

SOCIAL
INNOVATION
IN HEALTH
INITIATIVE

Q4 2025

NEWSLETTER

The SIHI Network closed out the fourth quarter of 2025 on a high note, with hubs taking the global stage through participation in international conferences, hosting major events and workshops, and championing social innovation in health worldwide.

3RD SIHI SWEDEN INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ADVANCES EQUITY IN SOCIAL INNOVATION IN HEALTH

On 8–9 December 2025, [SIHI Sweden](#) hosted its 3rd international conference on Advancing Equity in Social Innovation in Health at Uppsala University, with 60 participants from 11 countries.

Dr. Meredith del Pilar-Labarda and Dr. Terje Eikemo served as the keynote speakers at the event. They underscored that equity should be the guiding design principle of social innovation, research, and scaling for impact, rather than an afterthought. They also stressed that health and disease must be addressed as issues of social justice, with greater attention to the social determinants of health, such as access to education, within global health discussions.

Aside from the keynotes, the delegates also learned from two social innovation project presentations, a methods session, and 14 poster presentations. The programme also included a workshop on SIHI's newly developed equity tool and the PROGRESS Plus framework, which support the integration of equity considerations across the planning, implementation, and reporting of social innovation research.

The conference concluded with a research initiation workshop, where participants explored new research questions to help advance equity in social innovation in health.

Find examples of research questions that came up [here](#), material from the conference on the webpage, and access the conference book [here](#).



SIHI Program Lead Dr. Meredith del Pilar-Labarda (2nd from right) poses with SIHI Sweden staff and volunteers at the SIHI Sweden Conference 2025 in Uppsala. (SIHI Sweden, 2025)

SIHI KUWAIT CONDUCTS SAFE CRUSHING AND SPLITTING OF MEDICATIONS WORKSHOP AT THE KPA HEADQUARTERS

On 26 November 2025, [SIHI Kuwait](#) at WYN Academy, in partnership with the Kuwait Pharmaceutical Association (KPA) and the Kuwait Saudi Pharmaceutical Industries Company, conducted a workshop at the KPA headquarters on the safe crushing and splitting of medications especially for patients with swallowing difficulties or nasogastric (NG) tubes.

Twenty-eight pharmacists and healthcare professionals participated in this hands-on, evidence-based session, guided by Dr. Hailah Barjas Aldosari, Program Director of the Geriatric Pharmacy Training Program and who authored the country's evidence-based crushing guide for oral medications.

The workshop focused on practical techniques, patient safety considerations, and system-level challenges in medication modification for both inpatient and outpatient settings. Participants gained skills to ensure accurate dosing, maintain drug efficacy, and minimise patient risk. One participant shared, "I will be using the knowledge to help with administering medications to patients who are not able to swallow in OPD settings, more than inpatient use and NG tubes."

This initiative strengthened safe, patient-centered medication practices and supported WYN Academy's mission to promote evidence-informed clinical practices across Kuwait, equipping participants to improve patient outcomes in diverse healthcare settings.

SIHI KUWAIT HOLDS TWO KEY COURSES FOR PHARMACISTS

In Q4 2025, WYN Academy, in collaboration with the Kuwait Pharmaceutical Association, delivered two key online research and professional development courses, engaging a total of 30 pharmacists.

In October, the Critical Appraisal for Pharmacists Course was led by Dr. Saja Alnahr, Assistant Professor of Social and Administrative Pharmacy at the Institute of Public Health, The University of Jordan, and Honorary Researcher at Imperial College London. The course strengthened participants' ability to evaluate medical literature, assess research quality, and apply evidence to clinical and pharmacy practice while exploring real-world challenges and gaps

in local healthcare research. One participant shared: "The simplification and breakdown of the topic helped me gain the most from the critical appraisal course."

Meanwhile, the Presentation Skills and Academic Communication Course was delivered in December by Dr. Afrah Alkazemi, who holds a PharmD from MCPHS University, Boston, and is board-certified in Pharmacotherapy. The course enhanced participants' ability to communicate research findings effectively and deliver clear scientific presentations.

Together, these initiatives strengthened the foundation for evidence-informed health solutions in Kuwait and supported the development of a research-literate, communication-ready pharmacy workforce capable of translating knowledge into practice, while providing participants the opportunity to learn from internationally recognised pharmacy educators.

SIHI CHINA HOSTS SOUTH-SOUTH COLLABORATION CO-CREATION WORKSHOP



Student participants discuss during the South-South Collaboration Co-creation Workshop hosted by SIHI China in October 2025. (*SIHI China, 2025*)

On 24 October 2025, [SIHI China](#) hosted a South-South Collaboration Co-creation Workshop, asking the question, How can China collaborate with other LMICs in the realm of public health? The workshop aimed to identify key challenges in controlling sexually transmitted infections (STIs) in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs) and co-design actionable, collaborative strategies that leverage the unique strengths and shared context of Chinese partnerships.

Dr. Remco Peters, Medical Officer at the World Health Organization Global HIV, Hepatitis and Sexually Transmitted Infections Program, gave the opening remarks, followed by Dr. Cheng Wang, Vice President of the Dermatology

SIHI CHINA HOSTS... *continued from page 2*

Hospital of Southern Medical University, who presented findings and implications from a Doxy-PEP randomised controlled trial.

Dr. Gifty Marley, a postdoctoral fellow at the University of North Carolina (UNC) Project-China, also shared insights from the PIONEER randomised controlled trial on pay-it-forward STI testing, and Dr. Xiaolin Qin from the Dermatology Hospital of Southern Medical University presented on gonorrhoea antibiotic resistance.

Guided by experts and facilitators, 24 student participants from Southern Medical University worked in groups of six to discuss key opportunities and challenges and develop collaborative project concepts. Each group shared their ideas and outcomes at the final presentation session.

SIHI CHINA HOLDS GRANT-ORIENTATION 2025 FOR EARLY-CAREER RESEARCHERS

SIHI China held a grant writing workshop on 7 October–25 November 2025 designed to empower early-career researchers in developing competitive grant proposals. The workshop attracted over 3,000 registrations and received 242 submitted specific aims.

The intensive workshop which ran for eight weeks included 45-minute open call lectures and 60-minute participatory small group activities. The lectures were delivered by expert speakers, covering key components of grant writing, including National Institutes of Health (NIH) grant fundamentals, specific aims, innovation, significance, study approach, alternative funding sources, and submission logistics. This was followed by 60-minute small-group sessions for participants who had submitted specific aims. In these sessions, the participants engaged in activities to refine their grant drafts, getting structured feedback from experienced coaches and peers. All the recordings and slides are available on the [SESH website](#).

SIHI MALAWI CHAMPIONS FIRST-EVER INNOVATION EXHIBITION SESSION AT THE 4TH KUHeS RESEARCH DISSEMINATION CONFERENCE

The [SIHI Malawi](#) Hub, in collaboration with the Department of Research and Innovation, successfully organised the first-ever Innovation Exhibition Session at the 4th Kamuzu University of Health Sciences (KUHeS) Research Dissemination Conference (RDC), held from 1–3 October 2025 at the Amaryllis Hotel in Blantyre.

The exhibition marked a significant milestone in institutionalising innovation as a core pillar of KUHeS' research ecosystem. It showcased a diverse range of innovations across key thematic areas, including surgical interventions, climate change and environmental health, health systems strengthening, maternal and neonatal health, and mental health and well-being.

The session featured solutions at different stages of development, ranging from low-fidelity prototypes to market-ready innovations, highlighting the breadth and depth of health innovation emerging in Malawi. The event attracted strong participation and provided a dynamic platform for learning, networking, and collaboration among innovators, researchers, practitioners, and other stakeholders.

Outstanding innovations were recognised for their potential impact and scalability. In his remarks, the KUHeS Vice Chancellor, Professor Mac Mallewa, emphasised the importance of locally driven innovations in addressing Malawi's health challenges and supporting the country's long-term development aspirations. Watch the event's highlights [here](#).



Exhibitors showcase their work at the 4th KUHeS RDC Innovation Exhibition in Blantyre, Malawi. (SIHI Malawi, 2025)



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

SIHI MALAWI STRENGTHENS GLOBAL DIALOGUE ON SOCIAL INNOVATION IN HEALTH AT ASTMH 2025

The SIHI Malawi Hub achieved significant international visibility through its participation in the 74th Annual Meeting of the American Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene (ASTMH), held from 9-13 November 2025 at the Metro Toronto Convention Centre in Canada.



SIHI Malawi Hub Coordinator Andrew Hamuza speaks at the Science Communication for Health Professionals symposium at the ASTMH 2025. (SIHI Malawi, 2025)

Beyond attendance, the conference marked a milestone for SIHI Malawi through its active contribution to global discussions on advancing health through community engagement and

innovation. Hub Lead Prof. Don Mathanga and Hub Coordinator Andrew Hamuza attended the event, with Hamuza serving as a speaker at the Science Communication for Health Professionals symposium. During the session, Hamuza shared practical lessons on using community engagement to promote social innovation in health, drawing on real-world experiences from the SIHI Malawi Hub.

The symposium featured a panel discussion on how locally driven innovations can be effectively communicated, scaled, and sustained within complex health systems. The exchange highlighted the growing recognition of social innovation as a critical pathway for strengthening health systems, particularly in low- and middle-income countries.

Overall, the conference offered a valuable opportunity to elevate the profile of the SIHI Malawi Hub, strengthen international partnerships, and demonstrate the global relevance of locally generated social innovations in health.

SIHI LAC ADVANCES SOCIAL INNOVATION IN HEALTH AT GDC 2025

In the fourth quarter of 2025, the [SIHI Latin America and the Caribbean \(LAC\)](#) Hub strengthened international engagement with their participation in the Global Development Conference 2025 (GDC 2025), held on October 28-30 in Clermont-Ferrand, France, and organised by the Global Development Network.

SIHI LAC's presence at this global forum was a result of winning 2nd place at the Future Solutions Pitch Challenge 2025, where they explored challenges related to digital inclusion in health in Latin America. Valentina Delgado represented SIHI LAC as an early-career researcher and participated in the conference activities.

GDC 2025's theme, Inclusive Digital Transformation: Social Impacts and Technological Innovations, created a space for dialogue on how emerging technologies can support more equitable, people-centered development pathways.

Reflections from the conference align with SIHI LAC's mission to promote community-driven social innovation in health (SIH) and support its ethical and sustainable scaling. Beyond the

recognition, participation in the conference opened new opportunities for South-South and North-South collaboration and further positioned SIH in Latin America within global development agendas.

Valentina Delgado notes,

“These spaces reaffirm that the most transformative solutions emerge from territories, and that connecting local knowledge with global decision-making arenas is essential.”



SIHI LAC Hub at the Global Development Conference 2025 after securing second place in the Future Solutions Pitch Challenge. (SIHI LAC, 2025)

SIHI UGANDA FELLOWSHIP WORKSHOP BOOSTS SKILLS FOR SUSTAINABLE INNOVATION

The Social Innovation Capacity-Building Fellowship workshop of the [SIHI Uganda](#) Hub was held on 3-7 November 2025 at Mbale Courts View Hotel in Eastern Uganda. Organised by the Makerere University School of Public Health, the 5-day, in-person event brought together 25 participants from 12 community-based health innovations selected through a competitive open call.



Program Director Dr. Phyllis Awor (in green) leads SIHI Uganda staff and participants at the Social Innovation Capacity-Building Fellowship workshop held on 3-7 November 2025 at Mbale Courts View Hotel, Eastern Uganda. (SIHI Uganda, 2025)

The cohort, composed of mid- to senior-level professionals, received training in Effective Project Management and Entrepreneurship, focusing on logical framework development, monitoring and evaluation planning, and business model design. The workshop was led by the SIHI Uganda team headed by Program Director Dr. Phyllis Awor, Ms. Faith Ayesiga, Dr. Nicholus Nanyeenya, Dr. Juliet Aweko, and Dr. John Byabagambi, and supported by expert facilitators Dr. Aloysius Ssenyonjo, Prof. Peter Turyakira, and Dr. Kassim Sendawula.

The workshop demonstrated tangible capacity gains, with entrepreneurship knowledge increasing from 42% to 62% and project management scores rising from 69% to 72%. Participants also reported improved ability to refine ideas into sustainable, implementable projects, with one noting that the training provided clear tools for planning, sustainability, and engaging partners with confidence.

SIHI PHILIPPINES PROMOTES USER-CENTRED INNOVATION FOR IMPROVED HIV CARE

On 5-6 November 2025, the [SIHI Philippines](#) Hub conducted a workshop on Human-Centred Design for Responsive HIV Care together with the AIDS Healthcare Foundation (AHF) Philippine Chapter at the Manila Grand Opera Hotel in Santa Cruz, Manila. Using Human-Centred Design, the workshop convened around 20 representatives from organisations involved in HIV service delivery and care in the Philippines to assess the current landscape, identify pain points, and envision innovative solutions. The programme culminated with the participants crafting prototypes for selected innovations.

In his opening remarks, AHF Philippines Country Program Manager Dr. Ryan C. Guinaran highlighted the importance of collaboration and co-creation to “zero in” on sustaining and scaling high-impact processes and “zero out” infection rates to flatten barriers to HIV care, ultimately improving the quality of life of people living with HIV.

This emphasised that social innovation is inherently participatory, setting the tone for a programme that used participatory and human-centred design to examine gaps in HIV care through reflection on lived experiences, system bottlenecks, and opportunities for improving service delivery.

The hub’s partnership with the AHF reaffirmed SIHI Philippines’ commitment to equity-oriented, user-centred approaches in strengthening health programmes and supporting frontline implementers.



SIHI Philippines and the AIDS Healthcare Foundation strengthen their partnership through the Human-Centred Design for Responsive HIV Care Workshop in November 2025. (SIHI Philippines, 2025)

STRENGTHENING NATIONAL COLLABORATION: SIHI NIGERIA AND FMIST REVIEW PROGRESS AND NEXT STEPS

A key highlight of [SIHI Nigeria](#)'s work in the fourth quarter of 2025 was a virtual joint review meeting with the Federal Ministry of Innovation, Science and Technology (FMIST) held on 28 November 2025. The meeting, attended by 12 participants, was jointly led by the SIHI Nigeria team under the leadership of Prof. Obioma Nwaorgu, FAS, and the FMIST team led by Mr. Adeyemi Adebayo, Director of the Health and Biomedical Sciences Unit.

The group reviewed progress under their ongoing collaboration and received an update on the 2025 National Crowdsourcing Open Call. Discussions focused on grading timelines, roles and responsibilities, and next steps, including the final selection and site visits scheduled for early 2026.

This engagement was important for the SIHI Nigeria Hub as it translated collaboration into clear, time-bound actions, strengthened joint accountability, and ensured sustained alignment with national priorities in health and nutrition. As one FMIST representative noted,

“Regular review meetings like this ensure shared understanding and help us move efficiently from planning to implementation.”

The meeting supported the transition from innovation identification to implementation in 2026, reinforcing SIHI Nigeria's role as a trusted partner bridging innovation, evidence, and policy.



UPCOMING EVENTS

WINTER OF 2025/2026 WINTER INTERNSHIP PROGRAM FOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS SIHI KUWAIT The program will partner with schools to provide structured clinical exposure and integrate SIHI-aligned social innovation activities. Students will identify community health challenges, co-design solutions, and present innovation-focused projects.

JANUARY 2026 BALANCE & BRILLIANCE PROGRAMME (B&B) LAUNCH SIHI KUWAIT The program is aimed at supporting high school students' mental health and academic wellbeing.

JANUARY-FEBRUARY 2026 CAUSAL LOOP DIAGRAM WORKSHOPS WITH MARGINALISED COMMUNITIES (SIHI INDONESIA X HARAPAN FIAN) SIHI INDONESIA

2-5 FEBRUARY 2026 2ND FELLOWSHIP WORKSHOP: RESEARCH METHODS AND SOCIAL INNOVATION IN HEALTH SIHI UGANDA

FEBRUARY 2026 IN-PERSON JOINT SELECTION MEETING AND SITE VISITATION SIHI NIGERIA The SIHI Nigeria Hub and the Federal Ministry of Innovation, Science and Technology will convene to select the top six innovations from the 2025 National Crowdsourcing Open Call, followed by site visits to the shortlisted innovations.

FEBRUARY 2026 FIRST VIRTUAL CAFÉ OF 2026 SIHI LAC A new edition of SIHI LAC's Virtual Café series to foster dialogue and knowledge exchange on social innovation in health across the region.

FEBRUARY-MARCH 2026 INTERCULTURAL MEETING ON SOCIAL INNOVATION IN HEALTH SIHI LAC A regional intercultural gathering aimed at promoting dialogue, shared learning, and collaboration among innovators, communities, and allies working on social innovation in health.

MARCH AND APRIL 2026 PHD COURSE: SOCIAL INNOVATION IN THEORY AND PRACTICE SIHI SWEDEN Registration is now open for the hybrid course hosted at Uppsala University. The course aims to provide insights on conceptual and empirical research in social innovation. Read more about the course and apply [here](#).

Q1 2026 MIPBC COURSE (COMMUNITY-BASED PARTICIPATORY RESEARCH METHODS) SIHI LAC An online training course focused on strengthening capacities in participatory research methodologies, developed in collaboration with strategic partners.

Q1 2026 EQUITY TOOL: PRETESTING AND PILOT TESTING SIHI PHILIPPINES Following its development and expert consultations in Q4 2025, the equity-focused evaluation tool for social innovations in health will undergo pretesting and pilot testing.

Q1 2026 DISSEMINATION AND DISCUSSION SESSION WITH LOCAL GOVERNMENT STAKEHOLDERS SIHI INDONESIA

Q1-Q2 2026 THE GLOBAL HEALTH NETWORK-PHILIPPINES LAUNCH SIHI PHILIPPINES This launch will involve different local Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) from major island groups (Luzon, Visayas, Mindanao) to establish The Global Health Network in the Philippines.

SUSTAINING CHANGE BEYOND GRANTS: SIHI INDONESIA JOINS STRIPE SUSTAINABILITY WORKSHOP

On 8 December 2025, [SIHI Indonesia](#) joined the STRIPE Sustainability Workshop: From Projects for Lasting Impacts. It was organised as a closing reflection of The Synthesis and Translation of Research and Innovations in Polio Eradication (STRIPE) project.

The workshop brought together participants from Universitas Andalas, Universitas Udayana, and Universitas Lambung Mangkurat, with facilitators from Universitas Gadjah Mada and partner organisations. Discussions focused on applying lessons from polio eradication to sustain health research, collaboration, and community engagement beyond donor-funded projects.

SIHI Indonesia delivered a session on diversifying funding through community-based approaches, highlighting alternative pathways beyond conventional grants and sharing experiences from social innovations in health. The hub also featured Harapan Fian, a grassroots organisation working with people in street situations in Yogyakarta.



Participants and facilitators at the STRIPE Sustainability Workshop: From Projects for Lasting Impacts held on 8 December 2025, where SIHI Indonesia delivered a session on diversifying funding through community-based approaches. (SIHI Indonesia, 2025)

The session discussed how crowdfunding can support community-led health and social protection activities, emphasising transparency, accountability, and long-term engagement. The hub also shared experiences with grants for communities and small NGOs, and explored crowdsourcing as an approach to identifying and supporting grassroots health innovations. This session contributed to the workshop's broader discussions on sustainability and project continuation.

SIHI INDONESIA STRENGTHENS GLOBAL-LOCAL LINKAGES THROUGH TDR SITE VISIT

In the fourth quarter of 2025, SIHI Indonesia had an opportunity to meet with Anna Thorson of TDR, the Special Programme for Research and Training in Tropical Diseases, during her visit to Indonesia. At the meeting, they discussed the hub's ongoing activities and exchanged views on further collaboration.

SIHI Indonesia also facilitated a site visit to the marginalised communities supported by the hub's partner, Harapan Fian, an organisation committed to helping the urban poor of Yogyakarta. The visitors engaged in dialogue with community members and were able to observe how Posyandu Jalanan, a community-based maternal and child care programme, supports access to basic health services and navigating barriers to health, identity, and social protection.

The activity involved SIHI Indonesia team members, Harapan Fian staff, and community representatives and was a highlight for the SIHI hub as it allowed direct connection between global partners, local organisations, and communities, and supported shared understanding through on-site engagement.

Anna Thorson expressed appreciation for the opportunity to learn directly from the community, while Harapan Fian welcomed the visit as an ongoing effort to share their work with stakeholders.



SIHI Indonesia staff engage in discussions with TDR's Anna Thorson during her Q4 2025 visit, exploring the hub's ongoing work and opportunities for future collaboration. (SIHI Indonesia, 2025)

SIHI SOUTH AFRICA SPOTLIGHTS EMERGING HEALTH INNOVATORS AT THE 2025 VENTURE SCALE PITCH DAY

The Healthy Futures South Africa Accelerator Programme facilitated by [SIHI South Africa](#) hosted at the Bertha Centre marked another milestone on 30 October 2025 with the Venture Scale Pitch Day held at the University of Cape Town (UCT) Graduate School of Business Conference Centre.

The event was attended by health innovators, investors, and academics for groundbreaking ideas and visionary pitches. The 2025 cohort of ventures represented Africa's emerging health entrepreneurs, individuals, and teams committed to solving pressing health challenges through creativity, technology, and community-driven solutions.

Taking home top honours at the event was Zacharia Ralekhudu Innocent Mashishi, whose innovative venture stood out among 17 competing social innovations for its potential to transform healthcare accessibility across South Africa. Zacharia's winning venture, Chief Ralekhudu Enterprise (CRE), is pioneering change in the mobility and assistive device space by training women, youth, and persons with disabilities to become skilled wheelchair repair and maintenance technicians.

Zacharia's model addresses two critical challenges: the lack of accessible wheelchair repair services in low-resource areas, and the high unemployment rate among marginalised groups. The venture is already operating in Limpopo, South Africa, and is exploring regional expansion into Botswana, Eswatini, Malawi, Namibia, Zambia, and Zimbabwe.



Zacharia Mashishi (left), winner of the 2025 Venture Scale Pitch Day, is all smiles with Dr. Solange Rosa of the Bertha Centre and Sikhulile Khoza of the UCT Faculty of Health Sciences. (SIHI South Africa, 2025)

SIHI SECRETARIAT CONCLUDES KNOWLEDGE MANAGEMENT STRATEGY PROJECT



The SIHI Secretariat concluded their year-long collaboration with Tina Fourie through a handover meeting on 19 January 2026, with Dr. Meredith del Pilar-Labarda in attendance. (SIHI Secretariat, 2026)

On 8 December 2025, the [SIHI Secretariat](#) and Tina Fourie of [Because Stories](#) concluded their year-long collaboration to develop SIHI's Knowledge Management (KM) Strategy, aimed at strengthening communication and internal operations across the Network.

The partnership focused on improving workflows and planning, building team capacity, and strengthening network-wide knowledge sharing. Key outputs included a knowledge-sharing framework, shared communication tools for hubs, a hub resource portal, and a hub onboarding kit for new partners. These systems were designed to capture institutional knowledge, support continuity, and enable more consistent collaboration across the Network.

The work was formally handed over on 19 January 2026 in a meeting with SIHI Secretariat Lead Dr. Meredith del Pilar-Labarda, marking an important step in strengthening SIHI's foundations for learning, coordination, and the advancement of equitable social innovation in health.

PUBLICATIONS

These works highlight the role of social innovation in advancing health and well-being around the world.

NEW NATIONAL REVIEW MAPS SOCIAL INNOVATION IN HEALTH IN SOUTH AFRICA

SIHI South Africa hosted at the Bertha Centre for Social Innovation and Entrepreneurship is pleased to share the Social Innovation in the South African Health Ecosystem—a new review of social innovation in health across the country. The report maps the current landscape, highlights strengths and gaps (from human capital to pathways to scale), and offers actionable recommendations to strengthen the health innovation ecosystem.

This review was co-produced by [RIIS](#), the [Bertha Centre for Social Innovation and Entrepreneurship](#),

and [Innovate UK](#), with contributions from a multidisciplinary team of researchers and 38 sector stakeholders and is key reading for policymakers, funders, innovators, and ecosystem builders.

The report was finalised in December 2025 and a launch event is planned for the first quarter of 2026. Read the full report and download the PDF [here](#), and follow the Bertha Centre’s social media pages to learn more about the launch event.

ADVANCING HEALTH EQUITY THROUGH SOCIAL INNOVATION: A REGIONAL ANTHOLOGY FROM LATIN AMERICA

During the fourth quarter of 2025, a major regional milestone was achieved with the launch of the publication, Social Innovation in Health: Lessons for Advancing Equity. An Anthology of Experiences in Latin America. The anthology was developed under the leadership of the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO), with the support of Centro Internacional de Entrenamiento e Investigaciones Medicas (CIDEIM), TDR, the Special Programme for Research and Training in Tropical Diseases, the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, and—most importantly—a diverse group of social innovators from across Latin America whose experiences give life to the publication.

The anthology brings together 17 experiences in social innovation in health that demonstrate how communities, in collaboration with governments, academic institutions, and civil society organisations, are responding to persistent inequities in access to health services. They illustrate concrete pathways for advancing health equity and strengthening universal health coverage, grounded in local realities and community knowledge.

The anthology was developed through sustained collaboration in 2025, with coordination, documentation, and editorial processes that prioritised participatory knowledge production and kept innovators’ voices, lived experiences, and contextual insights at the center.

Read the publication [here](#).



Advancing Health Equity Through Social Innovation—an original anthology highlighting community-driven health innovations from Latin America. (SIHI LAC, 2025)

SIHI PHILIPPINES RELEASES IMPLEMENTATION GUIDE FOR COMMUNITY SKIN HEALTH

Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTDs) remain a major public health concern. Of the 20 NTDs recognised by the World Health Organization, 14 are endemic to the Philippines, including six skin-related conditions.

To help address this, the SIHI Philippines Hub has developed and disseminated the *Community Skin Health Implementation Guide* to provide the local government and other stakeholders with a practical framework for establishing community-based, integrated skin health programmes.

The guide is based on the [Partners in Leprosy Action](#) initiative headed by Dr. Belen Dofitas. Aligned with the WHO's Skin Health for All initiative and national Department of Health directives, the guide outlines strategies for screening, referral, communication, governance, and sustainability, supported by practical tools and resources.

Access the implementation guide [here](#).

IMPACT STORIES

These stories highlight how a recognised local social innovation has made a meaningful difference in the life of an individual or a group—showcasing real-world change within the community or country.

E-SILVER: A SOCIAL INNOVATION EMPOWERING OLDER ADULTS THROUGH DIGITAL HEALTH

Through [E-Silver](#), a social innovation identified in 2023 by SIHI Latin America and the Caribbean (SIHI LAC), the adoption of digital health telemonitoring emerged from a structured process of socio-digital literacy for older adults using an intergenerational approach, rather than occurring spontaneously.

engagement that helped her overcome barriers to technology use, develop digital and informational skills, and build confidence. Progressing along a pathway from access to use, meaningful use, and ultimately empowerment, she began using a digital tool to monitor her blood pressure and later applied it to support the care of her bedridden mother, aged over 90.



E-Silver focuses on technology and care strengthening autonomy, self-care, and informed health decisions for older adults. (SIHI LAC, 2025)

A woman in her mid-seventies took part in individualised and community-based guided

After six months of consistent data collection, she was able to present clear and organised health information during a medical consultation, avoiding a costly diagnostic test and supporting informed decision-making. As she reflected,

“I not only saved money, but I understood my body better and could explain my situation to the doctor.”

Beyond efficiency gains, the experience strengthened her autonomy, caregiving capacity, and ability to engage with the health system as an informed and empowered older adult.

SAFE MOM: A COMMUNITY-DRIVEN DIGITAL SOLUTION FOR SAFER PREGNANCIES IN NIGERIA

Recognised during the 2024 SIHI Nigeria National Call in collaboration with the Federal Ministry of Innovation, Science and Technology, Safe Mom, founded by Michael K. Sunmoni, is advancing equitable maternal health through context-responsive digital innovation in Nigeria.

In 2025, the innovation strengthened continuity of care for pregnant women navigating fragmented urban health systems in Lagos through SerielleHealth, a low-data and offline-friendly digital platform designed around community-identified barriers, including poor follow-up, limited access to reliable maternal health information, and weak linkages between community and facility-based services.

As a result, women experienced improved follow-up, clearer guidance, and greater confidence in navigating care throughout pregnancy. One beneficiary shared,

“Before Safe Mom, once I left the clinic, no one followed up with me. Now I receive guidance, reminders, and support throughout my pregnancy. I feel safer and more confident.”

Anchored in lived realities and reinforced through engagement with the Social Innovation in Health Initiative Nigeria, Safe Mom demonstrates how locally grounded and equity driven digital solutions can translate social innovation into meaningful and measurable improvements in maternal health outcomes.



Safe Mom founder Michael K. Sunmoni speaks at the Olusegun Obasanjo Presidential Youth Mentorship Retreat 6.0, held at the Library's Cinema Hall, Abeokuta, Ogun State, on 11 November 2025. (SIHI Nigeria, 2025)

GET READY FOR TUFH 2026!

Join the global health community on 4-7 August 2026 at the University of the Philippines Manila for four days of sharing, learning, and connecting on an international, interprofessional stage.

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