

NEWSLETTER

We wrap up 2024 with achievements and activities that advance social innovation in health. We also look forward to more opportunities for sustainability in the year ahead.

SIHI NIGERIA HOLDS 2024 NATIONAL SOCIAL INNOVATION DISSEMINATION WORKSHOP

On 27 November 2024, the [SIHI Nigeria Hub](#) organised the 2024 National Social Innovation Dissemination Workshop in collaboration with the [Federal Ministry of Innovation, Science, and Technology \(FMIST\)](#) and [TDR](#). It was held at RMRDC, Maitama District, Abuja, and it showcased the top three innovations from the 2023 National Crowdsourcing Call, which was launched to identify and promote locally-driven innovative solutions addressing maternal and child health challenges in Nigeria.

One of the top innovations was [Mama's Pride](#), which is a digital platform founded by Mr. Rufus Ohiwere that leverages mobile technology to provide pregnancy-specific information in local languages to reduce maternal mortality. The two other top innovations also cater to underserved areas in Nigeria. These were [Shiktra Maternal Newborn and Child Healthcare \(SMaNCH\) Foundation](#), which was founded by Anna Ishaku in 2021 and provides free maternal and child healthcare in rural areas of Borno State, and [Safe Mom](#), an innovation founded by Michael Sunmoni in 2022 that leverages mobile technology to reduce maternal and neonatal mortality in Lagos, Nigeria.

The hybrid event, with the theme “Dissemination of Indigenous Social Health Innovation and Capacity Building,” held activities attended by dignitaries, stakeholders, and participants.

Permanent Secretary Mrs. Esuabana Nko Asanye delivered the keynote address on behalf of FMIST Honourable Minister Chief Uche Geoffrey Nnaji, while FMIST Director of Health and Biomedical Sciences Dr. Adebayo Adeyemi gave the welcome remarks, emphasising the importance of supporting indigenous innovations.

Notable figures from various academic and government institutions also delivered goodwill messages, including Prof. Eka Braide (The President, Fellow of the Nigerian Academy of Science, FAS), Prof. Martin Emeje, Prof. Martin Ike Muonso, and Prof. Uche Amazigo (FAS). SIHI Nigeria lead, Emeritus



Dignitaries, stakeholders, and participants successfully conclude the 2024 National Social Innovation Dissemination Workshop in Nigeria, where they showcased the top 3 innovations from the 2023 crowdsourcing call (*SIHI Nigeria, 2024*).

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Prof. Obioma Nwaorgu (FAS), gave an introduction to SIHI, expert panel member Prof. Elizabeth El Hassan provided insights on research findings, and SIHI Nigeria project manager, Dr. Ogechukwu Aribodor, conducted a capacity-building session on understanding crowdsourcing.

Members of the SIHI Nigeria team—Prof. Chinyere Okunna, Prof. Chinyelu Ekwunife, and Mr. Kingsley Anigbogu—were also at the event, while Dr. Uche Ogwaraonye and Dr. Ukamaka Onubogu virtually attended the workshop alongside SIHI-affiliated partners, collaborators, and other guests and dignitaries. The workshop's hybrid format enabled broad engagement and collaboration and laid a solid foundation for future collaborations, with 2025 set to bring new opportunities for innovators and the SIHI Nigeria Hub.

The event was posted on social media channels and shared by news outlets in Nigeria such as the [Premium Times](#) and [Punch](#).

SIHI LAC LEADS MEETING ON SOCIAL INNOVATION FOR THE HEALTH OF INDIGENOUS COMMUNITIES

On 13 November 2024, the [SIHI Latin America and the Caribbean Hub](#) (SIHI LAC) organised a meeting of community leaders, representatives of nine social innovation initiatives in health, representatives from the government sector, and other strategic allies to reflect and move towards more equitable and inclusive health systems.

The meeting, held at ICESI University in Cali, Colombia, was a space for those who, from different territories and contexts, work tirelessly for inclusive health. Participants shared stories, offering a glimpse into diverse realities and common challenges, while highlighting the transformative power of collaboration.



Community leaders, innovators, and government representatives come together for a photo at the Meeting on Social Innovation for the Health of Indigenous Communities on 13 November 2024 (SIHI LAC, 2024).

SIHI LAC LEADS... *continued*

Meeting facilitator Diana María Castro, remarked,

“This meeting is an opportunity to get to know each other, identify common interests and, above all, advance collaboratively towards the search for intercultural health in which each participant has been undertaking independently.”

The event not only consolidated alliances and generated learning, but also reaffirmed that change is possible when everyone comes together. It is one more step on the road to a more just and respectful future for all.

SIHI LAC-RECOGNISED INNOVATIONS FORM AND STRENGTHEN IN 2024

Significant alliances were formed and strengthened in the second half of 2024 among innovations recognised by the SIHI LAC Hub, united by the shared goal of transforming health in the region.



SIHI LAC recognised four innovations that demonstrate key partnerships, sharing the goal of transforming health in the region (SIHI LAC, 2024).

One notable collaboration is between [JovenSalud](#) and [Bive - Fundación Vive con Bienestar Colombia](#), two outstanding initiatives of the SIHI LAC network. Since September 2024, the two have been working together to address key aspects of young people's health and their families. JovenSalud.net, an educational platform

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from Costa Rica and Nicaragua that's focused on mental health issues, will complement the initiatives of Bive, which specialises in improving access to health services in Colombia. Their interventions focus on resilience, self-care, and prevention of the human papillomavirus.

Another promising alliance is emerging between the [Comprehensive Health Model for Rurality](#), an innovation recognised by SIHI LAC in 2019, and [Soydoy](#), an initiative closely linked to the Hub. The leaders of both initiatives connected through the Hub's activities and jointly participated in an international health project call. They established a strong connection that paves the way for future collaborations.

Finally, the exchange between Magaly Blas, leader of [Mamás del Río](#) (Peru), and Pablo Montoya, leader of [El Canto del Tucán](#) (Colombia), marked a significant milestone this year. In 2022, Magaly visited Vaupés, Colombia, where she shared her work on maternal health as led by community leaders in dispersed rural areas of Peru. There she learned about Pablo's efforts to build capacity in community communication and production of culturally sensitive digital content among indigenous youth. This initial meeting sparked collaborative efforts and, in 2024, Pablo's team was invited to an event in Peru, fostering a two-way exchange of knowledge and capacity building.

These alliances highlight the SIHI LAC Hub's role in fostering connections that drive collective efforts toward a healthier and more equitable future in the region.

SIHI LAC CONTINUES MAPPING AND CHARACTERISATION OF SIH INITIATIVES IN MESOAMERICA IN HONDURAS

In the second half of 2024, the mapping and characterisation of social innovation in health (SIH) initiatives in Mesoamerica nears completion in Honduras as part of a scoping review for 2018-2024. This effort identified 21 initiatives: seven active SIH initiatives, 12 studies involving community participation, and two innovative educational strategies. Among the SIH initiatives, three address infectious diseases, the findings of which underscore the significant impact of community engagement in public health, particularly in combating vector-borne diseases and HIV.

In the Dominican Republic an active surveillance programme significantly reduced malaria cases, demonstrating the importance of training local community members for early detection and timely treatment. In Guatemala, combining midwife training with decentralised HIV services improved access to testing, a critical step in reducing mother-to-child transmission. Moreover, in Guatemala and Mexico, SIH initiatives have proven to be effective in mitigating the impact of dengue, with active community involvement playing a crucial role in developing and implementing solutions that address the disease.

These results were presented at the [IX Congress of the Central American and Caribbean Association of Infectious Diseases](#) in Tegucigalpa, Honduras, from 10-12 December 2024. The event hosted about 400 healthcare participants, with active engagement from the SIHI LAC team.

SIHI SWEDEN HOLDS EXPLORING ENTREPRENEURSHIP IN SOCIAL INNOVATION FOR HEALTH CONFERENCE

On 6-7 November 2024, [SIHI Sweden](#) hosted its annual conference with a focus on entrepreneurship. The conference had about 65 participants, some of whom were international guests. The two-day workshop was filled with keynotes, social innovation presentations from different parts of the world, a poster walk, and workshops.

A highlight of the event was the designation on youth mental health that was arranged as a workshop in collaboration with [SESH](#) and the [London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine](#).

Youth from the Uppsala region were invited to participate and this resulted in ten innovative ideas, with the finalist being the "Buddy Bus." This idea features a 'trained listener' and *fika*, which is a venue for young people in Uppsala to vent about anything. It was a much-appreciated session as one participant commented,

"It was amazing how innovative ideas were created in such a short time."

For more material from the conference, please click [here](#). For updates on future events, make sure to follow [SIHI Sweden on LinkedIn](#).



Participants put their heads together during the designathon workshop held at the Exploring Entrepreneurship in Social Innovation for Health conference in Sweden (SIHI Sweden, 2024). [Read story on Page 3.](#)

SIHI CHINA COMPLETES DELPHI CONSENSUS-BUILDING PROCESS TO ESTABLISH CORE COMPETENCIES FOR SOCIAL INNOVATION IN HEALTH

Building on the efforts made in the first half of 2024, that is, the Social Innovation in Health Learning Competencies Global Crowdsourcing Open Call and a Mid-Year Training Workshop, [SIHI China](#) (SESH) successfully completed a two-round modified Delphi consensus-building process in August 2024, which involved finalists, experts, and end-users to establish core competencies for social innovation in health. These results, along with findings from a systematic review and open call, have been synthesised into a finalised competency checklist.

In January 2025, a [SIHI Talks](#) session will highlight the outcomes of this project, featuring two manuscripts that discuss key findings, lessons learned, and implications for integrating competency-building practices into healthcare ecosystems and diverse training settings.

SIHI CHINA ORGANISES GLOBAL CROWDSOURCING OPEN CALL AND SYSTEMATIC REVIEW FOR YOUTH-INCLUSIVE CO-CREATION IN HEALTH

In collaboration with the [SIHI network](#), [SESH](#) is organising a global [crowdsourcing open call](#) to gather experiences, best practices, and practical tips on co-creating health programmes and research with the youth. This initiative aims to inform the development of a practical guide on youth-inclusive co-creation programmes.

Exceptional ideas will be recognised by UNICEF/UNDP/World Bank/WHO TDR and will be included in the guide. Four selected finalists will receive support to participate in the 2025 in-person co-creation participatory workshop in Montreal, Canada. The open call submission deadline is on 10 January 2025, and judging and selection of submissions will be from February to March of the same year.



SIHI China is holding a global open call for submissions for Youth Co-creation for Health Programs and Research: Collection of Good Practices until 10 January 2025 ([SIHI China / SESH, 2024](#)).



UPCOMING EVENTS

10 JANUARY 2025 DEADLINE OF SUBMISSIONS FOR THE YOUTH CO-CREATION GLOBAL CROWDSOURCING OPEN CALL SESH Selection will be conducted from February to March 2025.

20 JANUARY 2025 WEBINAR ON SOCIAL INNOVATION IN HEALTH IN THE CARIBBEAN SIHI LAC In collaboration with PAHO and the University of North Carolina, this webinar aims to find allies to promote and strengthen social innovation in health in the Caribbean sub-region.

22 JANUARY 2025 SIHI TALKS: SOCIAL INNOVATION IN HEALTH LEARNING COMPETENCIES Online webinar with Dr. Emily Wallace, Zixhuan Zhu, Dr. Ogechukwu Aribodor, and Dr. Joe Tucker. Register [here](#)

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In addition, SESH is conducting a systematic review to identify key themes and concepts for co-creation in health. A detailed protocol has been completed and registered with the [International Prospective Register of Systematic Reviews](#) (PROSPERO, CRD42024615528), and has now entered the second round of literature screening, which they plan to finish by the end of 2024. This will be followed by data extraction, analysis, and manuscript writing in January and February 2025.

All of these works will be further discussed and shared in a 4-hour session at the Montreal workshop for The [International Society for Sexually Transmitted Diseases Research](#) (ISSTD)/ [International Union against Sexually Transmitted Infections](#) (IUSTI). These activities are important in advancing youth-inclusive co-creation frameworks, which aim to improve health programmes and research by engaging young people in meaningful



DERBI Foundation CEO Mr. Sathanarayana BV receives the award for Best Social Innovation Foundation of the Year at the Indian CSR Awards 2024 from Mr. Arvind and Ms. Shivani Kapoor of Brand Honchos. (SIHI India / DERBI Foundation, 2024).

SIHI INDIA RECEIVES AWARD, ORGANISES ROADSHOW AND IDEATHON AND GIVES GRANTS TO FURTHER THE DEVELOPMENT OF SOCIAL INNOVATIONS

S [IHI India](#) (DERBI Foundation) achieved much for social change by supporting and promoting innovations in health in 2024.

They received the [award](#) for “Best Social Innovation Foundation of the Year 2024” at the [Indian CSR Awards](#) by [Brand Honchos](#) in New Delhi on 29 November 2024.

They also organised a [roadshow](#) for [Global Bio-India 2024](#) on 9 August in Bangalore, which was participated in by innovators, students, and entrepreneurs. During this event, they held a panel discussion titled “Concept to Cure,” which covered various aspects of healthcare innovation. Their panelists included [Savitha Ananth](#), [Dr. Balasubramanya S](#), [Dr. Amrut Sadashiv Kadam](#), and [Vinayak Nandalike](#).

The SIHI India Hub also organised a 24-hour ideathon on 20-21 December 2024 with the theme “Circular Economy and Water Conservation” in collaboration with [SINE IIT Bombay](#). Out of 147 applicants, 70 students from across India were invited to generate ideas.



UPCOMING EVENTS

END OF JANUARY 2025 MEETING SPACE FOR SOCIAL INNOVATION AND INDIGENOUS HEALTH SIHI LAC A follow-up on the Meeting on Social Innovation for the Health of Indigenous Communities to consolidate a collective focused on strengthening indigenous health in LAC.

JANUARY AND FEBRUARY 2025 DATA EXTRACTION, ANALYSIS, AND MANUSCRIPT WRITING SESH This is for the systematic review to identify key themes and concepts for co-creation in health

JANUARY-FEBRUARY 2025 MIXED-METHODS EVALUATION OF PARTICIPATORY ACTIVITIES IN HEALTH INNOVATION SESH

FEBRUARY-APRIL 2025 GRANT-O-THON AND WRITE-O-THON WORKSHOPS KNOWLEDGE DISSEMINATION AND 2025 PLANNING SESH

SPRING 2025 UPPSALA UNIVERSITY NEW PHD COURSE OFFERING: SOCIAL INNOVATION IN THEORY AND PRACTICE SIHI SWEDEN It is a hybrid course with two sessions online and two on-site in Uppsala. For more info, contact Mats Målqvist. Read more about the course [here](#).

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The hub also supported the development of innovations through grants, one of which was a [NIDHI PRAYAS](#) grant of INR 1 million (USD 11,791). It was given on 29 October 2024 to a few select innovators who developed concepts into prototypes of viable healthcare products. Another prototyping grant amounting to INR 700,000 (USD 8,254) was given on 9 October 2024 through [Meity's Tide 2.0](#) for support to innovation in digital health technology, particularly in building technological solutions to healthcare.

SIHI PHILIPPINES DEVELOPS TRAINING AND MENTORING PACKAGE FOR 2024 GCARSIH FINALISTS

S [IHI Philippines](#) held a two-day workshop on 4-5 December 2024 to develop a training and mentoring package for the finalists of the 2024 [Gelia Castillo Award for Research on Social Innovations in Health](#) (GCARSIH). The call for submissions ended on 16 October, with 70 entries received that are currently undergoing evaluation. Out of these, three winners and seven finalists will be selected to undergo training and mentorship the following year.

At the end of the workshop, the SIHI Philippines hub members were joined by the SIHI Secretariat, which is also based in the country, for a year-end celebration. Dr. Mary Ann Lansang, a SIHI Champion and professor at the University of the Philippines in Manila where the hub is based, graced both the workshop and the year-end celebration.



The SIHI Philippines team wrapped up a successful workshop on developing a training and mentoring package for 2024 GCARSIH finalists last 5 December (*SIHI Philippines, 2024*).

SIHI UGANDA HOLDS TWO WORKSHOPS UNDER THE 2024-2025 SOCIAL INNOVATION IN HEALTH FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM

To bridge the gaps in knowledge and skills among social health innovators, the [SIHI Uganda Hub](#) is implementing a Social Innovation Capacity Building Fellowship Program from September 2024 to February 2025, which focuses on project management, research methodologies, communication, and fundraising. It is a modular six-month blended learning program designed to enhance the capabilities of innovators and catalyse the impact, efficiency, and scale of their social innovations.

The program features three face-to-face participatory workshops complemented by online support. Ten community-based health projects, selected through an open call in May 2024, joined the cohort, with 20 participants (two per project). The first workshop was held on 16-20 September 2024 and covered Entrepreneurship and Effective Project Management. It demonstrated significant knowledge improvements for the participants. At the end of the workshop, the trainees developed logical frameworks, M&E plans, and business canvas models tailored to their individual social innovation projects.

The second workshop was conducted on 11-14 November 2024, focusing on Social Innovation in Health and Research Approaches and Tools for social innovation modules. The participants' knowledge also improved based on the differences on their scores from the pretests to the posttests. Trainees commended the interactive and practical nature of the sessions, highlighting skills gained in proposal writing, data analysis, research methodologies, and social innovation in health. At the end of the workshop, the trainees developed research proposals for their individual social innovation projects.

The fellowship program is set to conclude with a third and final workshop in February 2025.



Social health innovators work together at the first workshop held in September 2024 under SIHI Uganda’s Social Innovation Capacity Building Fellowship Program (SIHI Uganda, 2024). Read story on Page 6.



SIHI Uganda team members conduct an FGD with beneficiaries of the CHLEG social innovation in Kyotera District (SIHI Uganda, 2024). Read the story below.

SIHI UGANDA CONDUCTS CASE STUDY ON TOP 4 SOCIAL INNOVATION PROJECTS IDENTIFIED IN 2024

In May 2024, the [SIHI Uganda Hub](#) launched an open call for community-based solutions aimed at improving health and sexual and reproductive health in Uganda. The call targeted organisations and individuals with innovative solutions that have been implemented for at least two years. The call was promoted through the SIHI and Makerere University School of Public Health websites.

A total of 31 submissions were received, with 27 eligible for review. The independent panel conducted the review in July and August, announcing the top four solutions in August 2024. These were: (1) Providing Opportunities for Women in Entrepreneurship and Reproductive Health, (2) Community Health and Livelihoods Enhancement

Groups (CHLEGs) among women engaging in sex work with multiple and intersecting vulnerabilities, (3) Community-Centered Development in the Ugandan Health Sector, and (4) Sterilized safety-pins and razor blades.

On 7-18 October 2024, SIHI Uganda conducted a case study research on the top four social innovation projects identified in 2024. This included field visits to the head offices and operation sites of the social innovations, as well as interviews with the founders, project staff, and beneficiaries. The goal was to understand how these social innovations were being implemented and the impact they have created in the communities. Four case study reports were written based on the findings, highlighting key lessons and the outcomes of each social innovation project.

SIHI RESOURCES

- [“Social innovation as a pathway for health equity”](#) is a report that highlights how social innovation has established itself as a comprehensive and participatory strategy to close health equity gaps in Latin American communities and at [PAHO/WHO](#). An anthology titled “Social Innovation: Lessons to Advance Towards Equity—Anthology of Experiences in Latin America” (in press) is also being processed for publication.
- [“Resilient Health: Leveraging Technology and Social Innovations to Transform Healthcare for COVID-19 Recovery and Beyond”](#) Chapter 6 highlights the role of social innovation in strengthening resilient health systems.
- [“Community Boat Service to Promote Institutional Delivery in the Philippines: A Mixed-Methods Study of a Social Innovation”](#) explores how an innovative boat service is addressing barriers to maternal care in remote, underserved areas in the Philippines.
- Join SIHI Talks, SIHI’s monthly learning and partnership webinar, available on SIHI’s [Youtube](#).

SIHI LAC RECOGNISES INNOVATION PROMOTING CONSERVATION OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLE’S CULTURE AND TERRITORY

The innovation known as Camino del Cuidado de Salud Propio e Intercultural, en el Marco del SISPI desde el Plan de Vida Proyecto Nasa is an innovation recognised by SIHI Latin America and the Caribbean (SIHI LAC) in 2019. It has made a significant impact on the Nasa indigenous people of the Cauca Valley in Colombia by articulating ancestral practices and collective actions for the care of the territory and its people.

Through the [Sek Sxab Kiwe Project](#), activities such as the protection of Uma Kiwe Kwekwe (living spaces and sacred sites), the promotion of

community medicinal gardens, and the recovery of their own seeds through *mingas* (a collective work to promote common welfare) have been promoted. These actions are combined with rituals such as the Saakehlu, which symbolises the meeting of beings from the three worlds and the awakening of seeds, strengthening their cultural identity. As expressed by the community, “these actions reflect a deep commitment to balance, autonomy, and the survival of the Nasa people,” showing how innovation revitalises ancestral knowledge and adapts it to current needs.

HEALTH INNOVATION IN UGANDA HELPS PEOPLE WITH JIGGERS LIVE A NORMAL LIFE

Sole Hope has rehabilitated the health of jigger-infested people and helped them regain hope and self-efficacy to reintegrate socially. Jiggers or tungiasis is a real but neglected tropical disease in Uganda that has devastating impacts on people’s health and socioeconomic condition. One common feature of people infected with jiggers is that they are always vulnerable, with other underlying issues such as mental illness, the absence of biological parents, and poverty. In most cases, people who suffer from tungiasis are susceptible and the disease worsens their situation. As a result, stigma is inevitable.

The innovation for jigger treatment and prevention has tremendously changed the life of these patients. The rehabilitated individuals are able to go back to school, associate freely with others, and live productive lives. This finding is supported by a Sole Hope staff member’s testimony below.

“We were called by the Uganda police to rescue 10-year-old Joy (not her real name). Joy was born from an incestuous union, which resulted in her having severe mental health challenges. She was also infested with jiggers on her feet and hands, which made walking and eating very difficult. When we took her to the health facility for management, they told us they didn’t have workers to treat jiggers. Our social worker rescued her. We found a feasible and cost-effective way to treat Joy and we extracted more than 500 jiggers. After recovery, Joy came to the center and talked to me with glee and gratitude, ‘Look at my hands, they’re so pretty,’ she said. I just realised that this child, who didn’t yet know why she was in pain, was unable to treat herself and could not find someone else to help her. Her life was changed forever.”

“We found a feasible and cost-effective way to treat Joy [from jiggers]... Her life was changed forever.”

