the full opportunity assessment, KKT can now rapidly move forward with the implementation of a system that is not only efficient, but locally-tailored and impactful for distinct communities. KKT can leverage its current resources to facilitate communication between patients and doctors and streamline the dissemination of health services throughout Myanmar and at all levels of the health sector.

We hope that the opportunity assessment will support KKT's efforts to revolutionize Myanmar's the health system and provide much needed health resources to diverse communities.

