Advancing Community-engaged Social Innovations through Research

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OUTLINE

• Health Delivery Gap: The need for system change
• Social Innovation to transform health care delivery
• SIHI to embed social innovation research in countries to accelerate UHC
• SIHI Network expansion facilitated by SIHI Secretariat
• From Social Innovation Research to UHC and SDGs
• Towards Institutionalization and Sustainability
Half the world lacks access to essential health services.
World Health Organization & World Bank, 2017

Community-engaged social innovation to transform health systems towards SDGs

Social innovations in health are inclusive solutions that meet the needs of end users through a multi-stakeholder, community-engaged process.
Halpaap et al., Lancet Global Health, 2020
WHAT IS SOCIAL INNOVATION IN HEALTH?

A New Lens
- A new lens to health systems transformation

A Creative Solution
- Addressing a systemic health challenge
- Reaching vulnerable populations
- Effective, inclusive & affordable solution

A Bottom-up & Participatory Process
- Engaging communities, governments and other actors
- Multi-sectoral and multi-disciplinary approach
- People – centered approach
Inter-island Health Service Boat Project: Example of Social Innovation from the Philippines

• **CHALLENGE:** Transporting high-risk pregnant women in an accredited birthing facility is challenging due to lack of circumferential roads in Zumarraga island in Samar

• **SOLUTION:** The Inter-Island Health Service Boat Project (a sea ambulance or a boat referral system)

• **IMPACT:**
  - Facility-based deliveries improved from 20% in 2013 to 90% in 2015
  - facility earned > 1 M Php (approx. USD 20,000) from PhilHealth reimbursements and is used to sustain the project
  - awarded by the Department of Health for exemplary MNCHN accomplishments

Source: https://socialinnovationinhealth.org/case-studies/inter-island-health-service-boat-project/
Chipatala Cha Pa Foni (CCPF) “Health Center by Phone”: Example of a Social Innovation from Malawi

- **CHALLENGE:** In remote and rural communities, distance often prevents people from seeking health care when they need it.
- **SOLUTION:** CCPF provides a toll-free hotline where callers can speak with trained health workers.
- **IMPACT:**
  - Increased knowledge of available maternal health services
  - Reduced the burden on the rural health facilities and rural health workers by resolving 75% of the calls without referral to a health facility
  - Scale up in the country by the government

Mamás Del Río or Mothers of the River: Example of Social Innovation from Peru

- **CHALLENGE**: Difficult access to health, lack of culturally appropriate delivery care by health facilities, and unfavourable attitudes in seeking medical assistance—worsened during COVID-19 travel restrictions.

- **SOLUTION**: Mamas Del Rio as a multidisciplinary approach to improve the health of mothers and newborns in the Loreto Region of Peru; rapidly adapted to address COVID-19 related challenges during the pandemic.

- **IMPACT**:
  - Community health workers have conducted 1113 visits to pregnant women and provided 270 safe delivery kits
  - Enabled the community to sustain maternal and neonatal health services while responding to urgent needs of the COVID-19 pandemic
WHAT IF Community-engaged social innovation research played a catalytic role in accelerating universal health coverage?
SOCIAL INNOVATION IN HEALTH INITIATIVE (SIHI)

13 SIHI hubs (6 in Africa, 4 in Asia, 2 in Latin America and 1 in Europe)

SIHI is a global network of partners invested in advancing social innovation in health through research, capacity building and advocacy.

2014
SIHI ESTABLISHED

2014-2016
INNOVATION OPEN CALLS
Global open call for innovation, convened key stakeholders

2017-2019
SIHI HUB DEVELOPMENT
SIHI research hubs in 6 countries

2020-2021
SIHI EXPANDS
Independent Secretariat and new hubs
SIHI to embed social innovation research in countries

Launched in 2014, our network has expanded globally.
SIHI Expansion facilitated by the SIHI Secretariat
Some Highlights of the Network’s Achievements

1. **IDENTIFY**
   - With help from an independent experts panel, we identify and showcase social innovations to health care delivery challenges.

   - **21** innovation calls
   - **21** eligible innovations
   - **21** different countries across Africa, Asia & Latin America and the Caribbean

2. **RESEARCH & ADVOCATE**
   - We contribute to the growing body of research on social innovation in health through publications and visual media.

   - **55** case studies
   - **17** country profiles
   - **4** WHO publications
   - **42** short films

3. **CAPACITATE & CONVENE**
   - We bring together diverse actors to collaborate towards advancing social innovation in health.

   - **9** international convenings with **200** participants from **24** countries
   - **14** courses & tools developed
   - **21** conference representation
   - **8** SIHI network meetings
Social innovation to transform health care delivery

Guest edited by Lenore Manderson, Uche Amazigo and Phyllis Dako-Gyeke

A thematic series in *Infectious Diseases of Poverty*.

Gaps continue to exist in health systems and access to health services, in low- and middle-income countries, despite advances in disease prevention and control, diagnosis and treatment. Social innovations provide a fresh lens to strengthen health systems and primary healthcare. Through participatory approaches, novel solutions are designed and implemented by innovators, health system actors and other actors to address complex and longstanding health problems.

Social innovations can be processes, market mechanisms, roles or behavioral practices, or new paradigms and policies. They enable healthcare delivery to be more inclusive, effective and affordable. Social innovation tackles “how” to improve health, by engaging communities in creating and sustaining solutions. This series features the work of the Social Innovation in Health Initiative established in 2014 under TOR’s leadership and in collaboration with research organizations and partners to advance social innovation through research, capacity strengthening and advocacy. Writing from an interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary perspective, the authors analyse how social innovation has been used in research, in practice, and in informing new paradigms and policies. In showcasing community-engaged approaches in transforming health care delivery, we illustrate how social innovation can accelerate progress towards Universal Health Coverage and the Sustainable Development Goals.
Multi-Hub Research Projects

Community Engagement Package

Evidence and research capacity strengthening in SIHI with an intersectional gender lens:
A contribution to implement TDR’s Intersectional Gender Research Strategy

FROM SOCIAL INNOVATION RESEARCH TO UHC & SDGS

Social Innovations

Social Innovations in Health Systems

WHO Frameworks

- Sustainability
- Replicability
- Scaling up
- Demonstration of impact

RESEARCH

SIHI HUBS

Research

Capacity Building

Advocacy

INTEGRATED PEOPLE CENTERED HEALTH SERVICES

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

BEYOND HEALTH IMPACT

- Vulnerable Populations
- Reaching the Last Mile
- Community Empowerment
- Multidisciplinary/Intersectoral Partnerships
Towards Institutionalization and Sustainability

Gelia Castillo Award for Research on Social Innovations in Health (GCARSIH) in the Philippines

SIHI Hubs → University Center for Innovation and Research in Malawi

Source: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IQVXQlkn5x8
THANK YOU

SOCIAL
INNOVATION
IN HEALTH
INITIATIVE

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See: https://tdr.who.int/about-us/our-donors

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