SOCIAL INNOVATION IN HEALTH INITIATIVE

Measuring what matters: Development and Pilot of an Equity-Focused Tool in Social Innovations in Health

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Background

- **Social Innovations in Health (SIH) respond to health problems in communities**. SIH has emerged as a new lens or approach to complex health system problems and persistent inequities. These novel solutions respond to priority health problems in communities while accounting for their sociocultural contexts. These innovations have contributed to more accessible, affordable, and sustainable health solutions.
- **Equity-focused evaluation of SIH is crucial** if we want to know how effectively social innovations achieves health equity in specific contexts and provide insights into what works for whom, how, and by how much

Significance

- **An evaluation tool for SIH** can make evaluation more accessible and allow for a more standardized and robust method for studying social innovations in health
- **Strengthening evidence for SIH** can support efforts for uptake and upscaling with its stakeholders and promote replication

Study Objectives and Methodology

Objective	Methods
Identify and develop a framework of the characteristics and factors of social innovations that affect health equity	• Key Informant Interviews • Systematic literature review • Develop framework of factors of social innovation affecting health equity
Develop an equity-focused evaluation tool for social innovations	• Evaluation tool questionnaire development • Two-round Delphi method • Tool refinement workshop • Revisions based on feedback

Pretesting and pilot testing of the developed equity-focused evaluation tool	• Validity and reliability testing of tool
	  ◦ Content validation
	  ◦ Pre-testing
	• Onsite pilot testing of evaluation tool with different stakeholder types
	• Off-site pilot testing through self-assessment of innovators and stakeholders with their own social innovations
	• Feedback from SIH stakeholders and health equity experts

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Interim Results

Literature Review - PRISMA Diagram

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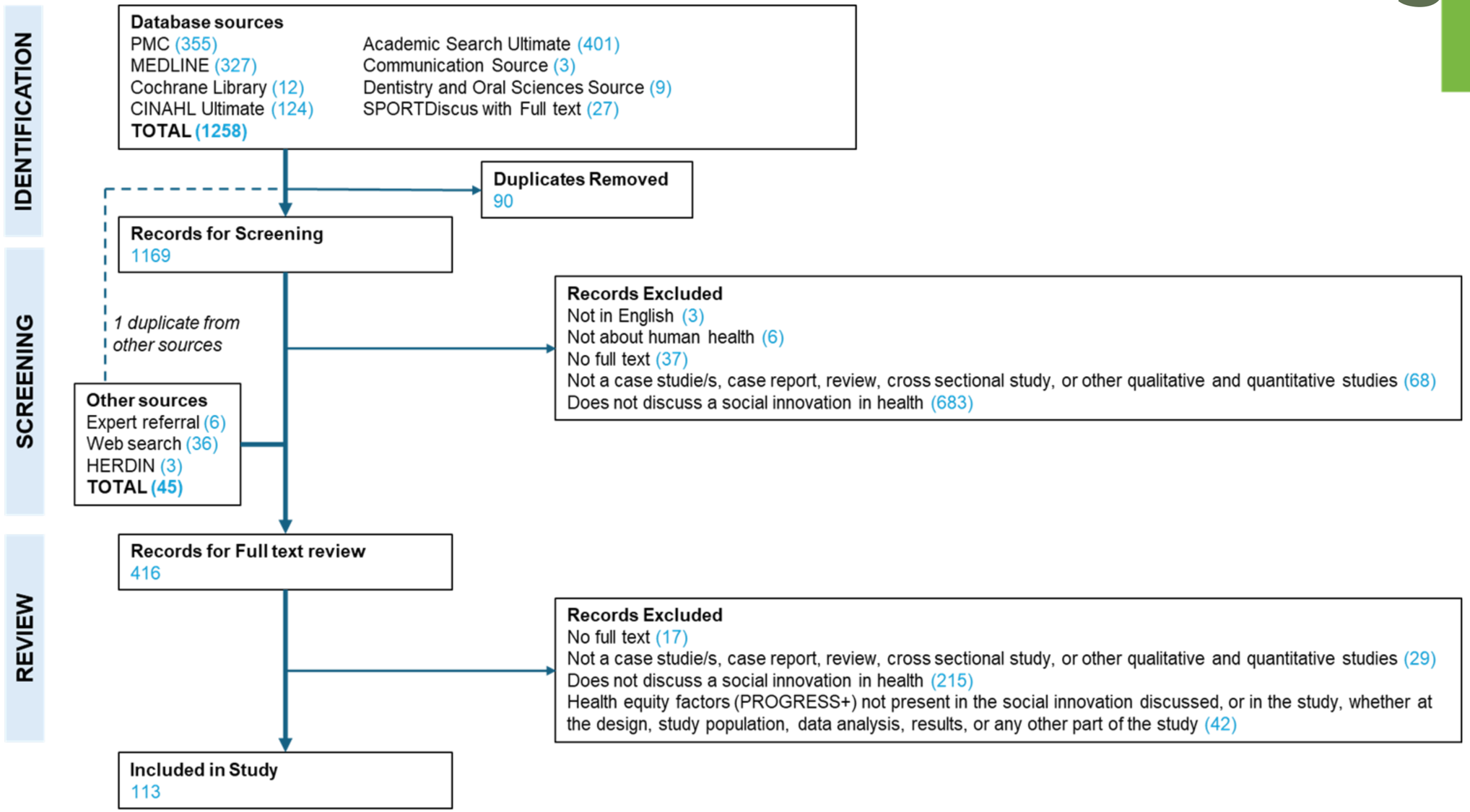

Literature Review Summary

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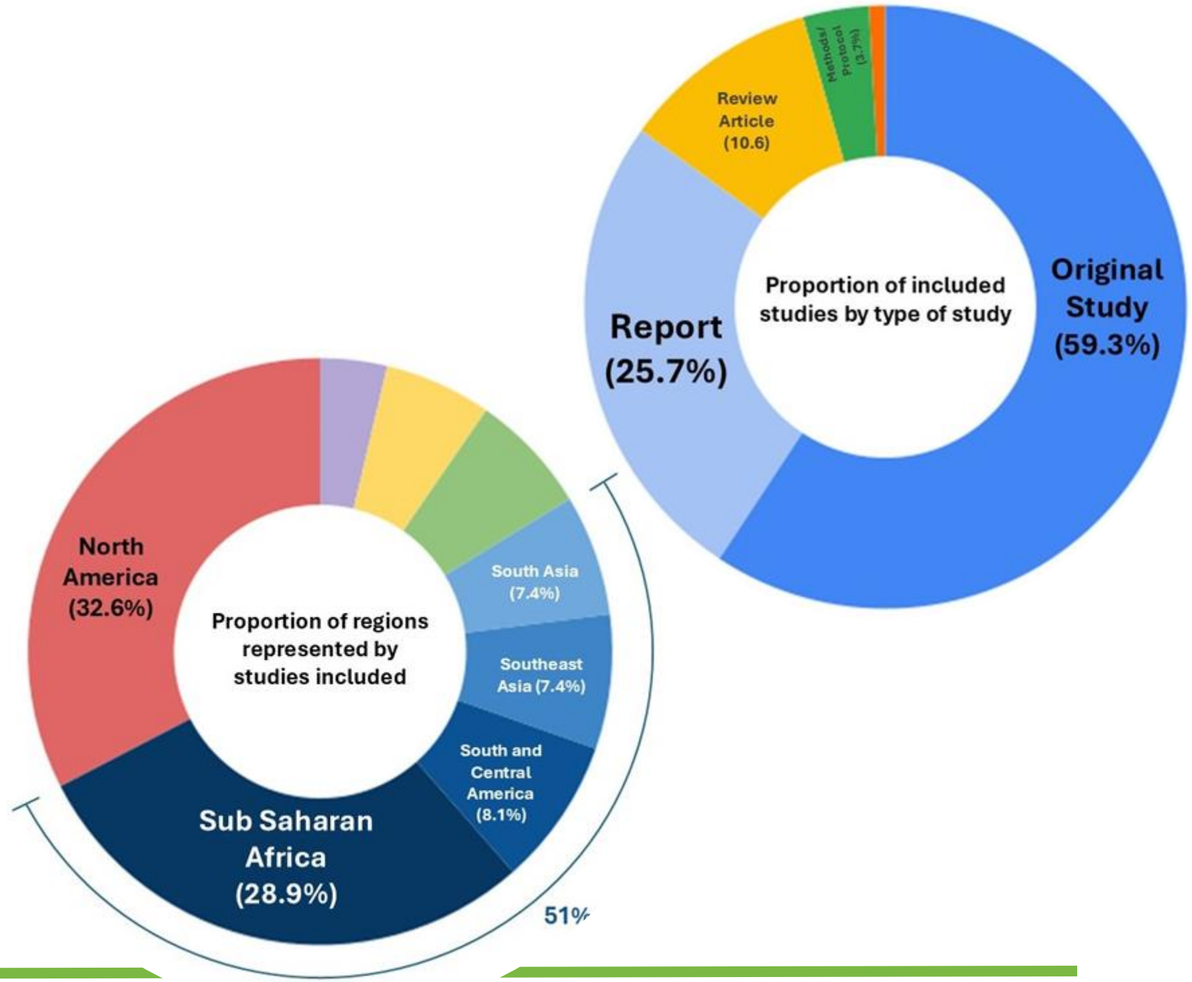
- Out of 1213 unique records reviewed, **113** were included in the study
- Majority of literature are **Original studies and Reports,** which are predominantly **case studies.**
- Most studies included come from **Sub saharan Africa, South and Central America, Southeast Asia, and South Asia** at a combined **(51%)**
- A large majority of innovations provide a **service**, while a minority provide products, push for policy, or sought to directly change health behaviors.



KII Summary

Category	Number of participants (n=15)
SIHI Global Network (network of universities/researchers)	6
SIHI Partners (government agencies, development agencies)	2
International Innovators/Implementers identified by SIHI Network	1
Filipino Innovators/Implementers identified by SIHI Philippines	4
Partner academician/researcher of SIHI Philippines	2

Their fields of expertise include social development, community engagement, health equity, implementation research, medical anthropology, global health, and health systems.
Participants work as researchers, innovators, and academicians, with some doing NGO and development work.

Thematic Analysis

THEME 1: HEALTH EQUITY CONCEPTS AND FACTORS

- Health equity definition
- Socioeconomic and political context
- Socioeconomic position
- Intermediary determinants
- Health system factors
- Social cohesion

THEME 2: SOCIAL INNOVATION CHARACTERISTICS

- Addressing a health equity issue
- Engagement
- People and community centered
- Holistic/comprehensive approach
- Context specific
- Multisectoral
- Technical soundness and feasibility
- Novelty
- Organizational capacity

THEME 3: SOCIAL MECHANISMS

- Addressing power dynamics
- Addressing social determinants
- Ownership
- Empowerment
- Systems change
- Integration

THEME 4: IMPLEMENTATION OUTCOMES

- Affordability
- Accessibility
- Availability
- Acceptability
- Utilization
- Quality of care
- KAP/behavioral changes
- Innovation specific indicators

THEME 5: HEALTH AND DEVELOPMENT OUTCOMES AND IMPACT

- Health outcomes and impacts
- Development outcomes and impacts
- Quality of life
- Unintended negative outcomes

THEME 6: INCLUSION and SUSTAINABILITY

- Sustainability
- Process inclusion
- Outcome inclusion

THEME 7: MEASURING SIH OUTCOMES AND EQUITY

- Tracking disparities and inclusion
- Innovation TOC or logic model
- Target health indicators
- Mixed methods
- Community-valued indicators

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Institute of Clinical Epidemiology

UP NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH MANILA

Initial Prototype Tool Kit

Part	Purpose	Features/Details
Part 1: General Information and Review of Logic Model	Get a general overview of the innovation and understand the context that it is being applied to	• Five (5) General information questions • Nine (9) sets of questions and probes to construct the logic model
Part 2: Scorecard	Score the innovation on four domains to find where the innovation is strong in and where it can be improved	• 145 criteria spread across the four domains • Scoring system of a maximum 5 points per criteria • Performance indicator based on average score per subdomain
Part 3: FGD with End Users and Other Stakeholders	Gather the perspectives of the different stakeholders and end-users involved in the innovation to understand how the innovation affected them and their community	• Questionnaire containing nine (9) core questions with optional probes
Part 4: Synthesis and Recommendations	Summarize the findings of the evaluation and form recommendations to further improve the innovation	• Eight (8) synthesis questions and four (4) recommendation questions

Tool Development Summary

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Activity	Quantitative Results	Comments
Delphi Method	Round 1 • Retained 181 items out of 186 *based on computed IQR* Round 2 • Retained 127 items out of 127 *based on percentage of yes/no votes (66% cut off)*	• Promising tool with valuable equity focus • Comprehensive • Laborious and time-consuming to complete • Technical and jargon-heavy • Applicability of items depend on innovation stage
Tool Development Workshop	N/A	• Comprehensive and theoretically rigorous • Clear equity focus • Repetitive structure/items • Still complex (scoring) and jargon-heavy
Content Validation	• 141 total items • All items received >50% responses judging them as relevant	• Tool needs to focus more on the people working on innovation • Questions need to be less open-ended (for FGD)
Pre-Test	In progress, 11 responses so far	• Some questions need to be more specific/provide definitions

Part 2: Scorecard

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Domain 1	Domain 2	Domain 3	Domain 4
Social Innovation Characteristics and Mechanisms	Implementation Outcomes	Health and Development Impact	Health Equity Gains and Sustainability
Equity-centered and Holistic	Accessibility of Services and Resources	Health Outcomes and Impact	Access Equity
People- and Community-centered Design	Utilization of Services	Development Outcomes and Impact	Outcome Equity
Context Responsiveness / Local Adaptation	Acceptability and Quality	Quality of Life	Empowerment and Agency
Engagement and Co-creation	Knowledge and Behavioral Change	Unintented Negative Outcomes	Structural Change
Innovativeness and Technical Rigor			Sustainability
Organizational Capacity			
Addressing Power Dynamics			

Examples of Social Innovations in Health

- **Inter-Island Health Service Boat Project *(Zumarraga, Samar)***

An integrated boat referral system that connects remote village health centers to the municipality's main birthing facility.

EXAMPLE OF SOCIAL INNOVATION FROM THE PHILIPPINES

INTER-ISLAND HEALTH SERVICE BOAT PROJECT

CHALLENGE: In Zumarraga Island, Samar, transporting high risk pregnant women to an accredited birthing facility is challenging due to the lack of circumferential roads.

SOLUTION: The Inter-Island Health Service Boat Project, which serves as a sea ambulance or boat referral system.

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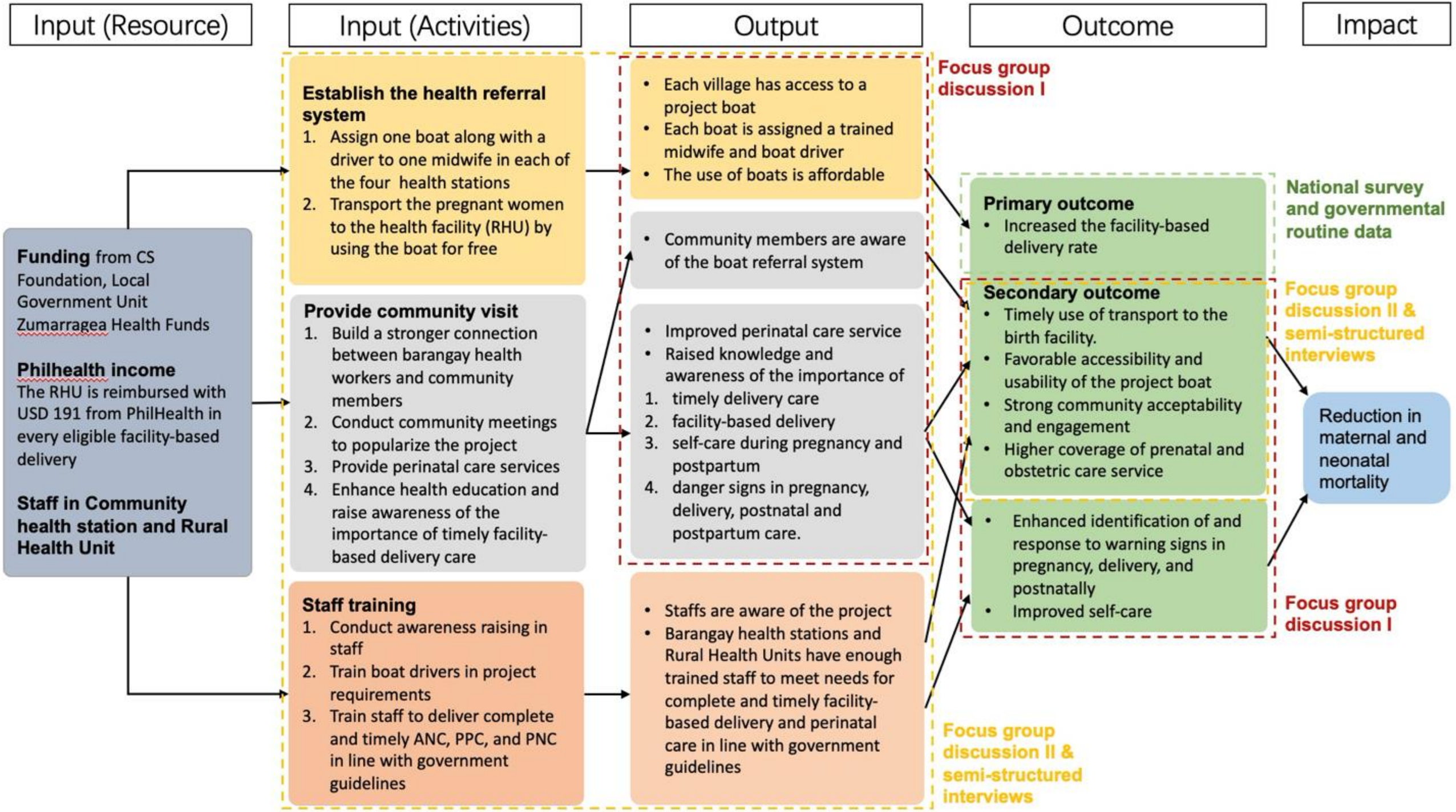
IMPACT

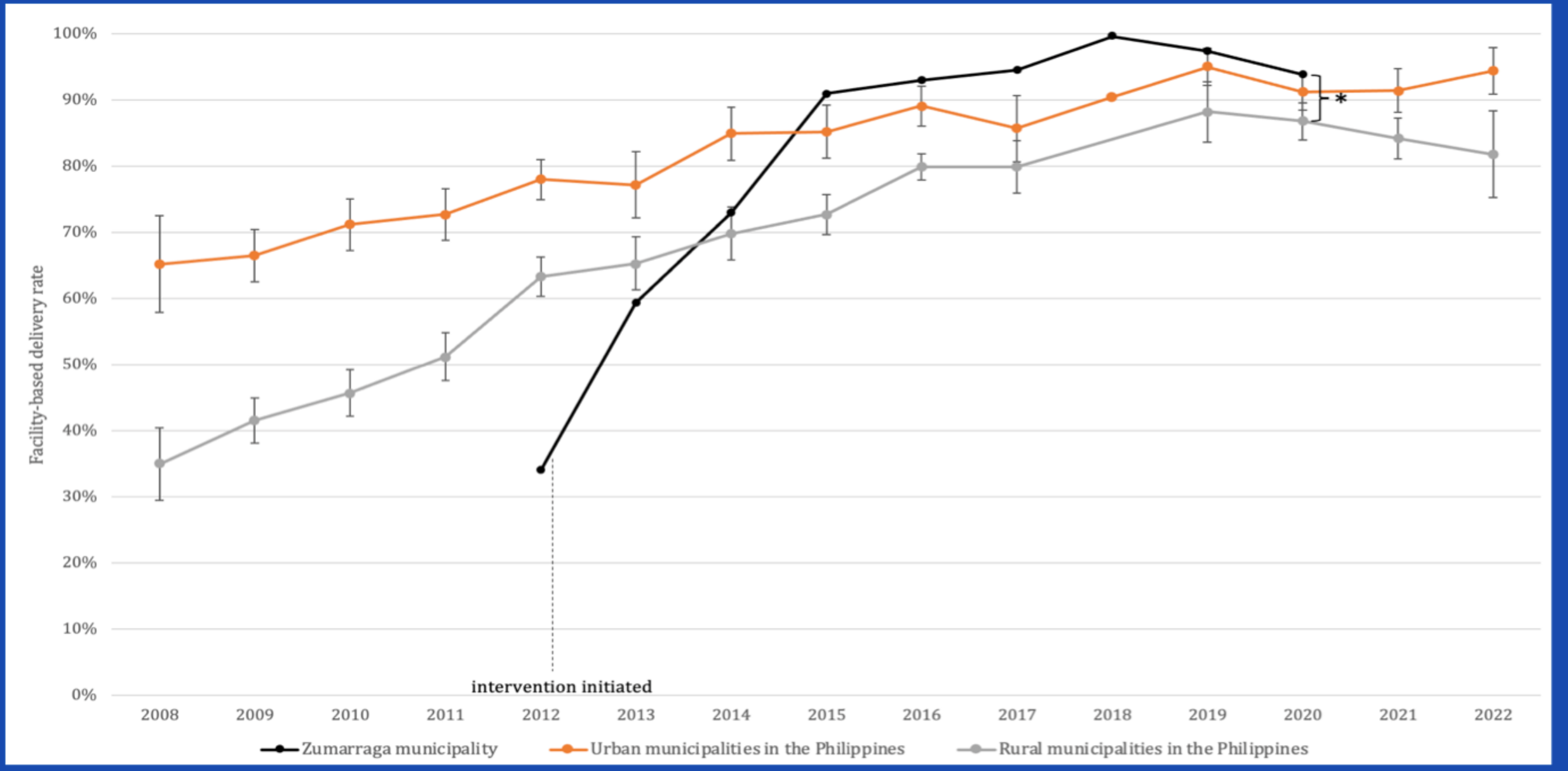
Facility-based deliveries increased **from 20% in 2013 to 90% in 2015.**

The facility **earned over 1 M Php (approximately USD 20,000)** worth of reimbursements from the country's social health insurance, which is used to sustain the project.

The facility was **awarded by the Department of Health** for exemplary MNCHN accomplishments.

Source: https://socialinnovationinhealth.org/case-studies/inter-island-health-service-boat-project/


Input (Resource)
Input (Activities)
Output
Outcome
Impact
Funding from CS Foundation, Local Government Unit Zumarragea Health Funds
Philhealth income
The RHU is reimbursed with USD 191 from PhilHealth in every eligible facility-based delivery
Staff in Community health station and Rural Health Unit
Establish the health referral system
1. Assign one boat along with a driver to one midwife in each of the four health stations
2. Transport the pregnant women to the health facility (RHU) by using the boat for free
Provide community visit
1. Build a stronger connection between barangay health workers and community members
2. Conduct community meetings to popularize the project
3. Provide perinatal care services
4. Enhance health education and raise awareness of the importance of timely facility-based delivery care
Staff training
1. Conduct awareness raising in staff
2. Train boat drivers in project requirements
3. Train staff to deliver complete and timely ANC, PPC, and PNC in line with government guidelines
Each village has access to a project boat
Each boat is assigned a trained midwife and boat driver
The use of boats is affordable
Community members are aware of the boat referral system
Improved perinatal care service
Raised knowledge and awareness of the importance of
1. timely delivery care
2. facility-based delivery
3. self-care during pregnancy and postpartum
4. danger signs in pregnancy, delivery, postnatal and postpartum care.
Staffs are aware of the project
Barangay health stations and Rural Health Units have enough trained staff to meet needs for complete and timely facility-based delivery and perinatal care in line with government guidelines
Focus group discussion I
Primary outcome
Increased the facility-based delivery rate
National survey and governmental routine data
Secondary outcome
Timely use of transport to the birth facility.
Favorable accessibility and usability of the project boat
Strong community acceptability and engagement
Higher coverage of prenatal and obstetric care service
Focus group discussion II & semi-structured interviews
Enhanced identification of and response to warning signs in pregnancy, delivery, and postnatally
Improved self-care
Focus group discussion I
Reduction in maternal and neonatal mortality
Focus group discussion II & semi-structured interviews



Trend of institutional delivery rate in Zumarraga Municipality compared to the urban and other rural municipalities in the Philippines

SCORECARD

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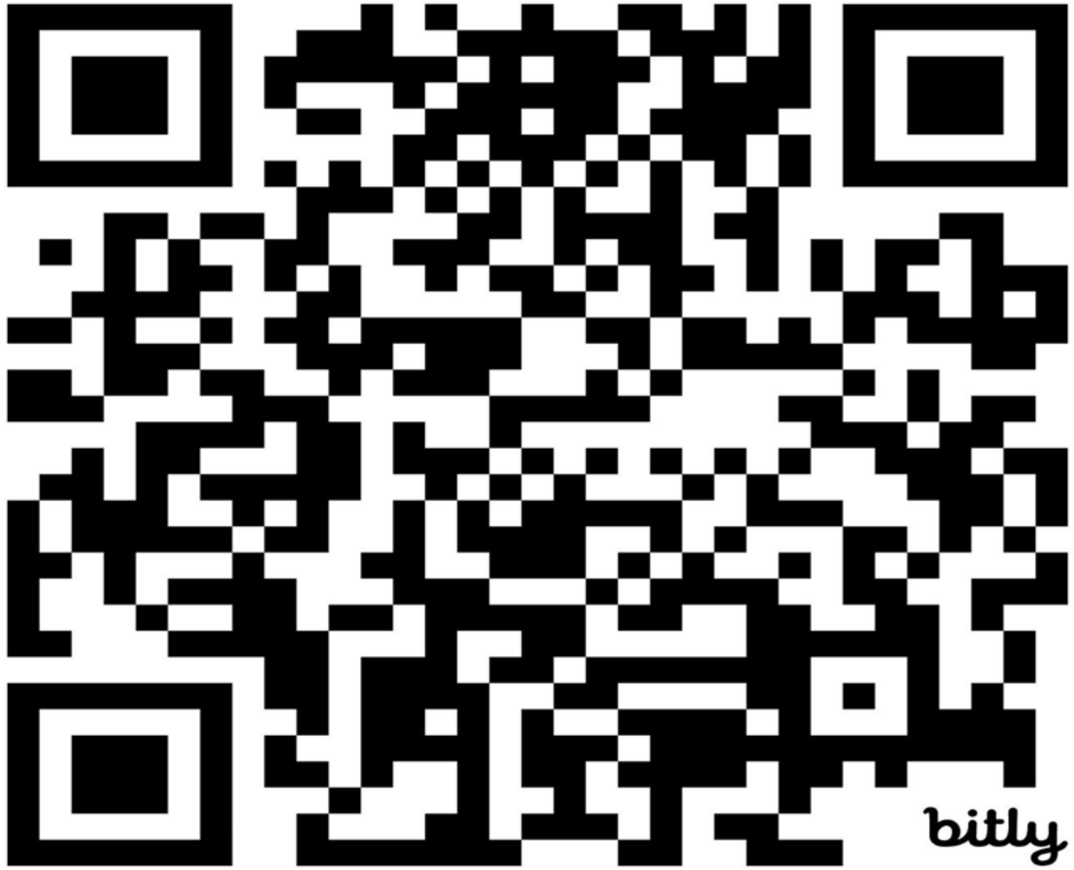

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CASE

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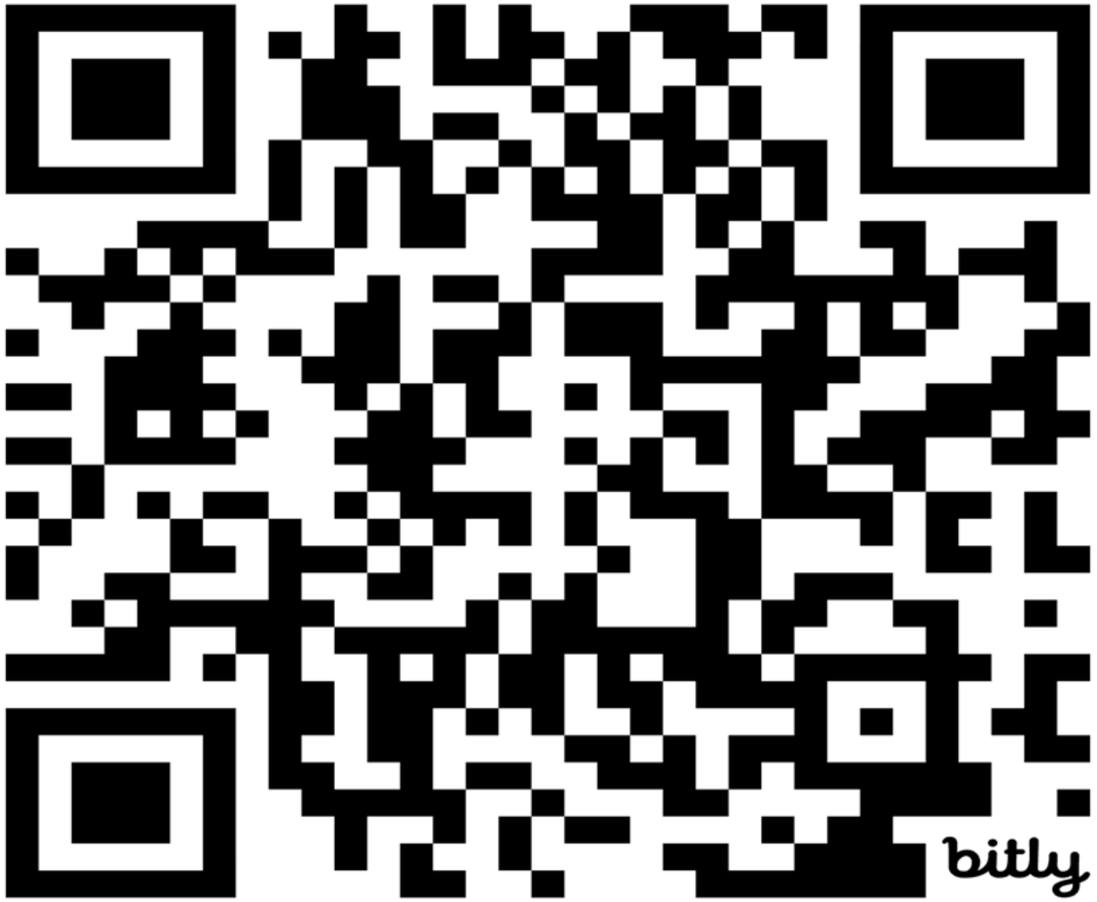

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QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION

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1. **Ease of Use:** How easy or challenging was it to understand and apply the different domains and scoring rubrics of the tool?
2. **Usefulness in Decision-Making:** Could this scorecard inform your planning, program design, strategic adjustments, or funding decisions? Where might this tool help you identify equity blind spots in your current work?
3. **Equity Lens:** How effectively does the tool highlight hidden or structural inequities—such as root causes, power imbalances, and access barriers?
4. **Measuring Reduction in Disparities:** Do you think the tool can help determine whether your innovation is reducing health outcome disparities between groups? Which elements of the tool strengthen the ability to measure disparities?

5. Forward-Looking Questions (Equity Maturity): *After using the tool, where do you think your innovation sits on the "equity maturity" continuum—from equity-blind to equity-transformative?*

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THANK YOU

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