



Duke University

The Social Entrepreneurship Accelerator at Duke (SEAD)

Connecting to Accelerate Global Development

The Higher Education Solutions Network (HESN) is a partnership between USAID and seven world-class universities to create a constellation of Development Labs. This network harnesses the ingenuity and passion of university students, researchers, faculty, and their innovative partners to incubate, catalyze and scale science and tech-based solutions to the world's most challenging development problems.

Through support to the university-led Development Labs, HESN taps into a global pool of expertise to accelerate innovation through the discovery, creation, testing and scaling of efficient, cost-effective, accessible and sustainable solutions to global development challenges.



With \$137 million over five years from USAID, and leveraging nearly equal investments from the institutions, the universities form a collaborative and vibrant network that extends beyond 100 partner institutions in academia, civil society and government across 38 countries.

The Challenge

How do we connect social entrepreneurs to capital and capacity development that helps them accelerate their development impact in global health? How do we support and mentor innovators in their journey to overcome these obstacles?

The Innovative Approach

SEAD is an interdisciplinary hub leveraging the strengths of the International Partnership for Innovative Healthcare Delivery at Duke Medicine, the Center for the Advancement for Social Entrepreneurship at the Fuqua School of Business, and the Duke Global Health Institute, in collaboration with Investors' Circle. SEAD takes an ecosystem approach to provide innovators in global health with the knowledge, systems, and networks to succeed and to engage faculty and students in advancing the field.



SEAD identifies such innovators or “social entrepreneurs” around the world whose who have found potentially transformative ways to solve common challenges in global health. SEAD helps them extend their impact to a larger scale. That includes capacity-building, mentoring, technical assistance, and help in attracting investment and funding.

Since joining the Higher Education Solutions Networks in November 2012, SEAD has initiated support to a first cohort of 13 social entrepreneurs in the midst of scaling their already successful enterprises. Innovators are overcoming a lack of infrastructure to deliver services in sub-Saharan Africa, where Riders for Health mobilizes community health workers on motorcycles and We Care Solar provides power with a “Solar Suitcase.”



Innovators are using mobile and web technology to increase access to health care and cut costs. Sproxil in Africa, India, and the U.S. helps detect counterfeit medicine with a phone-in code. In Pakistan, Heartfile facilitates donations to cover individuals’

specific urgent medical needs via a highly transparent web platform, while Naya Jeevan provides micro-insurance underwritten by major insurers and 24-hour phone consultations. Grameen Foundation uses mobile services to inform pregnant mothers and track infant care in Ghana. Pregnant women get help paying for health costs with pre-paid smart cards from Changamka and mobile savings from Jacaranda Health. ClickMedix facilitates phone referrals or “tele-triage” in several countries, including the U.S.

In India, Vaatsalya focuses on specific acute services and underserved semi-rural populations. In Kenya, Penda Health builds health centers in populous industrial areas. Operation ASHA is fighting drug-resistant tuberculosis in India and Cambodia with non-medical counselors and e-compliance platforms to ensure adherence to treatment. Sala Uno in Mexico provides efficient eye care, cutting costs by up to a half.

For more information

www.usaid.gov/hesn • www.dukesead.org • facebook.com/DukeSEAD • twitter.com/DukeSEAD