# mHealth for maternal health
## bridging the gaps

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Convened by Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health,
the World Health Organization Special Programme of Research, Development and Research Training in Human Reproduction (HRP), and the Maternal Health Task Force at Harvard School of Public Health

The use of mobile technology to improve access to and quality of healthcare services is widespread. As mobile phones and other devices become increasingly available and adaptable, demand for their systematic integration into reproductive, maternal, neonatal and child health (RMNCH) programs is growing. More than ever, focused discussion about what mHealth can do, where and how it can be applied, who can use it, and to what effect, is needed.

Maternal health represents a critical part of the continuum of care and is one of the areas where the evidence of mHealth applications' impact is strongest. This technical meeting will enable members of the maternal health and mHealth communities to discuss relevant evidence, experience and visions for "mHealth for maternal health."

Systematic efforts to catalogue the existing evidence of mHealth applications in global RMNCH interventions are underway. This work constitutes a new and exciting opportunity to bring members of the RMNCH and mHealth communities together to discuss the state of the evidence, identify gaps, and set a collective agenda for sustained collaboration for filling these gaps.

By bringing together researchers, program implementers, and evaluators from both the maternal health and mHealth communities, this meeting will facilitate discussions around the current state of mHealth for maternal health, prioritize future evidence needs, and determine opportunities for sustained discussion and collaboration between the mHealth and maternal health communities. The 40-50 participants of this meeting will represent high-, middle-, and low-income countries.

The objectives of the *mHealth for Maternal Health* (mHealth4MH) technical meeting are to:

1. Bring members of the mHealth and maternal health communities together to bridge knowledge gaps by sharing research and programmatic work;

2. Discuss the most up-to-date state of the evidence of mHealth for maternal health efficacy, including logistics management and decision support for providers;

3. Identify the gaps in the evidence, and determine the next steps needed to bridge them; and,

4. Strengthen the linkages between the mHealth and maternal health communities.

Deliverables from this meeting will include:

- A prioritized 'mHealth for maternal health' evidence agenda;
- Mechanisms for continued collaboration between the two communities that will serve as a roadmap; and
- A meeting report that will summarize learnings and priorities.