

SOCIAL
INNOVATION
IN HEALTH
INITIATIVE

NI 2024

NEWSLETTER

We facilitated and participated in various activities to build capacity and increase support toward social innovations. We also celebrate the recognition for our efforts to sustain the work we do.

DESIGNATHON PRACTICAL GUIDE LAUNCHED

The Designathon Practical Guide, developed in collaboration with the [Social Innovation in Health Initiative](#); [Social Entrepreneurship to Spur Health \(SESH\)](#); [TDR](#), the [Special Programme for Research and Training in Tropical Diseases](#); and the [World Health Organization](#), was [launched](#) on 28 May 2024. A designathon is a powerful and inclusive tool that brings together diverse minds to solve health challenges through a three-stage process: preparation, collaboration, and follow-up. Download the [practical guide](#) now.



REMEMBERING PROF. PHYLLIS DAKO-GYEKE



“Through her research, Professor Dako-Gyeke emphasized the importance of community engagement and culturally sensitive interventions. She brought this expertise to her role as the lead of the Ghana hub of TDR’s Social Innovation in Health Initiative, which identified and championed a number of community-based social innovations that improved the lives of people in vulnerable communities.”

—TDR Director Dr. John Reeder

Professor Phyllis Dako-Gyeke was a dedicated public health advocate and scholar, focused on improving health outcomes in underserved communities. As an Associate Professor at the University of Ghana, she conducted social science research on gender, maternal health, and HIV/AIDS in low- and middle-income countries. Read more [here](#).

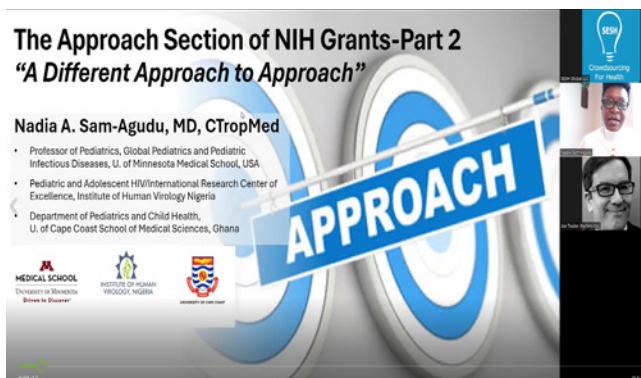
SIHI RELEASES 2023 GLOBAL PARTNERS’ MEETING REPORT

Attended by more than 30 partners and innovators, the SIHI Global Partners’ Meeting on 8-10 November 2023 urged to boost collaboration among social innovation partners and began the celebration for the network’s 10th year anniversary. It underscored SIHI’s decade-long commitment to improving healthcare delivery through social innovation.

Download the meeting report [here](#).
Watch the 10th year [anniversary video](#) on our YouTube channel.
Visit the event website [here](#).

SIHI CHINA HOLDS “GRANT-O-THON” GRANT WRITING WORKSHOP FOR EARLY-CAREER RESEARCHERS FROM LMICS

S [IHI China](#) (SESH) held the Grant-o-thon Grant Writing Workshop 2024, a series of seven “grant-o-thon” online interactive workshops from 2 April to 14 May 2024, to provide early-career researchers in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs) with essential skills and knowledge to write successful grant proposals, particularly for the U.S. National Institutes of Health (NIH).



Dr. Nadia A. Sam-Agudu gives her talk during the grant-o-thon interactive online workshop held in April 2024 (*SIHI China / SESH, 2024*).

The free [online workshop](#) had more than 400 sign-ups, with 54 submitting their specific aims to join the small group activities. Ultimately, 16 early-career researchers were selected to participate and receive personalised mentorship and guidance from experts, leveraging structured training sessions to equip them with competencies needed to design and submit competitive NIH grant proposals.

The Grant-o-thon Grant Writing Workshop 2024 was co-organised with SIHI, the HOPE consortium, the University of Northern California Center for AIDS Research (UNC CFAR) TechEngage, and the Network of Implementation Science (NISE), in partnership with 4 Youth By Youth (4YBY).



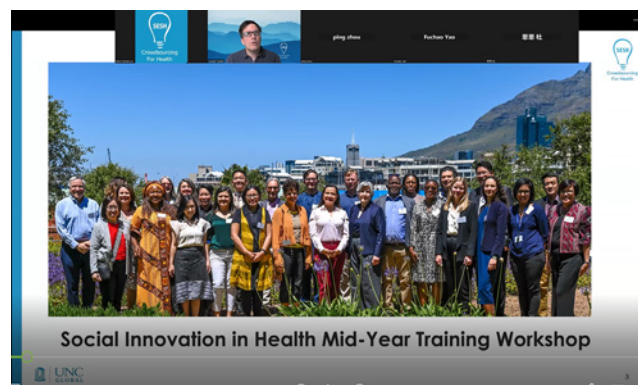
A big crowd of participants gather for a photo at the SASUF Sustainability Forum, where Mats Målqvist (SIHI Sweden) and Katusha de Villiers (Bertha Centre) hosted a workshop on scaling up social innovations (*SIHI Sweden, 2024*). Read story on [page 8](#).

SIHI CHINA HOLDS GLOBAL CROWDSOURCING OPEN CALL & MID-YEAR TRAINING WORKSHOP ON SOCIAL INNOVATION IN HEALTH

From 1 February to 1 April 2024, SIHI China (SESH) conducted the [Social Innovation in Health Learning Competencies Global Crowdsourcing Open Call](#), which was held in collaboration with SIHI, Sida, and TDR, the Special Programme for Research and Training in Tropical Diseases. The open call aimed to identify effective practices and strategies for learning and teaching about social innovation in health, as well as key competencies for design, implementation, and sustainable delivery.

The open call garnered 39 submissions, from which eight finalists were recognised. The finalists were then invited to participate in the co-creation of social innovation training sessions with SIHI network fellows and senior advisers at the [Social Innovation in Health Mid-Year Training Workshop](#).

Held on 4 June-23 July 2024, the interactive workshop had a total of 587 sign-ups and was attended by about 100 to 200 participants per session. It aimed to enhance the understanding of social innovation in health, emphasising its role in driving positive change and improving health outcomes. The workshop was co-organised with SIHI Philippines, the University of North Carolina (UNC) Innovate Carolina, the UNC Center for AIDS Research Technology and Engagement, the Bertha Centre for Social Innovation and Entrepreneurship, SIHI Latin America and the Caribbean, SIHI Uganda, SIHI Sweden, the DERBI Foundation, SIHI Indonesia, SIHI Malawi, SIHI Nigeria, SIHI Rwanda, the International Institute of Information Technology Bangalore Innovation Centre, and Instituto de Enfermedades Infecciosas y Parasitología Antonio Vidal (Institute of Infectious Diseases and Parasitology Antonio Vidal).



SIHI China holds an online mid-year training workshop with SIHI network fellows and senior advisers (*SIHI China / SESH, 2024*).

SIHI INDIA COLLABORATES WITH JAYADEVA HEART INSTITUTES FOR HEART4HEALTH HACKATHON



Professors and participants attend the Heart4Health Hackathon held on 12-14 April 2024 at Dayananda Sagar College of Engineering, Bengaluru, India (SIHI India / DERBI Foundation, 2024).

S IHI India (DERBI Foundation), in collaboration with the Jayadeva Heart Institutes, held the Heart4Health Hackathon on 12-14 April 2024 at Dayananda Sagar College of Engineering, Bengaluru, India. The hackathon was a concentrated effort to tackle pressing issues in healthcare, specifically in cardiology.

Seventy-six students in 25 teams participated in the hackathon and brought forward innovative solutions that focused on four main issues, namely, clinical reporting, gaps in post-treatment care, better management for patient care, and improving the reliability of step counting devices in cardiac rehabilitation. The event was a platform for healthy competition, learning, and collaboration, with a team from the AI Solutions Department providing mentorship and technical support. There was also a prize money worth INR 30,000 (USD 350).

The Heart4Health Hackathon showcased the fusion of youthful enthusiasm and cutting-edge technology to improve patient outcomes. According to one of the key partners at Jayadeva Heart Institutes,

“[the hackathon] isn’t just about the technology; it’s about the hearts we can touch and the lives we can change.”

The event showed collaboration and the potential of technology to make a difference in people’s lives.

SIHI INDIA FACILITATES INTER-STITUTIONAL NETWORKING MEETING

S IHI India (DERBI Foundation) co-facilitated a networking meeting on 6 March 2024 with India’s Inter-institutional Biomedical Innovations Programme (CIBIP), hosted by the Centre for Cellular and Molecular Platforms (C-CAMP). The pivotal meeting was attended by members from medical and engineering institutes. It aimed to foster innovation by converging both disciplines.

CIBIP’s mission is to establish a cross-disciplinary academic programme that not only promotes biomedical innovations and entrepreneurship but also integrates these concepts into the standard curriculum of Indian universities, nurturing the next generation of entrepreneurs and innovators. The goal is to create a robust talent pool for bio-innovation entrepreneurship across the country.

The networking meeting was both a gathering and a catalyst for future innovations, bringing together stakeholders from diverse fields to encourage dialogue and collaboration.



CIBIP and C-CAMP stakeholders gather at the network meeting facilitated by SIHI India in Bangalore (SIHI India / DERBI Foundation, 2024).

SIHI MALAWI HUB SUPPORTS ESTABLISHMENT OF IMPACT HEALTH CATALYST PROJECT

On 29-30 April 2024, the [SIHI Malawi](#) team, led by Prof. Don Mathanga and Project Coordinator Andrew Hamuza, attended meetings hosted by the Kamuzu University of Health Sciences (KUHeS) in support of the establishment of the Impact Health Catalyst (IHC) project. The meetings marked the beginning of a collaboration with the University of Melbourne, represented by Prof. Buzz Palmer and Prof. Nancy Baxter.

The IHC project aims to utilise social innovation to strengthen linkages across a broader university-wide network of stakeholders, using health innovation and impact as the common factor. In addition, it seeks to help students develop and implement solutions to health issues, promote health equity, and contribute to inclusive health within the Malawian community.

To support this initiative, the SIHI Malawi hub facilitated a call for ideas from students between 10 and 24 June 2024. Out of 60 submissions, the top five ideas were selected for further development and implementation. The five students who were selected will travel to Australia to work with their counterparts to further develop the innovative ideas. The collaboration promises to bring both technical and financial resources to foster local solutions and empower students to become proactive problem-solvers in health to achieve universal health coverage.

SIHI TALKS x Let's Talk Social Innovation in Health Series

26 SEPTEMBER 2024, 12 PM GMT / 2 PM CAT

LEVERAGING DIGITAL PLATFORMS TO IMPROVE ACCESS TO MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

Speaker: **Tendal Machaya**
Department Head and Psychology Lecturer, Saint John of God College of Health Sciences

REGISTER VIA: <https://bit.ly/STxLTIHS>
SIHI Talks, SIHI's regular learning and partnership webinar, is free and open to the public.

Logos for SIHI Malawi, TDR, Sida, University of Rwanda, Kamuzu University, and other partners.

SIHI SOUTH AFRICA HOSTS WEBINAR TO BUILD INTEREST IN OUTCOMES-BASED FINANCE FOR HEALTH

In conjunction with the South African Medical Research Council (SAMRC), [SIHI South Africa](#) (Bertha Centre) hosted a [webinar](#) on 11 June 2024 titled "Exploring the Opportunity and Assessing Feasibility of the Social Impact Bond (SIB): Lessons from the IMAGINE AGYW and Other SIBs" as part of a series of webinars to build interest in outcomes-based finance for health.

The webinar's agenda featured speakers from Oxford University's Government Outcomes Lab, the Department of Basic Education, the Networking HIV & AIDS Community of Southern Africa (NACOSA), Genesis Analytics, and SAMRC's Office of AIDS and TB Research. Gillian Vedan represented the Bertha Centre.

The webinar was a highlight for the Bertha Centre as it is helping the SAMRC to develop an ecosystem of partners interested in using innovative finance for public health priorities. The invest4health initiative includes a Learning and Action Network and is keen to hear of experiences from across the continent. Those interested in joining the Learning and Action Network for outcomes-based contracting in health can visit this [link](#).

GELIA CASTILLO AWARD FOR RESEARCH ON SOCIAL INNOVATIONS IN HEALTH

CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

CALLING SOCIAL INNOVATIONS IN HEALTH!
We are searching for social innovations that address health challenges and improve healthcare delivery in the Philippines. We would like to recognize your work, and help with further development and scale up!

INNOVATIONS MUST BE:

- developed by Filipinos for Filipinos
- implemented in the country for at least one year
- based on an identified priority health need of a community or beneficiaries.

WHAT ARE SOCIAL INNOVATIONS IN HEALTH?
Social Innovations are new solutions: Products - Services - Models - Market Mechanisms - Processes

THESE SOLUTIONS MUST:

- address a health need more effectively than existing approaches
- enhance the capacity of people to act and take ownership of their own health result in a more effective use of available resources
- have the potential to change health systems as it changes and strengthens relationships between people

HOW TO SUBMIT:

- Accomplish the Submission Entry Form
- Submit your entry in person, via courier, or via email at gcarsihs@gmail.com

PRIZES AND INCENTIVES

- Cash Prize
- Eligibility for Research and Development Grant
- Training Package for Scale-up and Sustainability

DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSIONS: SEPTEMBER 30, 2024

Submission Form and Guidelines: <http://gcarsihs2024entryform>
For more information, attend events and social events Health Research and Development Centers, or visit: <http://gcarsihs2024eventcal>

ONGOING & UPCOMING EVENTS

JULY - SEPTEMBER 2024 SUMMER INTERNSHIP SIHI LAC Two MBA students from the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA), will conduct summer internships with the objective of contributing to the hub's sustainability.

AUGUST - DECEMBER 2024 TEN-WEBINAR SERIES ON SOCIAL INNOVATION SIHI MALAWI & SIHI RWANDA

AUGUST - SEPTEMBER 2024 CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS TO THE GELIA CASTILLO AWARD FOR RESEARCH ON SOCIAL INNOVATIONS IN HEALTH (GCARSIH) SIHI PHILIPPINES, PHILIPPINE COUNCIL FOR HEALTH RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT This award seeks to identify and recognise outstanding social innovations that address persistent societal and health system challenges in the Philippines.

26 SEPTEMBER 2024 SIHI TALKS X LET'S TALK SOCIAL INNOVATION IN HEALTH SERIES SIHI MALAWI

SEPTEMBER 2024 3RD COHORT OF THE MAKERERE UNIVERSITY SOCIAL INNOVATION IN HEALTH FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM SIHI UGANDA

SIHI MALAWI FACILITATES SOCIAL INNOVATION TRAINING AT KAMUZU UNIVERSITY

Fifty-seven participants, including lecturers, innovators, and postgraduate and undergraduate students, attended training sessions on social innovation in health on 28 March and 21 June 2024 at the Kamuzu University of Health Sciences (KUHeS) Lilongwe Campus. SIHI Malawi Project Coordinator Andrew Hamuza and two mentees, Bertha Chakhame and Gaily Lungu, who are lecturers at the university, acted as facilitators.

The training activity was jointly organised by the World Bank's Skills for a Vibrant Economy (SAVE) Project, alongside other facilitators from the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) Malawi. The event, which was a collaborative effort with the different organisations and diverse group of participants, aimed to create a long-term impact on social innovation research and implementation for improved healthcare.



Faculty and students at Kamuzu University of Health Sciences (KUHeS) Lilongwe Campus attend the social innovation training sessions facilitated by SIHI Malawi staff (SIHI Malawi / KUHeS, 2024).

PROGRAM ON SOCIAL INNOVATION AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP IN HEALTH LAUNCHED AT UNIVERSITY OF THE PHILIPPINES MANILA

On 27 June 2024, during the 26th anniversary celebration of the University of the Philippines Manila's National Institutes of Health (NIH), [SIHI Philippines](#) was formally [relaunched](#) as the Program on Social Innovation and Entrepreneurship in Health to be hosted under the NIH's Institute of Clinical Epidemiology. This marks a crucial milestone in embedding and institutionalising social innovation in health within the university.

The programme is envisioned to be the country's prime mover and catalyst in research and capacity strengthening to advance social innovations in health, contributing to the transformation of health systems. It will build on the hub's gains over the last seven years and continue the work of supporting social innovations and entrepreneurial initiatives in health. During the anniversary celebration, Dr. Meredith Del Pilar-Labarda, who leads the SIHI Secretariat, also gave a talk on promoting justice and equity through research on social innovations in health. [On a separate occasion](#), UP Manila Chancellor Dr. Michael L. Tee expressed his eagerness to see the programme's transformation into the Institute of Social Innovation and Entrepreneurship.



The SIHI Philippines team is joined by university partners during the launch of the Program on Social Innovation and Entrepreneurship in Health at UP Manila NIH's 26th anniversary celebration (SIHI Philippines, 2024).

SIHI Philippines has conducted several open calls to identify social innovations in health in the country and serves as the secretariat for the Department of Science and Technology's Gelia Castillo Award for Research on Social Innovations in Health.

In 2023, SIHI Philippines launched InnovEx (healthinnovex.org), an online platform for connecting innovators and partners for ideation, collaboration, and building communities of practice.

SIHI INDONESIA CONTINUES COLLABORATION WITH HARAPAN FIAN COMMUNITY

S IHI Indonesia continues its collaboration with Harapan Fian from the beginning of 2024. Harapan Fian, [a social innovation identified by SIHI Indonesia in 2021](#), is a community dedicated to serving the marginalised populations in Yogyakarta, Indonesia. Initially, SIHI Indonesia's focus was to document Harapan Fian's innovative Posyandu Jalanan initiative. Now it employs an implementation research approach to enhance capacity for resilience and response to infectious diseases.

The ongoing study, supported by the TDR Small Grant and the Community Service Grant from the Faculty of Medicine, Nursing, and Public Health at Universitas Gadjah Mada (UGM), aims to amplify the impact of Harapan Fian's efforts in improving access to healthcare. The approach extends beyond mere observation as SIHI Indonesia actively disseminates Harapan Fian's successes and challenges. They leverage social media and engage with local government officials to share compelling stories.

Since early 2024, SIHI Indonesia has delved into the complex challenges faced by the urban poor and how Posyandu Jalanan aids them. More recently, the focus has shifted to bolstering innovative practices. Through research, SIHI Indonesia is committed to fortifying the resilience of Posyandu Jalanan in tackling infectious diseases within the community.

SIHI INDONESIA STRENGTHENS COLLABORATION WITH TDR GLOBAL THROUGH TROPMED MENTORSHIP SERIES

S IHI Indonesia conducted a mentorship series from February to June 2024 to strengthen collaboration with TDR Global as part of the implementation of the Health Research Mentorship in Low- and Middle-Income Countries (HERMES). The Tropmed Mentorship Series aimed to support early-career researchers, starting with developing a research concept note for their studies or grant applications. The participants were research staff, including research assistants, project managers, and field staff, from the Center for Tropical Medicine at Universitas Gadjah Mada. SIHI Indonesia acted as the organizing committee and provided the facilitators.

In addition to the one-on-one sessions, a brown bag series was incorporated, where mentees and mentors discussed building research careers.



A staff member from Harapan Fian visits a beneficiary's home in Suryowijayan, Yogyakarta for Posyandu Jalanan, Harapan Fian's healthcare initiative for mothers and children (SIHI Indonesia / Harapan Fian, 2024).



Sintia Ayu Rachmawati, a beneficiary of Harapan Fian, explains the impact of Harapan Fian's Posyandu Jalanan Program (SIHI Indonesia / Harapan Fian, 2024).

“The mentorship [had] exceeded my expectations. I was hoping to create a concept note that was feasible to do, and that target was achieved. In addition, the brown bag sessions were very helpful in improving my understanding of the research process,”

said Srila Nirmithya Salita Negara, one of the mentees. In the future, SIHI Indonesia aims to continue working closely with TDR Global, not only for mentorship but also to integrate a wide pool of research talent from TDR with SIHI Indonesia's identified social innovations.

SIHI UGANDA HUB HOLDS FINAL CAPACITY-BUILDING WORKSHOP FOR 2023-2024

On 12-15 February 2024, the [SIHI Uganda](#) hub held the third and final capacity-building workshop at the Resilient African Network (RAN) conference room of the Makerere University School of Public Health in Kampala, Uganda.

The workshop was one of three face-to-face workshops implemented under the Makerere University Social Innovation in Health Fellowship Program, which is a modular six-month distance learning program aimed to equip participants with skills in innovation, project planning and management, entrepreneurship, monitoring and evaluation, research, communication, fundraising, and environmental impact assessment.



Fellows engage in a group session during the first training workshop under the Social Innovation in Health Fellowship Program (SIHI Uganda / Makerere University, 2024).

The final workshop focused on effective communication, fundraising, and environmental and social impact assessment. A total of 24 fellows from 12 social innovation in health projects participated in the training. By the end of the workshop, the fellows developed a communication plan, a fundraising plan, and an environmental and social management and mitigation plan for their respective projects. Learn more about the [Uganda Social Innovation in Health Fellowship Program](#).



Fellows and facilitators gather as the second cohort of the fellowship program (SIHI Uganda / Makerere University, 2024).

SIHI UGANDA HOLDS DISSEMINATION WORKSHOPS TO HIGHLIGHT SOCIAL INNOVATION PROJECT RESULTS

SIHI Uganda organised two dissemination workshops to highlight the results of its social innovation projects and stimulate partnerships between innovators and policymakers. The first workshop was the 5th Social Innovation in Health Stakeholders' Workshop held on 30 April 2024 at the Golf Course Hotel in Kampala. It served as a platform to showcase 12 health and gender social innovation projects, disseminate their research findings, and celebrate the completion of the 2023-2024 cohort of the Makerere University Social Innovation in Health Fellowship Program. The participants included policymakers from the Ministry of Health, officials from the Kampala City Council Authority, social innovators, gender experts, academic staff from Makerere University, and SIHI partners.



Participants celebrate during the 5th Social Innovation in Health Stakeholders' workshop in Kampala, Uganda (SIHI Uganda, 2024).

The second workshop was a regional dissemination workshop held on 23 May 2024 in Luwero District to raise awareness on social innovation in health and facilitate collaboration for innovative community-level health interventions.

Participants in this workshop included social innovators and district officials from Luwero, Nakaseke, Nakasongola, and Kiryandongo.

Three social innovation health projects were disseminated: the Baby Ubuntu Programme, which builds caregivers' capacity to support children with disabilities in the Nakasongola District; the Parenting for Respectability Program in Luwero and Nakaseke, which addresses gender-based violence (GBV) and family health relations; and OPWIG's Care Group in Kiryandongo, which promotes health education among refugees, tackling issues such as malnutrition, health-seeking practices, and GBV.

SIHI LAC PUBLISHES CASE COMPENDIUM AND SAK MANUAL FOR 2024

During the first half of 2024, the [SIHI Latin America and the Caribbean hub](#) achieved two important milestones in its efforts to promote equity and access to health knowledge. In collaboration with the [Pan American Health Organization \(PAHO\)](#), the compendium “Social Innovation in Health: Lessons for Advancing Equity” was published, bringing together 17 transformative initiatives that have improved access to health services in remote areas and applied innovative technologies to diagnose and treat diseases more efficiently.



SIHI LAC publishes a compendium of cases and the Social Appropriation of Knowledge (SAK) manual in 2024.

In addition, the Manual for the Social Appropriation of Knowledge, titled “ABC of the Social Appropriation of Knowledge,” was finalised. This manual is a guide designed to strengthen the capacity of researchers to socialise knowledge, encouraging participation and dialogue in research projects. This manual contributes to a more inclusive and participatory science, in line with the guidelines of the Colombian Ministry of Science. Both achievements underline the hub’s commitment to health equity and community empowerment through knowledge.

SIHI SWEDEN HOLDS A WORKSHOP WITH THE BERTHA CENTRE AT THE SASUF SUSTAINABILITY FORUM

Mats Målqvist, [SIHI Sweden](#) director, hosted a workshop together with Katusha De Villiers of the Bertha Centre for Social Innovation and Entrepreneurship, at the [SASUF](#) Sustainability Forum on 15-17 May 2024 in Malmö, Sweden.

The workshop, titled *Scaling-up social innovations: the challenge of contextualization and mutual learning*, explored the challenges and possibilities of transferring and scaling-up social innovations across diverse settings. This is essential in order to meet universal health coverage, which is one of the targets of SDG 3. Utilizing the example of the Philani model, they hosted an interactive panel discussion on this theme. Outcomes from the workshop were shared learning, insights, and practical guidance on how to work in the field of social innovation for health to increase impact and achieve societal transformation.

This joint workshop also served as an opportunity to strengthen the connection and collaboration between Uppsala University and the University of Cape Town within the frame of the SIHI network and beyond.



UPCOMING EVENTS

SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER 2024 HOST, CROSS-UNIVERSITY STUDENT INNOVATION CHALLENGE SIHI MALAWI

OCTOBER 2024 MONITORING AND EVALUATION OF THREE PREVIOUSLY IDENTIFIED SOCIAL INNOVATIONS SIHI MALAWI

NOVEMBER 2024 HEALTH COLLECTIVE TITLED “INVESTING IN AFRICAN HEALTH OPPORTUNITIES” IN NAIROBI, KENYA SIHI SOUTH AFRICA

6-7 NOVEMBER 2024 EXPLORING ENTREPRENEURSHIP FOR SOCIAL INNOVATION IN HEALTH SIHI SWEDEN Hosted by SWEDESD, Uppsala University, in collaboration with Karolinska Institutet and the Department of Public Health and Caring Sciences, Uppsala University

13-14 NOVEMBER 2024 DIALOGUE BETWEEN INNOVATORS ON MATERNAL AND NEWBORN HEALTH SIHI LAC To promote the exchange of experiences and knowledge around maternal health

SIHI MALAWI PRODUCES VIDEO DOCUMENTARY ON SOCIAL INNOVATION THAT HELPED VICTIMS OF CYCLONE FREDDY

In June 2024, SIHI Malawi released a video documentary showcasing a social innovation that was identified from its call for solutions in 2023. The innovation sought to improve access to mental health care through the integration of digital platforms. There was an opportunity to use it when Cyclone Freddy hit that same year. More than 500 Malawians who were affected by the cyclone were able to benefit from the innovation.

Currently, this innovation has potential to help people affected by climate change-induced disasters, including farmers and agricultural workers. Tendai Machaya, an innovator from St. John of God College of Health Sciences, explained, “these natural disasters we are talking about, they are here to stay, now we are talking about El Niño which is coming, which might cause some distress to farmers, they need telecounselling.”

The video documentary forms part of the SIHI case series, showcasing selected social innovations improving healthcare delivery from Africa, Asia, and Latin America.

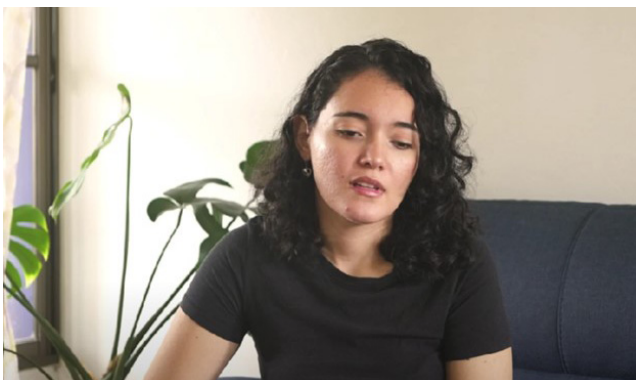


JOVEN SALUD, INNOVATION SELECTED BY SIHI LAC HUB, PRESENTS THE STORY OF A YOUNG VOLUNTEER WHO SUPPORTS THIS INITIATIVE

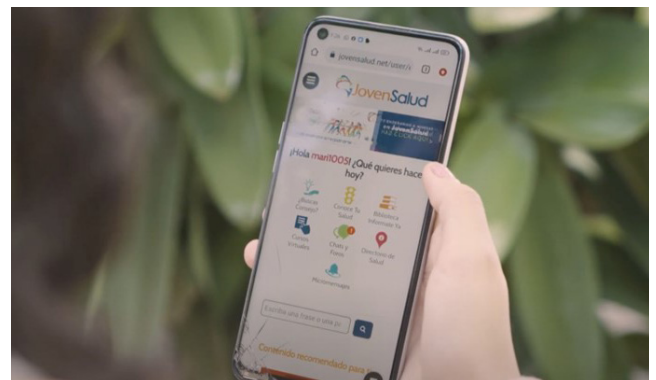
María Guadalupe, a 22-year-old Nicaraguan woman, learned about the online health promotion platform, JovenSalud.net, through Facebook. She was the first person in her family to go to university and entered just when her mother migrated from the country looking for new opportunities to support her daughter’s dream. María Guadalupe had to migrate to the country’s capital to attend university. The JovenSalud.net platform became a great support, especially the service “Looking for Advice?”

“I found out about JovenSalud.net through Facebook,” Maria Guadalupe said. “I wasn’t sure at first that I would like it, but I love the platform. I contacted the TeenSmart staff in my country and told them that I wanted to support and volunteer. From there, I became a leader of JovenSalud and a co-creator of the content for the new intervention ‘My Future Without Borders.’ The whole experience has been a delight!”

[JovenSalud](#) is one of the outstanding social innovations in health identified by SIHI LAC in 2023. Learn more about [JovenSalud](#).



María Guadalupe from Nicaragua is a leader and content creator for JovenSalud (SIHI LAC/JovenSalud, 2024).



The JovenSalud.net mobile application provides knowledge, skills, and support for the youth in Latin America (SIHI LAC/JovenSalud, 2024).



Join SIHI Talks, SIHI’s monthly learning and partnership webinar, available on SIHI’s [Youtube](#)