Members of the SIHI network from the country hubs met early this year to plan and share experiences on sustaining their work and the impact of social innovation in health in their local contexts. TDR supported this gathering and also showcased SIHI in various international events. Network members continue to pioneer social innovation in their respective settings through some exciting activities in 2019.

**SIHI COUNTRY HUBS MEET ABOUT SUSTAINING IMPACT**

The Social Innovation in Health Initiative (SIHI) hubs supported by TDR, the Special Programme for Research and Training in Tropical Diseases co-sponsored by UNICEF, UNDP, the World Bank and the World Health Organization (WHO), met on 12-14 February 2019 at the World Health Organization, Geneva, Switzerland. Participants were from the SIHI hubs in the Philippines, Uganda, Malawi, Colombia, and China as well as the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, and TDR.

Collaboratively, they discussed and explored ways to synergise and sustain their efforts. Approaches to institutionalise and disseminate social innovation within research organizations and country health systems were shared. Participants also presented how they will monitor and evaluate the work of the hubs in order to continuously learn and improve performance.

In addition, to inspire the discussions, guest speakers were invited at the TDR/UNAIDS/WHO lunchtime seminar, “Social innovation in health: leaving no one behind.” Ms Patricia Carnicero of IE Business School, Mr Pradeep Kakkattil of the Office of Innovation at UNAIDS, Ms Asiya Odugleh-Kolev of WHO, and Ms Maria Teresa Zappia shared their experiences to illustrate the value of business model approaches, community engagement and innovative financing in sustaining social innovations. Prof Lenore Manderson of the University of the Witwatersrand in South Africa facilitated the discussion.

**TDR FORGES NEW PARTNERSHIPS**

**SIHI at the World Health Assembly**

Coinciding with the 72nd World Health Assembly, on 21-23 May 2019, UNAIDS and partners launched the Health Innovation Exchange to leverage the potential of innovations to improve health for all. TDR and SIHI are pleased to be partners of this new initiative. Two social innovations collaborating with SIHI research hubs in Malawi and in China were showcased at the event—Chipatala Cha Pa Foni: Health Centre by Phone from Malawi and Pay-it-Forward from China. TDR Director John Reeder was a speaker at the panel session on “Leveraging social innovation for effective systems for health.” The session was moderated by Dr Beatrice Halpaap, who leads SIHI activities at TDR.

“The Health Innovation Exchange is about creating connections between innovators, implementers and...
Three research posters from the SIHI Philippines Hub were accepted for presentation in the 2019 conference of The Network: Towards Unity for Health (TUFH 2019) to be held in September in Darwin, Australia. The posters have the following titles: “Identifying the Felt Needs and Concerns of Innovators of Social Innovations in Health in the Philippines,” “Promoting Social Accountability through Social Innovation in Health,” and “Communicating Social Innovation in Health as a Tool for Social Accountability: Issues and Lessons Learned.” TUFH 2019 will centre on the theme of social accountability. The SIHI Philippines team also presented two research posters in TUFH 2018 in Limerick, Ireland.

SIHI at Sida Science Days 2019

TDR presented SIHI at the Sida Science Days 2019 on 20-22 May organized by the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida) in Stockholm. The Sida Science Days act as a platform for Sida partners to meet and share experiences and thoughts on topics such as how science can improve life of the most vulnerable. It was a great opportunity to advocate for the value of social innovations to accelerate the achievement of the SDGs and to illustrate the role of research to sustain, replicate, and scale innovations.

During the event, Sida’s new position paper, Support to Innovation and Innovation Systems within the framework of Swedish Research Cooperation, was launched. Referring to the work of SIHI and other partners, the report highlights the importance of innovation and the role of research institutions in the innovations system.

SIHI UGANDA’S SMALL GRANTS Awardee Conducts Research on Uganda’s Nat’l Client Registry

Ms Catherine Kabahuma, a recipient of SIHI Uganda’s small research grants in 2018, undertook research that identified some of the important requirements for establishing the National Client Registry (NCR) for Uganda’s healthcare system.

An automated unified central repository, the NCR is envisioned to facilitate patient identification management and health information exchange across healthcare organizations in Uganda. Ms Kabahuma hopes to validate her proposed design models and develop the NCR in collaboration with the Ministry of Health and other stakeholders.

SIHI PHILIPPINES’ RESEARCH POSTERS ACCEPTED AT TUFH 2019

Three research posters from the SIHI Philippines Hub were accepted for presentation in the 2019 conference of The Network: Towards Unity for Health (TUFH 2019) to be held in September in Darwin, Australia. The posters have the following titles: “Identifying the Felt Needs and Concerns of Innovators of Social Innovations in Health in the Philippines,” “Promoting Social Accountability through Social Innovation in Health,” and “Communicating Social Innovation in Health as a Tool for Social Accountability: Issues and Lessons Learned.” TUFH 2019 will centre on the theme of social accountability. The SIHI Philippines team also presented two research posters in TUFH 2018 in Limerick, Ireland.
SIHI MALAWI HOLDS COMMUNICATION INNOVATORS WORKSHOP

Innovators from Malawi attended a capacity building workshop that aimed to enhance their communication with stakeholders.

SIHI Malawi collaborated with Palladium Group, Health Policy Plus (HP+) to deliver the workshop: Communication Innovators Workshop: Communicating Information and Effective Interventions to Policymakers. The workshop aimed at enhancing innovators’ effective engagement and communication with key stakeholders in government, private sector and the media. This offered an opportunity for the hub and innovators to explore solutions and linkages and connect with key stakeholders in an informal and highly interactive format.

According to Ms Sandra Mapemba, deputy director of HP+ and workshop facilitator, “The workshop provided an opportunity for innovators to appreciate that the innovation in itself is not enough but more critical is recognising the uniqueness and (drawing this out) this to attract investment. This will go a long way in positioning their product in the right light.”

NEW FILM ON SIHI MALAWI’S INNOVATION

Chipatala cha pa Foni (CCPF), one of the SIHI Malawi-selected innovations, also featured at the Health Innovation Exchange launch during the 72nd World Health Assembly, has produced a new film sharing the stories of beneficiaries and the Ministry of Health involved in this initiative.

The film, “Chipatala cha pa Foni (Health Center by Phone) - A Health Center in Every Malawian’s Home,” introduces the CCPF Health Centre by Phone initiative that is now a national programme operated by the Ministry of Health and Population (MOH) of Malawi. It tells the story of Taurai, a young woman and CCPF youth champion, and Gloria, who is a mother and volunteer. Both of them have had their own positive and unique experiences with CCPF and are now committed to promoting the national hotline in their communities. The video also includes MOH’s perspective on CCPF as told by Dr Nedson Fosiko, Deputy Director, Clinical Services. It was produced for VillageReach by Chembe Collaborative.

Watch the full film here:  https://youtu.be/hzPR8A3yQc4

SIHI MALAWI HOLDS 1ST GRADUATE STUDENT RESEARCH GRANT

In April this year, the SIHI Malawi Hub launched its first Social Innovation in Health Graduate Student Research Grant. (continued on p.4)

UPCOMING/ONGOING EVENTS

JULY-AUGUST SIHI MALAWI INNOVATION CALL

The call for social innovations from Malawi opened on 18 July and will run until 28 August 2019.

JULY HIV SELF-TESTING SESH

SESH is conducting “secondary distribution” HIV self-testing in China where individuals who receive multiple self-tests can distribute these to sexual partners or friends to expand HIV testing.
SIHI MALAWI LAUNCHES
1ST GRADUATE STUDENT
RESEARCH GRANT (continued)

grant opportunity for master’s students of
the University of Malawi College of Medicine.
Through the grant, the hub will engage
graduate students in co-creating and co-
delivering community-based research. It
is hoped that this will expand the social
innovation in health knowledge base through
research with local innovators. Research under
the grant will specifically explore questions in
health financing and disability and health.

SIHI LAC PARTICIPATES IN
COLOMBIA’S 1st INT’L WEEK
OF SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY &
INNOVATION

O
n 7 May 2019, Dr Diana Maria Castro,
leader of research for the SIHI LAC
Hub, gave an oral presentation on social
innovation in health at the 1st International
Week of Science, Technology and Innovation.
Titled “Social Innovation in Health for Latin
America and the Caribbean,” the conference
was organized by the local government of
the state of Valle del Cauca in Colombia. With
participants from public, private, and academic
sectors, it was an opportunity to meet and
engage with potential stakeholders such as
Colombia’s health officials. The conference
introduced the participants to the work of the
SIHI LAC Hub, its challenges, and the potential
of social innovation for improving health.

SIHI UGANDA’S 1st SOCIAL
INNOVATORS FELLOWSHIP
A SUCCESS

SIHI Uganda’s 1st Social Innovators Fellowship
concluded in November 2018. Designed
as a modular programme, each module
consisted of a two-day face-to-face session in
Kampala, Uganda. The themes covered by the
fellowship were research, entrepreneurship, and
project planning and management. Innovators
developed a research proposal answering specific
questions in their workplaces and a monitoring
and evaluation plan assessing their projects’
performance. For the innovators, the fellowship
was not just a platform that built their capacities
but also one that brought them together to share
and learn from one another’s experiences.

“This has been very educative; all the workshops
were very helpful and will be relevant in different
perspectives of our work. Thinking with a
business lens makes a lot of meaning, especially
for sustainability. Developing the business model
canvas for our project was very helpful,” said
Mr Teddy Kyomuhangi, Programme Manager of
Healthy Child Uganda.

UPCOMING EVENTS

AUGUST  SIHI MALAWI KEY STAKEHOLDER WORKSHOP
SIHI Malawi will lead a workshop to equip national champions in social innovation in
health.

AUGUST  INTRODUCTORY MODULE ON SOCIAL INNOVATION IN HEALTH
SIHI Philippines will pilot its Introductory Module on Social Innovation in Health at the
University of the Philippines Manila-School of Health Sciences in Palo, Leyte. Using the
module, the hub will also facilitate a discussion on social innovation for a training of
physicians under the Doctors to the Barrios (rural health doctors) programme.
SIHI LAC WELCOMES A NEW INTERN ON SOCIAL INNOVATION IN HEALTH RESEARCH

SIHI LAC’s internship programme in social innovation in health (SIH) research continues this year as Ms Angie Vanessa Salguero, psychologist and student of the master’s programme in psychosocial intervention of Universidad Icesi, joins the hub. Ms Salguero will support the launch of the 2019 innovation call and will continue the documentary analysis research on SIH in Latin America.

The internship programme began successfully in 2018 with two interns, Ms Luisa Fernanda Duque, who is a political scientist and a Master in Social Innovation student of the Icesi University, and Mr Adrian Fernandez, a dentist and Master in Epidemiology student of the Universidad del Valle. For SIHI LAC Hub Manager Luis Vacaflor, the internship programme has been supporting the operation and activities of the LAC Hub.

SIHI PHILIPPINES CASE FILMS PRODUCED

Case films on two selected social innovations from SIHI Philippines’ 2017 innovation call were produced and released in March 2019. The Seal of Health Governance is a monitoring and evaluation initiative that ensures the implementation and sustainability of health programmes in the municipality in Del Carmen, Surigao del Norte, located in southern Philippines. Meanwhile, the National Telehealth System (NTS) of the National Telehealth Center is a telemedicine platform that improves patients’ access to specialist care by connecting Doctors to the Barrios to clinical specialists in selected regional (subnational) hospitals. Watch the case films here:

Watch the case films here:
- **Seal of Health Governance**
- **National Telehealth System**

SESH IMPLEMENTS ‘PAY-IT-FORWARD’ TO INCREASE TESTING RATES

In January 2019, SESH collaborated with community-based organizations in Guangzhou and Beijing in China to implement a pay-it-forward strategy for increasing gonorrhea and chlamydia testing among Chinese gay men. The pay-it-forward programme offered gay men free gonorrhea and chlamydia testing and then asked whether they would like to donate (pay it forward) for future testers. By changing the reciprocal exchange between the buyer and seller under a traditional transaction to a social exchange between receivers and givers in a community, the programme directly tackles financial and social barriers to testing among Chinese gay men.

Crowdsourcing methods not only helped generate the Chinese name of the pay-it-forward programme but also ensured ongoing community engagement through a postcard component where men wrote encouraging messages for future pay-it-forward participants. Many community partners and participants said they were happy to be able pass kindness forward and help other community members through this programme. One postcard from an anonymous pay-it-forward participant reads, “a close friend afar brings a distant land near; my dear stranger, wish you happiness, health, and joy.”
In collaboration with Blued, SESH hosted the Gay-friendly Doctor Hackathon in April 2019 to exploit the wisdom of participants to develop an online platform-based tool for promoting healthcare utilization and health among gay men in China.

Concerns of unintended disclosure, harassment, and discrimination have caused significant delay or non-attendance of healthcare services among the gay population in China over the years, which has created huge unmet health needs. SESH believes that developing an intervention tool for linking online to offline health services among the gay population could improve their health status and reduce health inequalities. SESH's Huanyu Bao affirms this by saying, "In this contest, I am very excited to work with different types of people for the shared goal. This experience makes me feel that everyone's efforts will give China's gay community a bright future."