



**SAMUEL CENTRE
FOR SOCIAL
CONNECTEDNESS**

Samuel Centre for Social Connectedness Fellowship Program

Partner Organization: Partners in Health

Project Title: Social Connectedness and Health Care in Malawi

SCSC Fellowship 2023:

Project Proposal

Partner Organization: Partners in Health

Our mission is to provide a preferential option for the poor in health care. By establishing long-term relationships with sister organizations based in settings of poverty, Partners In Health strives to achieve two overarching goals: to bring the benefits of modern medical science to those most in need of them and to serve as an antidote to despair.

We draw on the resources of the world's leading medical and academic institutions and on the lived experience of the world's poorest and sickest communities. At its root, our mission is both medical and moral. It is based on solidarity, rather than charity alone.

We strive to ease suffering by providing a comprehensive model of care that includes access to food, transportation, housing, and other key components of healing. We bring the benefits of modern medicine to those who have suffered from the overt and subtle injustices of the world, in the past and in the present. We refuse to accept that any life is worth less than another.

Learn more at: <https://www.pih.org/>

Location of the Project: Remote

This is a remote position working closely with a Malawian doctor and Ph.D researcher. All applicants are welcomed and encouraged; preference will be given to candidates based in Malawi, from Malawi or part of the African diaspora.

PROJECT INFORMATION

Section 1: Description of the Project

A pillar of Partners in Health in Malawi is the commitment to community health workers and localizing community health systems. PIH's community health worker program draws on the linguistic, cultural, and technical expertise of local residents, equipping

them with the resources and training to drive our health programs and deepen our impact. In Malawi the Community Health Department and its Program on Social and Economic Rights, or POSER is crucial to PIH's mission and empowers community members to live with dignity, security, and independence. POSER helps lift the financial burden of costs related to health care, ensuring that the most vulnerable have access to medical care and the basic necessities to stay healthy, such as housing, employment, and transportation. In 2018, PIH community health workers transitioned from a paper-based data collection system to an electronic system. This system enables community health workers (CHW)s and clinicians to collect and evaluate data electronically, via smartphones. So far, at least 500 CHWs have been trained on the mobile platform.

For this project the Fellow will work with the information collected by CHWs to clean the data, manage data sets and understand current health outcomes in Malawi. Using this data, they will analyze and contextualize health outcomes with a belonging lens. This project will also involve working with local experts to generate insights from the datasets and create a clear visual representation of the findings. Findings may be complemented with secondary source review and/or community consultation where applicable.

Section 2: Goals of the Project

Through analyzing the collected data with local experts, the Fellow will help inform long term programming and help build the narrative on home-based, comprehensive community health services. In addition, this fellow will use a social connectedness lens to understand how wrap-around services like those offered by PIH create healthier societies. Working between the PIH team and the SCSC team the fellow will contribute to understanding on holistic health and its relationship to belonging in Malawi.

Section 3: Guiding Questions

1. What trends and themes can be identified in the data generated by community health workers in Malawi?
2. What is the relationship between belonging and health outcomes in the communities surveyed?

Section 4: Key Deliverables

- 1 blog post (500 – 1,000 word), posted to SCSC’s website.
- A Community Engagement Initiative (CEI) in support of the Final Output
 - The Fellow will work collaboratively with the SCSC program manager to design a relevant community outreach/connecting activity. This may interact with people directly (ex/an event, interviews) or seek to engage the public with the issue (ex/webinar).
- A Final Output [2 options]
 - A 25 – 35-page research report supported by primary or secondary source data
 - A creative or practical output coupled with an accompanying written component. This could include a series of webinars, a toolkit, a community beadwork or painting project, a podcast series, photo journal, etc.
- A Final Presentation with the Cohort

Applicant Information:

About the Fellowship/What the Fellowship Offers

The Fellowship empowers young people, recent graduates, and community leaders to engage in meaningful research and community action. At the Samuel Centre for Social Connectedness our mission is to build connectedness within and between communities through partnerships, research, programming, learning initiatives, and advocacy. Belonging is central to our work, and the Fellowship offers the opportunity to apply the lens of ‘Belonging’ to intersectional issues, writing, and problem solving.

This is a paid full-time opportunity from May 8 – August 28 2023 [16 weeks]. The Social Connectedness Fellowship is a research and community action summer program focused on understanding & integrating social connectedness.

SCSC Offers:

- Competitive wages
- Work with national & international community partners
- Capacity building, skills development, & mentorship
- Meaningful work where your research has impact

Equity Statement:

The Samuel Centre for Social Connectedness is an equal opportunity employer, and we encourage applicants to apply even if they do not meet all the criteria. We believe all candidates have something to bring to the organization and the role. If you have skills outside the job description that you think can benefit the project, let us know in your cover letter. We encourage all equity-seeking groups such as immigrants, Black people, Indigenous people, people of color, women, young people, 2SLGBTQ+ community members, and people with disabilities to apply. Please let us know if you need any accommodation throughout the application and interview process and we will be happy to support you.

Key Attributes and Skills in the Applicant:

- Skills in quantitative research methods and statistical analyses
- Undergraduate degree in health sciences, global health or a related field with course experience in research methods
- Good time management skills and ability to work independently
- Knowledge of the social determinants of health, holistic health care, and community health care models
- Understanding of Malawian health context
- Ability to work as an intermediary between several different teams and goals
- Experience using Stata
- Skills in drafting and reviewing manuscripts are a plus