



The first half of 2026 marked continued growth for the SIHI Global Network, welcoming three new hubs while strengthening research, capacity building, partnerships, and advocacy for social innovation in health across regions

SIHI AND TDR CO-ORGANISE THE NETWORK: TOWARDS UNITY FOR HEALTH 2026 CONFERENCE

S IHI and TDR are co-organising The Network: Towards Unity for Health (TUFH) 2026 Conference, which will be held in Manila, Philippines, on 4-7 August 2026. As part of the conference, SIHI will host the Social Innovation in Health Summit on 6 August, bringing together researchers, policymakers, health professionals, civil society organisations, and community representatives from around the world.

TDR Director Dr. Marcus Lacerda will deliver a special message at the Social Innovation in Health Summit, underscoring TDR's continued support for advancing social innovation in health globally. He will be joined by Dr. Michael Mihut, Head of TDR's Programme Innovation and

Management Unit. SIHI network members from India, Nigeria, Uganda, the University of North Carolina, SESH, and South Africa will participate in person, while SIHI LAC will join virtually.

The summit will showcase research, capacity-strengthening initiatives, and advocacy efforts advancing social innovation in health. Participants will also have the opportunity to visit selected social innovations featured by SIHI Philippines during the Conference On The Move on 5 August, offering firsthand insights into community-driven innovations in practice.

To know more about the Conference, visit the [TUFH 2026 website](#).

SIHI LAC EXPANDS REGIONAL COLLABORATION AND GLOBAL ENGAGEMENT

The [SIHI Latin America and the Caribbean](#) (SIHI LAC) Hub continues to expand its regional and global engagement through collaboration, knowledge sharing, and academic contributions.

SIHI LAC supported the launch of the SIHI Caribbean Hub on 24 March 2026 through its contributions to the planning process and participation as a member of the launch panel.

In addition, the hub was invited by Universidad San Sebastián in Chile to deliver a session on

social innovation in health as part of a dedicated week of learning held from 23-27 March 2026, reaching more than 300 nursing students across the university's four campuses.

To strengthen collaboration across the region, the hub also convened the SIHI hubs in the Americas on 12 May 2026, providing an opportunity to build stronger connections, map shared capacities and needs, and identify future areas for collaboration.

SIHI NIGERIA PARTICIPATES IN WHO/TDR JOINT COORDINATING BOARD MEETING IN GENEVA

S IHI Nigeria participated in the WHO/TDR Joint Coordinating Board (JCB) Meeting held in Geneva, Switzerland, on 17-18 June 2026. During the meeting, the Hub presented its work on Advancing Universal Health Coverage through Social Innovation in Nigeria, marking its first major global showcase at the JCB.



SIHI Nigeria participated in the WHO/TDR Joint Coordinating Board Meeting held in Geneva, Switzerland on 17-18 June 2026. (SIHI Nigeria, 2026)

The presentation, delivered alongside the TY Danjuma Foundation, highlighted Nigeria's growing contribution to the global social innovation in health movement and generated interest in how strategic partnerships can strengthen the identification, implementation, scaling, and sustainability of community-led health innovations. The meeting also provided an important platform for knowledge exchange, networking, and strengthening collaborations with global partners committed to advancing universal health coverage through locally driven innovations.



SIHI Nigeria's Dr. Ogechukwu Benedicta Aribodor met with SIHI Global Network leads Beatrice Halpaap and Michael Mihut at the WHO/TDR Joint Coordinating Board Meeting in Geneva. (SIHI Nigeria, 2026)

FIRST SIHI HUB IN NORTH AMERICA LAUNCHED AT THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA

S IHI welcomed a new country hub in North America at the beginning of the year. The SIHI hub, based at the Gillings School of Global Public Health in the University of North Carolina (UNC), hosted its official launch event on 20 January. The hub introduced its vision, focus areas, and priorities to UNC and partner audiences while expanding engagement with internal and external stakeholders.

The **SIHI-UNC** team is led by Liz Chen together with Joe Tucker, Weiming Tang, and Yanqi Wang.



Dr. Liz Chen introduces the SIHI network at the launch of the SIHI-UNC hub at the Gillings School of Global Public Health. (SIHI UNC, 2026)

SIHI-UNC LAUNCHES THE SIHI FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM 2026

T he SIHI hub at the University of North Carolina (UNC) has launched the SIHI Fellowship Program 2026 for early-career researchers and practitioners across the SIHI network. Sixteen fellows join the programme, which runs from 15 May to 15 November 2026.

The 2026 SIHI Fellows will participate in mentorship, peer learning, competency-based training, and the InnoBites video project. The programme will strengthen their knowledge of social innovation, foster connections across the SIHI network, and provide opportunities to share insights and experiences from their work and communities.

To know more, visit: <https://socialinnovationinhealth.org/fellowship-program-2026/>



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

IIHMR UNIVERSITY LAUNCHES SIHI HUB THROUGH PODCAST AND GLOBAL TALKS ON SOCIAL INNOVATION



SIHI India-IIHMR hosted a SIHI Talks session on 7 March 2026 after their official launch in February. (SIHI India-IIHMR, 2026)

The [SIHI India hub at IIMR University, Jaipur](#) was officially launched on 20 February 2026, marking an important step in advancing social innovation in health in the region. Ahead of the launch, the team released a podcast, which highlighted the importance of community-driven and context-specific solutions in addressing complex health challenges.

Building on these conversations, the hub hosted a SIHI Talks session on Teaching Innovations in Implementation Research on 7 March 2026, bringing together global experts to discuss how implementation research and social innovation can strengthen health systems and reduce inequities.

SIHI INDIA AT IIMR UNIVERSITY JOINS HEALTHXCHANGE 2026

The SIHI India-IIHMR Hub joined HealthXchange 2026, which was hosted by IIHMR Startups on 27 March. The event brought together healthcare leaders, innovators, policymakers, startups, and other key stakeholders to discuss the future of healthcare in India. More than 30 startups and over 50 representatives from hospitals, government agencies, corporate organisations, and CSR groups participated.

Centred on the theme of strengthening healthcare systems through innovation and digital transformation, the event explored ways to make health solutions more scalable, accessible, and impactful.



SIHI India-IIHMR joined the HealthXchange 2026 hosted by IIHMR Startups on 27 March 2026. (SIHI India-IIHMR, 2026)

The discussions underscored that while India has made significant progress in digital health, continued collaboration across sectors is essential to scale innovations and integrate them into health systems.

SIHI INDONESIA ADVANCES RESEARCH AND FELLOWSHIP SUPPORT

As part of its research efforts, the [SIHI Indonesia](#) Hub conducted a participatory action research study using the Community-Led Development (CLD) approach to support advocacy activities and promote evidence-informed engagement with stakeholders and communities.

SIHI Indonesia supported four SIHI Fellowship finalists in refining and strengthening their proposal ideas as part of the fellowship selection process. The mentoring and technical support aimed to help finalists further develop innovative and community-responsive solutions to health

challenges. A SIHI Indonesia representative is also set to present at the [SBCC Summit 2026](#) on 22-26 July.

To support sustainability and future collaboration, the hub also participated in a joint proposal development for the SEA Dream initiative alongside WRI Indonesia, the SIHI Secretariat, and MORU. The collaborative effort reflects ongoing regional partnerships focused on advancing social innovation and implementation research in Southeast Asia.

SIHI UGANDA STRENGTHENS INNOVATION CAPACITY THROUGH FELLOWSHIP WORKSHOPS AND GRANT SUPPORT

S [IHI Uganda](#) conducted its second fellowship workshop on Research Methods and Social Innovation from 2-5 February 2026 at Mbale Courts View Hotel, alongside site visits to Kyaninga Child Development Center to support grant implementation. A third workshop for the fellowship followed on 13-16 April 2026, focusing on Effective Communication and Fundraising, and Environmental and Social Impact Assessment. This was the final workshop for the current cohort of innovators.



Wheelchair fitting for one of the SIHI-supported children with disabilities at Kyaninga Child Development Centre, February 2026. (SIHI Uganda, 2026)

The hub also held a Regional Dissemination Workshop on 17 April 2026 in the Eastern region. District health officers, chief administrative officers, and mayors were in attendance as innovators presented their works through plenary and poster sessions.

Along with this, the SIHI Uganda team also conducted site visits to new small-grant recipients to provide implementation support. The organisations visited were the Zoe Girls Initiative, Amani Uganda, FACES, POWER, and Busoga Health Forum. Four of these organisations have since received grants.



Participants gathered at the SIHI Uganda Poster Session during the Regional Dissemination Workshop on 17 April 2026. (SIHI Uganda, 2026)

SIHI UGANDA PARTICIPATES IN NATIONAL CONVENING HOSTED BY U-RIL

The SIHI Uganda team participated in a national convening hosted by the Uganda Response Innovation Lab (U-RIL) on 7 May 2026. The event focused on advancing innovative financing approaches for Uganda's refugee response

The hub set up an exhibition booth to showcase its work in promoting social innovation in health and engage with participants from across sectors. The interactive convening brought together a diverse range of stakeholders to explore opportunities for scaling innovative solutions, fostering collaboration, and strengthening learning and coordination.

Through the event, SIHI Uganda established new connections with several organisations, including TechBuzz, laying the groundwork for potential future partnerships to advance social innovation in health.

SIHI CARIBBEAN ADVANCES RESEARCH, CAPACITY STRENGTHENING, AND STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS

The SIHI Caribbean hub continues to strengthen its work across research, capacity strengthening, and sustainability.

To build capacity, the team recently completed the Climate and Health for Health Professionals workshop series and is preparing to undertake COMBI (Communication for Behavioural Impact) training.

The hub is also expanding its sustainability efforts by formalising a partnership with CariSurg to support healthcare innovation in the Caribbean. In addition, SIHI Caribbean is applying for a Draper Richard Kaplan Foundation grant to advance emergency preparedness initiatives across the region.

SIHI SOUTH AFRICA ADVANCES HEALTH INNOVATION AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

The [SIHI South Africa Hub](#) recently finalised and published the [South African Health Innovation Ecosystem Review \(SAHIER\)](#), providing important insights into the country's health innovation landscape and opportunities for strengthening collaboration and impact.

In addition, SIHI South Africa launched a six-month Health & Entrepreneurship Academy in partnership with the Africa Health Collaborative (AHC). The programme aims to support

innovation, leadership, and entrepreneurial skills development in health. The hub also conducted the Design Thinking Your Career initiative for high school students. The workshop ended on 28 March.

Advocacy and convening activities continued through quarterly Learning Circles and community engagements in rural sites.

SIHI SWEDEN STRENGTHENS SOCIAL INNOVATION CAPACITY THROUGH TRAINING AND FELLOWSHIPS

In the first quarter of the year, [SIHI Sweden](#) conducted their PhD course on Social Innovation in Theory and Practice, with seven participants engaging in discussions on the application of social innovation approaches in research and practice.

Despoina Mavroudi, a PhD candidate in Business Administration, described the Social Innovation in Theory and Practice course as a valuable experience that bridged theory and practice. She appreciated its multidisciplinary approach, particularly its emphasis on co-creation, co-design, and perspectives from the Global South. The course provided practical insights into

developing social innovations in collaboration with communities and inspired her through real-world examples, such as the adaptation of the Philani Mentor Mother model across different contexts. She highly recommends the course to doctoral students interested in applying a social innovation perspective to their research.

On another note, the SIHI Fellowship Program 2026 has kicked off and the Sweden hub has selected Yewande O. Addie and Pamela Bianca M. Pasco to take part. The fellowship runs from 15 May to 15 November 2026.

SIHI SWEDEN TO HOST A CONFERENCE AT HUBBEN, UPPSALA IN NOVEMBER

Following the success of last year's SIHI Sweden conference, the hub will again be hosting a conference on 9-10 November 2026 at Hubben, Uppsala.

The theme of the conference is "Implementation of Social Innovations for Health," and registration is set to open in August 2026. For more information, click [here](#).

SIHI MALAWI DEVELOPS UNIVERSITY INNOVATION CURRICULUM

The [SIHI Malawi Hub](#) is advancing social innovation in health education by developing a university curriculum that integrates social innovation concepts into both undergraduate and postgraduate programmes.

In parallel, the hub is strengthening youth capacity through its Innovation Internship Programme, which equips university students and recent graduates with practical experience in social innovation. The programme brings together participants from three partner institutions: Kamuzu University of Health Sciences and the Malawi University of Business and Applied Sciences in Malawi, and Rice University in the United States.

SIHI NIGERIA STRENGTHENS CAPACITY BUILDING THROUGH DUAL TRAINING INITIATIVES

SIHI Nigeria is advancing its capacity-building agenda through two complementary six-month training initiatives.

Following a training needs assessment of the nine innovators identified through SIHI Nigeria Innovation Calls (2020-2024), SIHI Nigeria has developed a tailored six-month virtual capacity-building and mentorship programme, which will commence soon. Eight innovators completed the assessment, providing valuable insights into their priority capacity needs. The programme is designed to strengthen innovators' competencies in leadership, implementation, sustainability, partnership development, resource mobilisation, and the scaling of community-led health innovations.

Complementing this initiative, SIHI Nigeria, in collaboration with UNIZIK Business School (UBS), has launched the Pioneer Six-Month Virtual Certificate Programme in Social Innovation in Health. The non-credit programme is open to individuals, groups, and professionals seeking practical knowledge and skills in social innovation.

Together, these initiatives represent a significant milestone in institutionalising Social Innovation in Health education at Nnamdi Azikiwe University while strengthening the capacity of both emerging innovators and the broader health workforce to develop and scale locally driven solutions to health challenges.

SIHI LAC TO PARTICIPATE IN THE TUFH 2026 CONFERENCE

The SIHI Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) hub will present two abstracts at The Network: Towards Unity for Health (TUFH) 2026 Conference, to be held in Manila, Philippines, on 4-7 August 2026. The abstracts, *Community-Engaged Health Innovations in Latin America: Patterns of Participation, Adaptation, and Continuity* and *Advancing Health Equity Through Social Innovation in Latin America and the Caribbean*, showcase the hub's work in advancing social innovation in health.

SIHI KUWAIT HOLDS SERIES OF TRAINING PROGRAMMES TO STRENGTHEN CAPACITY OF HEALTHCARE PROFESSIONALS

From December 2025 to May 2026, [SIHI Kuwait](#), in partnership with the Kuwait Pharmaceutical Association, delivered a series of research training programmes to strengthen the research capacity of healthcare professionals.

The programmes covered key topics, including research skills for beginners and advanced researchers, critical appraisal for pharmacists, presentation and academic communication skills, and collaborative research and project management. Participants also received one-on-one online research consultation sessions to support the development of their research projects.



UPCOMING EVENTS

AUGUST 2026 IR-MOOC (IMPLEMENTATION RESEARCH MOOC) LATIN AMERICA SESSION LAUNCH SIHI LAC

AUGUST 2026 WYN ACADEMY VIRTUAL SUMMER INTERNSHIP PROGRAM SIHI KUWAIT Launch of virtual Summer Internship Program across the region, not only in Kuwait

4-7 AUGUST 2026 TUFH 2026: HOSTED BY UP MANILA SIHI PHILIPPINES Co-facilitating the SIH Summit on 6 August and the Conference-on-the-Move on 5 August

SEPTEMBER 2026 TWO-EYED SEEING FOR MATERNAL AND NEONATAL HEALTH (IDRC PROJECT) SIHI LAC An in-person intercultural knowledge exchange gathering, bringing together indigenous communities from Colombia and Canada

SEPTEMBER 2026 CBPRM COURSE (COMMUNITY-BASED PARTICIPATORY RESEARCH METHODOLOGIES IN SPANISH) SIHI LAC

24 SEPTEMBER 2026 NATIONAL DISSEMINATION WORKSHOP AND 10-YEAR CELEBRATION SIHI UGANDA



9-10 NOVEMBER 2026 SIHI SWEDEN CONFERENCE: IMPLEMENTING SOCIAL INNOVATIONS FOR HEALTH - THEORY, DESIGN, AND PRACTICE SIHI SWEDEN

SIHI KUWAIT PROMOTES MENTAL WELLBEING THROUGH COMMUNITY WEBINAR SERIES

As part of its community service efforts, SIHI Kuwait organised a series of free public webinars to promote mental wellbeing and resilience in response to challenging regional circumstances.

Held throughout April 2026, the 30-minute sessions addressed key mental health topics, including practical strategies for coping with anxiety and uncertainty, evidence-based natural approaches to anxiety management from a

pharmacist's perspective, and techniques to help students prepare for exam season with greater confidence and emotional readiness.

The webinar series aimed to provide accessible, practical support for individuals navigating stress and uncertainty while raising awareness of the importance of mental health. Through these initiatives, SIHI Kuwait continues to foster community resilience and promote accessible health education for diverse audiences.

SIHI PHILIPPINES WELCOMES NOORA HEALTH TO THE UP MANILA SCHOOL OF HEALTH SCIENCES

On 9-12 June 2026, the [SIHI Philippines](#) team led by Dr. Meredith del Pilar-Labarda welcomed SIHI social innovation partner Noora Health to the University of the Philippines Manila School of Health Sciences (UPM-SHS) in Leyte, Philippines to explore potential collaboration. The group took a tour of UPM-SHS and local health units in Leyte and conducted discussions and presentations for possible partnerships. Noora Health representatives also met with the SIHI Philippines staff in Manila.

Noora Health is one of the social innovations awarded by WHO/TDR and SIHI in 2013. It challenges the status quo of health delivery by transforming family members into equipped caregivers through engagement in practical training at hospital premises.



Dr. Meredith del Pilar-Labarda (rightmost) welcomes Noora Health representatives to the UP Manila School of Health Sciences in Leyte, Philippines. (*SIHI Philippines, 2026*)

SIHI PARTNERS WITH THE GLOBAL HEALTH NETWORK (TGHN) IN THE PHILIPPINES

Early in 2026, the Social Innovation in Health Initiative (SIHI), through the SIHI Philippines hub, partnered with The Global Health Network (TGHN) to launch the TGHN Philippines Country Centre.

The Centre, hosted at the University of the Philippines Manila (UP Manila), was officially launched on 21 April via an online webinar event facilitated by SIHI Philippines. The launch featured other institutions partnered with TGHN Philippines, namely Saint Louis University, University of St. La Salle, Mapúa School of Medicine, and UP Manila School of Health Sciences.

SIHI CHINA CONCLUDES 2026 GRANT-O-THON WORKSHOP SERIES

The [SIHI China hub](#) launched the 2026 Grant-o-thon workshop series on 31 March, which attracted more than 4,500 registrants. The first session engaged about 500 participants in grant development and research training. The series concluded on 26 May, equipping participants with practical skills to strengthen research and funding proposals.

The team's innovation report assessing the grant-o-thon was published in [Academic Medicine](#).

SIHI CHINA ADVANCES YOUTH CO-CREATION AND GLOBAL ENGAGEMENT

On 5 May 2026, the TDR-UNICEF Youth Co-Creation Practical Guide was officially launched at the PATC³H-IN Conference in Lagos, Nigeria. Developed from the SESH global crowdsourcing open call and a systematic review, the guide provides practical recommendations for engaging young people in co-creation for health research.

The hub also concluded the Phoenix Open Call, which attracted 422 submissions from 34 countries. Following a rigorous review process, 20

semifinalists were recognised, and four finalists presented their ideas at the PATC³H-IN Annual Meeting. Two winners received cash prizes of USD 1,000. A virtual dissemination webinar held on 22 April 2026 shared key findings from the initiative with a global audience.

The SIHI China hub also participated in the 11th Asia-Pacific AIDS and Co-infections Conference (APACC 2026) in Tokyo, Japan on 18–20 June 2026.

NEW SIHI HUBS LAUNCHED

SIHI AT THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA HOSTED AT THE GILLINGS SCHOOL OF GLOBAL PUBLIC HEALTH, LAUNCHED ON 20 JANUARY 2026



Dr Weiming Tang moderated the panel discussion, which brought together speakers and partners affiliated with UNC. (SIHI at UNC, 2026)

SIHI INDIA AT IIHMR UNIVERSITY, JAIPUR, LAUNCHED ON 20 FEBRUARY 2026



Dr. Meredith del Pilar-Labrada, SIHI Program Lead, speaks virtually during the MOA signing for the launch of SIHI India at IIHMR University, joined by Dr. Mamta Chauhan (right), SIHI Hub Lead, and Dr. P.R. Sodani (center), President of IIHMR University. (SIHI India-IIHMR University, 2026)

SIHI CARIBBEAN AT THE UNIVERSITY OF THE WEST INDIES, ST. AUGUSTINE HOSTED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND PRIMARY CARE, LAUNCHED ON 24 MARCH 2026



The SIHI Caribbean team pose for a photo at the hub's launch on 24 March 2026. (SIHI Caribbean, 2026)

PUBLISHED CASE STUDIES

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



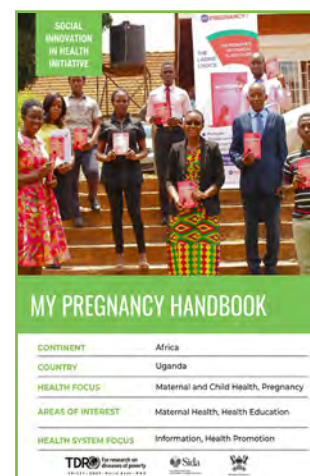
SOLE HOPE—ENSURING ZERO JIGGERS

The Sole Hope programme began in 2010 to address jiggers and foot-related diseases in the regions of Busoga, Buganda, and Bugisu in Uganda, by providing education, healthcare, and specially crafted shoes to the vulnerable and jigger-prone populations.



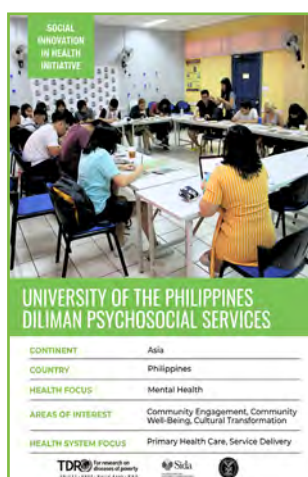
UKANA WEST 2 COMMUNITY-BASED HEALTH INSURANCE

A pilot community-based health initiative based in a rural area in South-South Nigeria involved in ensuring the provision of equitable and accessible healthcare services through community participation.



MY PREGNANCY HANDBOOK

The handbook provides authentic, user-friendly, and trusted health information and education concerning pregnancy to mothers and the general public.



THE UNIVERSITY OF THE PHILIPPINES DILIMAN PSYCHOSOCIAL SERVICES (UPD PSYC SERV)

UPD PsycServ, is a pioneering in-house university mental health and wellbeing programme that caters to the needs of both the employees and students of UP Diliman.



ISHAKA HEALTH PLAN COMMUNITY-BASED INSURANCE HEALTH SCHEME

The scheme facilitates access to quality and affordable health services among rural communities in Bushenyi District, Uganda.

THE SIHI GLOBAL NETWORK ANNUAL REPORT 2025

The SIHI Global Network Annual Report 2025 was officially published by the SIHI Global Network Secretariat on 28 April 2026, marking the release of the network's first annual report.

The report highlights SIHI's progress and collective impact in advancing social innovation in health over the past year. Featuring contributions and achievements from hubs and partners across regions, it showcases locally driven solutions, research initiatives, capacity strengthening activities, and collaborative partnerships aimed at addressing complex health challenges.

The publication also reflects SIHI's continued commitment to strengthening health systems through equitable, community-centered, and evidence-informed approaches. By documenting experiences and innovations from across the global network, the report underscores the growing role of social innovation in improving health outcomes and advancing more responsive and inclusive health systems worldwide.

