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Reaching the “Hard-to-Reach” with Mobile Health Applications in Perú

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WE ANTICIPATE GAINING KNOWLEDGE ABOUT THE SOCIO-TECHNICAL PROCESSES THAT WOULD IMPEDE OR FACILITATE EFFECTIVE SOLUTIONS WITHIN THE LARGER HEALTH IT ECOSYSTEM OF THE TWO IMPOVERISHED COMMUNITIES

PROJECT SUMMARY: Our work aims to advance our knowledge of the use of Information Technology (IT) in improving the health systems of vulnerable populations in Perú. Using the Community-Based Participatory Research (CBPR) approach we plan to design and develop a mobile health system to improve maternal and under-3 child health.

PROJECT OBJECTIVES
• Design, develop and evaluate a mobile health system to collect maternal health data using portable devices (Huancavelica)
• Design a mobile phone ‘alert’ system for mothers to attend the regular health appointments within their child’s first 3 years of life (Carabayllo)
• Establish and evaluate the role of CBPR in implementing a health IT project in a developing region
• Provide low-literacy mothers with culturally relevant health education via cell phone applications (Carabayllo)

METHODOLOGY
System Design

Mobile Application Design

WE ARE CURRENTLY CONDUCTING THE FOLLOWING ACTIVITIES:
• Complete mobile applications
• Pilot test in Huancavelica
• Evaluate CBPR process
• Submit a research proposal for a larger intervention