

**SOCIAL
INNOVATION
IN HEALTH
INITIATIVE**

Q3 2025 NEWSLETTER

In the third quarter of 2025, we continued to advance innovation research and expand our partnerships through active collaborations within the SIHI network and with key partners.

SIHI INDIA BOOSTS EARLY-STAGE INNOVATORS WITH FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM AND INDUSTRY ENGAGEMENTS

In the third quarter of 2025, [SIHI India](#), hosted by the DERBI Foundation, advanced its commitment to nurturing early-stage innovators through a series of mentorship sessions and workshops designed to help start-ups scale to the global market. The hub also organised a Faculty Development Program, aimed at bridging the gap between academic knowledge and entrepreneurial practice among faculty members of the Dayananda Sagar Business Academy.

Further strengthening the innovation ecosystem, the Foundation launched a grant and fellowship program supported by the MeitY Startup Hub and the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), Government of India. In parallel, the NIDHI PRAYAS Cohort 4 call for grants was opened to support innovators in transforming ideas into prototypes.



Faculty members from the Dayananda Sagar Business Academy had the opportunity to experience the startup ecosystem up close at a walkthrough of DERBI Foundation's lab. (SIHI India, 2025)

In September, SIHI India also met with representatives from DigiKey, a U.S.-based manufacturing company, to explore strategies for product development and start-up acceleration. Looking ahead, SIHI India is preparing for several key initiatives, including the CSR Innovation Forum, DERBI's Innovation Cohort, innovation hackathons, and an innovation summit, continuing its mission to empower innovators driving impactful health solutions.

SIHI KUWAIT ADVANCES TRAINING, RESEARCH, AND INNOVATION IN HEALTH

In August 2025, [SIHI Kuwait](#), hosted by WYN Academy, successfully completed the PALDENT Program, a year-long initiative designed to strengthen dental competencies among students and recent graduates, with a special focus on Gaza interns. The program delivered seven courses across key specialties, engaging 285 registrants. To ensure long-term impact, SIHI Kuwait created a digital archive of PALDENT lectures and strengthened networks in dentistry and pharmacy to sustain internship programs, research capacity building, and cross-border education.

SIHI KUWAIT... *continued from page 1*



Student participants receive their certificates after the WYN Academy Summer Internship Program for High School Students at Medical Sites, 29 June-13 July 2025. (SIHI Kuwait, 2025)

Earlier in July, SIHI Kuwait concluded its 2025 summer internship program for high school students. Guided by SIHI mentors, participants explored people-centered, community-driven

approaches to healthcare. They developed group projects addressing real-world health challenges, applying innovation, feasibility, and equity in their solutions.

In collaboration with the Kuwait Pharmaceutical Association, WYN Academy also launched two research training initiatives: Research Skills for Beginners (June–July 2025) and Advanced Research Skills (August–September 2025). Together, these programs established a structured pathway for professional development, positioning WYN Academy as a leading convener for healthcare researchers and practitioners in Kuwait.

A QUARTER OF INNOVATION: SIHI SOUTH AFRICA PUSHES RESEARCH, VENTURES, AND NEW PARTNERSHIPS

In the third quarter of 2025, [SIHI South Africa](#) continued to drive forward its work on social innovation in health through research, training, and new partnerships. The hub is currently conducting a review of social innovations in health over 10 years, with interviews and analysis underway. This phase of the review is expected to be completed by November. To strengthen the capacity of innovators, SIHI South Africa also launched two online training programmes: the Health Venture Launch course (5 weeks) and the Venture Scale course (12 weeks).

In addition, the hub hosted a series of masterclasses on social entrepreneurship and pitch presentations which were held between July and September. In August, SIHI South Africa partnered in the Afyafest Nairobi Health Ventures Hackathon, an initiative of the Africa Health Collaborative, which engaged students in developing innovative solutions for health challenges.

The following month, the hub welcomed representatives from the Mastercard Foundation for site visits in South Africa, further strengthening ties with strategic partners. Looking ahead, SIHI South Africa is awaiting the outcome of its application to Sentebale, a non-profit organisation that supports vulnerable children and young people in Southern Africa in the areas of health, wealth creation, and climate resilience.

SIHI SWEDEN AWARDED RESEARCH INITIATION GRANT TO ADVANCE EQUITY IN SOCIAL INNOVATION

In the third quarter of 2025, [SIHI Sweden](#) received a research initiation grant from *Riksbankens Jubileumsfond*, an independent Swedish foundation supporting research in the humanities and social sciences. The grant will support the hub's upcoming Research Initiation Conference on 8–9 December in Uppsala, Sweden, where Dr. Meredith del Pilar-Labarda, SIHI Program Leader, will deliver a keynote address.



Dr. Meredith del Pilar-Labarda

Professor at the Department of Medicine at the University of the Philippines Manila School of Health Sciences and head of the Social Innovation in Health Initiative (SIHI) Global Network Secretariat and the SIHI Philippines Hub.

Dr. Terje Andreas Eikemo

Professor of sociology and leader of CHAIN, the Centre for Global Health Inequalities Research at Norwegian University of Science and Technology.

SIHI Program Lead Dr. Meredith del Pilar-Labarda will be one of the keynote speakers at the SIHI Sweden Conference 2025, together with Dr. Terje Eikemo. (SIHI Sweden 2025)

The event will focus on advancing equity in social innovation in health, with a particular emphasis on evaluating social innovation projects through an equity lens. More information is available [here](#).

SIHI INDONESIA ADVANCES RESEARCH AND ADVOCACY ON COMMUNITY HEALTH INNOVATIONS

In the third quarter of 2025, [SIHI Indonesia](#) marked key progress in advancing social innovation in health. The hub continues documentation on Posyandu Jalanan and has produced a case study and is developing three more manuscripts on adapting and advancing community-led health innovations for people living on the streets. September saw the completion of piloting and data collection for the modified Posyandu Jalanan. Two themed pilots were conducted: one for children in July and another for adults in September, for which they also conducted training for volunteers.



Posyandu Jalanan pilot sessions were carried out with adults and older community members in September 2025, focusing on health screening of non-communicable diseases and infectious diseases. (SIHI Indonesia, 2025)

The hub continues to pursue both financial and programmatic sustainability through collaborative grants and partnerships with local innovations. The team submitted a grant proposal to the SNF Global Center Communicator Fellowship, which is currently under review.

The hub also strengthened engagement and outreach. In August, it launched the SIHI Massive Open Online Course crowdsourcing innovation call, and in September, it convened a focus group discussion with Harapan Fian to explore strategies for sustaining Posyandu Jalanan.

Looking ahead, SIHI Indonesia will conclude 2025 with a series of advocacy and dissemination activities that foster dialogue among grassroots communities, local governments, and innovation partners. These engagements will emphasise inclusion, collaboration, and shared learning across diverse stakeholders.

SIHI PHILIPPINES: ADVANCING INNOVATION THROUGH AWARDS, TALKS, AND PARTNERSHIPS

The third quarter of 2025 was a dynamic period for [SIHI Philippines](#), marked by milestones in recognition, knowledge-sharing, and collaboration. From July to August, the hub concluded the Gelia Castillo Award for Research on Social Innovation in Health (GCARSIH) 2024, celebrating outstanding contributions to health research and innovation. On 2 July, SIHI Philippines also hosted a SIHI Talk session on social impact assessment, highlighting how meaningful innovation can be measured and sustained.

Looking ahead, the hub is playing a key role in co-organising the The Network: Towards Unity for Health (TUFH) 2026 conference, scheduled for 4-7 August 2026, through its host institution, the University of the Philippines-Manila. To prepare, the team held exploratory meetings on 14 and 28 July. Meanwhile, SIHI Philippines Program Leader Dr. Meredith del Pilar-Labarda represented the hub at TUFH 2025 in Philadelphia, USA (12-15 September), strengthening international linkages.

The hub also engaged with key national partners. Between August and September, the team met with the Department of Science and Technology-Philippine Council for Health Research and Development (DOST-PCHRD) and the Department of Health to explore potential grants for 2026-2028, ensuring continued support for social innovation in health.



Program Leader Dr. Meredith del Pilar-Labarda represented the SIHI Philippines Hub at the TUFH 2025 Conference in Philadelphia, alongside colleagues from UP Manila and the UP Manila School of Health Sciences, promoting the Philippines as the host for TUFH 2026. (SIHI Philippines, 2025)



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

SIHI CO-ORGANISES TUFH 2026 CONFERENCE

The Social Innovation in Health Initiative, in partnership with The Network: Towards Unity for Health (TUFH), is co-organising the TUFH 2026 conference, which will be hosted by the University of the Philippines Manila on 4-7 August 2026. It will be an international, intersectoral, and intergenerational in-person and virtual conference that brings together academic

organisations and global health providers into a single event. Centered on the theme “Bayanihan for Health Equity: Co-Creating Social Innovations for Responsive & Resilient Health Systems,” the event invites participants to network and learn from leaders in the field. Interested participants may [register](#) and [submit abstracts](#) at the [TUFH 2026 website](#).

SIHI NIGERIA ADVANCES GENDER-FOCUSED INNOVATIONS AND NATIONAL PARTNERSHIPS



The SIHI Nigeria team welcomed Dr. Phyllis Awor, who paid a visit to Nnamdi Azikiwe University on 31 July-5 August 2025. (SIHI Nigeria, 2025)

In July, [SIHI Nigeria](#) conducted gender-focused case study visits with three pioneering initiatives—Mama’s Pride, Shiktra MNCH Foundation, and Safe Mom—showcasing innovative solutions to strengthen maternal and child health. The hub also collaborated with SIHI Uganda on an advocacy visit to Nnamdi Azikiwe University,

which paved the way for a formal partnership. In August, a memorandum of understanding was signed with the university’s Unizik Business School to establish a six-month certificate course on social innovation in health, ensuring that SIH is embedded in academic training and practice.

On 4 August 2025, SIHI Nigeria, together with the Federal Ministry of Innovation, Science, and Technology (FMIST), launched the National Crowdsourcing Call 2025. Running through 30 September, the call drew 26 submissions and further deepened SIHI Nigeria’s collaboration with FMIST. Importantly, the process aligned social innovation in health with Nigeria’s national nutrition priorities, reinforcing the hub’s role in driving inclusive, locally rooted, and sustainable health solutions.



UPCOMING EVENTS

3-7 NOVEMBER 2025 WORKSHOP ON EFFECTIVE PROJECT MANAGEMENT AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP SIHI UGANDA

6-7 AND 12 NOVEMBER 2025 INNOVATION HACKATHONS SIHI INDIA

12 NOVEMBER 2025 CAFÉ VIRTUAL “A TRAP, A COMMUNITY-BASED SOLUTION TO TACKLE CHAGAS DISEASE IN PARAGUAY” SIHI LAC

15 NOVEMBER 2025 PUBLICATION OF THE SOCIAL INNOVATIONS IN HEALTH REVIEW SIHI SOUTH AFRICA

20 NOVEMBER 2025 FOURTH INTERCULTURAL MEETING ON SOCIAL INNOVATION IN HEALTH (VIRTUAL) SIHI LAC

8-9 DECEMBER 2025 RESEARCH INITIATION CONFERENCE TO ADVANCE EQUITY IN SOCIAL INNOVATION IN HEALTH SIHI SWEDEN

DECEMBER 2025 - JANUARY 2026 PROFESSIONAL SKILLS I (PRESENTATION AND SCIENTIFIC COMMUNICATION) COURSE SIHI KUWAIT

SIHI CHINA CHAMPIONS YOUTH CO-CREATION AND PUBLISHES NEW RESEARCH



The SIHI China (SESH) team and participants at the Youth Co-Creation in Health Research Pre-Conference Workshop in Montreal, Canada, on 27 July 2025. (SIHI China, 2025)

SIHI China, hosted by the Social Entrepreneurship to Spur Health (SESH), advanced its youth co-creation work with an in-person participatory workshop on 27 July 2025 in Montreal, Canada. Organised as a TDR pre-conference event at the STI and HIV 2025 World Congress, the session gathered youth, researchers, and community leaders to explore how co-creation can strengthen health research.

The workshop featured three components: an introduction to co-creation with insights from a systematic review, small group activities to design STI communication assets, and discussions to refine the draft TDR/UNICEF practical guide on youth co-creation in health research. The event highlighted the value of participatory approaches in ensuring that health solutions are inclusive, relevant, and grounded in community perspectives.

This quarter, SIHI China also published a new article in *Frontiers in Public Health* (11 September 2025), titled Stimulating training and access to HIV research experiences (STAR program): a protocol for a crowdsourced, project-based, implementation science training program using mixed-methods design. The article demonstrates SIHI China’s commitment to innovative, evidence-based training models that expand opportunities for young researchers and promote equitable participation in global health research.

SIHI UGANDA EXPANDS PARTNERSHIPS AND STRENGTHENS CAPACITY

In the third quarter, [SIHI Uganda](#) continued to foster collaboration and learning through its monthly community of practice webinars held from July to September. These sessions provided a platform for innovators, researchers, and partners to exchange knowledge and strengthen the community of social innovation in health.

The hub advanced its research efforts by revising two case studies on the innovations of Social, Emotional and Economic Empowerment Through Knowledge of Group Support Psychotherapy (SEEK GSP) and IHP, and submitting three new ones for review—featuring Sole Hope, Alliance of Women Advocating for Change (AWAC), and POWER by Action 4 Health Uganda. To widen its reach, SIHI Uganda launched a call for new innovations on 1 August 2025, focusing on Eastern Uganda to boost participation from the region. A call for small grants also opened, offering previous innovators the opportunity to access catalytic seed funding to enhance and scale their work.

Additionally, Dr. Phyllis Awor, SIHI Uganda Director, visited SIHI Nigeria on 4 August 2025 to strengthen collaboration between the two hubs.

The quarter also marked internal growth, with the recruitment of three new team members—two postdoctoral researchers and one intern—further enhancing the hub’s capacity to drive social innovation for health equity across Uganda.



SIHI Uganda Director and Regional Coordinator Dr. Phyllis Awor met with the SIHI Nigeria team in early August. (SIHI Uganda, 2025)

SIHI LAC EXPANDS PARTNERSHIPS AND CELEBRATES REGIONAL ACHIEVEMENTS

The [Social Innovation in Health Initiative for Latin America and the Caribbean](#) (SIHI LAC) continued to strengthen its work through new collaborations and regional initiatives.

In July, the Hub launched a partnership with the Universidad Autónoma de Occidente (Cali, Colombia) to build student capacities through its Social Innovation Lab, and welcomed Sandra Milena Palacio, an intern from ICESI University. SIHI LAC also earned second place at the Future Solutions Pitch Challenge, reinforcing its global leadership and expanding its impact in social innovation in health.

In August, the Hub hosted its fourth Café Virtual and the third Intercultural Meeting on Social Innovation in Health, both designed to foster dialogue and knowledge exchange among regional actors. In September, SIHI LAC co-organised the Implementation Research Massive Open Online Course (IR-MOOC), which brought together more than 1,300 participants from across the region. On 27 September, SIHI LAC submitted a proposal to IDRC-Canada to link Indigenous research and leadership between Canada and the Global South.

At the end of September, the Hub launched its latest publication, "[Social Innovation in Health: Lessons to Advance Toward Equity. Anthology of Experiences in Latin America.](#)" This publication is the result of a collaborative effort between the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO), the innovators, and the SIHI LAC Hub, and features 17 social innovations in health experiences from across the region. These cases highlight how communities, together with governments and partners, are transforming health systems to close equity gaps and move toward universal health.



Students from Universidad Autónoma de Occidente's Social Innovation Lab course strengthened their skills and learning in social innovation in health alongside the SIHI LAC Hub team. (SIHI LAC, 2025)