



We are growing, and more creative collaborations for research and social innovation are opening up to address COVID-19 and other pressing health challenges.

SIHI NETWORK EXPANDS AND CREATES AN ENABLING ENVIRONMENT FOR SOCIAL INNOVATION IN HEALTH

Originally planned as in-person events in May 2020, a series of online meetings with [Social Innovation in Health Initiative's](#) enthusiastic new and current partners were held this year.

On 25-27 May, five new implementing partners from Ghana, Honduras, Indonesia, Nigeria, and Rwanda were welcomed into the SIHI global network, supported by TDR, the Special Programme for Research and Training in Tropical Diseases. The new implementing partners are the [University of Ghana](#), [Universidad Nacional Autónoma de Honduras](#), Universitas Gadjah Mada, [Nnamdi Azikiwe University](#), and the [University of Rwanda](#). They add to the current group of implementing partners or SIHI country hubs in [China](#) (Social Entrepreneurship to Spur Health or SESH), [Latin America and the Caribbean](#) (Centro Internacional de Entrenamiento e Investigaciones Medicas), [Malawi](#) (University of Malawi), [Philippines](#) (University of the Philippines Manila), [South Africa](#) (Bertha Centre for Social Innovation and Entrepreneurship), and [Uganda](#) (Makarere University).

An exchange of best practices, challenges, and areas for collaboration among the 11 implementing partners was facilitated by the Philippine-based SIHI Secretariat using interactive online tools. The opportunities identified for partnership were in the areas of capacity building and mentorship,

especially for new partners, joint research, joint financing, and advocacy.

From September to October, 10 philanthropies and private companies participated in the [SIHI Partners Workshop](#), which carried the theme, *"Creating an Enabling Environment for Social Innovation in Health."* Among those who joined were representatives from Alcela Care, American Leprosy Mission, Cepheid, Derbi Foundation, German Health Alliance, Kois, PharmAccess Foundation, Roche, Qiagen, and Zuellig Family Foundation. The current SIHI contributing partners that attended and shared about their organizations' work were AfricaLics, African Academy of Sciences, Ahimsa Fund, Fondation Merieux, Globelics, Health Innovation Exchange (HIEx), London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine (LSHTM), MAD Foundation, Pan American Health Organization, Schwab Foundation for Social Entrepreneurship, SIDA, TDR, UNDP, and UNAIDS. Along with the implementing partners, the philanthropies and current contributing partners explored together possible intersections in advancing social innovation in health.

Social innovators and government officials from China, Liberia, Malawi, Philippines, Peru, and Uganda also shared their insights in two open webinars that were part of the workshop - ["Social Innovation Response to Emergencies"](#) held on 9

SIHI GOES VIRTUAL...

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September and *"Meet the Social Innovators"* on 7 October.

The partner workshop affirmed the role of the academe in providing evidence through research so that social innovations in health are scaled or replicated. In addition, community engagement, multi-sectoral partnerships, and multi-disciplinary research were deemed significant in catalysing social innovation towards improving healthcare delivery.

The meetings were co-led by TDR, SIHI Secretariat, and SESH, with invaluable support from Ahimsa Fund, Fondation Merieux, HIE, LSHTM, SIDA, and UNAIDS.



Above: Dr. Phyllis Awor (Drug Shop Integrated Management of Childhood Illness), Dr. Weiming Tang (SESH), Jordan Downey (Last Mile Health), Dr. Francois Bonnici (Schwab Foundation), Dr. Meredith Labarda and Dr. Noel Juban (SIHI Secretariat) discussed partnerships for research in the *"Meet the Social Innovators"* webinar. Below: The panels from the *"Social Innovation Response to Emergencies"* were COVID-19 responses in Latin America, Malawi, and the Philippines.



SIHI UGANDA LAUNCHES PARTNERSHIP WITH HUBS IN GHANA AND NIGERIA

With SIHI Uganda's guidance and support, country research hubs from Ghana and Nigeria joined the SIHI network this year. The two hubs are working closely with SIHI Uganda from 2020-2021 to conduct a total of six open calls for health-related social innovation in Ghana, Nigeria, and Uganda.

SIHI Ghana conducted its first crowdsourcing of social innovations at the University of Ghana in July, receiving 13 submissions from faculty members and students. Both faculty and students were excited about the initiative as it provided an opportunity for them to share their solutions with a wider audience.

Meanwhile, from July to August, SIHI Nigeria launched its [innovation call](#), focusing on the most pressing health challenges in Anambra State where Nnamdi Azikiwe University is located. A university-wide workshop among nearly 50 participants was held to build awareness within the academic community. Campaigns on social media, email, and radio were also part of SIHI Nigeria's information dissemination strategy. The SIHI Nigeria team paid an advocacy visit to the Hon. Commissioner for Health and held an expanded meeting with directors from different departments under the Ministry of Health in Anambra State. The Commissioner was delighted to hear about the SIHI Nigeria Hub and expressed willingness for partnership as the hub is expected to benefit communities of the state.

Case visits and research for shortlisted innovations for SIHI Ghana and SIHI Nigeria's innovation calls are ongoing.

VIERNES DE OPORTUNIDADES

Cursos - Convocatorias - Eventos

¡Llega nuestro Viernes de Oportunidades!

Por creer en la transformación social en salud y ser miembro de nuestra comunidad ALACISS, queremos retribuirte. Le damos la bienvenida a nuestro Viernes de Oportunidades, un nuevo espacio creado para compartir contigo diferentes cursos, convocatorias o eventos de manera semanal. Esperamos que sea una oportunidad de crecimiento para todos y todas.

Curso Internacional: "¿Cómo gestionar las ciudades en Iberoamérica postCOVID-19?"

Organización: Centro Latinoamericano de Administración para el Desarrollo

Objetivo general: Dotar a los alumnos de los conocimientos de Gobernanza Urbana que les permitan comprender el despliegue sistémico de los ODS y la gestión de proyectos desde la perspectiva del Desarrollo Urbano Sostenible tanto en su vertiente económica, social y ambiental.

Destinatarios o perfil: El curso se dirige, en primer lugar, a funcionarios públicos de los 23 países miembros del CLAD, ya sea

[Conoce más del curso aquí](#)

"Nunca dudes que un pequeño grupo de personas comprometidas pueda cambiar el mundo. De hecho, es lo único que lo ha logrado"

Margaret Meade

To strengthen links and engage with its stakeholders, the SIHI LAC Hub carried out a new strategy called *"Friday of Opportunities,"* a sharing of events, courses, and funding opportunities within its network.

SIHI UGANDA SELECTS OUTSTANDING SOLUTIONS IN 2020 NAT'L CALL

In April 2020, the SIHI Uganda Hub launched a countrywide [call for solutions](#) that are enabling more Ugandans to access quality health care. The call targeted individuals, community organizations, health workers, government workers and students in the country. It was advertised through email, the SIHI website, and social media platforms due to COVID-19 lockdown measures. After the end of the solution sharing process, a total of 37 submission were received, of which 15 were eligible for review. The final review identified four top health innovative solutions. The SIHI Uganda team visited the selected solutions from August to September 2020 for research and advocacy.

In order to strongly engage the university community in the social innovation activities of SIHI Uganda, a call for health-related social innovation solutions was also launched at Makerere University. The call was specifically for academic and non-academic staff, students, and other affiliates of the university. It opened in September, and the top solutions were selected in October and will be announced in November 2020.



Above: SIHI Uganda team meets some of the innovators it has identified in its 2020 call. In the photo are the Kizinda famers group in Bushenyi district, Southwestern Uganda. Below, SIHI Uganda meets with *My Pregnancy Handbook* project team as part of its stakeholder engagement.

Right: Two research abstracts by SIHI Philippines were presented in [The Network: Towards Unity for Health \(TUFH\) Annual Conference 2020](#) virtually hosted in Mexico.

PHILIPPINES' NAT'L AWARD SET TO SELECT TOP SOLUTIONS



The [Gelia Castillo Award for Research on Social Innovations in Health](#) (GCARSIH), a national award organised and supported by the Philippine Council for Health Research and Development (PCHRD) and the Department of Health (DOH), in collaboration with SIHI Philippines, ran its open call for applications from June to September, receiving a total of 67 submissions. Top innovations are scheduled to be announced in December.

[GCARSIH](#) aims to recognize the outstanding social innovations that address persistent societal and health systems challenges in the Philippines. It recognises that innovations must address health needs more effectively than existing approaches, and have the ability to enhance a community's capacity to act and take ownership of their own health. GCARSIH also echoes SIHI's belief that social innovations have health system-changing potential as these change and strengthen relationships between people and result in a more effective use of available resources.

This year is the first run of GCARSIH, and SIHI Philippines continues to play an active role in its implementation and advocacy. SIHI Philippines currently acts as the secretariat of GCARSIH, under the leadership of Dr. Noel Juban and Dr. Jose Rene Bagani Cruz.

According to Dr. Cruz, "Social innovations answer key health problems in communities. GCARSIH seeks to recognise these innovations and encourage innovators to keep looking for answers to these problems."



SIHI PHILIPPINES, MAASTRICHT UNIVERSITY HOLD WORKSHOPS ON REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH

To explore innovative approaches to address sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) issues in the country, SIHI Philippines collaborated with the University of the Philippines School of Health Sciences (UP SHS) and the [School of Health Professions Education of Maastricht University](#) (SHE Collaborates) to launch the *Tailor-Made Training on Social Innovation for Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights in the Philippines*.

The initiative aims to strengthen the capacities of health professionals, community health workers and leaders on the different aspects of SRHR, and to become future coaches for innovative community solutions towards healthier sexual and reproductive behavior. In the Philippines, the incidence of teenage pregnancies and rising cases of sexually transmitted diseases are alarming and call for both large scale public health interventions as well as contextualized community-based innovations.

The ongoing series of workshops, which began in July, is about gender and health, intervention mapping, community engagement, inclusive and participatory intervention design, and comprehensive sexuality education. This is being funded by the Nuffic Orange Knowledge Programme.

MALAWI AND RWANDA LAUNCH SOUTH-EAST AFRICA PARTNERSHIP FOR SOCIAL INNOVATION



To extend and strengthen community-based social innovation in health in Southern and Eastern Africa, SIHI Malawi established a strategic and learning partnership with the University of Rwanda in May 2020. The partnership seeks to advance research and deliver appropriate education, application and uptake of social innovation in health to contribute to primary health care and the achievement of universal health coverage. Malawi, College of

Medicine is the lead implementing partner, and by working in collaboration and sharing learnings across regions, the partnership aims to establish two functional African centres of excellence for social innovation in health research. The Malawi-Rwanda partnership through its learning exchange platform are conducting skills transfer and developing a joint research project to better understand the process of social innovation adoption into the public health system, identifying SIHs, and engaging students to build local and national capacity for social innovation.



SIHI Rwanda team members interview a district hospital's data manager on the use and benefits of its Health Management Information System (HMIS).

SIHI MALAWI TRAINS 9 CROSSECTORAL CHAMPIONS TO ACCELERATE SOCIAL INNOVATIONS

To develop a critical mass of people in Malawi that advocates and builds a greater understanding of social innovation in health (SIH) among policymakers, the SIHI Malawi Hub implemented a Social Innovation Training Programme for Health Systems Actors in 2019 - 2020. The programme was conducted through one-on-one meetings, small group workshops, and engagement of actors in hub activities. This equipped nine cross-sectoral champions for SIH – members of the private sector, academia, Ministry of Health directors, National Commission for Science and Technology (NCST), NGO, and a community health worker. Gains have included integration of social innovation into the NCST dissemination conference and knowledge exchange platform.



A SIHI-recognised innovation, [Chipatala Cha Pa Foni \(CCPF\)/ Health Centre by Phone](#) was identified as a national resource for COVID-19. The Malawian Government leveraged CCPE's infrastructure to establish a national hotline for COVID-19.

SESH WINS IN REBOOT YOUTH HEALTH & WELLBEING DIGITAL AWARDS



SESH's Pay-it-Forward was selected as one of the two winners of the [Reboot Health and Wellbeing Challenge](#). The announcement was made by WHO Director-General Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus on 7 July. Launched by WHO in March 2020, the Reboot Health Challenge aims to inspire young people from around the world to develop solutions to one of the most urgent health challenges in the next decade — keeping young people safe.

Most young men who have sex with men (YMSM) have never been tested for gonorrhea (GC)/chlamydia (CT) due to financial barriers and lack of community support. To expand community engagement and eliminate testing fees, SESH proposed Pay-it-Forward (PIF), where one YMSM receives a free GC/CT test as a gift, then has an opportunity to contribute to the next

YMSM's free testing. Dr. Fan Yang pitched the idea on behalf of the PIF team to thousands of virtual attendees worldwide and engaged in an interesting question-and-answer session with Dr. Tedros and other event participants.

Dr. Fan Yang says the team looks forward “to sharing (their) experience on pay-it-forward as an evidence-based solution to those problems and increasing the access to health services collectively with the global community.”

The SESH PIF team is composed of Fan Yang, Dan Wu, Weiming Tang, and Tiange Philip Zhang.

(Images courtesy of the WHO website)



UPCOMING/ONGOING EVENTS

FEBRUARY 2020-SEPTEMBER 2021 INNOVATION LEARNING SESSIONS SIHI MALAWI, COLLEGE OF MEDICINE AND NCST

The online training is designed for early stage innovators, ecosystem actors, and practitioners to address existing skill gaps and capacity needs.

JULY 2020-MARCH 2021 TRAINING ON SOCIAL INNOVATION FOR SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH & RIGHTS IN THE PHILIPPINES SIHI PHILIPPINES, UP SHS & SHE COLLABORATES

The online synchronous training on social innovations that encourage healthier sexual and reproductive behavior is for future coaches and health practitioners.

NOVEMBER-DECEMBER 2020 IMAGINE THE WORLD ANEW: A CALL FOR YOUTH VOICES ON COVID-19 IN THE PHILIPPINES SIHI PHILIPPINES & SESH

The call challenges Filipino youth to generate ideas on how they imagine a post-COVID-19 world and to share social innovation projects related to COVID-19 and other social innovations during the pandemic.

SIHI LAC JOINS CALL FOR YOUNG INVESTIGATORS

Aiming to strengthen the SIHI Latin America and the Caribbean (SIHI LAC) Hub and the Social Research Unit of CIDEIM, the hub participated in a call for proposals initiated by the Ministry of Science and Technology of Colombia. The proposal focuses on young investigators' research capacity and social appropriation of knowledge. It is linked to the project entitled, *"Implementation of a community surveillance model in the community of Pueblo Rico to improve the detection and monitoring of treatment of cases of cutaneous leishmaniasis from the perspective of social innovation in health."*

SIHI LAC presented three candidates that were selected after implementing a systematic selection process among more than 40 candidates. Milena Bautista and Maria Isabel Echavarria serve as the primary investigators of the proposal. After earning a high score, the Ministry of Science and Technology of Colombia approved the proposal. This will be carried out in 2021.

SIHI LAC IMPLEMENTS CAPACITY TRANSFER WITH SIHI HONDURAS

The SIHI LAC and SIHI Honduras hubs implemented their workplan for capacity transfer with regular meetings among team members from both hubs. The team members participated with commitment and enthusiasm in promoting social innovation in health. SIHI Honduras is also actively disseminating SIHI LAC's Virtual Coffee webinars as it learns how to

organise similar learning sessions. These webinars have a growing reach, hosting participants from Colombia, Honduras, Ecuador, Spain, France, United States, Brazil, and México in the last three sessions. Moreover, SIHI Honduras has invited the SIHI LAC team to a new research group on social innovation in health that it leads at the Faculty of Medical Sciences in UNAH.

SIHI HONDURAS LAUNCHED AT JORNADA CIENTIFICA 2020

The SIHI Honduras Hub was launched at this year's [Jornada Científica](#), an annual event of the Universidad Nacional Autónoma de Honduras (UNAH). The launch took place on 21 September 2020 at the international panel: *"Innovación Social para la Salud en Tiempos de Pandemia"* and in coordination with CIDEIM. At the launch, SIHI Honduras presented the potential of social innovation during these challenging times. Aside from introducing social innovation in health (SIH), the launch also aimed to develop a SIH block in the university and in the country.



UPCOMING/ONGOING EVENTS

1-31 DECEMBER NATIONAL CALL FOR SOLUTIONS SIHI GHANA

SIHI Ghana is holding its nationwide call for social innovations and will announce the selected innovations in February 2021.

15 FEBRUARY 2021 NATIONAL CALL FOR SOLUTIONS SIHI UGANDA

SIHI Uganda's 2021 call will target innovators who have enabled more Ugandans to access quality health care.

16 FEBRUARY 2021 NATIONAL CALL FOR SOLUTIONS SIHI NIGERIA

SIHI Nigeria will launch its first national call for social innovations in health.

SIHI HONDURAS...

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Along with the Pan American Health Organization and SIHI LAC, SIHI Honduras shared innovators' experiences, including those of [Foundation EHAS](#) and [MosquitiaMed](#).

The SIHI Honduras Hub also coordinated with CIDEIM in its participation in the regional scientific dissemination event, [Jornadas Iberoamericanas Virtuales sobre Salud Pública and COVID-19](#) (Virtual Iberoamerican Journeys on Public Health and COVID-19) on 28-30 September. Under the



meeting track *Managing Research and Innovation for Public Health*, CIDEIM presented the poster, ["La innovación Social en Salud, una Oportunidad en Tiempos de Crisis"](#) (Social Innovation in Health, an Opportunity in Times of Crisis), which won first place in the best innovative experience category. The SIHI Honduras Hub and collaborators from the Global Health Network, on the other hand, presented the poster, *"COVID-19 en América Latina y Caribe: Determinación de brechas en investigación y llamado a la acción"*, which also won first place in the Managing Research and Innovation for Public Health meeting track.

Earlier in August, over 250 UNAH pregrade/postgraduate students and faculty participated in the I+i for Health, led by SIHI Honduras' coordinators. Featuring informative and interactive activities on research methodology, ethics and integrity, the I+i for Health virtual classroom seeks to educate and promote social innovation in health. SIHI Honduras was also actively involved in the promotion and facilitation of the TDR [Massive Open Online Course on Implementation Research \(MOOC IR\)](#) that is offered every year to the Latin America community. This year, both hubs included in their target audience the SIHI allied community from the region.

FONDATION MERIEUX SUPPORTS COVID-19 EFFORTS

In keeping with the "new normal" conference setup brought about by the COVID-19 restrictions, the Mérieux Foundation co-organised the [SIHI partner events](#) in September to October 2020 through its website support. This made the exchange of information and strategic plans among members of the SIHI global network and potential partners possible, which was crucial for considering institutional collaborations on social innovation.

From the first COVID-19 epidemic alerts, the Mérieux Foundation has been taking action to provide aid adapted to the low-income countries where it works. The foundation has made the fight against COVID-19 a priority, by massively dispatching diagnostic tests, launching or expanding research projects on nosocomial virus transmission and supporting local health authorities. Diagnostic kits that are essential for identifying patients and implementing effective prevention and control measures have been sent to 14 laboratories in 13 countries since March 2020. It has set up a programme of training and technology transfer to support local laboratories in performing these tests: transmission of operating procedures and WHO recommendations on biosafety, dispatch of personal protective equipment. The foundation's experts have also been in regular contact with healthcare decision-makers and professionals in the field, particularly through its laboratory networks, giving public health advice on the choice of tests to be used, handling of samples, transport protocols, screening strategies, and response policies.

