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Needs Assessment and Down Selection in Guatemala

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NEEDS ASSESSMENT AND SELECTION IN GUATEMALA

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ABSTRACT

A team of sixteen students traveled to Guatemala in March 2015 to conduct needs assessment while volunteering in mobile clinics. Observations were collected and synthesized into over 60 problem and need statements. These statements were down-selected to ten. Then, three statements were chosen through several rounds of literature review and selection rubrics. The three statements are currently being pursued to complete a final down-selection to one problem and need statement.

OBJECTIVES

- Down-select to one problem and needs statement
- Establish community partners to support project

RESULTS

- Develop a diagnostic tool that allows doctors to accurately identify the respiratory condition that the patient possesses.
- Develop a method to facilitate breathing in patients with severe upper respiratory infections.
- Develop a method to remove pollutants and toxins from air inside the home.

IMPACT

Throughout this process, the team has gained a better understanding of front-end design processes, namely in-country needs assessment, literature review, and down-selection. By tackling challenges during the project, the team has developed an understanding of the challenges with and importance of rigorous front-end design. The team has also experimented with and refined its organizational structures. Most importantly, the team has learned the importance and benefit of working with strong community partners and has begun to foster a growing partnership with the cohort at Universidad de Sans Carlos de Guatemala.

FUTURE WORK

Working with the USAC cohort, the team plans to continue to conduct literature review and benchmarking to down-select to one problem and need statement. The team projects to have a design complete by May 2017.

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PARTNERS

UM Library

The partnership with the UM Library has supported the literature review, benchmarking, and community partner search processes. Library experts have helped lead the team to relevant databases, introduce the team to the patent search process, and connect the team to potential community partners.

Universidad de Sans Carlos de Guatemala (USAC)

The Universidad de Sans Carlos de Guatemala (USAC) is a university in Guatemala City. The team connected with Jose Monzon, a graduate from USAC's medical school and UM's School of Public Health, who then connected the team to a cohort of professors and students at USAC. The team is currently progressing with the project in collaboration with this cohort.



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