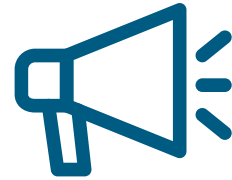


**Inspired by Faith. Committed to Evidence-based Practice.**

# 2021 Annual Report



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Christian Connections for International Health (CCIH) is a global network of organizations, individuals, and affiliates that unites the broad spectrum of Christians working in global health.

We help faith actors strengthen their capacity, advocate for faith-based health services, and provide a framework for networking and fellowship for Christians working in global health.

CCIH will reduce preventable death and promote health and wholeness for those most at risk by strengthening local Christian organizations and networks to respond to a changing environment and engaging faith leaders as partners to address complex health issues. CCIH draws all international partners together with a focus on that cause. Here are some highlights from 2021.



# 2021 Highlights

In 2021, CCIH developed new capacity strengthening tools for members and worked with partners to establish a consortium to address the urgent need for information about Christian health assets, which are often left out of planning by donors and governments.

We continued and expanded our work in Coaching and Collaboration, Advocacy for global health and faith-based health actors, providing new opportunities for Global Exchange, Strengthening Health Systems where Faith Actors Work, and Technical Excellence and Research.

Over the past few years, CCIH has solidified membership and adopted strict criteria to review and vet potential new members to ensure that we build the strongest foundation for effective global health partnerships. We always encourage new members to apply who are registered and who are committed to our shared mission and vision.

One way members engage is through five working groups that balance the needs of our global membership and create opportunities to raise issues and concerns in key areas, including:

- Community-based Prevention and Care
- Data and Mapping
- Health of Women and Children
- Integration of Faith and Health
- Leadership and Governance



# Coaching and Collaboration

To help members assess and strengthen organizational capacity, CCIH:

- Created organization capacity assessment (OCA) tools - including a Comprehensive OCA, an OCA network module, a faith-based capacity module, and an action plan template - to help members strengthen their organizational capacity to succeed in current endeavors and increase their ability to take on new opportunities.
- Worked with five local organizations to help them complete the OCA and develop corresponding action plans.
- Shared over 115 new funding opportunities with members.

CCIH partnered with 17 organizations in 11 countries in projects funded by USAID and other funders to **strengthen technical capacity in key health areas**. In 2021, CCIH:

- Worked with six partners in Africa and Asia to strengthen capacity in maternal and child health and family planning services.
- Provided technical assistance and overall capacity building in water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) to two CCIH members in Uganda and Ghana.
- Led six faith-based drug supply organizations in three countries in Africa through supply chain assessments, leadership development, and proposal development strengthening.
- Trained partners in Sierra Leone on Fertility Awareness Methods and engaging religious leaders in family planning.
- Provided technical and capacity development assistance to Ministries of Health and other country partners to improve outcomes for maternal, newborn, and child health, voluntary family planning, and reproductive health care.
- Leveraged the talent, commitment, influence, and connections of faith leaders to drive change and build support for family planning and HIV prevention in their communities and among policymakers.

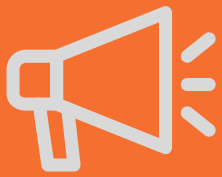


To strengthen **member capacity in communications**, CCIH:

- Produced a video tutorial on how to use social media to help members communicate about their work and impact with a wider audience.
- Conducted a communications training session for project partners.
- Developed two social media educational campaigns on COVID-19 vaccine for members and others to address vaccine hesitancy and misinformation.

To help members strengthen their ability to **advocate with policymakers and communities**, CCIH:

- Trained 32 partners from Kenya, Malawi, and South Sudan in techniques and best practices to advocate with local governments and communities about the need for strong health systems and the unique strength of faith-based health services.



# Advocacy for Faith-based Health Actors

**Telling the Story of Christian Health** | Christian organizations provide a substantial share of health services through health facilities, community-based programs, training institutions, drug distribution networks, and churches. Unfortunately, a lack of data about these facilities and programs leads to undercounting of Christian health assets and exclusion from planning, partnerships, funding, and research.

To address the urgent need for information about Christian health assets, CCIH worked with partners to establish the Christian Health Asset Mapping Consortium (CHAMC) in 2021, and hosted a launch of the consortium in January 2022. The CHAMC will increase resources, learning, and partnerships in Christian health services by improving understanding of the nature, scope, and location of those services.

CCIH works with global coalitions to influence policy that helps Christian health organizations and their partners serve people in need. We join with other faith-based organizations and global health partners in signing letters expressing support for helpful policy changes. In 2021, CCIH supported:

- Five sign-on letters to the U.S. Congress urging support for key foreign assistance positions within the U.S. Administration.
- Five sign-on letters supporting vaccine equity for COVID-19, and supporting additional funding to address COVID-19 and existing health programs.
- One sign-on letter to Congress urging support of legislation promoting USAID's New Partnerships Initiative to increase opportunities for local organizations.
- One sign-on letter to Congress supporting policy to encourage charitable giving to non-profit organizations.

CCIH builds relationships with U.S. congressional offices and other influential actors in the U.S. and Geneva, and across the globe. In 2021, CCIH:



- Engaged with more than 20 U.S. congressional offices about faith-based global health and to encourage support of COVID-19 financing.
- Worked with partners on two congressional events highlighting the importance of faith-based organizations' support for global health issues such as maternal and child health and healthy timing and spacing of pregnancies.
- Partnered with 10 major global advocacy coalitions to represent Christian health services to policymakers.
- Represented CCIH members in the World Health Organization (WHO) Faith Communities of Practice, influencing development of a conference on faith community response to COVID-19.



# Global Exchange

Knowledge and Experience Sharing through Conference, Webinars and Forums

CCIH held our **annual conference** virtually in May 2021, with a theme of *Cultivating Unity in Global Health*. The conference attracted over 500 participants from 51 countries. Participants included executives, managers, technical staff, medical professionals, students, ministers, and advocates from across the globe who represented non-governmental organizations, Christian health associations, health ministries and church networks, mission/volunteer and donation agencies, advocacy organizations, corporations, and universities and research organizations.

Throughout the year, CCIH gave members and others the opportunity to learn from and connect with each other in seven **public webinars and four member-only forums**.

CCIH public webinars explored the work of faith actors in mental health and vaccine hesitancy and engaging faith leaders in health; shared the experiences of young professionals launching careers in global health; and examined the global scope and scale of faith-based health work. Forums exclusively for members featured how to navigate the funding environment for faith actors and faith community work in mental health.

CCIH published **37 blog posts in 2021**, covering topics ranging from deep dives into faith-based health work in eight countries; faith community approaches to maternal mental health; the effect of COVID-19 on HIV services; faith leader engagement in improving nutrition and WASH; a Christian approach to COVID vaccine hesitancy and much more.

## Health System Strengthening

CCIH's **30×30 Health Systems Initiative** is our effort to strengthen 30 health systems in which faith-based health services operate by 2030. The foundation of 30×30 is the "health systems commitment" in which members, affiliates, and other organizations commit to work in one or more health systems to improve aspects such as leadership, finance, workforce, supply chain, health information, and services.

In 2021, CCIH:

- Added 10 new commitments to the initiative.
- Developed and launched an interactive database to help commitment makers track progress and impact of their work.
- Released the [30×30 Annual Progress Report](#), which revealed commitment makers benefitted 338,996 people through their health system strengthening efforts in 36 countries, an increase of 191,282 people over Year 1, when commitment makers reached 147,714 people.



# Technical Excellence and Research

- CCIH helped develop a report, ***"Promising Practices for Engaging Local Faith Actors to Promote Uptake of COVID-19 Vaccination: Lessons Learned from Four Countries,"*** through USAID's MOMENTUM Country & Global Leadership. The report explores 15 promising practices for increasing vaccine uptake through strategic engagement of faith actors.
- The report, ***"Effects of Faith Actor Engagement on the Uptake and Coverage of Immunization in Low- and Middle-Income Countries"*** also supported by MOMENTUM, summarizes evidence about vaccine hesitancy trends in faith communities. The evidence concludes that vaccine hesitancy among faith communities threatens routine immunization coverage but also demonstrates the potential of engaging faith actors as partners to increase vaccine uptake.
- CCIH and partners from the Christian Health Association of Kenya and the Churches Health Association of Zambia wrote ***"Faith-Based Advocacy for Family Planning Works: Evidence From Kenya and Zambia,"*** published in the peer-reviewed journal Global Health: Science and Practice Journal. The article shows how religious leader advocacy increased community support and policy and financial commitment for family planning in Kenya and Zambia.
- CCIH analyzed the websites of the 56 largest U.S. church denominations and sub-denominations for information about health, global health, and COVID-19 to produce ***a report on how churches were responding to and sharing information about the COVID-19 pandemic.***

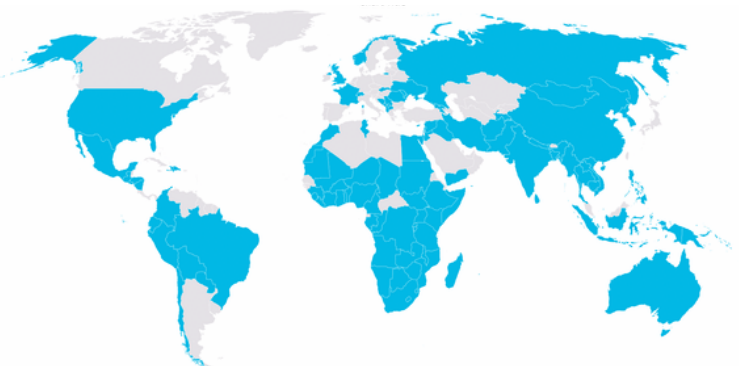


## Financial Review

A 2021 independent audit revealed CCIH spends 91% of our budget on programs. That means 91 cents of every dollar goes toward supporting the work of faith-based organizations reaching people in need with health and other life-affirming services. CCIH 2021 Annual Income totaled \$1.67 million, of which 74% of income was for specific grants, implemented through partners and members, 17% goes to CCIH programs like conference and webinars, and 9% is for CCIH operations.

### where our members work

CCIH members work in more than 90 countries providing service and care to people in need.



[www.ccih.org](http://www.ccih.org)

