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

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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)

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

NEXT STEPS…
- Complete mobile applications
- Pilot test in Huancavelica
- Evaluate CBPR process
- Submit a research proposal for a larger intervention

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