

NEWSLETTER

We continued to contribute to national and regional policymaking and to the implementation of social innovations in health. We also nurtured social innovations through research collaborations and capacity strengthening activities.

SIHI UGANDA, TDR, UNICEF and UNDP JOIN EFFORTS TO STUDY THE PRIVATE SECTOR'S ROLE IN PROVIDING HEALTHCARE FOR WOMEN AND CHILDREN IN UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA AND GHANA

UNICEF/ UNDP'S "Think Big Think Challenge" award, a collaborative study between [SIHI/ TDR](#), [SIHI Uganda](#), [UNICEF](#) and [UNDP](#) on the role of the private sector in healthcare delivery in low-and-middle-income countries (LMICs), has been completed in the United Republic of Tanzania and Ghana. It provides insights into how private sector engagement and interactions could be enhanced in order to improve the quality of healthcare for women and children. For more information about Big Think, read the full story [here](#).



Participants of the Merieux Foundation advanced courses on diagnostics express satisfaction in the interactive sessions on social innovation.

MÉRIEUX FOUNDATION ANNUAL DIAGNOSTICS COURSES EMBED SOCIAL INNOVATION

Dedicated to the fight against infectious diseases, the [Mérieux Foundation](#) co-organised two advanced courses on diagnostics in 2022 – the ACDx and Afro-ACDx. The [11th edition of ACDx](#), done in collaboration with the [London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine](#) took place in Annecy, France on 18-23 September 2022. In collaboration with the Institut Pasteur Dakar, the [Afro-ACDx 2022](#) was held in Saly, Senegal for francophone African countries on 20-25 November 2022.

MÉRIEUX.... *continued from p.1*

In both courses, a session was dedicated to technological and social innovation as part of the curriculum, presenting the concept of social innovation with a plenary lecture and a [SIHI Film](#).

During the workshops, groups of four or five participants worked together to create a social innovation project on human or animal health by identifying a need, mapping out key stakeholders and iteratively developing their social innovation. Each group presented their social innovation to a panel of judges who voted for the best idea. In 2022, the social innovation sessions were facilitated by Dr. Beatrice Halpaap and Dr. Joseph Tucker during the global ACDx course and Dr. Noah Fongwen, Bénédicte Pansier and Sandra Angèle during the Afro-ACDx course.

In the participant evaluations, the participants expressed excitement about the interactive format and the opportunity to use a people-centered approach. Mérieux Foundation translated the SIHI social innovation materials into French for the Afro-ACDx Course and are now freely available for use to all. Mérieux Foundation looks forward to continuing the promotion of social innovation as part of its annual diagnostics courses.



SIHI Ghana convenes key stakeholders for a policy dialogue on malaria prevention and control.

SIHI GHANA SHARES FINDINGS OF PARTICIPATORY RESEARCH ON MALARIA PREVENTION AND CONTROL

S [IHI Ghana](#) held a meeting in Accra in late 2022 with 20 selected stakeholders to discuss the adoption of the findings of its participatory research on malaria prevention and control. The meeting was attended by National Malaria Control Programme (NMCP) Manager Dr. Keziah Malm, Deputy Programme Manager In-charge of Monitoring and Evaluation Dr. Nana Yaw Peprah, two Deputy Regional Directors of Public Health, two District Directors of Health, and other key partners in malaria control.

The SIHI Ghana team shared its research findings with the participants, and thematic areas were discussed during a breakout session facilitated by the hub. The participants shared their views on the best way to incorporate the novel research findings into Ghana's national malaria prevention and control strategies. The policy dialogue is in line with SIHI Ghana's objective of ensuring that social innovations are translated into national policies.

SIHI LAC HOLDS 2022 INNOVATOR WORKSHOPS AND EXCHANGES

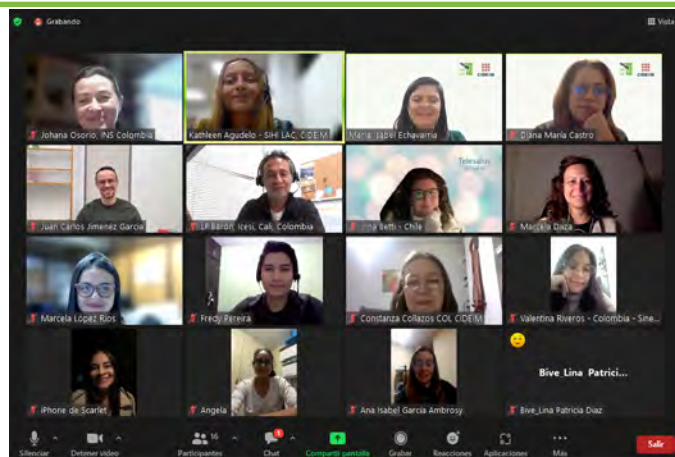
In 2022, the [SIHI Latin America and the Caribbean \(LAC\) Hub](#) held capacity strengthening activities in response to its innovators' needs. During the first semester, the hub developed a workshop focused on effective communication, aiming to strengthen promotion and dissemination strategies among innovators in the region to more effectively approach key stakeholders of the social innovation in health ecosystem. In addition, between October and November, the hub conducted a workshop on *Community-Based Participatory Research Methodologies*, where 12 innovators representing 10 initiatives recognised in 2017 and 2019 participated. Team members from the SIHI LAC Hub led the event. [Honduras node](#) members participated in the course and worked collaboratively with one of the innovators from their country.

The workshop covered community-based participatory research and design thinking approaches. "It was a very integral workshop. The facilitators gave us tools to improve our processes and they shared to us valuable experiences from

SIHI LAC.... *continued from p.2*

their background and action field,” said one of the participants. An innovator added, “it is interesting to be able to interact with other innovators and learn from them.”

SIHI LAC hopes to continue generating spaces for interaction and mutual learning between innovators to give them the opportunity to meet one another, know their contexts, and share about their projects.



SIHI LAC & HONDURAS NODE ADVOCATE FOR SOCIAL INNOVATION IN HEALTH IN ACADEMIC SPACES

S IHI LAC participated in three key academic and intersectoral convenings in the last quarter of 2022 to increase the visibility of social innovation in health in the region.

The SIHI LACHub was part of the third session of the [Open Chair on Sustainable Development Goals \(SDGs\): To leave no one behind](#) on 30 August 2022, which was organised by the Universidad El Bosque in Colombia. The hub highlighted the contribution of social innovation in health in achieving Sustainable Development Goal 3 (health and well-being) among the academic community and other stakeholders in attendance.

SIHI LAC Hub’s academic advisor Diana María Castro, hub coordinator María Isabel Echavarría, and three innovators from Honduras and Guatemala shared their experience in the field of social innovation in health and the hub’s journey at the webinar, [Social innovation in health, a bet for the transformation of health in Central America](#) (La Innovación Social en Salud, una Apuesta para la Transformación en Salud en Centro América), on 28 September 2022. Aimed at the Central American audience, the webinar was organised by the Honduras Medical College Center of Honduras, the Honduran Association of Parasitology, and the Institute of Infectious Diseases and Parasitology Antonio Vidal. It was also within the framework of their institutional Continuing Education Program 2022. (Watch the [webinar](#))

The hub also participated in the [7th Global Symposium on Health System Research](#) organised by Health Systems Global on the first week of November. The symposium brought together different stakeholders to convene a global community dedicated to strengthening health systems and policy research and practice. The SIHI LAC hub was able to share the mission and achievements of the hub and the SIHI global network. The event was a great opportunity to identify potential allies and build connections with key stakeholders from the social innovation ecosystem in the region. (Read the [symposium proceedings](#))

SIHI NIGERIA ORGANISES FIRST VIRTUAL CAFE

S IHI Nigeria Hub, in collaboration with the Federal Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation (FMSTI), designed and organised its first virtual café on 25th November 2022. The event themed *Innovations to improve access to healthcare for young people in Nigeria* was attended by 30 participants across 10 states in Nigeria.

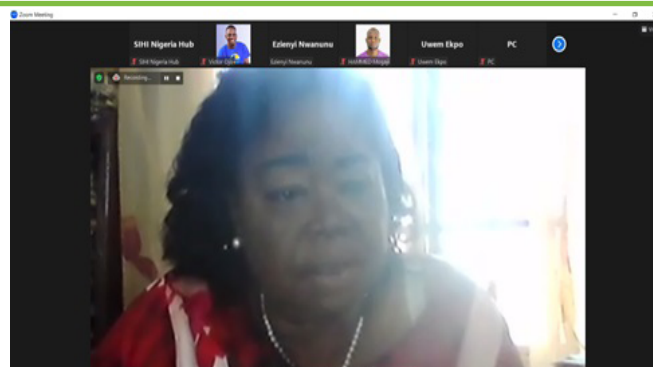
The hub introduced the participants to SIHI and its core principles. Three social innovators also presented their solutions and shared their innovator experiences.



The SIHI Nigeria team introduces SIHI and its work to the hub’s virtual cafe participants.

SIHI NIGERIA.... *continued from p.3*

Then, in virtual breakout rooms, facilitators led discussions on barriers and enablers influencing health access for young people. Confidentiality, trust in the healthcare sector, and workplace ethics were the recurring themes that were tackled, where participants expressed varying opinions on possible approaches to addressing these. The hub and FMSTI agreed to work together to identify the next steps in their partnership.



SIHI PHILIPPINES LEADS PHASE 2 OF COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT SELF-MONITORING STRATEGY FOR SOCIAL INNOVATIONS IN HEALTH

From July to December 2022, [SIHI Philippines](#) led the implementation of the second phase of the community engagement self-monitoring (CE-SM) strategy in one community-managed social innovation in the Philippines—the [Seal of Health Governance](#). The second phase evaluated CE-SM's sustainability and practicality, while examining the factors and processes at play in its implementation in two barangays (villages) in Del Carmen, Surigao del Norte. The CE-SM strategy is a tool that aims to empower communities to design community engagement processes and monitor a social innovation project in a manner they deem fit.

SIHI Philippines facilitated monthly virtual praxis sessions utilising the process of action-reflection-action as an important element in decision-making and participatory methods. Two capacity-building activities were also conducted among the local monitors of both barangays, with the first held in August and the second in December 2022. Interactive sessions and group workshops were facilitated to achieve the sessions' objectives.

Key findings in the implementation of the CE-SM strategy in Del Carmen validated the pivotal role that community engagement plays in motivating and empowering communities to actively participate in social innovation. Integrating a people-centered approach to development towards health governance has also been proven to be crucial. Proactive leadership is deemed to be an important aspect of the strategy, which has significantly influenced the performance of both barangays.

Watch: [SIHI Talks on CE-SM](#)
Read: [BMJ article on CE-SM](#)

SIHI PHILIPPINES APPLIES HUMAN CENTERED DESIGN FOR LOCAL TELEMEDICINE SYSTEMS



SIHI Philippines co-facilitated a training workshop for the Department of Health Region IV-A's *Telemedisina sa Timog Katagalugan* (Telemedicine for Southern Luzon) project on 14 to 16 November 2022. Representatives of rural health units, district hospitals, and provincial hospitals from the provinces of Cavite, Laguna, Batangas, Rizal and Quezon participated in the activity.

The three-day training was developed and delivered in partnership with the [University of the Philippines Manila's Medical Informatics Unit](#) (UP MIU). The activities were organised to follow the three phases of human centered design (HCD)—inspiration, ideation, and implementation. UP MIU delivered the lectures and activities on knowledge and skills for telemedicine, including technological aspects, basic workflow, medicolegal issues, “websites” manners, and history and physical examination skills for teleconsultations. SIHI Philippines introduced HCD and facilitated the process of designing local telemedicine systems using this approach. The tools and activities used included vision board, journey mapping, group brainstorming, role playing as prototype, and the 4DX monitoring tool. The participants expressed appreciation of the different aspects of the training workshop, but also pointed out much needed support in terms of information and communication technology infrastructure and cascading of the skills to other health workers in their areas.

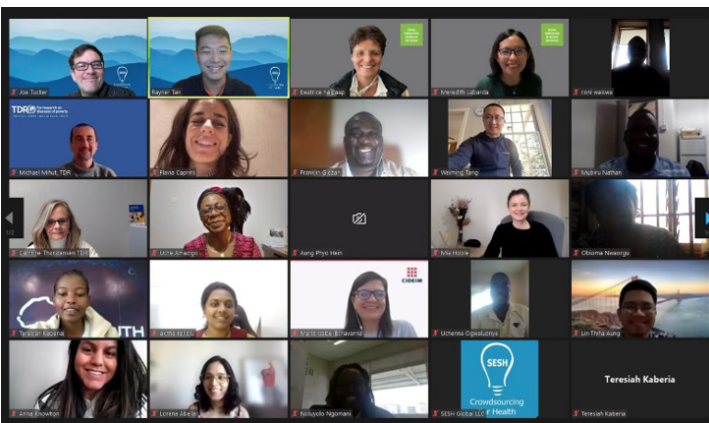


SIHI Indonesia releases films on the social innovations it has identified through crowdsourcing and research in 2021-2022. Watch them [here](#).

SIHI CHINA HOLDS GO YOUTH! OPEN CALL 2022

S IHI China (SESH) organised the global crowdsourcing open call, [Go Youth! Global Open Call 2022](#), focused on youth social innovation using the TDR [Practical Guide on Crowdsourcing in Health and Health Research](#) in June 2022. The call successfully established a global and diverse steering committee with representatives worldwide, including youth innovators. One hundred fifty-six submissions in English, Arabic, Spanish, and French were received, mainly representing low-to-middle-income countries such as South Africa, Uganda, Laos, Nigeria, Philippines, India, Nepal, and many others.

The SIHI Fellows facilitated a practice pitch on 23 September for all 11 Go Youth! finalists. The two-hour session focused on providing mentorship and feedback both from peers and SIHI Fellows. All finalists were also invited to attend a crowdfunding bootcamp on 4 November where a flipped classroom was used by the participants to develop a basic crowdfunding plan. In a public pitch event on 23 November, a panel of four independent judges conducted an evaluation of the submissions and the top three submissions were recognised. A manuscript describing the open call process is being co-written with the top three finalists from the open call and will be submitted to an international conference and journal of publication.



SIHI CHINA LEADS SOCIAL INNOVATION SUMMER TRAINING WORKSHOP 2022

From July through August of 2022, SIHI China (SESH) co-organised the [Summer Training Workshop on Social Innovation](#) with the University of North Carolina Center for AIDS Research (UNC CFAR), and SIHI. The training workshop sessions, which were held every week and lasted for 60 minutes each, received a total of 876 registrations from interested participants and were attended by at least 200 Individuals each session.

The Summer Training Workshop on Social Innovation is part of the [SIHI Fellow Program](#), an ongoing programme which aims to enhance social innovation research capacities among researchers from low and middle-income countries (LMICs). In March 2022, SIHI China conducted a multi-phase, mixed-method investigation to determine the social innovation training needs of individuals affiliated with the SIHI network and to design learning modules accordingly. Twenty eight fellows completed a pre-workshop training needs assessment survey and co-developed six workshops based on the results of the training needs assessment and training topic interests. Topic experts also provided inputs and guidance. A research manuscript focused on co-created health training has also been finished and will be submitted to a peer-reviewed journal.

SIHI China is hosting its second cohort of SIHI Fellows in June 2023.

SIHI SWEDEN HOLDS SEMINAR ON MENTAL HEALTH

On 27 October 2022, [SIHI Sweden](#) held a seminar on thinking differently about mental health interventions for the youth. Hosted by Karolinska Institutet Innovations in Stockholm, the seminar was a response to the rise in youth reporting mental ill-health outpacing other European countries. It explored the potential of community actors, such as sports coaches or music teachers, in addressing this societal challenge. Whilst community-based mental health intervention is not a new concept, the scope for innovation in the field is vast.

Victor Olusoji Ladele, the mental health and psychosocial wellbeing innovation manager at UNICEF, spoke about the pressing need for innovation in mental health – “a personal problem felt everywhere.” He encouraged “innovating at the intersection” or interdisciplinary collaborations giving rise to interesting solutions, but he also warned of the complexity of local development issues where one size does not fit all.



Victor Olusoji Ladele (top photo) and Georgina Warner (bottom photo) were two of the key resource persons in the mental health seminar hosted by SIHI Sweden.

The message was echoed by Georgina Warner, associate professor in child health and welfare at Uppsala University, who spoke of issues that can arise when shifting mental health tasks to allied professionals. She was positive towards the potential reach of community-based initiatives but highlighted that adoption of new tasks requires behaviour change and, the effort required to implement a new initiative should not be underestimated. The seminar concluded with a talk from Chris Bonell, professor of public health sociology at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine. Based on the ethical principle of “do no harm,” he encouraged the participants to consider the “dark logic” of societal interventions and to take this into consideration when conducting evaluations.

SIHI UGANDA HOLDS CROWDSOURCING CALL 2022

From 1st August to 12th September 2022, the [SIHI Uganda Hub](#) ran a countrywide call for innovative local solutions that were addressing gender and health challenges in Uganda. The call targeted community organizations and individuals who had implemented gender-based solutions that had improved the health of the Ugandans. The call was promoted online, on television, and through poster distribution. The District Health Officers (DHOs) and District Community Development Officers (DCDO) also actively promoted it.

Forty six submissions were received, 34 of which were found eligible by an external independent panel of reviewers. The review panel consisted of six individuals with a range of expertise in gender, innovation, infectious disease, public health, social work and all had a deep contextual understanding of Uganda.

The final review identified top seven social innovations in Uganda – *Parenting for respectability for improved health and family relations*; *Scaling up access to conflict prevention services through meaningful women engagement in Rwenzori region*; *Sanitation and Hygiene Initiatives for Everyone*; *Baby Ubuntu programme*; *Digitalizing access to deaf friendly sexual reproductive health (SRH) information*; *Women empowerment for conflict prevention*; and, *Adolescent and youth friendly services at health facility and community a gateway to voluntary family planning uptake among adolescents and youths aged 15-19 years in Budaka district*. Watch: [Showcase of social innovations in Africa](#)

SIHI UGANDA IMPLEMENTS GENDER AND SOCIAL INNOVATION PROJECT

The SIHI Uganda Hub is implementing a gender and social innovation project, which aims to understand and explore the gendered dimensions of social innovation in health at the community level. The hub is working with the five

SIHI UGANDA.... *continued from p.6*

social innovation projects which were identified through previous calls from 2017-2021. Among the project's specific objectives are to understand and explore the gendered aspects and dimensions of community-based health projects, assess and identify gender monitoring indicators relevant in social innovation projects, and draw evidence-based lessons and good practices to address inequities resulting from the intersections of gender with other social stratifies in social innovation projects.



SIHI Uganda Researcher Dr. Christine Nalwadda interviews a beneficiary of Opit Kic Widows Group in Kiryandongo District, Uganda during the gender case study research.



SIHI Uganda Project Officer Emmanuel Ahumuza (2nd photo) and Dr. Christine Nalwadda meet with Opit Kic Widows Group Project Officer Mr. Peter Woja (3rd photo) for the gender case study research.



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In September 2022, the SIHI Uganda team visited three social innovations, namely Amani Family Centre, Kyaninga Child Development Centre, and Opit Kic Widows Group to conduct interviews. The team also conducted telephone interviews with the innovators and beneficiaries of [Action for Women and Awakening in Rural Environment \(AWARE\) Uganda](#) and [Bwindi Mothers Waiting Hostel](#). The team has so far written four of the gender case study reports. In October, the team led training sessions among innovators to build capacity in facilitating collection of data on gender related indicators.

SIHI Uganda, SIHI LAC, and SIHI Philippines are part of the TDR gender research project. Watch: [SIHI Talks on intersectional gender analysis](#)

SIHI INDIA SUPPORTS TECH INNOVATION ON DIABETIC NEUROPATHY

S [IHI India](#) ([DERBI Foundation](#))-supported innovation company [Ayati Devices Pvt Ltd.](#), in collaboration with Chandramma Dayananda Sagar Institute of Medical Education and Research (CDSIMER), organised a [mega health camp](#) in Krishnayana Doddi village, Kanakapura Taluk, Ramanagara District on the 19th November 2022 and in Udarahalli on 28th November, along with members of the College of Physiotherapy, Dayananda Sagar University.

A section of the camp was dedicated to foot screening of neuropathy in diabetic patients. Nearly 80 patients underwent neuropathy screening with Vibrasense, a portable battery-powered device that can help screen 70 to 100 patients with a single charge. The patients also received educational material about diabetic neuropathy, and counseling about preventing its complications.



The Ayati team tests diabetic patients for neuropathy during the screening camps.

SIHI INDIA.... *continued from p.7*

Ayati Devices Pvt. Ltd. is a company incorporated in India on 9th February 2019 and incubated at the DERBI Foundation. It is a multidisciplinary team with individuals from engineering and medical backgrounds who are passionate about using technology to bring innovative diagnostic and therapeutic medical solutions to the community. Their pivotal device, Vibrasense, is ideal in camp situations in remote villages where even without any power supply, doctors can screen many patients with diabetes for neuropathy. (Watch: [SIHI Talks on digital health innovations featuring Ayati Devices](#))

DERBI Foundation supports innovators in developing sustainable, low-cost affordable healthcare social innovations engaging communities to solve community problems using technology. Its process includes consultation with key stakeholders to understand healthcare needs; a need assessment study to prioritise the community's needs based on factors such as prevalence, severity, impact on the community's well-being and feasibility of solutions; development of prototypes or minimum viable products; implementation in the community; establishment of evaluation mechanisms; and, iterations of innovations as needed.



ONGOING & UPCOMING EVENTS 2023



JUNE-JULY CALL FOR SOLUTIONS SIHI MALAWI & SIHI RWANDA

SIHI Malawi and SIHI Rwanda are looking for social innovations that address climate change. Download the submission form [here](#).

6 JULY SIHI TALKS: UNLEASHING THE POWER OF DESIGNATIONS IN HEALTH & HEALTH RESEARCH SIHI CHINA & HOPE

Join on Zoom: <https://zoom.us/j/7587906557>

15 JULY SIHI INDONESIA CROWDSOURCING FOR TB ELIMINATION SIHI INDONESIA, TDR GLOBAL & 5TH INDONESIA TUBERCULOSIS INT'L MEETING

Submit your solutions to bit.ly/InnovativeSolutionINATIME

18-19 OCTOBER EXPLORING COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT FOR SOCIAL INNOVATION IN HEALTH SIHI SWEDEN

Poster submissions for the [conference](#) are welcome from social innovation projects, including community-based and research projects. Deadline is 28 August 2023.

SIHI LAC HOSTS 1ST EXCHANGE OF EXPERIENCES AMONG LATIN AMERICAN SOCIAL INNOVATORS

Between 27th February and 3rd March 2023, the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO/WHO) in collaboration with the SIHI Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) Hub, organised an exchange of experiences among social innovators recognised in the region.

Dr. Magaly Blas (leader of the initiative *Mothers of the River* from Peru), Marcela Mercado (leader of the initiative *Zika Kids* from Colombia)—both recognized in 2019—and PAHO/WHO's Senior Advisor on Research for Health Dr. Cuervo, visited the initiative *The Song of the Toucan*, led by Sinergias NGO and recognised by SIHI LAC in its 2021 innovation call. This project is a training programme in communication and journalism for community leaders to empower them to disseminate reliable health information in local languages through radio in the response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The purpose of this exchange was to facilitate the sharing of ideas and collective learning between innovators and community journalists, and to support the documentation of *The song of the Toucan* project with videos, photos and interviews for the production of an animated video. (Watch: [The Song of the Toucan case film](#))



Join SIHI Talks, SIHI's monthly learning and partnership webinar, available on SIHI's [YouTube channel](#) and [Facebook page](#).

According to Dr. Blas, "the most significant contribution of this exchange between innovators is its bidirectionality. It's not just about me traveling and reporting back; in the field, I can learn about what the other person is doing and adapt it to my innovation or create a new project that addresses an aspect I haven't yet explored. I can also provide feedback to the other person from an innovator's perspective, highlighting opportunities for improvement or sharing key insights. Ultimately, we have the potential to collaborate and create something together."



Social innovators Magaly Blas, Marcela Mercado, and Juan Pablo Montoya, with part of the innovator team from *The Song of the Toucan*, exchange experiences in the rural zone of Vaupé. (PAHO/Luis Gabriel Cuervo Amore, 2023)

SIHI CONTRIBUTES TO INNOVATION STRATEGY FOR WESTERN PACIFIC REGION

The Social Innovation in Health Initiative participated in a Member States consultation on a draft regional Innovation Strategy, organized by the WHO Western Pacific Regional Office and held 11-12 May 2023.

The WHO Regional Office for the Western Pacific is drafting a new Innovation Strategy for consideration of the Regional Committee at its upcoming October 2023 session. This Strategy will formulate a common vision for future health innovation and chart the path for governments and health ministries to become actors in innovation. Read the full story [here](#).

RESOURCES FROM SIHI & PARTNERS

[BMJ Opinion: How to ensure equitable research partnerships in global health](#)

[Helping to influence health policy in Peru](#)

[Inclusive Health Systems: Innovations towards Health Equity in Africa \(White paper\)](#)

[TDR 2022 Annual Report](#)

[SIHI Talks Playlist](#)

