



Our Year in Review: GSDI Reflects on 2019

The Global Social Development Innovations (GSDI), in collaboration with local stakeholders, creates interventions to build knowledge and produce evidence that will shape policy to improve the lives of marginalized populations globally. We use rigorous methods and evidence-building models to better understand what works for the marginalized populations and communities we serve.

We work closely with in-country partners because our experience has taught us that collaboration throughout the research process produces far-reaching solutions and policies for vulnerable populations. Capacity building is a central pillar of our partnership model because it fosters local leadership and ownership and becomes pivotal during the scaling of promising innovations.

[Visit our Website](#)

We have generated more evidence on youth unemployment.



In South Africa, we worked with 2,000 youth who are not in employment, education or training (NEET) to improve their employment outcomes. The Siyakha Youth Assets project, a nationwide 5-year youth employment, cluster-randomized, longitudinal research project examined the impacts of skills training and financial inclusion programs on employability. The study results show that 28% of the youth retained employment after two years of completing the program, and 17% moved on to pursue further education. GSDI conducted this project in collaboration with the Center for Social Development in Africa at the University of Johannesburg.

We created stronger alliances to drive impact.

We built a consortium to address youth employment in Kenya with Kenyatta University, Generation Kenya, and RTI International. This consortium aims to foster integration and knowledge sharing with workforce development practitioners, researchers, and decision-makers in the East African region. The consortium will provide evidence on best practices and impacts of interventions, and a forum for knowledge exchange and information dissemination. We expect these efforts to accelerate youth employment in Kenya, foster greater coordination of practice efforts, and support more extensive dissemination of knowledge to key stakeholders to inform policy.



We worked at the grassroots to intervene

in intractable social issues.



We are working in 20 schools in Ahmednagar, a district in rural India, to increase school attendance for girls, improve knowledge of sexual and reproductive health, cultivate leadership, and decrease gender-based violence. To date, 1,600 girls and boys have received training and we will continue to track impacts of the intervention through 2020. GSDI is conducting this work in partnership with the Center for Studies in Rural Development (CSR), the Institute of Social Work and Research (ISSR) and the Ministry of Education in Ahmednagar.

We improved learning by testing solutions to prepare for scaling.

We worked with 120 adolescent girls and boys to test the effects on socio-emotional training and financial skills on HIV treatment adherence and retention in care. In collaboration with Rising Fountains Development Programme, Chipata Central Hospital, and Lundazi District Hospital, adolescents received skills training and their very first savings accounts from Zanaco. A larger experimental study is being planned in 2020.



Where We Are Going in 2020:

- We will continue working with governments in our partner countries to inform policy.
- We will increase our engagement with stakeholders to support the scaling of innovations in our partner countries and beyond.
- We will develop more capacity building opportunities to serve the community of innovators involved in promoting the well-being of marginalized populations and communities.
- We will continue to strengthen our partnerships with GSDI implementing partners, research partners, and funders; Our collaborators continue to be our greatest asset.
- We will leverage the GSDI 2020 Symposium to consolidate regional social development strategies.

As we begin a new decade, we are taking time to reflect on where we have been and where we are going. We want to take stock and be very purposeful about GSDI's impact in the next 10 years. The voices of our partners will be valuable in shaping an ambitious plan for the future. We look forward to hearing feedback from everyone who is affiliated with GSDI. Our vision and resolve are stronger than ever!