

Reimagining

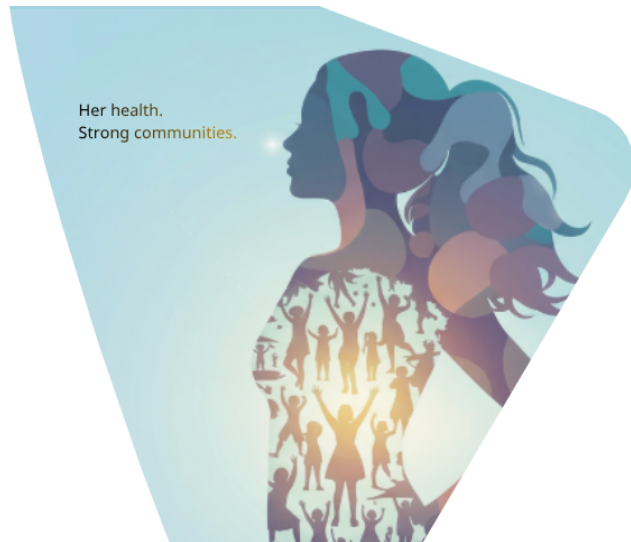
WOMEN'S HEALTH in underserved communities

Dismantling barriers. Building futures.

Giving Women Conference

Tuesday 6 October 2026

1pm - 8pm CET | Geneva | Live stream



Her health.
Strong communities.

CONFERENCE PROGRAMME

Conference 1pm - 6.45pm | **Cocktail dinatoire for all attendees** 6.45pm - 8pm

Pre-conference panels 22 & 28 September. Full details to follow.

[visit conference page](#) | [register for tickets](#) | | [sign-up to mailing list](#) for programme updates & news

KEYNOTE

Tirana Hassan - CEO, Médecins sans Frontières

PANEL 1

SETTING THE SCENE - WHY IS GENDER AN ISSUE IN ACCESS TO HEALTH IN UNDERSERVED COMMUNITIES?

Women and girls in underserved communities face multiple structural barriers to health care, including poverty, conflict, displacement, restrictive social norms, lack of infrastructure, limited access to quality medicines, gaps in prevention services such as vaccines and cancer screening, and insufficient sexual and reproductive health education.

Addressing neglected women's health needs is one of the most impactful investments in global health. It can have lasting benefits for families, communities, and economies. Yet women in low- and middle-income countries continue to face severe inequities in accessing health care, resulting in poor health outcomes, preventable deaths and disabilities, and significant economic consequences.

SPEAKERS

Carmen Sant Fruchtmann, Women in Global Health
Kudushe Kisowile, One Health Society
Julie Jacobsen, Bridges to Development

Marta Fernández Suárez, Concept Foundation
Dr. Pascale Allotey, World Health Organisation
Moderator: Anna Nieto

PANEL 2

POVERTY, CONFLICT, CLIMATE AND SOCIAL NORMS- DRIVERS AND RESPONSES

This panel will explore how poverty and harmful norms contribute to early marriage, adolescent pregnancy, reduced agency, and limited access to health centers, medicines, and essential services. It will also examine the impact of displacement, climate change, and fragile settings on women's health outcomes, as well as practical responses to these interconnected challenges.

SPEAKERS

Cinzia Catalfamo Akbaraly, Akbaraly Foundation

Evelyn Nassuna, Shared Action Africa

Leeann Rizk, Mama-Pikin Foundation

Mary Ellen Iskenderian, Women World's Banking

Rhonda Carnegie, Project Dandelion

Moderator: Meagan Fallone

PANEL 3

WHO IS RESPONSIBLE? SHARED ACCOUNTABILITY ACROSS SECTORS

This panel will examine how governments, multilaterals, NGOs, the private sector, and philanthropy can collaborate to improve access to health care for women and girls. Discussion areas will include supply chains, health workforce capacity, mobility, mental health, access to medicines, legal frameworks, and the role of public-private partnerships.

SPEAKERS

Brice Titipo, Louvain Cooperation

Jovana Rios Cisnero, Women's Links Worldwide

Katy Murr, Hera Foundation

Margo Warren, Access to Medicine Foundation

Dr Tiluona Akingolagbe, Private Sector Health Alliance Nigeria

Moderator: Shirin Hidari

PANEL 4

WHAT WORKS? PROVEN SOLUTIONS, PARTNERSHIPS AND CALL TO ACTION

This panel will highlight practical, evidence-based solutions and partnership models that are already working. Examples may include mobile clinics, community-led sexual and reproductive health services, menstrual equity initiatives, microinsurance, health insurance programmes, and innovations in maternal health. The discussion will also explore cross-sector partnerships, pooled funding models, and a clear call to action with specific asks for funders, governments, NGOs, and private-sector partners.

SPEAKERS

Nadia Kist, Blood Water

Sarah Omega, Let's End Fistula Initiative

Zoe Bozzolan-Kenworthy, ROKPA International

Winnie Sambu, World Bicycle Relief

Dr Wongel Alemayehu, Green Lamp

Moderator: Louisa Seferis