

SOCIAL INNOVATION IN HEALTH INITIATIVE

Q1 2025

NEWSLETTER



Across the globe, SIHI hubs are driving transformative change in health through social innovation. In this compilation, we bring you updates from our hubs for the first quarter of 2025.

BMJ INNOVATIONS LAUNCHES THE SPECIAL COLLECTION ON GENDER AND SOCIAL INNOVATION



On February 11, BMJ Innovations launched a [collection of publications on gender and social innovation](#), featuring pioneering research from Africa, Asia, and Latin America. The launch event featured presentations by SIHI hub leads from Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC), Philippines, and Uganda, whose teams contributed largely to the collection. This work was made possible through support from TDR, the Special Programme for Research and Training in Tropical Diseases, co-sponsored by UNICEF, UNDP, the World Bank, and WHO.

SIHI featured the Special Collection on the network's social media channels throughout the month of March in celebration of Women's Month.

SIHI MALAWI SHAPES SUSTAINABLE HEALTH INNOVATION IN THE COUNTRY

In March 2025, the Kamuzu University of Health Sciences (KUHeS) welcomed students and representatives from the University of Melbourne to launch a pilot innovation under the Student Innovation Exchange Programme, part of the broader Impact Health Catalyst programme. An additional key milestone is the progress in the establishment of an Innovations Unit at KUHeS, with SIHI as its flagship programme. Running from January to May 2025, the initiative is developing a strategic plan to integrate sustainable health innovations into Malawi's healthcare landscape.



SIHI Malawi and KUHeS hold a strategic meeting on 28-30 January 2025. (SIHI Malawi, 2025)

SIHI CHINA STRENGTHENS GLOBAL LEARNING AND MENTORSHIP IN HEALTH INNOVATION

S [IHI China](#) (Social Entrepreneurship to Spur Health) shared key findings from its Social Innovation Learning Competency Research during the 22 January SIHI Talks and submitted them to the 2025 International Social Innovation Research Conference.

In addition, results from the Blueprint Open Call for Adolescent Health and HIV were accepted in *Sexual Health* and *EClinicalMedicine*, with related work submitted to the 2025 International AIDS Society Conference.

Moreover, to inform social innovation training, SESH conducted a global survey among fellows, researchers, and implementers on their preferred use of innovation tools.

With the support of its funders, SESH continues to grow its work in research, capacity building, and advocacy. The SIHI Fellowship Program has also grown, connecting researchers across hubs and mentoring early-career innovators

SIHI INDONESIA STRENGTHENS COMMUNITY HEALTH THROUGH RESEARCH, TRAINING & STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS

S [IHI Indonesia](#) continued to support [Harapan Fian](#) by facilitating a post-assessment workshop with partner organisations on 5 January 2025. It also assisted in presenting the Post-Secondary Jalanan programme at the 2nd Gadjah Mada International Conference on Tropical Medicine, where TDR's Dr Beatrice Halpaap delivered a keynote speech.

In March, SIHI Indonesia, in partnership with TDR, launched the [Social Innovation in Health Massive Open Online Course \(MOOC\)](#), which has attracted over 1,500 participants.

On the research front, SIHI Indonesia is drafting manuscripts on the Harapan Fian case study and gender intersectionality in health innovation. The hub is also developing a programme guideline and training curriculum under the TDR-IR grant and remains actively involved in SIHI Fellow activities.

DERBI FOUNDATION NAMED IMPLEMENTING AGENCY FOR SAMRIDH, CELEBRATES STARTUP DAY WITH IMPACT

The DERBI Foundation which hosts [SIHI India](#) has been selected as the Implementing Agency for India's SAMRIDH Acceleration Scheme by the Ministry of Electronics and IT. Through the NIDHI Prayas initiative, it is also supporting 10 early-stage innovators with grants of 10 lakh each.

On National Startup Day, 16 January, DERBI Foundation celebrated the spirit of entrepreneurship with an inspiring series of sessions. Dr Raghunandan NK shared insights on transforming ideas into viable businesses, while Mr Jitendranath Patri and Mr Sathyanarayana B V guided innovators on inception-stage strategies. Dr Jitendra Kumar reinforced the role of innovation in driving India's growth.

SIHI LAC EXPANDS ITS REGIONAL IMPACT THROUGH RESEARCH, COLLABORATION & KNOWLEDGE EXCHANGE

During the first quarter of 2025, the [SIHI Latin America and Caribbean \(LAC\) Hub](#) made key strides in highlighting innovative initiatives and strengthening strategic partnerships. The webinar [Social Innovation in Health: Opportunities for the Caribbean](#) brought together regional stakeholders and reinforced ties with PAHO, the University of North Carolina (UNC), the University of the West Indies (UWI), and the SIHI LAC Hub, sparking discussions on the potential creation of a SIHI node in Trinidad and Tobago.



SIHI LAC holds its first Cafe Virtual of the year on 12 February 2025. (SIHI LAC, 2025)

The [first Café Virtual](#) featured Bive, a Colombian initiative improving rural healthcare access. Following the 2024 Meeting on Social Innovation for Indigenous Communities, the [event report](#) was published (24 February), leading to the

SIHI LAC EXPANDS...*continued from p2.*

Second Meeting of the Intercultural Collective (20 March), where collaboration deepened around recognising indigenous knowledge and care models.

On 19 March, SIHI LAC participated in an international seminar on knowledge uptake in biomedical research, emphasising the importance of intersectoral, participatory research that actively involves affected communities. The [ABC of Social Appropriation of Knowledge Manual](#) was also presented as a key tool.

Additionally, the GLOWS study (*Global Learning Opportunities in Social Innovation in Health*) preprint, developed in collaboration with SESH, is now available on [medRxiv](#). SIHI LAC also launched its new [LinkedIn page](#) to expand its visibility and outreach.

SIHI NIGERIA ADVANCES HEALTH INNOVATION THROUGH RESEARCH, PARTNERSHIPS & CAPACITY BUILDING

In January 2025, [SIHI Nigeria](#) applied for the Nigerian Grand Challenge to support *Mama's Pride*, a flagship maternal and child health initiative that emerged as the top innovation during the 2023/2024 National Crowdsourcing Call. Although the application was not successful, the team continues to proactively engage potential partners and pursue alternative funding pathways to scale and sustain promising health innovations.

Strategic efforts are also underway to embed social innovation in health within the university curriculum, aiming to cultivate a new generation of innovation-driven health leaders. Simultaneously, SIHI Nigeria is preparing for a new national crowdsourcing initiative in collaboration with the Federal Ministry of Innovation, Science, and Technology (FMIST), with the final topic for the call to be agreed upon once a virtual meeting is scheduled.

SIHI KUWAIT ADVANCES RESEARCH, YOUTH ENGAGEMENT & REGIONAL PARTNERSHIPS IN HEALTH INNOVATION

In January 2025, [SIHI Kuwait](#) at WYN Academy hosted Mastering the Art of Rounds, a workshop introducing teamwork strategies for healthcare providers. It was followed by the 2025 Youth Medical Forum in February, which engaged high school students in health careers. The hub is now conducting a literature review on Social Innovation in Health in the Arab Region, launched in February 2025.

New partnerships include one with the Kuwait Pharmaceutical Association to provide research training for pharmacists, and another with Paldent to support dental student refugees from Gaza in continuing their education.



SIHI Kuwait hosts the 2025 Youth Medical Forum in February. (SIHI Kuwait, 2025)

SIHI SWEDEN LAUNCHES SOCIAL INNOVATION PHD COURSE, APPLIES FOR A FORTE GRANT

S [SIHI Sweden](#)'s launched its [PhD course in Social Innovation](#) with seven students in March 2025, in collaboration with Dr Beatrice Haalpap and Dr Joe Tucker. This course explores the role of social innovation in transforming healthcare systems. SIHI Sweden has also applied for a conference grant from Forte, aiming to continue hosting impactful events and securing resources for long-term coordination.



UPCOMING EVENTS

JUNE-JULY 2025 SUMMER INTERNSHIP SIHI KUWAIT

Highschool students will undergo an immersion on social innovation in health.

26-30 JULY YOUTH CO-CREATION WORKSHOP SIHI CHINA

The workshop will be hosted at [IUSTI/ISSTR 2025](#) in Montreal, Canada, alongside the launch of a practical guide on Youth Co-Creation in Health Research.

SIHI PHILIPPINES CELEBRATES SOCIAL INNOVATION IN HEALTH RESEARCH THROUGH GCARSIH, AWAITS FINAL APPROVAL AS UNIVERSITY INSTITUTE

A significant milestone for [SIHI Philippines](#) was the approval of the proposed Institute of Social Innovation in Health in January by the University of the Philippines Manila National Institutes of Health (UP Manila NIH) Advisory Board. The proposal is now awaiting final approval from UP Manila leadership.

A capacity-building workshop was also held in February to design an equity-focused evaluation tool for social innovations. On 11 March, SIHI Philippines led the first session of the Towards Unity for Health (TUFH) Fellowship on Social Accountability, introducing Social Innovation in Health. In addition, the Community Skin Health Implementation Research is ongoing, with reimplementing at one site and the development of a playbook for wider use.

The Department of Science and Technology – Philippine Council for Health Research and

Development's Gelia Castillo Award for Research on Social Innovations in Health (GCARSIH) 2024 honoured 10 outstanding initiatives from 70 national entries during a ceremony on 17 March. In partnership with SIHI Philippines, a training and mentoring programme for awardees is underway, running until May with six sessions on implementation research and innovation strengthening.



Stakeholders gather during a ceremony held for GCARSIH 2024 winners and finalists on 17 March 2025. (SIHI Philippines, 2025)

SIHI SOUTH AFRICA ADVANCES SOCIAL INNOVATION AND SUSTAINABLE HEALTH FINANCING

In February 2025, the Bertha Centre, which hosts [SIHI South Africa](#), presented an abstract on the Mastercard Foundation-supported Healthy Futures South Africa (HFSA) project at the CUGH conference. Through the HFSA Accelerator Ventures, they are supporting innovative ventures such as Foi Science (\$28,000), 50plus-skills (\$17,000), and Guardian Health (\$5,000). Entrepreneurship Bootcamps were held in Philippi Village and the West Coast in March, with another planned for Knysna in April.

In March, the centre also led a session on Social Innovation for Health at the ISPIM conference and welcomed three new SIHI Fellows to the team. In partnership with Air Mercy Services (AMS), Bertha Centre is supporting a convening in KwaZulu-Natal to strengthen the case for rural outreach health services. It is currently exploring innovative finance solutions to sustain public health innovation following USAID's exit.

SIHI UGANDA STRENGTHENS SOCIAL INNOVATION THROUGH CASE STUDIES, FELLOWSHIP TRAINING & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

[SIHI Uganda](#) finalised four case study reports on top social innovation projects identified in May 2024.



Participants take part in the final training workshop of SIHI Uganda's Social Innovation Fellowship Program, held in February 2025. (SIHI Uganda, 2025)

Through its Social Innovation Fellowship Program, the team supported 10 projects, each represented by two participants, and held its final training workshop on 17–19 February 2025. The workshop aimed to equip social innovators with knowledge and skills in communication, fundraising, and environmental and social impact assessment.

This quarter, key efforts have focused on preparations for the National Dissemination Workshop and the launch of a Community of Practice. With support from the Swedish Embassy, three social innovation projects are also receiving financial support to strengthen implementation and impact.