

Giving Women 2026 Conference

# Reimagining

## WOMEN'S HEALTH

in underserved communities

Dismantling barriers. Building futures.

### MAIN CONFERENCE

Tuesday 6 October 2026 | 1- 9 pm CET | Geneva | Live stream

### Pre-Conference Panels

Tuesday 22 September | 12:15 – 13:45 CET | Online

Monday 28 September | 12:15 – 13:45 CET | Online

Her health.  
Strong communities.



## FULL CONFERENCE PROGRAMME

### DETAILS

#### Pre-conference panels

**Panel 1 | Tuesday 22 September | 12:15 – 13:45 | Online**

**Panel 2 | Monday 28 September | 12:15 – 13:45 | Online**

#### Main Conference

**Tuesday 6 October**

**Panels | 1pm – 7:30pm | Les Salons Geneva | Live streamed online**

**Cocktail dinatoire for all attendees | 7:30pm - 9pm | Les Salons Geneva**

#### Tickets

A wide choice of ticket options are available.

- **Every ticket** includes **access** to the **pre-conference and main conference panels**.
- **In-person tickets** also include the **cocktail dinatoire**.

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

## MAIN CONFERENCE – PROGRAMME DETAILS

## Main Conference

Tuesday 6 October 2026

Panels | 1pm – 7:30pm | Les Salons Geneva | Live streamed online

Cocktail dinatoire for all attendees | 7:30pm - 9pm | Les Salons Geneva

## 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 Jacobson**, Bridges to Development

**Marta Fernández Suárez**, Concept Foundation  
**Dr. Pascale Allotey**, World Health Organisation  
**Moderator: Ana Alvarez 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 Heidari

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### 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

**Dr. Abiodun Adereni**, HelpMum

**Moderator:** Louisa Seferis

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**PRE-CONFERENCE PANELS – PROGRAMME DETAILS****Pre-conference Panel 1****Tuesday 22 September** | 12:15pm – 13:45 pm | Online**GENDER AND HEALTH: HOW GENDER SHAPES HEALTH RISKS, OUTCOMES AND EQUITY**

This panel will examine how the social, economic and cultural realities of gender and gender norms shape the health and well-being of women and girls, in both the developing and developed world.

**Speakers will explore four key topics:**

1. The health consequences of violence against women
2. Gender dimensions of nutrition and food security
3. The disproportionate impact of humanitarian crises on women and girls
4. Women's mental health

By examining these challenges and highlighting successful strategies and solutions, the discussion will demonstrate why advancing gender-responsive health systems is essential to achieving health equity. The session will conclude with practical recommendations for policymakers, researchers, funders, health professionals and civil society leaders committed to improving health outcomes for women and girls worldwide.

**SPEAKERS****Amisa Rashid**, Nivishe Foundation**Helen Davies**, Operation Fistula**Moderator: Upama Khatri****Megan Williams**, Medair**Venessa D'Souza**, SNEHA Foundation

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**Pre-conference Panel 2****Monday 28 September** | 12:15pm – 13:45 pm | Online**ADOLESCENT GIRLS' ACCESS TO HEALTH AND THRIVING ADULT LIFE**

The transition from girl to woman is a defining moment in every culture. For girls in underserved communities, it is also a moment of profound vulnerability, shaped by social norms that silence, structures that exclude, and barriers that prevent awareness. This panel, organised with CARE France, examines what prevents every adolescent girls' right to knowledge and access and spotlights successful solutions.

The discussion on the theme of "adolescent girls' health," will start with the screening of a short video (3 minutes) featuring the testimony of a young beneficiary of the Kilonga project in Madagascar, implemented by CARE. The video addresses taboos around menstruation, their impact on health, access to menstrual products, and the links between shifting social norms, improved health outcomes, and academic success.

**SPEAKERS****Denise Stuckenbruck**, UNICEF**Bahati Mgogwe**, Girls First Initiative**Moderator: Adéa Guillo****Lila Kerr**, Clinton Health Initiative, Inc.**Mirana Fanomezantsoa Rakotosamimanana**,  
CARE Madagascar