

In the third quarter of 2021, the SIHI partners embarked on research and training activities related to community engagement and showcased outstanding social innovations in health in their countries. The new country hubs were also nurtured by partner hubs in their regions.

10 PROPOSALS SELECTED TO IDENTIFY GOOD PRACTICES IN COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT IN RESEARCH AND SOCIAL INNOVATIONS IN HEALTH

DR, the Special Programme for Research and Training in Tropical Diseases, the Social Innovation in Health Initiative (SIHI), and WHO regional offices issued a call for proposals in January 2021 to identify good practices engaging communities in research for implementation and in social innovation in lowand middle-income countries (LMICs). The call targets to map current practices, identify good practices, and better understand the enabling factors and barriers in engaging communities in research and in social innovation in health. In July, TDR announced the selection of 10 proposals for funding out of the 114 submissions received. selected proposals tackle community engagement, social innovation, implementation research, gender equity, and ethics.

SIHI HUB PARTNERSHIPS EXPAND THROUGH TDR SUPPORT

he new partnerships that the SIHI hubs in Africa, Asia and Latin America built in 2020-2021 are being nurtured with TDR's support. The grant proposals for 2022-2023 that have been developed to consolidate the establishment of new hubs in Ghana, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Nigeria and in Rwanda are being assessed by the TDR SIHI external review group.



TDR SET TO LAUNCH CALL FOR PROPOSALS TO SUPPORT GENDER TRANSFORMATIVE RESPONSES TO INFECTIOUS DISEASES

ince September 2021, five SIHI country hubs have been engaged in an ongoing TDR project that explores the gender dimensions of social innovation in health at the community level. The project supports the implementation of TDR's new strategy on intersectional gender research, which calls to incorporate and strengthen an intersectional gender lens across TDR's projects, from research capacity strengthening to implementation research and social innovation. At the end of 2021, TDR will launch a call for

TDR SET TO LAUNCH CALL... continued from page 1

proposals for interested SIHI hubs to support the development of gender transformative responses to infectious diseases through research and social innovation.

SESH LINKS WITH GUANGDONG SECOND PEOPLE'S HOSPITAL & JIAYING MEDICAL COLLEGE FOR DIGITAL HEALTH RESEARCH

he Social Entrepreneurship to Spur Health (SESH), the SIHI hub in China, teamed up with teachers from the Institute of Artificial Intelligence at Guangdong Second People's Hospital and more than 80 students from Jiaying Medical College to conduct a 17-day fieldwork on digital healthcare projects on 16 July to 1 August 2021. They visited around 120 village doctors and nearly 2,000 farming households in various parts of rural Guangdong in China.

Medical student Han Jun said that through the research, they "have gained a lot of friends, learned a lot of extracurricular medical knowledge, and gained a better understanding of the situation of grassroots healthcare, which will help us a lot in the future." This winter, SESH team members will again join the research team to continue their research trip.



Above: SESH visits Heyuan, Guangdong Province as part of the summer field study on digital healthcare projects (SESH, 2021). Below: SIHI Nigeria unveils the country's top social innovations in health with distinguished guests from the public and private healthcare fields (SIHI Nigeria, 2021).



SESH & GAY MEN'S VOLUNTARY COUNSELLING CLINIC FORM CO-CREATION GROUP

n September and October 2021, SIHI China, the Social Entrepreneurship to Spur Health (SESH) team and health professionals and members of Gay Men's Voluntary Counselling Clinic formed the first co-creation group for the research "Effectiveness of relay testing in promoting gonorrhea and chlamydia testing among men who have sex with men: a randomized controlled trial study." The co-creation group is a relatively new form of a community engagement group, where participants not only provide information or advice on various aspects of the project, but also collaborate on activities related to the study.

In their co-creation activity that lasted around 80 minutes, two hackathons were included—one that identified stakeholders and another that introduced the workflows of the Gay Volunteer Medical Service Centre and the Public Sexually Transmitted Diseases Hospital. The gay participants appreciated having a workflow of health services that is safe and more gay-friendly, with one saying that "there should be no stigma attached to gay people as a group."

SIHI NIGERIA UNVEILS TOP SOCIAL INNOVATIONS

n 23 August 2021, SIHI Nigeria held the Unveiling of Top Innovations in Health at the Raw Materials and Research Development Council Auditorium in Abuja, Nigeria to recognise the top three social innovations in its 2021 national call for solutions. The event was hosted by Prof. Charles O. Esimone (FAS), Vice-Chancellor of Nnamdi Azikiwe University, Awka, and co-hosted by Dr. Ogbonnaya Onu (FAS), the Minister of Science, Technology and Innovation. Among the guests from the public and private healthcare sectors who attended were Nigeria Academy of Science President Prof. Eka Braide, National Institute for Pharmaceutical Research and Development Director-General Dr. Obi Adigwe, Nile University Vice-Chancellor Dr. Osman Nuri Aras, and students within Abuja. Senator Uche Ekwunife, who is the Senate Chair for Science, Technology and Innovation and representing Anambra state, Nigeria Academy of Science Vice President Prof Sambo, the Vice Chancellor of Nile University Abuja, and some members of SIHI Nigeria Hub Expert Committee were also present.

Representatives from the top three social innovations—Trash 4 Health initiative, Schisto and LaddersTM Version 2.0, and Obanna Gender Care Foundation—presented their solutions and the

respective pragmatic applications of these to the Nigerian community. Prof Uche Amazigo (FAS), retired director of the WHO African Programme for Onchocerciasis, cited various examples of social innovations across Africa and stressed the need for teamwork amongst healthcare professionals in her lecture on social innovation in health. Meanwhile, Minister Onu in his speech described the SIHI project as a "beacon of light" for Nigeria as it searches and "discovers innovative ways of solving societal problems, especially in health." Watch the event: https://bit.ly/3EnStCE

SIHI LAC HOLDS WORKSHOPS TO STRENGTHEN COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION

he SIHI Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) Hub, in partnership with the SIHI Honduras Hub, led the Community-Based Participatory Research Methodologies Workshop on 26 to 28 July 2021 among 19 professionals from the region (More information: https://bit.ly/3BLNVV3). In August, SIHI LAC also held a pilot workshop to evaluate and provide feedback on a learning package about practices in community participation and engagement. The pilot workshop is part of the Community Engagement Learning Package Project (CELP), an ongoing project of WHO's Health Emergencies Programme in collaboration with various SIHI hubs.

SIHI LAC finds value in its capacity building activities as these strengthen the processes of social appropriation of knowledge, which require the implementation of participatory strategies. The hub's various participatory projects include

the co-creation of pedagogical materials such as the "Así sí- Así no," a card game which is about the diagnosis, treatment, and prevention of cutaneous leishmaniasis; and other participatory activities and products around infectious diseases such as leishmaniasis and malaria, including radio capsules broadcast to community radio stations in Colombia, an evidence brief, flyers, podcast chapters, an indigenous song, and TikTok videos on disease prevention.

SIHI LAC facilitates participatory workshops with community leaders. One of the hub's participatory project is the co-created pedagogical material, "Asi si- Asi no." (SIHI LAC/Kathleen Agudelo, 2021)







UPCOMING EVENTS

18 NOVEMBER, 13:00 GMT A SHOWCASE OF SOCIAL INNOVATIONS IN HEALTH: THE SIHI ASIA HUBS EXPERIENCE SIHI INDIA, INDONESIA, CHINA, PHILIPPINES

Register via https://bit.ly/SocialInnovationsAsia

NOVEMBER VIRTUAL CAFÉ WEBINAR ABOUT IMPLEMENTATION RESEARCH SIHI LAC

The event is in Spanish, if you want to receive an invitation, please send an e-mail sihilachub@cideim.org.co.

NOVEMBER ANNOUNCEMENT OF REGIONAL CROWDSOURCING SELECTED INNOVATIONS SIHI LAC

NOVEMBER STRATEGIES FOR THE DIGITAL DISSEMINATION OF INITIATIVES IN SOCIAL INNOVATION IN HEALTH WORKSHOP SIHI LAC



SIHI HONDURAS PROMOTES SOCIAL INNOVATION IN CENTRAL AMERICA & THE CARIBBEAN



SIHI Honduras and SIHI LAC Hubs hold community-based methodology workshop.

n the third quarter of 2021, SIHI Honduras supported the coordination and dissemination of several activities led by SIHI LAC and PAHO, contributing to the outreach and promotion of social innovation in health in other Central American and Caribbean countries. This is reflected in the increased participation of people from the region in the bimonthly webinar Café Virtual, as well as the inclusion of the conference event, Community-based Participatory Research and its Contributions to Social Innovation in Health, presented at UNAH annual scientific event Jornada Científica in July 2021.

SIHI Honduras strengthened its capacities and broadened knowledge on social innovation in health and projects with community participation, both for the members of the hub and external partners. The hub participated in various courses such as the Global Pilot of Community Engagement Learning Package and Workshop in August and the Implementation Research MOOC during the first semester, where 308 out of 649 participants were from Central America and the Caribbean. It also supported the 20-hour virtual workshop about community-based methodologies, in partnership with the SIHI LAC Hub, where 12 professionals from Honduras participated.

SIHI PHILIPPINES HOLDS SESSION ON SOCIAL INNOVATION IN HEALTH RESEARCH AT 14th PNHRS WEEK

n 9 August 2021, SIHI Philippines led an online pre-conference session on Social Innovation in Health Research at the 14th Philippine National Health Research System (PNHRS) Week. This year's theme, "Health Research & Development in the New Normal: Moving towards Universal Care," highlighted the importance of health research in navigating through the pandemic and stimulating dynamic exchange of ideas towards Universal Health Care (UHC).

Dr. Meredith Labarda discussed social innovation's value in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic, as seen in its increasing socio-economic and health impact, and cited examples from the innovation cases that SIHI has identified in recent years. Dr. Mary Ann Lansang, in her presentation on implementation research, elaborated on the importance of examining how evidence-based social innovations will be able to sustain their



UPCOMING EVENTS

NOVEMBER-DECEMBER WORKSHOPS ON COMPREHENSIVE SEXUALITY EDUCATION AND CREATIVE TRAINING METHODS (UNDER THE TRAINING ON SOCIAL INNOVATION FOR SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH & RIGHTS IN THE PHILIPPINES) SIHI PHILIPPINES & MAASTRICHT UNIVERSITY

15 DECEMBER TOR GLOBAL RESEARCH MENTORSHIP CHALLENGE DEADLINE SESH For more details, visit https://bit.ly/3q6c4mT

DECEMBER NATIONAL DISSEMINATION WORKSHOP SIHI UGANDA

DECEMBER SITE VISITS SIHI GHANA

SIHI Ghana will be conducting site visits to interact with innovators, implementers and beneficiaries as part of writing the research case studies.

SIHI PHILIPPINES HOLDS SESSION...

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health impact during full-scale implementation. Also, two of the winning innovations in the first Gelia Castillo Award for Research on Social Innovations in Health in 2020 pitched their solutions during the session.

In response to the presentations, Department of Health Director of Health Promotion Bureau Dr. Beverly Ho said, "It's giving us a sense that perhaps scale shouldn't always be a metric for success but when a programme or an initiative is responsive in the perspective of the communities, it has to be continued." She added that the core values of participation and equity are advanced by social innovation in health research, and this ties in with the framework of the Philippines' UHC Act, which emphasizes health promotion, participatory action research, and enabling communities to participate and innovate. Watch the session: https://bit.ly/3mkPzII



Dr. Mary Ann Lansang leads a lecture on implementation research on social innovations in health at the 14th PNHRS Week.

SIHI UGANDA SELECTED AS TDR GRANTEE ON COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT PROJECT

n July 2021, the <u>Uganda Social Innovation Hub</u> was selected among the grantees of the <u>TDR</u> call for proposals on community engagement in research and in social innovation in health, with its study titled "Community Engagement in Social Innovation: A Mixed Methods Analysis from the Social Innovation in Health Initiative." The study is aimed at exploring how to better understand the contextual factors impacting the engagement of the community in health research through the analysis of SIHI case studies and address considerations related to fostering partnerships

for greater engagement.

The SIHI Uganda team has completed the data extraction and analysis of the existing 40 SIHI case studies to identify common themes, including community engagement. Through the study, SIHI Uganda hopes to contribute towards raising the profile of community-driven initiatives and expanding on the literature that uses elements of community engagement in the implementation of research and social innovation.

SIHI GHANA HOLDS NATIONAL DISSEMINATION OF TOP SOLUTIONS



The SIHI Ghana team recognises the selected innovators from its open calls for solutions in 2020 and 2021. (SIHI Ghana, 2021)

IHI Ghana on 2 July 2021 held its national dissemination and hub launch at the University of Ghana to recognise top innovations from its two open calls for solutions in 2020 and 2021. The event linked the innovators to partners and institutions that could provide financial support for scale-up and provided a platform to raise awareness about social innovations in health. It was attended virtually by SIHI global partners, and on-site by 30 people which included innovators, researchers, policymakers and implementers, and multinational development partners from UNICEF, WHO, and non-government organizations.

The innovators showcased their social innovations in 15-minute presentations, followed by an interaction session with potential partners. Among the participating innovators, Impact Mission Ghana, shared their excitement for the "huge recognition and for projecting (their) work globally." Some of the researchers expressed interest in collaborating with the innovators for scale-up, while some of the development partners expressed their desire to provide financial support. **Watch the event:** https://bit.ly/3jMJm6J and https://bit.ly/3vWnF9k

SIHI UGANDA VISITS TOP INNOVATION IN KANYOGOGA

n 28 September 2021, the SIHI Uganda team, led by Hub Director Dr. Phyllis Awor, visited one of Uganda's top social innovations in health identified in the hub's 2021 national call for solutions. The innovation, Amani Family Centre, provides maternity and family support to vulnerable families in Kanyogoga slum, Kampala City. Interviews were conducted with the founder, employees, beneficiaries of Amani Family Centre, and local leaders in the community during the site visit. The SIHI Uganda team is currently writing the case study and producing a short film to highlight key lessons from the innovation.

The hub ran a national call for solutions to recognise community-based solutions that improve the health and nutrition of Ugandans from 1 March to 9 April. The call received 30 submissions, 17 of which were eligible for review. Amani Family Centre and Influencing Social Behaviour Change & Communication through the Peer-to-Peer Support Groups are the two submissions that were selected by an independent expert panel as this year's top social innovations.



The SIHI Uganda team conducts field visit to Amani Family Centre in Kanyogoga, Kampala City. (SIHI Uganda/Irene Angiro, 2021)

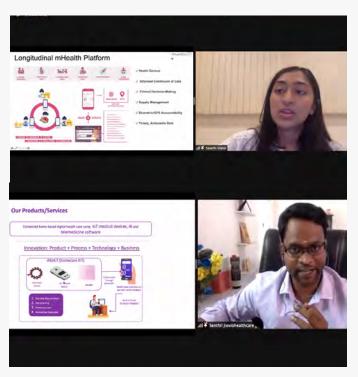
DERBI FOUNDATION LAUNCHED AS SIHI INDIA

n 13 July 2021, the <u>DERBI Foundation</u> formally launched as a <u>SIHI country research hub in India</u>. The DERBI Foundation, hosted by the Dayananda Sagar Institutions in Bangalore, India, is a technology incubation center being supported by the National Science and Technology Entrepreneurship Development Board (NSTEDB) of the Department

of Science and Technology, Government of India. DERBI is a fully self-financed SIHI country hub and adds to SIHI's growing presence in the Asian region, along with China, Indonesia, and the Philippines.

After its participation in last year's SIHI Partners Workshop and with the technical support of the SIHI Secretariat, DERBI joined the SIHI network in early 2021 and led its first nationwide call for solutions, dubbed <u>SIHI India Healthcare Excellence Award: A Recognition of Social Innovation and Health Impact Creators.</u>

DERBI's open call received 43 submissions, and after a thorough review process with a group of evaluators, the top solutions were announced on 20 June. These are the Khushi Baby and SaveMom, both innovatively working to reduce maternal and child mortality rates in India. **Read more:** https://



Above: Khushi Baby and SaveMom innovators present their solutions during SIHI India's launch and awarding of top healthcare innovations in India. Below: SIHI Indonesia holds a webinar on social innovation as part of its first crowdsourcing call for solutions. Watch the webinar: https://bit.ly/3mFzVb5



MÉRIEUX FOUNDATION TACKLES COVID-19 VACCINE HESITANCY AND MISINFORMATION

rom 2020 through 2021, the Mérieux Foundation organised the Vaccine Acceptance Initiative, a series of virtual events that aim to foster best practices in communication hygiene, which are particularly hindered by hesitancy, misinformation, and lack of trust during the COVID-19 pandemic. The Mérieux Foundation observed that misinformation has been exacerbating the COVID-19 pandemic and obstructing the way preventive strategies, such as social distancing, mask use, and vaccination, are adopted by the population. This further increases the bottlenecks in prevention and ultimately,

impacts disease control, it added.

Its first webinar on 16 December 2020, How to maintain and build trust in immunization, A particular challenge in face of the COVID-19 Pandemic, facilitated a dialogue on multisectoral efforts promote to vaccination acceptance and immunization resilience. The second webinar event, COVID-19 vaccine introduction and acceptance, in March 2021 brought together international experts to showcase specific country examples of success stories and challenges on vaccine introduction, adoption, and implementation. Meanwhile, Managing vaccine misinformation in the midst of a pandemic in April focused on misinformation, which is considered a major public health threat in successfully addressing COVID-19.

SOCIAL INNOVATIONS IN HEALTH IN THE ANDEAN REGION 2019

amas del Rio works in rural communities in Peru to reduce maternal and child mortality by empowering community agents through the use of ICTs. Community health workers (CHW) and traditional birth attendants are trained to promote essential newborn care practices during home deliveries, in case facility-based delivery is not feasible. WATCH: https://youtu.be/Q3VCiCCJ3OE



Change makers in the global South-collaboration and innovation in the health sector (Just For a Change): https://bit.ly/3mnEQ0d

Mothers of the Amazon River: a social innovation for health (Global Health Matters): https://bit.ly/3k54Z2v

ika Kids responds to the problem of the neglect of births with congenital defects associated with the Zika virus. The National Institute of Health in Colombia developed a comprehensive inter-institutional medical care programme for babies with microcephaly. This programme takes a holistic approach by not only addressing healthcare but also the social factors that impact parents and their babies with prenatal exposure to the Zika virus. WATCH: https://youtu.be/7vZmVAxWXnl

ntegrated Care Model for Rural Areas aims to improve access to and quality of rural health care through intersectoriality and an integrated approach to health. In 2001, the Medical Center of Sumapaz created the model of comprehensive health care under the premise of guaranteeing access to health care for the rural population, based on a very accurate interpretation of the health needs and the design of contextualized and creative intervention strategies. **WATCH:** https://youtu.be/PTqp7GqZ2Uo





