

SOCIAL
INNOVATION
IN HEALTH
INITIATIVE

Q1-Q2 2022

NEWSLETTER

A special supplement on social innovation in health consolidates the research and community engagement work of our SIHI country hub partners. We also continue to build capacity and facilitate support for our partner innovators.

BMJ LAUNCHES SPECIAL SUPPLEMENT ON SOCIAL INNOVATION IN HEALTH

The BMJ family of journals organised a [webinar](#) on 17 May 2022 to announce the launch of a [special supplement on social innovations in health](#). The webinar was attended by more than 100 participants from 39 countries and highlighted the long-term impact of social innovation on people, communities, and health systems.



TDR Director Dr. John Reeder and Assistant Director of the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO/WHO) Dr. Jarbas Barbosa, in their opening remarks, underscored the importance of social innovation to inspire community-led action, improve the effectiveness of health interventions, and increase health equity within health systems. SIHI colleague Dr. Joe Tucker noted, “It is one thing to say that social innovation works, but it’s quite another to build out the evidence base that

is sufficient to institutionalize social innovation. This special supplement advances the foundation of research on social innovation.”

The special supplement was supported by [TDR, the Special Programme for Research and Training](#)

[in Tropical Diseases](#), co-sponsored by UNICEF, UNDP, the World Bank, and WHO. TDR receives additional funding from [Sida](#) to support the [Social Innovation in Health Initiative](#) (SIHI). The special supplement was also supported by [PAHO/WHO](#). The call for submissions was in partnership with [SIHI China \(SESH\)](#). It represents a

milestone for the SIHI network that has also developed TDR/SIHI/SESH practical guides on [crowdsourcing in health and health research](#), and [on public engagement and crowdfunding](#).



SIHI MOVES FORWARD BY ENHANCING IMPACT OF SOCIAL INNOVATIONS THROUGH RESEARCH IN 2022-2025

In developing SIHI's strategic plan for 2022-2025, SIHI is taking stock of the network's current impact and influence in consultation with SIHI hubs and partners. As part of this process, Patricia Moscibrodzki, in partnership with TDR and the SIHI Secretariat, conducted an organisational and policy analysis in her paper, [*"Critical Analysis of the Social Innovation in Health Initiative."*](#)

SIHI is moving towards disseminating and embedding social innovation research in low- and middle-income countries in a sustainable way. The four expected outcomes identified to enhance the impact of social innovations through research and accelerate universal health coverage (UHC) are research to demonstrate the impact of social innovation on accelerating UHC and to enhance sustainability, system-change through institutionalisation of social innovation research in the academia and government systems, a growing country-led network facilitated by the SIHI Secretariat based in the Philippines, and an equitable and gender-transformative approach embedded in social innovation research. A new hub sustainability model is also being developed and tested. This would enable the research hubs to provide a platform to liaise innovators, researchers, and donors. Social innovators will be equipped to measure and demonstrate impact of their work, effectively communicate results, and fundraise through various approaches including crowdfunding.

TDR ENGAGES 5 SIHI HUBS IN CREATING GENDER TRANSFORMATIVE RESPONSES TO INFECTIOUS DISEASES THROUGH RESEARCH AND SOCIAL INNOVATION

In the last quarter of 2021, TDR engaged five SIHI country research hubs, namely Makerere University in Uganda, University of the Philippines Manila, Centro Internacional de Entrenamiento e Investigaciones Médicas (CIDEIM) in Colombia, Social Entrepreneurship to Spur Health (SESH) in China, and Kamuzu University of Health Sciences in Malawi, to explore the gender dimensions of existing social innovation in health projects at the community level. TDR recognises the need to better understand the intersections of gender with other social stratifiers such as sex, age, class, disability,

and ethnicity in the epidemiology, prevention, and control of infectious diseases within low- and middle-income settings. The hubs' key activities involved a mapping exercise to identify which innovation cases were most adequate for analysis, the development of an adapted rapid appraisal checklist, and the identification of locally adapted entry points, which could be used in the further implementation of TDR's intersectional gender research strategy. Consultations among the hubs for collaboration and learning were held, and briefs were developed to synthesise the mapping outcomes and project activities.



Following a new call for proposals in March 2022, the succeeding phase of the project started with the selection of three hubs (Uganda, Philippines, and Colombia) to implement the activities for one calendar year. The primary objectives shared by the selected hubs were to explore gender dimensions and intersecting social stratifiers at the community level where social innovations operate, generate evidence-based lessons that can be used for research capacity strengthening and for policy recommendations, and to disseminate, promote and advocate for an inclusive research agenda.

The Philippine hub will focus on two innovation cases identified based on their rapid appraisal, the Uganda hub will launch a new call which focuses on innovations directly responding to gender inequalities in health, and the team in CIDEIM will be addressing the intersections of gender with other social stratifiers as a determinant for the underrepresentation of women in prevention and control of infectious diseases programmes among black and indigenous communities in a rural area in Colombia.

TDR AND SIHI CONVENE COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT IN RESEARCH AND SOCIAL INNOVATION IN HEALTH GRANTEES

Ten research projects that improve engagement of communities in research and in social innovations to enhance healthcare delivery in low- and middle-income countries were convened by TDR and SIHI from 2021 to 2022. Following a call for proposals, [the projects were selected for funding by TDR, SIHI, and WHO regional offices in 2021.](#)

The grant recipients represented research institutions from Cameroon, Ethiopia, Ghana, Guatemala, India, Iran, Kazakhstan, Malaysia, Philippines, and Uganda. Their projects are researching good practices that would allow communities to be more engaged in the research and innovation processes and to co-create the improved solutions to their health challenges, thus enhancing community ownership and utilisation of the results.

TDR and SIHI invited the ten Principal Investigators and their teams to join the broader SIHI network and share their knowledge and progress made in their work. The knowledge dialogue included examples of social innovation in health in Asia and various tools such as community crowdsourcing, the [social innovation monitoring and evaluation \(M&E\) framework](#) and [checklist](#). In the progress review meeting of 18 May, the principal investigators presented the progress and preliminary results achieved, as well as the path to achieving their proposed outcomes. They received questions and feedback from the meeting participants, as well as recommendations from the members of the external review group. The research projects are set to be completed during the third quarter of the year.



TDR grantees share their research updates in their final meeting in May 2022.

SIHI FELLOW PROGRAM LAUNCHED FOR EARLY CAREER RESEARCHERS

The [SIHI Fellow Program](#) was launched in April 2022 through [SIHI China's \(SESH\)](#) leadership. Twelve fellows from SIHI China, SIHI Indonesia, SIHI Nigeria, SIHI Latin America and the Caribbean, SIHI Philippines, and SIHI Uganda participated in the programme, which aims to prepare the next generation of social innovation research leaders. The fellows are early career researchers from respective SIHI hubs who are inclined to learning and teaching social innovation research.

The SIHI Network is committed to building capacity for social innovation research in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs). Recently, the fellows have collaborated to develop training content and plans for the SIHI fellowship training workshop scheduled on 5th July to 16th August 2022. The workshop training courses are based on the results of a SIHI training needs survey conducted by SIHI China among the hubs in April. To access the workshop presentations, visit <https://bit.ly/SocialInnovationWorkshop>

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UPCOMING & ONGOING EVENTS

AUGUST- OCTOBER 2022 OPEN CALL FOR SOCIAL INNOVATIONS IN UGANDA SIHI UGANDA

More details here: <https://bit.ly/UgandaCall2022>

30 AUGUST 2022 OPEN CATHEDRAL OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS SIHI LAC

The SIHI LAC Hub will participate as speaker in the SDG 3 Health and Well-being section of the event organised by El Bosque University.

SIHI CHINA LEADS GLOBAL YOUTH OPEN CALL

SIHI China (SESH) and SIHI, with support from TDR, organised the [“Go Youth! Global Open Call”](#) from 1 April to 30 June 2022. The call aimed to engage youth aged 18-35 years old worldwide to celebrate their health-related social innovations. It will also support them in further research and in measuring the impact of their ideas.

“Go Youth! Global Open Call” emphasised the development of research capacity among selected finalists and winners. Thus, this open call strongly favored projects with pilot data or some form of pilot implementation. A participatory webinar was held on 2 June to introduce to the target participants to the call and prepare them for submission. One hundred fifty-six submissions in six United Nations languages, including English, French, Spanish, Russian, Chinese, and Arabic, were received.

SIHI GHANA LEADS PARTICIPATORY RESEARCH ON MALARIA

SIHI Ghana led a participatory research from 17th to 24th May 2022 to help address the gap in access and use of the long-lasting insecticide-treated bed net (LLINs) campaign in Ghana. Despite mass distribution of bed nets every three years by the National Malaria Control Programme of Ghana, deemed to help reduce cases of malaria, a nationwide survey shows that many households with bed nets still do not regularly sleep under these. As a response, the SIHI Ghana Hub received a Bill and Melinda Gates



The SIHI Ghana is with the district director of health services and members of the community during an innovation dissemination in May this year. (Photo: SIHI Ghana, 2022)

Foundation grant through the Health Effectiveness Campaign Coalition to conduct an innovative study which would help in mainstreaming the LLIN campaign into Ghana’s primary health care system, the Community-based Health Planning and Services Strategy.

Consisting of nine members, the Community Health Advocacy Team (CHAT) was formed in six communities across Volta and Eastern Regions. After the team was inaugurated in a community durbar, it carried out social and behavioural change communication activities in the communities to encourage them to regularly sleep under bed nets. The intervention was in line with SIHI Ghana Hub’s overall goal of championing the creation and sharing of social innovations to help address existing health problems. All members of the hubs participated in the study and disseminated the findings in communities during the research period. The [manuscript](#) produced from the research was published in BMJ Open as part of the [SIHI BMJ Innovations collection](#).

SIHI INDIA ALONG WITH HDFC BANK SUPPORTS 4 HEALTHCARE SOCIAL INNOVATIONS

To extend support to healthcare social innovation startups, the [SIHI hub in India](#), [DERBI Foundation](#), partnered with the [HDFC Bank Parivartan Program](#) in March 2022. The Parivartan is HDFC Bank’s corporate social responsibility initiative. Out of the 20 applications that underwent rigorous screening by the selection team of the programme, seven applications were shortlisted, and four innovations were selected to receive a grant support amounting to \$12,000. The four shortlisted applicants were Savemom Technologies Private Limited, Vidcare Innovations Private Limited, Ibrum Technologies Private

29 UPCOMING EVENTS

28 SEPTEMBER 2022 CONFERENCE
ABOUT SIHI AND SIHI LAC EXPERIENCE
SIHI LAC & SIHI HONDURAS

SIHI LAC & SIHI Honduras will participate in the continuous education programme of the Instituto Antonio Vidal, Asociación Hondureña de Parasitología, and Honduras Medical College to lead a conference about SIHI.

SIHI INDIA... (continued from p. 4)

Limited, and Backyard Creators Private Limited. [Savemom](#) aims to reduce maternal and infant mortality by providing personalised preventive healthcare to pregnant women at the doorstep using AI and IoT-enabled healthcare solutions. [Vidcare](#), on the other hand, develops easy-to-use, portable health tests to make diagnostic testing convenient and accessible for patients and healthcare workers. [Ibrum](#) is developing an AI-based point-of-care pneumonia screening device for rural settings to detect early pneumonia cases. Lastly, [Backyard Creators](#) is solving the problem of expensive open skull surgeries required for implanting hearing aids by building a small device that would provide magnetic stimulation behind the ear. All these innovations are expected to create positive impact in health care around the globe.

SIHI LAC HUB HOLDS PARTICIPATORY WORKSHOP ON EFFECTIVE COMMUNICATION STRATEGIES FOR INNOVATORS

The [SIHI Latin America and the Caribbean Hub](#) (hosted at CIDEIM) held a participatory workshop on effective dissemination in February 2022 among 14 innovation leaders, who represented 10 different innovations from Chile, México, Colombia, Perú, and Guatemala.

SIHI LAC Hub advisor Dr. Juan Carlos Jimenez facilitated the workshop titled, *“Communicating and capitalizing our initiatives in social innovation: what strategies are available to effectively disseminate our projects?”* The workshop allowed the sharing of experiences and lessons learned, and a collective reflection on effective communication strategies. It also focused on developing a pitch and exploring current content platforms.

The recent winners of SIHI LAC’s open innovation call from Guatemala, *“Sociocultural barriers and Covid-19 risk mitigation facilitators in testing a community surveillance and response system within an inclusive health care model,”* shared that the workshop helped them in enhancing the visibility of the innovation in their [university](#) and on national news.

PAHO AND SIHI LAC AWARD COVID-RELATED INNOVATIONS

Four winning social innovation projects that improve public health and access to quality health services during the pandemic in Latin America and the Caribbean were awarded, while an additional four projects received honorable mention, in the 2021 call for social innovations led

by the Pan-American Health Organization (PAHO) and supported by the SIHI Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) and SIHI Honduras hubs.

The call received 128 submissions from 17 countries in the region, 106 of which were eligible innovations. After a rigorous screening process, 16 finalists were selected and interviewed by an independent panel of expert reviewers, and the winning innovations were identified. These are as follows:

- *Mitigating sociocultural barriers and covid-19 risk when testing a community surveillance and response system within an inclusive healthcare model* from Guatemala;
- *El Canto del Tucán: Radio, health, and pedagogy in the Colombian Amazon*;
- *The importance of community communication in the fight against Covid-19* from Brazil; and,
- *MEDL* from Trinidad and Tobago.

PAHO [interviewed](#) the innovative leaders of the winning initiatives on Universal Health Day in 2021. PAHO’s regional offices also awarded them with plaques of recognition. In addition, the social innovators are now part of the Latin American and Caribbean Alliance for Social Innovation for Health (ALACISS), and some of them have served as panelists in the SIHI LAC’s Virtual Café monthly webinars.



“The call center system was very important because it helped generate trust among the population since many people did not ask about medical evaluation, the need for a swab, or the administration of the COVID-19 vaccine, sometimes because they’re embarrassed or ashamed. This initiative facilitated the resolution of doubts to the population.”

Juan Chumil Cuc
District Health Director of Santiago
Atitlán Department of Sololá, Guatemala
on the [top social innovation from Guatemala](#)

SIHI NIGERIA MEETS VARIOUS STAKEHOLDERS FOR ADVOCACY

S IHI Nigeria partnered with the chief executive officer of Bloom Public Health to plan and conduct advocacy visits to five potential partners in Abuja, Nigeria. They visited the Federal Ministry of Health (FMOH), Jhpiego country office, National Institute for Pharmaceutical Research and Development (NIPRD), National Tuberculosis and Leprosy Control Programme (NTBLCP), and Nigeria Health Watch on 12th and 13th of May 2022.

In its meeting with FMOH, SIHI Nigeria explored how social innovations could be incorporated into the ministry's activities under the One Health Platform. Meanwhile, SIHI Nigeria was advised by Jhpiego and NTBLCP to present at the National Technical Working Group and the National Council of Health meetings, respectively. The NTBLCP national programme coordinator expressed

interest in SIHI Nigeria's crowdsourcing approach and requested the hub to design a crowdsourcing call to identify possible solutions to some pressing challenges facing the NTBLCP in Nigeria.



SIHI Nigeria's advocacy team meets with Dr. Oniyere Adetiloye of Jhpiego country office to introduce the work of the hub and explore collaboration. (Photo: Uchenna Ogwaluonye/SIHI Nigeria, 2022)

SIHI PHILIPPINES IMPLEMENTS COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT SELF-MONITORING STRATEGY FOR SOCIAL INNOVATIONS IN HEALTH

From July to December in 2021, [SIHI Philippines](#) led the implementation of a community engagement self-monitoring (CE-SM) strategy in two community-managed social innovations in the Philippines. The implementation sites are the Innovations for Community Health, Inc. for Kalinga Health, which focuses on TB care, and the municipality of Del Carmen, Surigao del Norte for the [Seal of Health Governance](#), which is a community health leadership and monitoring programme. The CE-SM project aims to empower communities to monitor processes in social innovations by developing a community-grounded and contextualized self-monitoring approach.

Key findings show that the proactive leadership of community leaders and the active participation of community members significantly contributed to the success of the CE-SM strategy. Regular feedback sessions were seen as important, not only as a means of monitoring progress, but also for boosting the community members' morale. Further studies to explore the CE-SM strategy on a larger scale, longer timeline, and a variety of sociocultural settings to facilitate adaptation to their local contexts are underway in 2022.

SIHI PHILIPPINES HOLDS RESEARCH UPTAKE MEETING



S IHI Philippines convened 19 representatives from government, youth, NGO, and academic partner organizations on 20 April

2022 to discuss the findings and implications of four research projects and identify possible intersections and areas for collaboration. The research projects were the open call for youth ideas and innovations, innovative health service delivery during the COVID-19 pandemic, community self-monitoring strategy, and intersectional gender analysis of social innovations in health.

The group agreed to take concrete steps to support the uptake of the research projects. The youth mental health innovation identified in the 2020 youth open call, *"This Book is so Boring,"* shall be shared with the Department of Health (DOH), Zuellig Family Foundation, and the Positive Youth Development Network, Inc.

SIHI PHILIPPINES HOLDS...

(continued from p. 6)

The identification and research of social innovations in health will be aligned with DOH's health promotion strategy and its overall universal health care direction. DOH also welcomed the presentation of the two-way radio telemedicine pathway to its Indigenous People-Geographically Isolated Disadvantaged Areas programme. Moreover, the University of the Philippines Medical Students for Social Responsibility (UP-MSSR), Positive Youth Development Network, Inc., and SIHI Philippines will explore further collaboration in research, capacity-building, and youth engagement in social innovation in health. SIHI Philippines and the Zuellig Family Foundation will continue its conversations on integrating community engagement self-monitoring strategy with the current health programme monitoring in local governments.

SIHI SWEDEN OFFICIALLY LAUNCHED

S [IHI Sweden](#) was officially launched in Uppsala, Sweden on the 1st of April 2022. The hybrid meeting, both in-person and virtual, gathered about 50 innovators and stakeholders from academia, civil society, and the public sector for interaction and inspiration.

After an introduction to the SIHI Network by the SIHI Secretariat, case presentations were made by Emelie Ekblad for MAD-Make A Difference, Frida Grundahl for Yalla Trappan, Georgina Warner for Child Health and Parenting (CHAP), Fredrik Höglund for Youth Aware of Mental Health (YAM), and Eva Friman for SWEDSD. The participants were then divided into groups for a co-creation session led by Eva Friman and Thao Do. The goal was to gather inputs on what the Swedish hub could do to promote social innovation on a national and Nordic level, in collaboration with international partners.

Valuable ideas were presented, highlighting the need for more interactions between researchers and civil society, increased co-creation and knowledge sharing from ongoing and already implemented projects. Concrete activities were also suggested, which the SIHI Sweden team is using as a basis for plans ahead.



The SIHI Sweden Hub concludes the official launching of Uppsala Sweden with about 50 innovators and stakeholders from academia, civil society, and public sector. *(Photo: Fiorella Farje de la Torre/SIHI Sweden, 2022)*



SIHI Uganda's 4th social innovation stakeholders' workshop brings together social innovators, policymakers, and other stakeholders to identify possible opportunities for support for the social innovations. *(Photo: Ndyabahika Davidson, Makerere University School of Public Health, 2022)*

29 UPCOMING EVENTS

10-14 OCTOBER 2022 WORKSHOP ON SOCIAL INNOVATION FOR SEXUAL REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH & RIGHTS IN THE PHILIPPINES SIHI PHILIPPINES & MAASTRICHT UNIVERSITY

The second collaborative face-to-face workshop aims to complete a manual for sexual and reproductive health and rights for youth in Tacloban City, Philippines.

27 OCTOBER 2022 MINI-SEMINAR WORKSHOP, "TAKING PREVENTION OF YOUTH MENTAL ILL- HEALTH INTO THE COMMUNITY" SIHI SWEDEN

SIHI Sweden will be holding the seminar to explore the potential of community actors addressing youth mental-ill health in Sweden.

SIHI UGANDA HOLDS 4TH STAKEHOLDERS' WORKSHOP

On 28th April 2022, the [SIHI Uganda Hub](#) held the 4th social innovation stakeholders' workshop at the Golden Tulip Hotel in Kampala, Uganda. The workshop showcased examples of social innovation in health in Uganda and introduced innovators to activities on gender and social innovation in health. It convened innovators, officials from the Ministry of Health (MOH), Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development, Secretariat of Science (MGLSD), Technology and Innovation, academic partners from Makerere University, partner hub SIHI Nigeria, and other stakeholders.

The innovators from the recently concluded open call presented their social innovation projects. This was followed by an interaction session with the audience, zeroing in on the sustainability of social innovations. MOH's Dr. Dina Nakiganda assured SIHI Uganda of support in helping translate the innovations to policy. Ms Brenda Nakaziwe of the Secretariat of Science, Technology and Innovation also cited available opportunities for the innovators.

MGLSD's Mr. Julius Ocaya Amule spearheaded the launch of the gender and social innovation in health activities, encouraging the innovators to incorporate gender issues in their work. A hands-on workshop on the intersectionality of gender in social health innovations led by Dr. Awor and Dr. Victoria Namuggala of the School of Women and Gender Studies at Makerere University concluded the event.

SIHI CHAMPIONS MAKING A DIFFERENCE



Professor Hannah Akuffo, reflects on the value of supporting research through SIHI. She championed SIHI's vision and played a crucial role in catalysing funding for SIHI through TDR. Hannah retired from her position as Senior Research Advisor at the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida) in 2021. Read more: <https://bit.ly/HannahAkuffo>

Watch a video clip of her interview: <https://youtu.be/YRkDFiBzKjO>

Lenore Manderson has been selected to receive the [Bronislaw Malinowski Award from the Society for Applied Anthropology](#) for her efforts to understand and serve the needs of the world's societies. Lenore is the chairperson of the SIHI/TDR external review group. Read more: <https://bit.ly/LenoreManderson>



Elina Naydenova is a social innovator and entrepreneur. She is the CEO and co-founder of [Feebris](#), a company whose AI-powered platform enables carers and health workers to assess health risk in the community and enable early detection of deterioration. Elina is a pioneer SIHI champion who conducted some of the initial research case studies. She is a biomedical and AI engineer, with a PhD in Machine Learning for Healthcare Innovation from Oxford University. Elina tells TDR how SIHI catalysed the founding of her company and describes her journey from SIHI pioneer researcher to AI innovator. Read more: <https://bit.ly/Elina-Naydenova>

SOCIAL INNOVATIONS IN HEALTH UGANDA 2020



MY PREGNANCY HANDBOOK

My Pregnancy Handbook is the first health educational handbook about pregnancy published in Uganda. It covers preconception care as a key step to pregnancy preparedness, antenatal care (ANC), danger signs in pregnancy and labour preparation. Midwives use the handbook as an antenatal guide during interactions with expecting mothers. Pregnant women are also able to access reliable health information and are guided as they prepare for their ANC visits and as they make decisions concerning pregnancy.

(Photo: Emmanuel Ahumuza/SIHI Uganda, 2020)



ISHAKA HEALTH PLAN

Ishaka Health Plan (IHP) is a community-based health insurance scheme that empowers community members to start income-generating activities, engage in agriculture and livestock, and form microfinance groups to ensure the payment of their premiums. An established revolving fund programme, as a loan scheme, also enables members to access health services. The insurance scheme covers a wide range of health conditions such as malaria, tuberculosis, surgeries, HIV/AIDS, accidents and cancer. IHP, together with health workers, also provides information on nutrition and distributes insecticide-treated nets to communities to prevent malaria and other diseases, improve their health and minimize hospitalizations.

(Photo: Emmanuel Ahumuza/SIHI Uganda, 2020)

SOCIAL, EMOTIONAL, AND ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT THROUGH KNOWLEDGE OF GROUP SUPPORT PSYCHOTHERAPY (SEEK-GSP)

Community health workers undergo training on facilitating group psychotherapy sessions where they are able to identify and treat individuals with depression under the supervision of trained health workers. People living with HIV share their problems in gender-sensitive group sessions. They also form livelihood groups and join business activities such as planting food crops and selling produce or baked goods to attain improved financial independence and meet their basic needs. Through SEEK-GSP, local communities are empowered to take control of their own mental health needs.

(Photo: Emmanuel Ahumuza/SIHI Uganda, 2020)

