



SOCIAL
INNOVATION
IN HEALTH
INITIATIVE

Q1-Q3 2020

NEWSLETTER

We are growing, and more creative collaborations for research and social innovation are opening up to address our pressing health challenges.

SIHI GOES VIRTUAL IN SERIES OF MEETINGS WITH NEW AND CURRENT PARTNERS

Originally planned as in-person events in May 2020, a series of online meetings with [Social Innovation in Health Initiative's](#) enthusiastic new and current partners were held this year.

On 25-27 May, five new implementing partners from Ghana, Honduras, Indonesia, Nigeria, and Rwanda were welcomed into the SIHI global network, led by TDR, the Special Programme for Research and Training in Tropical Diseases. The new implementing partners are the [University of Ghana](#), [Universidad Nacional Autónoma de Honduras](#), Universitas Gadjah Mada, [Nnamdi Azikiwe University](#), and the [University of Rwanda](#). They add to the current group of implementing partners or SIHI country hubs in [China](#) (Social Entrepreneurship to Spur Health or SESH), [Latin America and the Caribbean](#) (Centro Internacional de Entrenamiento e Investigaciones Medicas), [Malawi](#) (University of Malawi), [Philippines](#) (University of the Philippines Manila), [South Africa](#) (Bertha Centre for Social Innovation and Entrepreneurship), and [Uganda](#) (Makarere University).

An exchange of best practices, challenges, and areas for collaboration among the 11 implementing partners was facilitated by the Philippine-based SIHI Secretariat using interactive online tools. The opportunities identified for partnership were in the areas of

capacity building and mentorship, especially for new partners, joint research, joint financing, and advocacy.

From September to October, 10 philanthropies and private companies participated in the [SIHI Partners Workshop](#), which carried the theme, “*Creating an Enabling Environment for Social Innovation in Health.*” Among those who joined were representatives from Alcela Care, American Leprosy Mission, Cepheid, Derbi Foundation, German Health Alliance, Kois, PharmAccess Foundation, Roche, Qiagen, and Zuellig Family Foundation. The current SIHI contributing partners that attended and shared about their organizations’ work were AfricaLics, African Academy of Sciences, Ahimsa Fund, Fondation Merieux, Globelics, Health Innovation Exchange (HIEx), London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine (LSHTM), MAD Foundation, Pan American Health Organization, Schwab Foundation for Social Entrepreneurship, SIDA, TDR, UNDP, United Nations University, and UNAIDS. Along with the implementing partners, the philanthropies and current contributing partners explored together possible intersections in advancing social innovation in health.

Social innovators and government officials from China, Liberia, Malawi, Philippines, Peru, and Uganda also shared their insights in two open webinars that were part of the workshop - “[Social](#)

SIHI GOES VIRTUAL...

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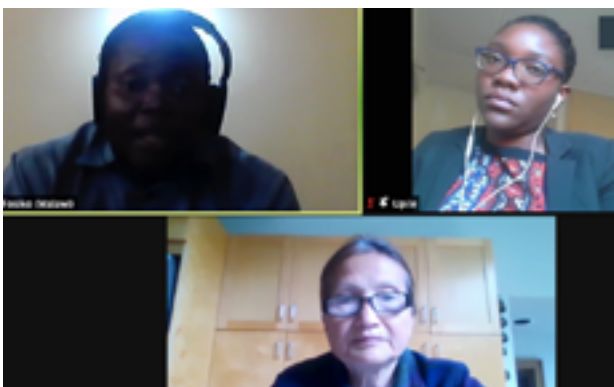
Innovation Response to Emergencies” held on 9 September and *“Meet the Social Innovators”* on 7 October.

The partner workshop affirmed the role of the academe in providing evidence through research so that social innovations in health are scaled or replicated. In addition, community engagement, multi-sectoral partnerships, and multi-disciplinary research were deemed significant in catalysing social innovation towards improving healthcare delivery.

The meetings were co-led by TDR, SIHI Secretariat, and SESH, with invaluable support from Ahimsa Fund, Fondation Merieux, HIE, LSHTM, SIDA, and UNAIDS.



Above: Dr. Phyllis Awor (Drug Shop Integrated Management of Childhood Illness), Dr. Weiming Tang (SESH), Jordan Downey (Last Mile Health), Dr. Francois Bonnici (Schwab Foundation), Dr. Meredith Labarda and Dr. Noel Juban (SIHI Secretariat) discussed partnerships for research in the *“Meet the Social Innovators”* webinar. Below: The panels from the *“Social Innovation Response to Emergencies”* were COVID-19 responses in Latin America, Malawi, and the Philippines.



SIHI UGANDA LAUNCHES PARTNERSHIP WITH HUBS IN GHANA AND NIGERIA

With SIHI Uganda’s guidance and support, country research hubs from Ghana and Nigeria joined the SIHI network this year. The two hubs are working closely with SIHI Uganda from 2020-2021 to conduct a total of six open calls for health-related social innovation in Ghana, Nigeria, and Uganda.

SIHI Ghana conducted [its first crowdsourcing of social innovations](#) at the University of Ghana in July, receiving 13 submissions from faculty members and students. Both faculty and students were excited about the initiative as it provided an opportunity for them to share their solutions with a wider audience.

Meanwhile, from July to August, SIHI Nigeria launched its [innovation call](#), focusing on the most pressing health challenges in Anambra State where Nnamdi Azikiwe University is located. A university-wide workshop among nearly 50 participants was held to build awareness within the academic community. Campaigns on social media, email, and radio were also part of SIHI Nigeria’s information dissemination strategy. The SIHI Nigeria team paid an advocacy visit to the Hon. Commissioner for Health and held an expanded meeting with directors from different departments under the Ministry of Health in Anambra State. The Commissioner was delighted to hear about the SIHI Nigeria Hub and expressed willingness for partnership as the hub is expected to benefit communities of the state.

Case visits and research for shortlisted innovations for SIHI Ghana and SIHI Nigeria’s innovation calls are ongoing.

To strengthen links and engage with its stakeholders, the SIHI LAC Hub carried out a new strategy called *“Friday of Opportunities,”* a sharing of events, courses, and funding opportunities within its network.



SIHI UGANDA SELECTS OUTSTANDING SOLUTIONS IN 2020 NAT'L CALL

In April 2020, the SIHI Uganda Hub launched a countrywide [call for solutions](#) that are enabling more Ugandans to access quality health care. The call targeted individuals, community organizations, health workers, government workers and students in the country. It was advertised through email, the SIHI website, and social media platforms due to COVID-19 lockdown measures. After the end of the solution sharing process, a total of 37 submission were received, of which 15 were eligible for review. The final review identified four top health innovative solutions. The SIHI Uganda team visited the selected solutions from August to September 2020 for research and advocacy.

In order to strongly engage the university community in the social innovation activities of SIHI Uganda, a call for health-related social innovation solutions was also launched at Makerere University. The call was specifically for academic and non-academic staff, students, and other affiliates of the university. It opened in September, and the top solutions were selected in October and will be announced in November 2020.

SEARCHING FOR LOCAL SOLUTIONS THAT HAVE IMPROVED ACCESS AND QUALITY OF HEALTH CARE IN UGANDA.

A call for community-based solutions from Makerere University and its affiliates

The social innovation in health initiative is a global collaboration of partners passionate about advancing community-based solutions in healthcare. The Uganda Ministry of Health and the Makerere University Social Innovation Hub are partnering with the Special Programme for Research and Training in Tropical Diseases (SPRTD), based at the World Health Organization (WHO).

Are you a professor, lecturer, research associate, non-academic staff or student at Makerere University who has implemented a solution that has made healthcare more accessible, affordable, inclusive or better? There could be solutions that address marginalized groups, infectious diseases, life style diseases, or solutions that empower communities to become healthy and thrive.

We would like to recognize your solution and learn from you!

By sharing your solution, you could benefit by:

- Being recognized by national and global policy makers.
- Being featured in a WHO/SPRTD blog on social innovation in health.
- Joining our community of innovators and stakeholders for social innovation in health in Africa.
- Receiving technical advice for solution development or monitoring and evaluation.

HOW TO GET INVOLVED

- Share your solution:
 - complete the form online: <https://www.moh.gov.ug> or
 - download the form at the link above and email it to us at: sihi@makerere.ac.ug
- Contact with us: tell us about people whose work you think we should know about. Send WhatsApp to: 0772 812 575
- Spread the word: share this opportunity with your friends.

Submit your name | Submit your idea | Download and fill out online application | Register your interest

SPRTD WHO | TDRS | WHO | SIHI

Above: National calls for social innovations in Uganda and the Philippines were launched this year by SIHI Uganda and the Philippines' PCHRD and DOH, in partnership with SIHI Philippines. Right: Two research abstracts by SIHI Philippines were presented in [The Network: Towards Unity for Health \(TUFH\) Annual Conference 2020](#).

PHILIPPINES' NAT'L AWARD SET TO SELECT TOP SOLUTIONS

Gelia Castillo Award for Research on Social Innovations in Health

Calling social innovators in health!

We are searching for social innovations that address health challenges and improve healthcare delivery in the Philippines. We would like to recognize your work, and help with further development and scale up!

Innovations must be:

- Developed by Filipinos
- Implemented in the country for at least one year (unless these are COVID-19 related innovations)
- Must be based on an identified priority health need of a community

The top innovations will receive Cash Prize, Eligibility for Research & Development Grant, and Scale-up Training Package!

The [Gelia Castillo Award for Research on Social Innovations in Health](#) (GCARSIH), a national award presented by the Philippine Council for Health Research and Development (PCHRD) and the Department of Health (DOH), in collaboration with SIHI Philippines, ran its open call for applications from June to September, receiving a total of 67 submissions. Top innovations are scheduled to be announced in December.

[GCARSIH](#) aims to recognize the outstanding social innovations that address persistent societal and health systems challenges in the Philippines. It recognises that innovations must address health needs more effectively than existing approaches, and have the ability to enhance a community's capacity to act and take ownership of their own health. GCARSIH also echoes SIHI's belief that social innovations have health system-changing potential as these change and strengthen relationships between people and result in a more effective use of available resources.

This year is the first run of GCARSIH, and SIHI Philippines continues to play an active role in its implementation and advocacy. SIHI Philippines currently acts as the secretariat of GCARSIH, under the leadership of Dr. Noel Juban and Dr. Jose Rene Bagani Cruz.

According to Dr. Cruz, "Social innovations answer key health problems in communities. GCARSIH seeks to recognise these innovations and encourage innovators to keep looking for answers to these problems."

THE NETWORK: TOWARDS UNITY FOR HEALTH (TUFH) ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2020

ORAL PRESENTATION

SIHI PHILIPPINES, MAASTRICHT UNIVERSITY HOLD WORKSHOPS ON REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH

To explore innovative approaches to address sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) issues in the country, SIHI Philippines collaborated with the University of the Philippines School of Health Sciences (UP SHS) and the [School of Health Professions Education of Maastricht University](#) (SHE Collaborates) to launch the *Tailor-Made Training on Social Innovation for Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights in the Philippines*.

The initiative aims to strengthen the capacities of health professionals, community health workers and leaders on the different aspects of SRHR, and to become future coaches for innovative community solutions towards healthier sexual and reproductive behavior. In the Philippines, the incidence of teenage pregnancies and rising cases of sexually transmitted diseases are alarming and call for both large scale public health interventions as well as contextualized community-based innovations.

The ongoing series of workshops, which began in July, is about gender and health, intervention mapping, community engagement, inclusive and participatory intervention design, and comprehensive sexuality education. This is being funded by the Nuffic Orange Knowledge Programme.

SOUTH-EAST AFRICA PARTNERSHIP FOR SOCIAL INNOVATION COMMENCES



To extend and strengthen community-based social innovation in health in Southern and Eastern Africa, SIHI Malawi has established a strategic and learning partnership with the University of Rwanda in May 2020. The partnership seeks to advance research and deliver appropriate education, application and uptake of social innovation in health to contribute to primary health care and the achievement of universal health coverage. Malawi, College of



Medicine is the lead implementing partner, and by working in collaboration and sharing learnings across regions, the partnership aims to establish two functional African centres of excellence for social innovation in health research.

The Malawi-Rwanda partnership is in the process of establishing a learning exchange between the two institutions and developing a joint research project to better understand the process of social innovation adoption into the public health system, identifying social innovations in each country, and engaging students to build local and national capacity for social innovation.

The SIHI Rwanda Hub conducted its inaugural call for social innovations, which aims to recognise solutions that make healthcare more inclusive, effective and affordable in Rwanda, from August to October 2020. Case visits and case research for shortlisted innovations will follow. Writing and publishing of research on these innovations will be conducted jointly with SIHI Malawi.

SIHI MALAWI TRAINS 9 CROSS-SECTORAL CHAMPIONS

To develop a critical mass of people in Malawi that advocates and builds a greater understanding of social innovation in health (SIH) among policymakers, the SIHI Malawi Hub implemented a Social Innovation Training Programme for Health Systems Actors in 2019-2020.

The programme was conducted through one-on-one meetings, small group workshops, and engagement of actors in hub activities. This equipped nine cross-sectoral champions for SIH – a community health worker, one from the private sector, two from academia, two Ministry of Health directors, two from the National Commission for Science and Technology (NCST), and one from an NGO. The programme involved the integration of social innovation into the NCST dissemination conference and knowledge exchange platform (presentation, skills buildings and knowledge transfer) and organised hub research advisory group and contributors.

SESH WINS IN REBOOT YOUTH HEALTH & WELL-BEING DIGITAL AWARDS



SESH's Pay-it-Forward was selected as one of the two winners of the [Reboot Health and Wellbeing Challenge](#). The announcement was made by WHO Director-General Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus on 7 July. Launched by WHO in March 2020, the Reboot Health Challenge aims to inspire young people from around the world to develop solutions to one of the most urgent health challenges in the next decade – keeping young people safe.

Most young men who have sex with men (YMSM) have never been tested for gonorrhea (GC)/chlamydia (CT) due to financial barriers and lack of community support. To expand community engagement and eliminate testing fees, SESH proposed Pay-it-Forward (PIF), where one YMSM receives a free GC/CT test as a gift, then has an opportunity to contribute to the next YMSM's free testing. Dr. Fan Yang pitched the idea on behalf of the PIF team to thousands of virtual attendees worldwide and engaged in an interesting question-and-answer session with Dr. Tedros and other event participants.

Dr. Fan Yang says the team looks forward “to sharing (their) experience on pay-it-forward as an evidence-based solution to those problems and increasing the access to health services collectively with the global community.”

The SESH PIF team is composed of Fan Yang, Dan Wu, Weiming Tang, and Tiange Philip Zhang.

(Images courtesy of the WHO website)



ONGOING/UPCOMING EVENTS

4-30 NOVEMBER 2020 IMAGINE THE WORLD ANEW: A CALL FOR YOUTH VOICES ON COVID-19 IN THE PHILIPPINES SIHI PHILIPPINES & SESH

The call challenges Filipino youth to generate ideas on how they imagine a post-COVID-19 world and share social innovation projects related to COVID-19 and other social innovations during the pandemic.

JULY 2020-MARCH 2021 TRAINING ON SOCIAL INNOVATION FOR SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH & RIGHTS IN THE PHILIPPINES SIHI PHILIPPINES, UP SHS & SHE COLLABORATES

The online synchronous training is for future coaches and health practitioners on social innovations solutions that encourage healthier sexual and reproductive behavior.

SIHI LAC JOINS CALL FOR YOUNG INVESTIGATORS

Aiming to strengthen the SIHI Latin America and the Caribbean (SIHI LAC) Hub and the Social Research Unit of CIDEIM, the hub participated in a call for proposals initiated by the Ministry of Science and Technology of Colombia. The proposal focuses on young investigators' research capacity and social appropriation of knowledge. It is linked to the project entitled, *"Implementation of a community surveillance model in the community of Pueblo Rico to improve the detection and monitoring of treatment of cases of cutaneous leishmaniasis from the perspective of social innovation in health."*

SIHI LAC presented three candidates that were selected after implementing a systematic selection process among more than 40 candidates. Milena Bautista and Maria Isabel Echavarría serve as the primary investigators of the proposal.

SIHI LAC IMPLEMENTS CAPACITY TRANSFER WITH SIHI HONDURAS

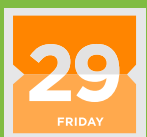
The SIHI LAC and SIHI Honduras hubs implemented their workplan for capacity transfer with regular meetings among team members from both hubs. The team members participated with commitment and enthusiasm

in promoting social innovation in health. SIHI Honduras is also actively disseminating SIHI LAC's Virtual Coffee webinars as it learns how to organise similar learning sessions. Moreover, SIHI Honduras has invited the SIHI LAC team to a new research group on social innovation in health that it leads at the Faculty of Medical Sciences in UNAH.

SIHI HONDURAS LAUNCHED AT JORNADA CIENTIFICA 2020

The SIHI Honduras Hub was launched at this year's [Jornada Científica](#), an annual event of the Universidad Nacional Autónoma de Honduras (UNAH). The launch took place on 21 September 2020 at the international panel: ["Innovación Social para la Salud en Tiempos de Pandemia"](#) and in coordination with CIDEIM. At the launch, SIHI Honduras presented the potential of social innovation during these challenging times.

Aside from introducing social innovation in health (SIH), the launch also aimed to develop a SIH block in the university and in the country. Along with the Pan American Health Organization and SIHI LAC, SIHI Honduras shared innovators' experiences, including those of [Foundation EHAS](#) and [MosquitiaMed](#). The hub coordinates with CIDEIM in the creation of informational materials for a regional scientific dissemination event called Jornadas Iberoamericanas Virtuales sobre Salud Pública and COVID-19 (Virtual Iberoamerican Journeys on Public Health and COVID-19).



UPCOMING EVENTS

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SIHI HONDURAS...

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In addition, over 250 UNAH pregrade/postgraduate students and faculty participated in the I+I for Health in August 2020, led by SIHI Honduras' coordinators. Featuring informative and interactive activities on research methodology, ethics and integrity, the I+I for Health virtual classroom seeks to educate and promote social innovation in health. SIHI Honduras was also involved in the development of a [Massive Open Online Course on Implementation Research \(MOOC IR\)](#) in September. This course was widely promoted at UNAH and outside UNAH with Colegio Médico de Honduras (Honduras Medical College).



FONDATION MERIEUX SUPPORTS COVID-19 EFFORTS

From the first COVID-19 epidemic alerts, the Mérieux Foundation took action to provide aid adapted to the low-income countries where it works. The foundation has made the fight against COVID-19 a priority, by massively dispatching diagnostic tests, launching or expanding research projects and supporting local health authorities.

Diagnostic kits that are essential for identifying patients and implementing effective prevention and control measures were sent to 14 laboratories in 13 countries since March 2020. A program of training and technology transfer was set up to support local laboratories in performing these tests: transmission of operating procedures and WHO recommendations on biosafety, dispatch of personal protective equipment, and organization of training teleconferences with each laboratory.

Also, to address the high circulation of COVID-19 within healthcare structures, the Mérieux Foundation and the Lyon Civil Hospitals (Hospices Civils de Lyon) developed the NOSO-COR research protocol to assess the risk of nosocomial transmission. The project will document cases of COVID-19, nosocomial transmission processes, and hospital infection prevention and control practices and policies in seven countries in Africa, Asia, and, South America.

Throughout the crisis, the foundation's experts have been in regular contact with healthcare decision-makers and professionals in the field, particularly through its laboratory networks. It provided public health advice on the choice of tests to be used, handling of samples, transport protocols, as well as on the screening strategies and response policies to be implemented at the national level.

