CCIH
Christian Connections for International Health

2024 IMPACT REPORT

Advancing health and wholeness.

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In 2024, CCIH held its first Regional Meeting in Kenya, focusing on mental health and faith actors.

Foreword

Friends,

2024 was a year of firsts for CCIH. We launched new initiatives and embraced an exciting new chapter in **how we gather as a global network**.

We made significant progress in raising the visibility of faith-based health care, laying the groundwork for better measurement and increased inclusion of faith-based organizations (FBOs) in global health programs with the launch of a **new data hub** and the continued growth and demonstrated impact of the **CCIH 30x30 Health Systems Strengthening Initiative**.

A few years ago, when we were confined to meet virtually due to the pandemic, we reassessed our global gathering strategy and transitioned our annual conference to a biennial model, with regional gatherings held in alternate years.

We saw this strategy come to life in May 2024 at our **first Regional Meeting** in Limuru, Kenya. We surpassed our goal for engagement and participation and heard from attendees that the experience was **transformative**, equipping them to address pressing health challenges in their communities.

CCIH strengthened our global connections in 2024, formalizing relationships with other faith-based networks and welcoming new members from Asia and Africa. Our **Small Grants program** supported 17 members in building organizational capacity in areas such as leadership and governance, accountability, finance, communications, and faith identity. We also developed tools to help members strengthen their work and contributed to the evidence base for faith-based care through peer-reviewed publications.

Continuing our commitment to capacity building, we held our **second Virtual Learning Institute**, this time focusing on securing funding from private sector sources. The response was overwhelmingly positive, and we look forward to building on this momentum.

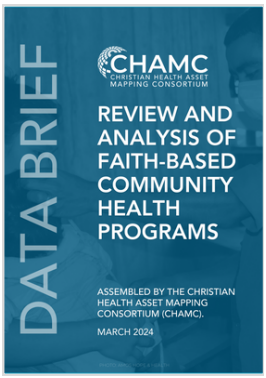
As I write this in early 2025, global health and development actors face extreme challenges, including faith-based organizations and the people they serve. **Yet, even amid these struggles, I remain hopeful.** Our roots run deep: Christian health care began with the healing ministry of Jesus, and caring for others has always been at the heart of the Church's mission. From that foundation, we will continue to learn, grow, and serve together.

In partnership,

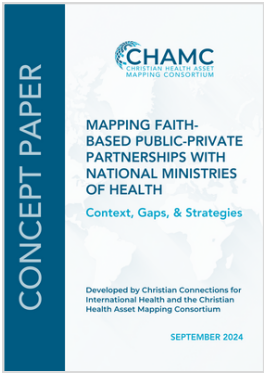
Doug Fountain
CCIH Executive Director

Data and Mapping: Telling the Story of Christian Health Work

There is a long-time need for quality data and information on Christian health efforts in low- and middle-income countries. CCIH serves as the secretariat for the Christian Health Asset Mapping Consortium (CHAMC), a coalition of organizations formed to address this need. In 2024, CHAMC launched a **virtual hub** that serves as a collection of datasets. It enables CHAMC partners and other faith actors to provide information about health asset datasets in a structured, secure, and consistent format. **Two analyses** were released that explore additional aspects of faith-based health initiatives:



Faith-Based Community Health Programs highlights the critical role of community health programs in delivering healthcare to underserved communities and the importance of community health workers who support them. The report uncovered more than 200 community health programs operating in over 25 countries. It helps build knowledge on lesser-known Christian health assets.



Mapping the FB Public-Private Partnership examines the substantial contributions faith-based organizations make to healthcare, identifies data gaps that hinder their effective integration into health planning, and proposes a framework to improve data collection and classification, thereby supporting a more comprehensive approach to health system planning.

Advocating for Global Health and the Work of Faith Groups

CCIH continued to serve as a voice for U.S. policymakers and administration officials in support of global health and the work of faith-based actors. **In 2024, we:**

Led a Faith Community Letter gaining **92** endorsements, including 33 organizations, in support of PEPFAR, which we shared with U.S. Senate and House Foreign Relations leaders.

Participated in 30 sign-on letters in support of global health.

Worked with partners to coordinate a **Malaria Day event** on Capitol Hill attended by multiple congressional offices. CCIH Executive Director Doug Fountain spoke at the event, and we shared a video featuring the malaria work of CCIH member Isaiah 58 Care Foundation in Nigeria.

CCIH submitted comments on the **USAID Global Health Development Policy**.

Research and Evidence-Building for Faith-Based Initiatives

CCIH continued our contributions to the evidence base on the effectiveness and reach of faith-based health efforts in 2024.

FIELD REPORT

CHRISTIAN JOURNAL GLOBAL HEALTH

Strengthening organizational capacity in Kenya, Malawi, and South Sudan

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Abstract

This reports on a US-AID-funded project which engages faith-based organizations to strengthen their organizational capacity as they implement reproductive, maternal, newborn, and child health grant activities. Implementing partners in Kenya, Malawi, and South Sudan completed the self-administered Organization Capacity Assessment and created corresponding action plans based on the assessment results. Each organization completed the priority activities that they identified in their action plans; strengthening staff capacity, sharpening monitoring and evaluation systems; and improving information systems. We conclude that grantmakers' investment in strengthening the organizational capacity of their implementing partners results in the grantees having improved internal systems and being better positioned to obtain and execute future grant opportunities.

Keywords: FBO, capacity assessment, Kenya, Malawi, South Sudan, CCIH, CHAK, CHAM, Organization for People's Empowerment and Needs

The Strengthening Community Health Outcomes through Positive Engagement (SCOPE) Project, funded by The United States Agency for International Development (USAID), is a five-year project aimed at reducing preventable maternal and child mortality and mortality in Haiti, Kenya, Malawi, and South Sudan. World Relief (WR) is the prime grantee for the SCOPE Project from 2019-2024. WR selected Christian Connections for International Health (CCIH) as a subgrantee to identify and monitor local partners in three SCOPE countries to work with private, faith-based organizations to promote SCOPE's vision and goals during the first three years of the project. CCIH sub-partnered with the Christian Health Association of Kenya (CHAK), the Christian Health Association of Malawi (CHAM), and the Organization for Peoples' Empowerment and Needs (OPEN) to implement this work in Kenya, Malawi, and South Sudan, respectively. This article highlights CCIH's role in mobilizing and supporting the partners to conduct project activities and strengthen internal organizational capacity.

The SCOPE project is part of USAID's New Partnerships Initiative (NPI) to engage new and non-traditional partners. Through NPI, USAID is working to lower the barriers to engagement

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Organizational Capacity Strengthening

CCIH and partners, the Christian Health Association of Kenya, Christian Health Association of Malawi, and OPEN in South Sudan, published an article in the Christian Journal for Global Health on *Strengthening Organizational Capacity in Kenya, Malawi, and South Sudan*, sharing results from a USAID-funded project that strengthened FBOs' capacity to implement reproductive, maternal, newborn, and child health activities.

Faith Engagement Typology

CCIH served as the Faith Engagement Team for the formerly USAID-funded MOMENTUM Country and Global Leadership project. The team initiated a study to inform future global health investments and contribute to the development of a standard language across all faith-based programming in global health. The study, based on survey responses, identifies and defines the diverse ways faith is integrated into health initiatives.

Faith Engagement Typologies, version 1.1

1. Create space for discussion of theological interpretations in health ethics and actions
a. Promote understanding and dialogue on the role of theology and ethics in health
b. Incorporate prayer and spiritual practices (e.g. Chaplaincy)

2. Increase just and equitable access for underserved populations
a. Develop disease-specific programs
b. Distribute services to underserved geographies
c. Ensure access for underserved population/demographic groups

3. Provide a range of health-related services in faith-based environments
a. Provide community-based health promotion and care
b. Provide facility-based health services
c. Provide health programs at places of worship/prayer (activities, teaching, services)
d. Provide multi-sectoral or wrap-around services (livelihoods, nutrition, education)

4. Commit to program sustainability
a. Commit to long-term service beyond program lifecycles
b. Provide organization capacity development opportunities

5. Respond quickly in times of crisis or difficulty
a. Provide services in humanitarian settings
b. Solicit or deploy volunteers and product donations

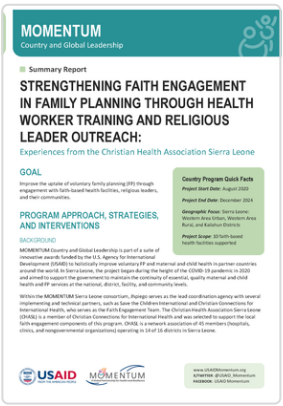
6. Shift power to local actors
a. Advocate for local priorities in public policy and planning
b. Ensure the active participation and involvement of local faith actors in decision-making

7. Increase the quantity and technical rigor of faith actors and engagements
a. Provide health worker training and mentorship
b. Integrate mental, social, spiritual and/or physical health

8. Build awareness and community sensitization
a. Facilitating open conversations and fostering acceptance within communities
b. Dismantle stigma and discrimination that marginalize individuals and communities

9. Influence social and behavior change for positive health
a. Support health-promoting behavior change, positive community attitudes, beliefs, and
b. Promote peace-building among people and communities
c. Support freedom of religion and religious expression

10. Foster community health systems and networks
a. Strengthen networks of health facilities and community health providers
b. Promote referral networks


MOMENTUM
Country and Global Leadership

Summary Report

STRENGTHENING FAITH ENGAGEMENT IN FAMILY PLANNING THROUGH HEALTH WORKER TRAINING AND RELIGIOUS LEADER OUTREACH:

Experiences from the Christian Health Association Sierra Leone

GOAL

Improve the uptake of voluntary family planning (FP) through engagement with faith-based health facilities, religious leaders, and their communities.

Country Program Quick Facts

Project Start Date: August 2020

Project End Date: December 2024

Geographic Focus: Sierra Leone: Western Area Urban, Western Area Rural, and Kailahun District

Project Scope: 10 faith-based health facilities supported

PROGRAM APPROACH, STRATEGIES, AND INTERVENTIONS

BACKGROUND

MOMENTUM Country and Global Leadership is part of a suite of innovative awards funded by the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) to historically improve voluntary FP and maternal and child health in partner countries around the world. In Sierra Leone, the project began during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020 and aimed to support the retention of maternal health, the continuity of essential, quality maternal and child health and FP services at the national, district, facility, and community levels.

Within the MOMENTUM Sierra Leone consortium, *Dujiaga* serves as the lead coordination agency with several implementing and technical partners, such as Save the Children International and Christian Connections for International Health, who serves as the Faith Engagement Team. The Christian Health Association Sierra Leone (CHASL) is a member of Christian Connections for International Health and was selected to support the local faith engagement components of this program. CHASL is a network association of 45 members (hospitals, clinics, and nongovernmental organizations) operating in 14 of 16 districts in Sierra Leone.

USAID MOMENTUM

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Strengthening Faith Engagement in Family Planning through Health Worker Training and Religious Leader Outreach

This report shares key recommendations learned from the experiences of the Christian Health Association Sierra Leone in improving the uptake of voluntary family planning through engagement with faith-based health facilities, religious leaders, and their communities through the MOMENTUM Country and Global Leadership project.

In addition, CCIH added 25 new resources to our indexed **Resource Library**.

Outreach to the Broader Global Health Community

CCIH lifts up faith-based health efforts in a variety of global forums to raise awareness of the high-quality and far-reaching work faith actors do. **In 2024, CCIH:**

Made **15** presentations at global events in the U.S., Africa, and Asia on faith-based health work, including **Health Systems Strengthening** and the **30x30 Health Systems Initiative**.

Served on the **World Health Organization (WHO) Faith Network**, sharing the perspective of our members.

Facilitated presentations and discussions with partners from the **Asia Pacific** region during the Interfaith Action to Drive Progress on FP2030 Commitments event in Cambodia.

Led sessions on the Family Planning Sermon Guide and the High-Impact Practices (HIP) Strategic Planning Guide.

Partnered with the **Africa Christian Health Associations Platform** (ACHAP) to present at the Core Group meeting on strategies to engage African network organizations in addressing vaccine hesitancy and in scaling water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) and infection prevention and control (IPC) technical capacity in faith-based health care facilities.

Continued our work as the co-chair of the **Faith Subcommittee for the International Conference on Family Planning (ICFP)**.

Presented on how to engage faith actors as essential change agents in **maternal mental health** at the **International Conference on Maternal Mental Health in Africa** (ICAMMHA) in Zimbabwe.

CORE Group 2024 Global Health Practitioners Conference
Ruth Kayima, World Renew and Mona Bormet, CCIH

Capacity Building

Small Grants Program: Organizational Capacity Building

Thanks to our Small Grants Program, CCIH helped **17 of our members** build organizational capacity in areas such as leadership and governance, accountability, finance, internal and external communications, and faith identity in 2024.

For example, the Association Évangélique pour la Santé au Tchad (AEST) conducted a self-assessment using the CCIH Organization Capacity Assessment (OCA), revealing room for growth in communications and fundraising. With the help of a CCIH small grant, AEST was able to support staff time to post stories of its achievements on social media and invest time in media relations. As a result of this outreach, AEST Program Manager Mogode Judith appeared on a national morning talk show in Chad to discuss the organization's health work.

"We have seen many positive effects from the increased visibility from the enhanced social media presence and greater brand awareness. People in the community understand our work in health and how we have improved their well-being, and they are grateful."
Géovanie Kamtar, Head of Communications for Association Évangélique pour la Santé au Tchad (AEST), CCIH Small Grants Grantee

Kupenda for the Children, Kilifi County in Kenya, and other organizations collaborated in December 2024 to commemorate the International Day of Persons with Disabilities.

Kupenda for the Children received a CCIH Small Grant to equip community leaders to improve the lives of an estimated **1,152 children with disabilities** in Kilifi, Kenya. Through the grant, Kupenda facilitated **eight training sessions** on disability and counseling skills, equipping **128 local leaders** to be more effective disability advocates. Margaret, the mother of a child with cerebral palsy, was greatly impacted by the training. She struggled with feelings of guilt over her child's disability and her inability to help him. After the training, she took her son to physical therapy, enabling him to sit and crawl for the first time.

Margaret was so moved by her son's progress and her own transformation that she began supporting other parents and caregivers in her community, gathering them to form a parent support group.

> **Margaret said:** "Thank you [Kupenda]... I have become an advocate for my child and many others with disabilities in my community."

You can learn more about the grants in these impact stories from Bangladesh, Chad, and Zimbabwe.

30 × 30 CCIH HEALTH SYSTEMS INITIATIVE

In 2024, CCIH conducted a midterm evaluation of the CCIH 30×30 Health Systems Initiative. The program was launched in 2019 with the ambitious goal of strengthening 30 health systems through faith-based health services by 2030. Over the first five years, the program secured **46 commitments** in over **40 countries**. The midterm evaluation assessed progress and identified gaps and challenges, which will help CCIH make necessary mid-course adjustments.

The midterm evaluation highlighted the program's significant impact on individuals, households, local church partners, and other stakeholders and provided recommendations to strengthen the initiative.

Reached more than **6 million** individuals through commitment maker health programs.

Supported **11,000** institutions on a wide range of technical activities.

Involved nearly **4,500** church groups in health-related activities.

See a Summary of the Midterm Evaluation.

To lift the profile of faith-based health actors, CCIH staff shared these impressive results with the public health community at the **American Public Health Association** (APHA) annual meeting and with health systems strengthening experts at the **Health Systems Research (HSR) Global Symposium**. CCIH also raised over **$10,000** to support the initiative's work in our 2024 end-of-year campaign.

Capacity Building through Tools and Training

Private Sector Business Development Training

CCIH held its second annual **Virtual Learning Institute** in 2024, training **94 people** from **23 countries** on business development, with a focus on private funding this year. The three sessions covered how to evaluate and understand an organization's value and write a value proposition, equipping participants to write winning proposals and find new supporters.

> "In carrying out my duties, I was very concerned about the need to master drafting a concept note. Thanks to this training, I am now capable of doing this. Thanks to the organizers." **2024 Virtual Learning Institute Participant**

Faith Consortium for Climate Resilient Health (Faith4CRH)

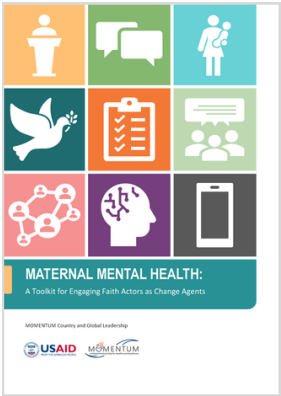
FAITH CONSORTIUM
FOR
CLIMATE RESILIENT HEALTH

CCIH launched the Faith Consortium for Climate-Resilient Health (Faith4CRH) in 2024 to increase climate resilience among faith-based health partners in low and middle-income countries (LMICs). **Seven CCIH partners** joined together to form the consortium, including Corus International, Église Méthodiste Du Togo, Kupenda for the Children, Mennonite Central Committee, Providence Health's Global Programs, World Relief, and World Renew. Faith4CRH issued an Action Statement outlining its approach to climate adaptation and goals.

See the Action Statement.

New Tools for Faith Actors and Partners

CCIH develops tools to help faith actors and supporting partners engage with faith communities to optimize health. Key tools released in **2024** include:



Maternal Mental Health Toolkit

The Maternal Mental Health Toolkit includes tools to help faith actors promote maternal wellness, contains information to reduce misinformation, and shares faith-based guidance on how to support perinatal girls and women suffering from maternal mental health conditions. CCIH also trained 38 staff and partners of a CCIH member on maternal mental health and how to use the toolkit.

Vaccine Toolkit Implementation Guide

The Vaccine Toolkit Implementation Guide highlights key factors for the successful implementation of "Promoting Vaccination: A Toolkit for Collaborating with Faith Communities," which equips faith actors and their partners with tools to raise awareness, counter misinformation, and address vaccination barriers.

Africa Inland Church, Tanzania
Staff Educates Expectant Mother

Connecting Christian Health Actors

Global Gatherings

First Regional Meeting

CCIH held our first Regional Meeting in May 2024 in Limuru, Kenya. Our theme was **Mental Health Matters: Speaking Up for Mental Health in Christian Communities**. The meeting was co-hosted by the Christian Health Association of Kenya (CHAK) and SIL, Anglo-Lusophone Africa.

It attracted **87 attendees** from **14 countries**, with plenty of room for interaction as **31 speakers** shared their work in mental health, ranging from services in health facilities to community-based programming, maternal mental health, support for caregivers, and how organizations can foster a supportive culture for staff mental health.

Attendees gave positive feedback, appreciating the opportunity to connect with faith leaders and other Christian health actors in their region who face similar challenges.

"Attending the CCIH meeting was a transformative experience. It allowed me to reflect on my current practices and identify areas for improvement. I feel more confident and motivated to apply what I have learned to my work." **Regional Meeting Attendee**

Virtual Gatherings

CCIH holds member forums and public webinars throughout the year. In 2024, we hosted **nine member forums** on topics ranging from how faith informs our care for others, adolescent sexual and reproductive health, academic partnerships, and more.

A special group of **Francophone speakers joined CCIH forums** on engaging religious leaders in health, sustainable health programs, and leadership and governance. We also launched a new monthly **forum for senior-level executives** to share ideas, encouragement, and challenges.

CCIH hosted **four public webinars** in 2024, covering topics such as the research findings on engaging religious leaders in family planning, the application of artificial intelligence in health, the launch of the new CCIH Climate Consortium, and equipping faith-based actors to promote good maternal mental health.

Strengthening Ties with Global Faith-Based Networks

CCIH deepened connections with global networks to facilitate partnerships and strengthen collaborations among faith-based actors, as well as with the broader global health community. **In 2024, CCIH:**

- Served on the **Steering Council** of the Faith to Action Network Steering Committee. Faith to Action Network is a Kenya-based organization working in health, equity, and peace in over 20 countries.
- Presented at the **International Partnership for Religion and Development (PaRD)** meeting and the G20 Interfaith Summit in Brazil.
- Sat on the **Steering Council** of the new Anglican Health and Communities Network to coordinate and strengthen Anglican health efforts.
- Hosted the **Christian Networks Dialogue**, an online discussion with multicountry Christian health networks.

New Members to the CCIH Network

In 2024, CCIH welcomed **17 new members**, including organizations in India, the Philippines, Nepal, six African nations, as well as academic institutions.

New CCIH Member, BUFMAR

Fostering Partnerships Among CCIH Members

In 2024, a CCIH connection led to a partnership between Restoring Vision and the Africa Christian Health Associations Platform (ACHAP), forming the Africa Clear Sight Partnership, which provided vision correction to **over one million people in Nigeria.**

Financial Summary

	2023	2024*
REVENUE	$1,897,687	$989,115
EXPENSES	$1,736,821	$1,211,202
NET INCOME	**$160,866**	**($222,087)**
TOTAL ASSETS	$711,572	$447,047
CURRENT LIABILITIES	$101,061	$57,302
NET ASSETS	**$610,511**	**$389,745**

*PRELIMINARY 2024 FINANCIAL DATA (UNAUDITED).

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