

## S2. Ep1. Change makers in the global South - Collaboration and innovation in the health sector\_Transcript

[00:00:00] **Kentse Radebe:** [00:00:00] Welcome to season 2 of the **Just for a change** podcast, powered by the Bertha Centre for Social Innovation and Entrepreneurship. We love hearing and sharing stories about social innovation happening both locally and outside our borders in the global south. In season 2 we put the spotlight on the changemakers behind some incredibly innovative approaches and solutions who are creating systemic change. And - we're also curious to find out what keeps them going. Join us as we discover how these changemakers are changing the way we're changing the world.

Welcome to season 2 of the **Just for a change podcast** with me, your host, Kentse Radebe. We're so excited to launch another season of the, just for a change podcast on social innovation and systems change. With a range of exciting guests lined up, each episode promises to deliver engaging conversation, great insights and fresh perspectives on some of the deepest and most current issues facing our society in 2021.

Today, we're talking about changemaking collaborations and innovations in health across the global south.

[00:01:09] **Phyllis Dako-Gyeke:** [00:01:09] Hello, Just for a Change listeners. My name is Phyllis Dako-Gyeke. I'm from Ghana

[00:01:14] **Manuel Espinosa:** [00:01:14] Ola lottos Just for a Change Listeners. My name is Manuel Espinosa and I'm from Honduras.

[00:01:20] **Kentse Radebe:** [00:01:20] One initiative that comes to mind is the Inter-island Health Service Boat Project in Zumarraga, an island municipality in the Philippines composed of 25 coastal villages.

[00:01:31] The integrated boat referral system connects remote village health centres to the municipality's main birthing facility. A mere two years after initial implementation of this project, Zumarraga improved in its facility-based deliveries from 20% in 2013 to 90% in 2015. Then there's the sustainable nurse-led franchise model in Rwanda which was established in partnership with the national health insurance fund. The model has increased access to primary health care services for people living in the mountainous rural areas of Rwanda. 72% of Rwanda's population live in rural areas and their access to healthcare has been fairly limited. With the nurse-led franchise model - an intervention of the One Family Health organisation - each nurse gains access to a rent-free community-owned building within his or her residing village in which to provide care. Nurses have the option of accessing a low-interest loan for infrastructure renovations, furniture, fittings, essential medical equipment and medicine stock purchases.

[00:02:33] There are a number of similar social innovations that I would like to talk about. So before I get ahead of myself in season two, we'll be taking a deeper dive by sharing stories from the Global south. I'm joined by Katusha de Villiers, the Health Systems Innovation lead

at the Bertha Centre . Some of us may be familiar with the geographic terminology, but Katusha, could you please explain to us very briefly, what do we mean when we're talking about the global south?

[00:02:58] **Katusha Devilliers:** [00:02:58] When we Talk about the [00:03:00] global south, what we're referring to broadly or to the regions of Latin America, Asia, Africa and Oceania often it is also referred to as the developing world or the periphery and includes countries that usually receive a disproportionately, the small share of global wealth. These are mostly though not all low income and often politically or culturally marginalized.

[00:03:22] So the use of the phrase Global South marks a shift from a central focus on development or cultural difference toward an emphasis on geopolitical relations

[00:03:32] **Kentse Radebe:** [00:03:32] of power. Katyusha with that explanation that you just provided. You literally just took me back to my politics 101 class

[00:03:41] **Katusha Devilliers:** [00:03:41] I'm sure I did. Yes.

[00:03:44] **Kentse Radebe:** [00:03:44] I think what's going to be really amazing about season two is that we're going to go beyond just hearing sort of about entrepreneurial innovations, which I think we hear a lot about when we're thinking about the global south.

[00:03:54] And I think for me, what's going to be exciting about this episode is that we're looking and focusing in on the health sector.

[00:04:00] [00:04:00] **Katusha Devilliers:** [00:04:00] Yeah, absolutely. And something that excites me is the role of collaboration and innovation. I've just been astonished throughout my career at Bertha and working in the sector, just what we can achieve if we co-create and collaborate.

[00:04:15] **Kentse Radebe:** [00:04:15] Definitely, collaboration is more than just a mindset. And in today's episode, we'll discover how collaboration is actually innovative in and of itself. Now Katusha a great example of collaboration in innovation is the Social Innovation in Health Initiative. Also known as SIHI in 2014, the birther center was privileged to be part of the launch of the significant initiative, along with the Skoll Center for Social Entrepreneurship at Oxford University, the London School of Hygiene and Tropical medicine and TDR the UNICEF /UNDP world bank, WHO Special Programme for Research and Training in Tropical Diseases.

[00:04:54] SIHI is neither a formal partnership nor a funding body. Instead it is a network [00:05:00] of passionate individuals and institutions combining their skills and resources in support of key activities to promote social innovation and health. And what's really interesting to note and something in line with the theme of this podcast is that at its origin SIHI is collaborative.

[00:05:17] This is an extremely innovative approach within the academic space as collaboration of this extent has not always traditionally been the case. Now, Katusha. Since you've been at the Bertha Center, you've been involved in this project since its early stages. Could you tell us a little bit more about what this project has been about for you?

[00:05:36] **Katusha Devilliers:** [00:05:36] Of course Kentse, I absolutely love talking about SIHI. I think it's a, a wonderful, um, initiative and it's a wonderful example of what collaboration and innovation looks like. So SIHI, the Social Innovation and Health Initiative shares a common goal. of advancing social innovation and achieving sustainable development goals, as well as improving the lives of [00:06:00] communities and low and middle income countries.

[00:06:02] The mission of this initiative is to unlock the capacity, which resides within the actors of the health system to advance social innovation. So that's that capacity within each of us really is, is what they're hoping to unlock. SIHI is a network of partners who collaborate with grassroots innovators, ministries of health funding agencies, and international agencies to broadly achieve this mission of advancing social innovation.

[00:06:31] So not only is that really interesting, but I think what has been most interesting at these from my perspective and most surprising is the visible desire of SIHI members to collaborate. People don't only stick around for the launch of their own individual hubs. And there are hubs now across the global south Kentse there are six hubs across Africa.

[00:06:55] There are hubs and China and the Philippines hubs in Latin America, including [00:07:00] Honduras and Colombia. And just this morning, I attended the hub launch of SIHI India, and it's going to be located in Bangalore. So people are truly invested in the success of the various initiatives. It's been more than six years since the launch of SIHI and people are continuously reaching out for collaboration on anything from funding proposals, to articles, to research and more, there's a real sense that SIHI is a living entity beyond just the individual hubs and is more beneficial than just being able to say you belong to this group.

[00:07:38] **Kentse Radebe:** [00:07:38] Katusha. I think what's so amazing about what you've just said is that during the pandemic, in fact, two hubs have also been launched. What's it been like to be involved in a collaborative initiative like this? When the pandemic has been ongoing and has been shifting our sense of what we think the health system should look like?.

[00:07:56] **Katusha Devilliers:** [00:07:56] Oh, that's a such a great question. I think firstly, uh, [00:08:00] during the pandemic, I I'm speaking for myself. I felt a real sense of stagnation. Like we were all living in limbo a little bit and to be a part of an organization. Well, an initiative really that, um, was still ongoing and launching and looking for opportunities together helped me personally feel as though the work was continuing.

[00:08:22] It was a great sense of impetus and motivation. So I think that was, that was really wonderful. And the other part of it is that. You know, while everything stopped and focused within public health on the pandemic, it was a really good reminder that public health is not just the pandemic over the last two years.

[00:08:43] Um, public health, uh, doesn't doesn't stop. So it was a great reminder that, that the work continues both personally and professionally.

[00:08:52] **Kentse Radebe:** [00:08:52] That's amazing. Katusha thank you so much for your input on this topic.

[00:08:56] **Katusha Devilliers:** [00:08:56] Oh, thank you. Kentse

[00:08:57] **Kentse Radebe:** [00:08:57] One, would they, the sustaining of [00:09:00] collaborative efforts is even harder than purely collaborating, but in some instances, collaboration takes on a life of its own. As in the case of SIHI. It's unusual and it has all sorts of spillover effects. I'm excited to introduce you to our guests on the show today. All of them SIHI representatives from the Global South. From the SIHI Honduras Hub we have Manuel Espinoza and from SIHI Latin America, Claudia Nieto from the SIHI Ghana Hub we have Phyllis Dako-Gyeke; and from the SIHI Philippines Hub we have Noel Juban. Welcome to the show, everyone.

[00:09:34] Just to note for our listeners, that this podcast is recorded, live of a four countries, four time zones and in people's homes. So you may hear a dog on two barking.

[00:09:44] It's amazing to see the support and community spirit within the various SIHI communities. We're here to find out more. Welcome to all of you and thank you for joining. Claudia. I want to start off with you. Um, and, and just for our listeners' [00:10:00] sake, Claudia is actually wearing a Batman t-shirt I know you can't see her, but I wanted to start off with you because that made me think of the justice league.

[00:10:07] And Katusha was just telling us a little bit about the work that you guys do in terms of collaborating, working together, publishing doing research together as part of the SIHI initiative. And I wanted to get a sense from you. Why it was so exciting for you to join an initiative like this and how it's contributed to your work?

[00:10:27] **Claudia Nieto:** [00:10:27] Um, well, I became part of the SIHI, um, Latin America part of, um, like seven or eight months ago and it was, um, very interesting and very motivating to be part of it. Um, because I was seeing. Many people from around the world, working in different initiatives. And, um, uh, I don't know if I can make the, a good example out of, [00:11:00] um, the justice league, uh, uh, people, uh, uh, my, my role is, is more like helping all the initiatives, uh, get seen around the world. And, uh, but I think, um, it's a, it's, it's a really good, um, initiative to be part of.

[00:11:22] **Kentse Radebe:** [00:11:22] Noel. You're also based and part of this hub. And I'm curious about what made you want to come be part of this, and if you could tell us a little bit more about how the SIHI hub was established in the Philippines.

[00:11:35] **Noel Juban:** [00:11:35] Uh, okay. Uh, I think it was around 2016 or 2017 when we started, we were invited in a meeting in London and there, I think you got to show us there as well. So members from the region, uh, uh, countries of the SIHI were there, uh, and we were introduced to the concept [00:12:00] and, um, We believe in the concept because there were already some innovations that w that was, uh, that, uh, that we are, uh, identified in the past years.

[00:12:12] And we think that we can also do that in our own countries. And we know that people are doing the same thing. Innovation is something that is familiar to us. It's just not labeled as innovations. The buy-in was already there during that meeting, and it continues.

[00:12:31] **Kentse Radebe:** [00:12:31] Thanks Noel, Manuel. I want to bring you in a little bit into this conversation and maybe to just get a sense of where you're located in the world. What are some of the biggest health challenges that you're seeing coming out of your region and how has being part of this collective helped you? Whether it's collaborate with other

people think differently about, you know, approaches, what has been the biggest benefit of being part of an initiative like this?

[00:12:56] **Manuel Espinoza:** [00:12:56] It's been a very interesting journey since I joined [00:13:00] SIHI, uh, Um, I first started as an, uh, innovator presenting a proposal and yeah, the, the places where I work are one of the most remote areas in my country. Um, and it is, it is very interesting. The, the contrast between like the city and the, their health problems and the rural areas and this remote.

[00:13:28] Uh, that has led to, to, to have, uh, various, uh, complications from preventable diseases like diarrhea or malaria. Uh, and it's, it's so amazing to see that technology gives a great opportunity for this rural areas too, to at least get some. some what closer to what, uh, you know, developed cities do have in terms of, um, [00:14:00] medical services.

[00:14:01] So. Getting into this initiative has allowed me to learn a lot more about what other folks like, like you all are doing. And thanks for, you know, the, the, the documentation part of like the, I can bring it, the academic part to, to the, to this, uh, interventions makes all of us, uh, gain more knowledge and, and experience through what other. Uh, innovators have, have gone through, so it is, it is, uh, from one part very educative. And from another part is, uh, you know, the sense of this having this ecosystem, uh, that we are all thinking towards the future and how we can make our world more sustainable. Uh it's it's uh, it's a great part of it.

[00:14:53] **Kentse Radebe:** [00:14:53] Thanks Manuel. And I suppose what I, what really resonates with me about what you're talking about is about the, the difference between rural [00:15:00] and urban health systems and access and how important that is. And, and Phyllis, I want to bring you back into the conversation here or introduce you because this would be, um, the first time I'm asking you to sort of think a little bit about what Manuel was saying around what was necessary and the benefits of being part of a community like this.

[00:15:19] Coming from Accra in Ghana. What has being part of this collective meant for you and your work?

[00:15:26] **Phyllis Dako-Gyeke:** [00:15:26] So for those of us, who find ourselves who you, you mentioned Accra located within low to middle income countries. So we are burdened with lot of diseases, especially diseases of poverty. Uh, we can also talk about issues regarding maternal and child health care.

[00:15:43] And even in some cases, the health care systems themselves are deficient. Uh, what we have realized over the years. Uh, and I keep reflecting, asking myself, uh, when I consider the Millennium Development Goals, for instance, and our inability to [00:16:00] obtain a lot of the health related goals. And then we are reminded that if we do things the ordinary way, it's going to be difficult for us to achieve the health targets that we have.

[00:16:12] So in a country where we have tuberculosis as an issue, malaria, as an issue, maternal and child health care as an issue, doing things the ordinary way, pushing interventions, using just the ordinary health system structures to becomes very difficult and SIHI. Give us the opportunity for us to, and the interesting bit is that once you start getting into the innovation, you realize that there are already people on the ground who are passionate and are doing things to put interventions into the hands of marginalized

populations and SIHI just gives you the platform to identify such people so great to create some visibility for them to support them.

[00:16:52] And I think that that is exactly what we are learning from each other. And we are also helping create a [00:17:00] platform of visibility.

[00:17:01] **Kentse Radebe:** [00:17:01] I want to stay with you for a second, especially what you were saying around people on the ground already doing this kind of work. Because I think for us, what's really important about what we're doing for the season on this podcast is really highlighting stories from the global south.

[00:17:14] And I wonder if maybe you have any examples for us of innovations in Ghana or west Africa in the health space that you think are really making transformational change.

[00:17:25] **Phyllis Dako-Gyeke:** [00:17:25] So we had the opportunity to create more publicity for some of the innovations that we identified through the crowdsourcing, uh, early parts this year.

[00:17:35] And then they just to share some examples. For instance, there is somebody working in the area of TB, TB, amongst pregnant women and giving the indications. Uh, non-compliance or non-adherence is a big issue. And once it's with pregnant women, then we have complications that could give us like a rippling effect.

[00:17:56] So they are using technology like just small technologies, text [00:18:00] messages to reach out to pregnant women and tell them that it is time for you to take your medications. And it just pre-rolls and people are taking it. And culturally, uh, although there are issues of stigma, they've tried to build more like a buddy system.

[00:18:15] Uh, using husband's using other kind of social networks to reach out to these women, for them to be taking their medications. That is one. And the other one was, uh, in the area of mental health and mental health. Again is one area that there is so much stigmatization. Nobody wants to. I acknowledge the fact that they are having issues, dealing with psychological challenges in their life.

[00:18:39] So what they do with this is again, using technology to reach out to people on the ground. So it's just an app that you go in there, you give them your name and whatever challenge that you are facing, and then they try to map you up . Uh, trying to think wherever you are located on the ground and they identify a [00:19:00] counselor or a psychological clinical person close to you, and then they will match you, so that you reach as a health services.

[00:19:07] As I mentioned earlier on, you would realize that people are already taking innovative approaches on the ground doing these things. And if we had not been part of, SIHI would have been difficult for us to even understand what people are doing on the ground. It's just giving us opportunity to interact with them, to know more about what is happening.

[00:19:27] **Kentse Radebe:** [00:19:27] I think what's great about what you're saying for this is it's making me think of a conversation that I was having a while ago around how technology and apps in particular have allowed a lot of countries in Africa to leap frog, a lot of the sort of institutional, even bureaucratic challenges to implementing some really great health innovations.

[00:19:44] And this takes me back to what you were saying a little bit earlier, Manuel around technology and innovation and the role that it plays in bringing people together. Are there any examples from Honduras or in other spaces where you've worked that you think would be great to highlight around some of the collaborative efforts that SIHI is trying [00:20:00] to, to showcase?

[00:20:01] **Manuel Espinoza:** [00:20:01] Yes. Uh, it's a matter, as a matter of fact, it is a very interesting what I was just saying that a lot people that we served our new internet users, probably they, the first touch with internet was through a smartphone and they've never, or probably will never see a computer, like, uh, other, other people that grew up, uh, used to, uh, technology.

[00:20:28] It is very important to understand this context because this view, uh, internet users, uh, also have the opportunity to engage into a wider, wider networks of people that can provide, uh, uh, health services. So is a very interesting one, one particular project in which we work with. Uh, there was focus around it, telemedicine services.

[00:20:54] In this rural areas that it, sometimes it takes, uh, days to get to a clinic. [00:21:00] And from there, uh, you have to buy a flight ticket and it's, uh, probably more than the income that you generate new one year. So you send this opportunity that there's internet connectivity there. Use of smartphones. How can we connect them with services to at least reduce the burden of, uh, the necessity of trucks, uh, transportation, uh, uh, way to go into the city.

[00:21:28] So, yeah, this project in particular, what was interested in, in giving this and thanks to that, they were able to connect with them. Um, a specialty it hospital, that was a training hospital. So now residents, students have, uh, allocated some hours for giving telemedicine services. to these communities, because they know that at some point, all these cases will either die in their communities or they will have to come with very [00:22:00] serious complications that could be totally avoided. So, yeah, that's thanks to too, like thinking in a different way, like you just said, Is, there's always a bureaucracy in the health systems because it's not easy to move forward from, uh, you know, not using any technology to, to try to start the conversation in this, in this platforms.

[00:22:27] So, so yeah, it's, it's been very interesting and, yeah. SIHI has. Made a great word, like Claudia said to visualize this strategies and thanks to that this has spread throughout the country. So we started with a few small clinics and now it's smaller than 50 clinics that are using this platform.

[00:22:51] **Kentse Radebe:** [00:22:51] So we know that innovation and technology, it doesn't only end with apps or what we're able to do online. So I'd be very interested to [00:23:00] find out from Noel, what other kinds of innovations should we showcase? And we can learn from innovations like SIHI.

[00:23:07] **Noel Juban:** [00:23:07] Okay. On the first year that we started with a social innovation in health, Philippines hub, we started with an innovation call. It's a nationwide call for innovations and we had several sessions.

[00:23:19] And the winner for that one, we have three winners. One of them is on health insurance. It's not coming up with an insurance package, but having people or this, uh, these

tuktuk drivers or tricycle drivers in our, uh, setting, they are, are nice, but they have to go to the insurance office to have their, uh, uh, contributions so that they are covered.

[00:23:45] And do you know how much they ran every day with tuktuk, and just for them to go there. So the health insurance, uh, officer decided that, uh, it's this way let's have one person to go [00:24:00] and to collect and to have it. So that it's a monthly or a weekly thing that you collect from all the, all your, uh, members.

[00:24:08] of the organization of drivers. Not everyone needs to be there. But at least when you do this, uh, on your own and it's on a regular basis, you're all covered. It was very much appreciated because it's really hard to give the full, uh, amount on a monthly or even in a yearly basis. And it makes them, uh, uh, be able to access the.

[00:24:34] Uh, benefits of the health insurance for their wives and for their team.

[00:24:39] **Kentse Radebe:** [00:24:39] Yoh such important work. Collaboration is not always a walk in the park. People have different views, opinions, backgrounds, and education. We asked a few people what makes collaboration. Here's what they had to say.

[00:24:52] **voice notes:** [00:24:52] And I think from our point of view, uh, the, to has two parts, one sits [00:25:00] within the human side and I think that's an issue of trust.

[00:25:03] I think this is. Uh, problem across all spaces, not only the social purpose space, but I think the social purpose space specifically, because, uh, there's a lot of competition, not only for beneficiaries, if organizations may be, uh, implementing similar or, or looking to address similar outcomes. But also on the backend of that is also a lot of trust around funding, right?

[00:25:26] So there's a lot of competition within the space, which makes it very hard for people to take the conversation forward past just collaborating is good. And then secondly, I think it speaks to the practical element of things. I think while a lot of people are interested in and would like to, to, to, to, to form partnerships and collaboration, Sometimes after the initial engagement, that's when collaborations fall short, because there's no clear understanding of the roles and [00:26:00] responsibilities. There's no work plan around this.

[00:26:03] So a related point is that, especially if you are in the civil society sector, but also sometimes in business, let's say, or in government, if you collaborate with organizations across those divides and other sectors, There could be risks associated with your independence or your reputation for independence.

[00:26:23] So I think, um, there, there. Although many people would perceive the power, see that there's a power differential between let's say big business and an NGO. And if there's, there's a sense that an NGO is partnering with a large corporation, they might be co-opted right. They might lose their ability to criticize that color that, that corporation, yeah.

[00:26:46] Committing to a collaborative or negotiation around collaboration does not prevent. From maintaining a potentially critical perspective and we've called this critical cooperation.

[00:27:00] [00:26:59] **Kentse Radebe:** [00:26:59] The reason why we wanted to play some of these voice notes for you is just maybe to start digging a little bit deeper into why it's so



difficult to actually get into collaborative projects or to sustain them over a long period of time.

[00:27:11] And I think for us, I'm interested specifically to find out more about how collaboration has happened within the SIHI network and the role that it has played in creating systems of innovation and lasting impact. And Phyllis, I want to start off with you, um, being based in Ghana, why do you think being part of this collaborative organization has been so successful considering that there are other countries that may be previously in the past, you could have engaged with and collaborated with what has made this different.

[00:27:44] **Phyllis Dako-Gyeke:** [00:27:44] So just to respond to that, I would just want to reflect a little bit. So we've been part of SIHI, uh, for just a little over a year. Uh, we were invited in the year 2019. And so we've had a successful round of just [00:28:00] one year and we are about to go into the next year. But if I can speak to that, just that small experience and also experiences working with, uh, all these collaborators in SIHI, from different angles.

[00:28:13] Not necessarily I will SIHI, I would say. Or you can often get your positive sustain changes. Um, when you totally depend on interactions between your innovators and also the environment. I went in, the individuals are found. And a lot of the times this is demonstrated through commitments that you see, uh, the investments that different people committed to this, for instance.

[00:28:37] So with SIHI, you usually would see three levels of collaborations and how they are sustained. So for instance, the relationship that you would have with CDR, uh, as the mother, um, institution or organization, as that is initiating this process. And also for us in Ghana, we have a very unique relationship with Uganda, uh, as a mother hub that [00:29:00] invited us to be part of this third collaboration is usually sustained through.

[00:29:06] Uh, joint projects that we agreed to proceed, or we are doing to pursue out for the different countries. And that's at the third level is the interactions that we have as SIHI hub with the innovators on the ground. And that same is also sustained through expectations. The management of expectations, I would say, usually when you identify these innovators on the ground, they are already working.

[00:29:32] But once you go in there, sometimes our expectations as to whether you are going to put in more money for whatever they are doing, but you are able to manage it when you are transparent and you tell them exactly what your interests are at this stage. So for instance, for us at the stage one, our main interest was to create visibility and to publicize what they were doing.

[00:29:54] So I believe that for all these three levels, your ability to manage the expectations. Yeah, our ability to [00:30:00] keep common goals going and objectives going as that is what can lead you to have positive and sustained collaboration.

[00:30:07] **Kentse Radebe:** [00:30:07] Thanks, Phyllis. I think there's two things that I'm taking away that are really critical from what you're saying.

[00:30:12] So the first was around the funding and resources and managing expectations. And then the other one that you mentioned a little bit earlier was around sort of the regional engagement that you have. And I want to bring you in Noel a little bit and maybe for you to

expand for us being based where you are, how important has sort of making regional connections been to collaborating and working with other people in this network.

[00:30:35] **Noel Juban:** [00:30:35] Okay. Uh, for us, the collaboration started in 2017 with the government, but I was mainly because I've been working with the government and the academe with, with the Ministry of Health and the Department of Science and Technology. So it, wasn't a difficult, uh, selling the concept of, uh, of social innovation in health.

[00:30:58] Yeah. And that can always say, I [00:31:00] used to equate it to the best practices from years ago. There was this, uh, era where everybody was talking about best practices and those best practices are just the innovations that we have labeled it right now. So it's not a hard sell. And when we did our first call and we involved the government.

[00:31:22] And our partners in the academe because I'm based in, in the academe. So the hub was based in the academe. So there was really, um, the buy-in is there. So the point that the, the call now for the bi-annual call for social innovations in health, in the country is now just be in us, the SIHI hub as the secretariat

[00:31:46] but the award given by the, is now the department of health and the department of science and technology. We've seen support for the innovators and the innovations that will be awarded amount of about a 4 million [00:32:00] peso for each one. So this year we have identified three, uh, innovations and there will be now given, uh, the award for that one to be able to document the results of their innovations with that amount of money.

[00:32:17] As far as the regional, because I am the. SIHI secretariat of, uh, lead. We also do that with all our member, uh, hubs in the different regions. When I was talking to a friend in WHO, and they're asking me, can you develop a community engagement and our name packets? I said, why not? Let's try it. And I have all the hubs with me and the event I invited the hubs with me to be part of it.

[00:32:46] So we're doing it. And we're under our final states of pilot testing if it included the hubs in Latin America, in Africa and in Asia. So really the network is doing, [00:33:00] uh, does the SIHI hubs are doing our work and collaborating locally and the regional and the global. So that's, I think one thing that we can be proud of.

[00:33:12] **Kentse Radebe:** [00:33:12] I think that's amazing. And when you speak about that Noel, you make me think about something really important than Katusha mentioned to us, you know, in prepping for this episode is how the work that you're doing, whether it's at the regional or, you know, local or international level, is that it's really driven by the funder who really wants all the different parties to actually collaborate. And that's something that's very rare when you think about the kinds of relationships that a lot of us, whether you're a researcher, you know, looking for a grant, or you're an awardee that you're looking for when you're getting funding.

[00:33:41] And I'm curious about what the experience has been like to be part of something where the switch is kind of like flipped. when, you're not necessarily trying to hunt for funding to do the collaborative work. Um, but that's actually available to you and it's there. And Manuel, I'd like to maybe get your take on [00:34:00] this on what it's, what that experience has been like for you in the work that you do, where it's actually the funder who's driving this idea of collaboration and impact rather than the other way around.

[00:34:11] **Manuel Espinoza:** [00:34:11] Uh, yeah, this is a very interesting topic because it's something that we live every day. Um, I could give you a personal example. Um, with the organization I work right now, we are we're working in malaria. So, um, the malaria was, uh, probably it was concentrated in this remote areas and the way we, we helped the government and, uh, uh, uh, Talking about these like Noel topic, is that in this aspect of working with, uh, with institutions like governments, it's not always easy to, to get, uh, this collaboration to be funded by the government.

[00:34:52] Uh, so there's where it's important to documentate and see these, all these, um, this [00:35:00] research that comes, uh, forward to support what, you know, like this innovations that often are small, uh, how they can scale up. Um, so being able to provide, uh, the evidence to support these innovations is crucial for a day or, you know, longterm sustainability, um, and, and engage with people within these organizations.

[00:35:27] So, you know, I have the trust that they needed to, to see if they can fund it domestically or adopt it as their own. So that's, that's one of the key elements that, that, that we need to address in this collaboration part is, um, Yeah. First of all, gave the opportunity to small projects, to, to pilot ideas, uh, because within the government, you know, there there's always this, uh, or, uh, government.

[00:35:55] And I talk about big organization, not only governments, but all, [00:36:00] uh, in the academic world. There's also big organizations. It's always this immunological system that is rejecting innovation. So the way we can, uh, you know, overcome these challenges is by, uh, helping these small projects to documentate to provide the evidence that they need to support.

[00:36:20] **Kentse Radebe:** [00:36:20] I think what's really interesting about what you're saying, Manuel, that isn't unique to your part of the world, but I suppose internationally and globally is just how challenging. Sometimes it is to get innovation started at universities, which is ironic. When you think about what universities were established to do, it's I think it's so interesting that I'm seeing, I'm seeing those parallels and Claudia, I want to bring you in here a little bit, because you were talking about research a little bit earlier, and I wanted to get a sense from you.

[00:36:46] What has been the one surprise? Piece or element of being part of this work that has come out for you? I think for me listening to each of you speak about the kinds of work that you're involved in, the kinds of [00:37:00] collaborations that you're pushing for and the way that you're working with different parties is absolutely critical.

[00:37:06] But what has been the one thing that has you didn't expect when you join the SciHigh network, but has maybe surprised you, and it's something that would be beneficial for those of us who are interested in learning and understanding a little bit more about collaboration.

[00:37:19] **Claudia Nieto:** [00:37:19] Um, uh, I liked very, very much because, uh, I was surprised in two ways that I didn't expect when I first joined the SIHI Honduras hub, uh, .

[00:37:34] Was beginning to meet all these people from different parts of the world. And I saw two things that, um, got my attention and it was one, not only health professionals are involved in these initiatives. It's regular people common people and, um, Who work side-by-

side [00:38:00] with health professionals to provide, uh, better, um, ways for their communities and their, um, in their families to have access to health services and, and they find ways to collaborate.

[00:38:17] Uh, not thinking about what, uh, what kind of maybe academic studies do I have, or do I not have, uh, we work together and we provide these solutions and we find ways to collaborate. And the other thing that got my, my attention was how, um, this network looks for ways to reach, uh, others and to. To make this initiative more resourceful when you didn't have maybe the funding, how do, how do you find solutions not only for your communities, but to keep this initiative running [00:39:00] and going and I see these when we get to the meetings with the SIHI Global network I hear them. I see how they are working to make this initiative, keep going and going.

[00:39:15] **Kentse Radebe:** [00:39:15] I think what inspires me when I hear you speak is just thinking about what the future may hold. And I think maybe that's sort of a good place to bring our conversation to an end for this afternoon is maybe just to get a quick, quick reflection from the four of you around what you hope this work will do in the future, or maybe even what you hope to achieve. And maybe if very briefly, if you guys could give us that response, as we wrap up today's episode and I'll start with Noel,

[00:39:41] **Noel Juban:** [00:39:41] okay. Uh, speaking for the SIHI network first, I really would want the net, the SIHI network to, uh, expand and to grow. And that's why we are doing our best. To, uh, look for partners [00:40:00] among the countries within our regions. And we have started it so far. So we're on now, uh, like started with, uh, with Colombia now it's with, under us, we started with the Philippines. Now we have partners in Indonesia and in India. So really the network is growing and we try to be inclusive in terms of our work.

[00:40:25] That's why we have meetings every month and we share what we have so far in terms of our achievements and possible collaborations. So there is more collaboration that will happen in the future and for the country. Uh, we hope to continue that the ownership of the SIHI calls for innovations continue every two years because it's been signed by the government. So they have to, uh, give their money for that and, uh, and really, uh, [00:41:00] do their work.

[00:41:01] **Kentse Radebe:** [00:41:01] Amazing. Thanks Noel, Phyllis. What are you looking forward to?

[00:41:07] **Phyllis Dako-Gyeke:** [00:41:07] So just in auditioning, I think that this morning I had the opportunity to witness the launching for India. And there was so many examples that they shared. And in that regard to the first thing, I hope that for all the things that we are learning, there would be more like an inter-regional scale up for some of these innovations.

[00:41:28] Uh, that we are identifying. And secondly, as a country that is like Ghana, we are boarded by a lot of Francophones. I'm hoping that moving forward, we'll be able to break that barrier to be able to work with French speaking countries as well. And again, for me in research, in the area of funds and all that, I hope that there will be a time and then in the near future, That social innovation and health would be one of the key thematic areas for big calls, [00:42:00] uh, that we would have the opportunity to push this forward, uh, beyond the barriers and also that the, the funding, uh, exclusions that we have currently.

[00:42:09] **Kentse Radebe:** [00:42:09] Thank you, Phyllis Claudia, any last word?

[00:42:12] **Claudia Nieto:** [00:42:12] I would say that, um, we're looking forward to, to keep innovations, uh, keep seeing around the world and in the side of the world. In, uh, in Latin America and, uh, as, uh, keep the Honduras hub well as strengthen in the next year.

[00:42:32] **Kentse Radebe:** [00:42:32] Amazing. And Manuel we'll end off with you. What are you looking forward to?

[00:42:37] **Manuel Espinoza:** [00:42:37] Well, history has shown us that the progress continues despite good times or bad times. Like the past influence of the pandemic, world war two and hurricanes and tsunamis and all of that. Uh, was bad, but in this period of time, like this past century, we, we had the life expectancy improved by a hundred [00:43:00] percent. Um, child mortality has dropped by 90%, uh, and all of these happens and sometimes within the worst conditions. So, uh, it is important to, to support, uh, innovate innovation because, uh, that's. the progress that is happening right now. We just have to look for it and visualize it so it can spread.

[00:43:23] **Kentse Radebe:** [00:43:23] Thank you so much. And thank you to all of our guests today. It was such a privilege to, to talk to you about your work and what you're doing. So thank you so much for joining us from all over the world and sharing your stories about what it takes to be a change maker in the global south.

[00:43:38] Working together in a pluralistic environment is often a difficult task. It requires negotiation compromise and sometimes managing multiple variables at once in an attempt to achieve a specific goal. The SIHI network has, however, proved the collaboration and innovation is not only extremely effective, but it also contributes to longevity. Collaboration is a mindset [00:44:00] and the change makers want to make a real difference need to embrace such a mindset.

[00:44:06] Thank you for tuning in to season two of the, just for change podcast powered by the Bertha Center for social innovation and entrepreneur. If you're curious about what innovation is happening in Africa and the global south and who the movers and shakers are behind these initiatives, then make sure you subscribe so that you don't miss any of our upcoming episodes.