

PROMOTING EFFECTIVE COMMUNITY INTERVENTIONS FOR MATERNAL AND CHILD WELLBEING

"There are existing local interventions that have had positive results improving maternal and child health in Uganda. These should be promoted and even replicated elsewhere."

This, as explained by Dr Phyllis Awor, the principal investigator, is the objective of a 6-week national campaign by the Social Innovation in Health Hub at Makerere University School of Public Health and the Ministry of Health, in partnership with the World Health Organisation.

According to Awor, the campaign is targeting individuals, health workers, government workers, business owners, community based organisations (loosely or formerly constituted) that are implementing maternal and child health interventions that are transforming communities.

It is estimated that up to 300 children and 20 mothers die in Uganda on a daily basis.

Given the multidisciplinary nature of the factors that affect maternal and child health, Awor said the campaign is not limited to a particular sector. Interventions can, therefore, include agricultural, financial, educational, or health and hospital related interventions.

"We are looking for effective interventions that can be adopted by policy-makers who eventually appropriate money. We need the people who appropriate money to understand what is already working in communities. Uganda is a poor country and the limited money should be invested in high impact interventions including community based solutions."

The solutions could be those that address the leading conditions killing women, babies and older children for example complications during child birth or infections; solutions that improve health and wellbeing of mothers and babies; and solutions that empower women to have thriving families.

She added that the platform is meant to link policy-makers with interventions that have been proved to work in communities.

Awor argued that having the community as a core stakeholder in improving health care enables sustainability. The population also gets to own the intervention.

"We need to celebrate and promote groups that are already doing great things in the communities. They should have a platform to engage with policy-makers."

Dr Awor further explained that the key objectives of the social innovation in health hub are: to identify innovations in Uganda and build general consensus on the topic; act as a platform to share and disseminate social innovation examples and literature; to foster social innovation research capacity among innovators, students and faculty; and to identify country priorities for social innovation.

Launched in January 2017, the institutional research collaboration to advance social innovation in low and middle income countries is funded by the Special Programme for Research and Training in Tropical Diseases, hosted at the World Health Organisation.

The campaign is open to everyone across the country and submissions have to be made on-line.

The entries will be reviewed by a team of experts to establish their significance in the respective communities.

The selected innovations stand to be recognized by national and global health policy-makers, have a case study of the solution published but also get to meet other innovators in the country and become part of the Makerere Social Innovations in Health hub.

Social innovation in health is premised on a people-centred perspective. With this communities are empowered to contribute and be part of solutions to health challenges.

"The social innovation approach extends beyond silos, sectors and disciplines to inclusively integrate all actors around the needs of communities."

In 2015, a total of 23 projects were selected and these are being implemented across 15 countries in Africa, Asia and Latin America. In Uganda, one such intervention was the "Drug Shop Integrated Management of Childhood illnesses project".

The study highlighted that activities intended to strengthen the technical capacity and quality of care delivered by the health system need to extend beyond the public sector and include private sector providers.



SEARCHING FOR LOCAL SOLUTIONS TO IMPROVE MATERNAL & CHILD HEALTH

Every day, 300 children and 20 mothers die in Uganda. Although many well established medical treatments exist to prevent this, they are not accessible to those who need it most.

We are searching for community-based solutions that are improving the lives of Ugandan women and children!

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

Are you a community organisation, a health worker, a business owner, a student or a government worker who has implemented a solution that has made healthcare more inclusive, effective or affordable?

These could be solutions that address the leading conditions killing women, babies & older children e.g. complications during child birth or infections; that improve health and wellbeing of mothers and babies; or that empower women to have thriving families.

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

By sharing your solution, you could benefit by:

- Being recognised by national and global policy makers
- Having a case study published on your solution
- Being featured in a TDR/WHO film on social innovation in Uganda
- Receiving technical advice for solution development or monitoring and evaluation
- Meeting other social innovators in Uganda and

HOW TO GET INVOLVED:

- 1. Share any solution:** complete the online form: www.socialinnovationshare.org
- 2. Connect with us:** tell us about people whose work you think we should know about. Send a WhatsApp to: 075 365 1573
- 3. Spread the word:** Share this opportunity with your friends.

17
MAY 2017

Solution Sharing opens

30
JUNE 2017

Solution Sharing closes (17:00 EAT)

JUL
2017

Expert panel review and select high impact solutions

09
AUG 2017

Top solutions announced & invited to a gathering at the Makerere University Social Innovation Hub

SEP
2017

Visits to each selected project

15
NOV 2017

Innovators to present to the Ugandan Ministry of Health

A PROUD PARTNER OF

SOCIAL INNOVATION IN HEALTH INITIATIVE



World Health Organization

TDR

For research on diseases of poverty
UNICEF • UNDP • World Bank • WHO

LEARN MORE: Visit our website: www.socialinnovationinhealth.org