



**SAMUEL CENTRE
FOR SOCIAL
CONNECTEDNESS**

**Samuel Centre for Social Connectedness
2024 Fellowship Program
Project Proposal**

PARTNER ORGANIZATION:

Partners in Health

PROJECT TITLE:

Building a Roadmap for Enhanced Gender- and
Youth-Responsiveness of Health Services in Malawi

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/>

PROJECT INFORMATION

Location of the Project: Malawi

Preference will be given to applicants based in Malawi.

The project involves field research at health facilities and with communities across Neno District. The fellowship will provide a transport allowance for travel to Neno District from within Malawi, and if required, the Fellow will be accommodated at a PIH guesthouse in Neno District. **The Fellow is expected to be in Neno District, at a minimum, for data collection and the dissemination of results.**

Section 1: Description of the Project

At the heart of PIH's model of health care delivery is people-centered care – an approach that sees health systems tailored to people's needs *and* preferences, with people and communities valued as partners working alongside professionals to plan, monitor and achieve the best outcomes for their health.

Keeping people at the centre requires PIH to regularly interrogate whether and how the rights of the people it serves are being respected, protected and fulfilled along the full continuum of care. This includes reflecting on and learning from the experiences of people in all their diversity, including by paying heed to factors related to gender and age.

In line with this ongoing commitment, PIH Malawi, known locally as Abwenzi Pa Za Umoyo (APZU), is seeking to assess the gender and youth responsiveness of its services and ultimately identify

opportunities for deepening the integration of gender- and youth-responsive principles within its operations.

This project will support APZU to collect quantitative and qualitative data on the gender- and/or youth-responsiveness of its services through the administration of surveys, key informant interviews and focus group discussions. The fellow will analyze and contextualize the data with a belonging lens, while integrating findings from academic and grey literature. Working with local experts, the Fellow will generate recommendations for actions APZU can take to strengthen the gender- and/or youth-responsiveness of its services.

Section 2: Goals of the Project

The ultimate goal is to use a social connectedness lens to understand how health services like those offered at APZU can support women, girls, men, boys and/or young people people to thrive. Working with the APZU/PIH team and the SCSC team, the fellow will contribute to understanding on gender- and/or youth-responsive health care and its relationship to belonging in Malawi.

The specific objectives of this project are two-fold: first, using a social connectedness lens, to assess the gender- and/or youth-responsiveness of APZU's service delivery. Second, in partnership with local experts, to outline clear steps APZU can take to enhance the gender- and youth-responsiveness of its services.

Section 3: Guiding Questions

The Fellow will explore the following research questions, the intended audiences of which are APZU staff, patients and communities.

1. To what extent and in what ways are APZU's services, programming and operations gender- and/or youth-responsive?
2. Using a social connectedness lens, what opportunities exist for enhancing the extent to which APZU is gender- and/or youth-responsive?
3. How can APZU increase a sense of belonging for staff, patients and communities that is gender, and youth inclusive?

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
 - For this project, applicants will travel to Neno as part of their CEI.
- **A Final Output(s)**
 - A 25 – 35-page research report supported by primary and secondary source data. This report will use a social connectedness lens, to assess the gender- and/or youth-responsiveness of APZU's service delivery. Second, in partnership with local

- o experts it will outline clear steps APZU can take to enhance the gender- and youth-responsiveness of its services.
- o A presentation of the findings back to community members and staff at APZU, or an alternative community-focused output.
- **A Final Presentation** with the cohort

APPLICANT INFORMATION

Key Attributes and Skills in the Applicant

This project is prioritizing applicants **based in Malawi**.

- Undergraduate degree in gender studies, health sciences, global health or a related field with course experience in research methods
- Experience in mixed-methods research OR experience with qualitative methods and a strong interest in learning mixed-methods approaches
- Strong understanding of gender and age as determinants of health
- Experience meaningfully engaging young people
- Understanding of Malawian health context
- Ability to translate research findings into actionable guidance
- Skills in drafting and reviewing manuscripts are a plus

About the Fellowship/What the Fellowship Offers

The Samuel Centre for Social Connectedness (SCSC) Social Connectedness Fellowship empowers young people and people with a variety of different types of lived experience to partner with groundbreaking organizations from around the world to carry out innovative research on social isolation and belonging.

SCSC defines belonging as connection to the 4 Ps: people, place, power, and purpose. This is to say that belonging comes through our relationships with other people as well as through our rootedness in nature, our ability to influence social, political and economic decision-making, and our capacity to find shared meaning and purpose in our lives. The Fellowship offers a unique opportunity to apply the lens of Belonging, thinking intersectionally, and holistically about the problems of the 21st century.

These are paid positions, starting on **May 6, 2024**, and ending on **September 27, 2024**. From **May – August the position is full time, 35 hours per week** and in **September the hours are reduced to part time, 10-20 hours per week**.

SCSC Offers:

- Competitive wages, adjusted according to each Fellow's geographic location and experience.
 - o This project is offering a range of \$13-16 CAD per hour.
- Opportunity to work with national & international community partners

- Capacity building, skills development, & mentorship
- Ability to network, and be part of an international cohort
- All Fellowship works are published on the SCSC website
- The Fellow's work will be supported by regular supervision meetings with both organizations, and a 1-week long orientation at SCSC.

Program Requirements:

- Be able to work at least 4 hours per day (in alignment with the 9-5 workday) in Eastern Standard Time to ensure overlap with the Toronto-based team.
- Be ready to engage in regular online meetings, check-ins, capacity building sessions, and work remotely.
- Ability to take initiative, manage their time effectively, work independently, and draw from different resources to support their work.
- Have a passion for research and building a more inclusive, belonging-oriented world.

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 and Indigenous communities, people of color, women, young people, 2SLGBTQ+ community members, people with disabilities, and people who have been justice-impacted to apply.

Please tell us if you need accommodation throughout the application process and we are happy to support you.

You can email any accommodation requests to scfellowship@scscglobal.org