

Conference partnership overview

Reimagining women's health in underserved communities

Dismantling barriers. Building agency.

Date: Tuesday, 6th October 2026, 2pm-6pm CET

Venue: Les Salons, rue Jean-F. Bartholoni 6, 1204 Geneva

Expected attendance: 200 participants in person, 100 participants online

Audience: Foundations, Philanthropists, NGOs, Corporates, Academia, Grassroots Organisations

Format: In-person and live-stream

WHY THIS TOPIC MATTERS NOW

Across the world, **women and girls continue to face disproportionate barriers to healthcare** - from limited access to essential services and persistent gender inequities to economic hardship, harmful social norms and underinvestment in women's health. These challenges are being further intensified by shrinking development funding, fragile health systems and widening inequalities.

Yet when women and girls thrive, families, communities and entire societies thrive.

At a time when many hard-won gains are at risk, there is an urgent need to **rethink how we approach women's health** - not only by dismantling barriers, but by building agency, strengthening systems and supporting community-led solutions that create sustainable change.

ABOUT THE CONFERENCE

Through keynote discussions, expert panels and interactive exchanges, participants will challenge assumptions, share knowledge and spotlight innovative, community-based responses, creating new collaborations and catalytic partnerships that translate into real, lasting improvements in women's and girls' health.

Key themes will include:

- **Setting the Scene:** Why gender is a barrier to health - the reality for women and girls in underserved communities
- **The Drivers:** How poverty, climate change, and social norms fuel health inequity, and how communities are responding
- **Who is Responsible?** The roles of governments, civil society, and nonprofits - and how we can work together more effectively
- **From Talk to Action:** Highlighting solutions and a collective call to action

WHAT MAKES THIS CONFERENCE DIFFERENT

At Giving Women, we believe that meaningful solutions cannot be designed *for* communities without being shaped *with* the women and girls who experience these challenges firsthand.

Held every two years, a defining feature of our conferences is the **intentional inclusion of voices from grassroots organisations and underserved communities** - women who are directly confronting these realities every day. Too often excluded from global conversations, these leaders bring essential lived experience, practical insights and community-rooted expertise to the table.

By creating space for real stories, real challenges and honest dialogue, the conference moves **beyond theory to spotlight solutions already making a difference, lessons learned from the field and critical gaps** that still need to be addressed. We believe that those closest to the challenges must also be part of shaping the solutions.

This unique approach creates richer dialogue, deeper understanding and more grounded, **actionable conversations between philanthropy, practitioners, funders and communities themselves.**

WHO WILL ATTEND

We anticipate welcoming approximately **200 participants**, including an engaged and influential audience of **philanthropists, foundation representatives, NGO leaders, healthcare professionals, corporate executives, academics and changemakers** committed to advancing women's health and gender equity.

The conference will offer a unique platform for **exchange, learning, cross-sector collaboration and meaningful engagement** with an ecosystem of actors shaping the future of women's and girls' health.

CONFERENCE OBJECTIVES

The conference aims to:

- identify the barriers women and girls face across the life cycle in underserved communities;
- highlight practical and community-led solutions already making a difference;
- foster collaboration across philanthropy, civil society, healthcare and the private sector;
- share knowledge and best practices that strengthen collective action;
- catalyse meaningful partnerships to improve health outcomes for women and girls.

WHY GIVING WOMEN

For over **18 years**, Giving Women has been building a community of informed and engaged women philanthropists. Today, our community includes more than **200 members**, and we have supported over **113 grassroots projects across 46 countries** by contributing our skills, expertise and strategic guidance.

Through our unique model of **action philanthropy**, our members contribute their skills, time and lived expertise to walk alongside and strengthen grassroots organisations to create lasting impact for women and girls in underserved communities across the world.

BUILDING ON A STRONG FOUNDATION

Giving Women conferences are known for convening respected voices and diverse perspectives from across philanthropy, civil society, healthcare, academia and the private sector.

Previous editions have featured renowned speakers including **Mary Robinson, Cherie Blair, Lawrence Haddad and Paul Polman**, as well as representatives from leading organisations such as **Human Rights Watch, GAIN, Fondation d'Harcourt, UNHCR, UNICEF, Oak Foundation and UBS Optimus Foundation**. These voices have been joined by leading practitioners and grassroots changemakers working directly with underserved communities, creating a unique dialogue that bridges global expertise with lived experience.

Our most recent conference welcomed **over 200 participants** and **generated strong engagement around practical solutions, collaboration opportunities and actionable learning**. Feedback highlighted the value of combining expert perspectives with community-rooted insights and pragmatic opportunities for collaboration.

WHY PARTNER WITH US

We are seeking partners who share our commitment to advancing equitable health outcomes for women and girls.

By supporting this conference, partners help create an important platform for dialogue, learning and collaboration, while demonstrating a meaningful commitment to women's health, gender equity and social impact.

Your support will help:

- Enable participation from grassroots organisations and community leaders;
- Bring diverse perspectives and lived experience to the conversation;
- Ensure accessibility and broad participation;
- Disseminate conference learnings and practical insights beyond the event;
- Strengthen cross-sector collaboration and action.

In recognition of their support, **partners will benefit** from **visibility across conference communications and materials**, opportunities for **engagement with an influential network of participants**, and alignment with a mission-driven initiative committed to lasting impact for women and girls. Sponsors will also be **invited to an exclusive private dinner** with speakers, grassroots leaders and selected conference participants, creating space for meaningful conversations, shared learning and deeper connections beyond the conference programme.

PARTNER WITH US

We would welcome the opportunity to discuss how we can build a partnership aligned with your organisation's priorities and values.

Contact

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