

# Women in Global Health (WGH)

## *How you can join us to make 2020 a milestone year for gender equality in global health!*



**Women in Global Health** (WGH) plans to make 2020 a milestone year in the quest to achieve gender equality in global health, by increasing the influence of women in the design and delivery of healthcare systems that work for women and girls and that can achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 2030. WGH is planning to launch five new initiatives at five high-profile “moments” throughout the year including:

- (1) **WGH “Pop-Up on Gender Equality Hub” and Gala Reception (including Heroines of Health 2020)** at the World Health Assembly (May, Geneva)
- (2) **WGH 100 Nurses, Midwives and Community Health Workers Digital Photo Gallery** at the ICM Triennial Congress (June, Bali)
- (3) **WGH Beijing25 Symposium on Women’s Leadership and Gender Equity in Health** at the Generation Equality Forum (July, Paris)
- (4) **WGH UHC Challenge** with a focus on women and digital health at the UN General Assembly (September, New York City)
- (5) **WGH #MeToo Global Health** social media campaign to address sexual violence and harassment in the health sector during the 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence (November, Global)

These initiatives will be launched at key moments throughout 2020 which is a “pivotal” year for accelerating gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls. Not only is it the 25th anniversary of the landmark Fourth World Conference on Women and the adoption of the **Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action**, a defining framework for the rights of women, but it is also the **International Year of the Nurse and Midwife** and the five year milestone in the countdown to the Sustainable Development Goals

Women in Global Health’s five initiatives will include (subject to funding):

- (1) **#WHA73 Pop-Up on Gender Equality and Gala Reception:** WGH will retain C5 Collective to manage a take-over of the **Geneva Impact Hub** by the #WHA73 Pop-Up on Gender Equality for the duration of the **World Health Assembly** in Geneva from May 18 to 23. The Pop-Up will provide a welcoming location for delegates, senior leaders, innovators, advocates and health workers to network, host events and enjoy a shared workspace. WGH will ensure that the Pop-Up on Gender Equality focuses on the major barriers to gender equality in global health (women’s limited representation in leadership positions, low and no pay, lack of workplace family care policies, poor quality healthcare, limited financing for women’s health, lack of political will for sexual and reproductive health and rights as part of universal health coverage (UHC), sexual violence and harassment in the health sector and limited opportunities for women in global health research). Following the launch of Hub on Sunday, May 19th, WGH will host a Gala Reception and will announce the new **Heroines of Health** continuing our focus on elevating the voices of emerging women leaders from low and middle-income countries. Each Heroine of Health will be profiled by a **“photo story”** that will showcase her work in her own words and the “stories” will be presented in both video and still photographic “gallery display” forms that can travel around the world.  
**Estimated Budget: \$US160,000** (includes \$60,000 for the cost of the Hub space, management and media partner, and \$100,000 for Gala space, management, promotion, and travel/accommodation for Heroines of Health and WGH staff).

(2) **WGH 100 Nurses and Midwives Digital Photo Gallery:** WGH will launch a digital gallery celebrating the work of 100 women nurses, midwives and community health workers for their outstanding work advancing health in their local communities and gender equality in health leadership. This will be a highly diverse group of women with strong representation from low and middle income countries. The gallery will be available online and will be launched at the **2nd International Confederation of Midwives (ICM) Triennial Congress** in Bali from June 21 to 25. WGH will continue to support the 100 nurses, midwives and community health workers to raise their voices and tell their stories throughout the year.

**Estimated Budget: \$US80,000** (includes cost of selection process, technology, report writing and dedicated website hosting and event launch. *Specific proposal available on request.*)

(3) **WGH Beijing25 Symposium:** WGH and the Government of France will co-host a one-day, multi-stakeholder Symposium at the Generation Equality Forum\* in Paris (July 7 to 10) to focus on four **of the critical areas from the Beijing Platform for Action** with the potential to drive major change for gender equality and women's rights - women and health, women in power and decision making, women and the economy and the education and training of women. Around 100 senior leaders and experts will be invited from governments, civil society, multilateral organisations, philanthropy and the private sector to make recommendations to Heads of State in September 2020 to turn this commitment into rapid, practical action. Background papers would be prepared by the Gender Equity Hub for the global health workforce, co-chaired by WGH and WHO, to stimulate discussion and concrete recommendations. \*In 2019 UN Women launched a global campaign "Generation Equality: Realizing Women's Rights for an Equal Future" which demands equal pay, equal sharing of unpaid care and domestic work, an end to sexual harassment and all forms of violence against women and girls, health care services that respond to their needs, and equal participation in political life and decision-making in all areas of life.

**Estimated Budget: \$US100,000** (includes cost of Symposium space, management, promotion, and travel/accommodation for WGH staff. *Specific proposal available on request.*)

(4) **WGH UHC Challenge:** WGH will launch the inaugural **WGH UHC Challenge**, a biannual initiative designed to crowdsource solutions that address major barriers to, and opportunities for, advancing gender equality as part of UHC. The 2020 challenge will be in support of the joint Lancet and Financial Times Commission **Governing Health Futures 2030: Growing up in a Digital World Commission**. It will focus on solutions that increase the proportion of women as developers of AI solutions and leaders of healthtech and also how to use digital health, artificial intelligence (AI), and universal health coverage (UHC) to advance gender equality in the health sector. Applications will be open to individuals or groups who are members or partners of the rapidly growing WGH movement. Winning ideas will receive financial, technical and mentoring support required to further develop their solution. WGH will launch the campaign during the UN General Assembly in New York City in September.

**Estimated Budget: \$US50,000** (includes cost of social media campaign content, selection process, searchable web platform, \$ prize and technical support to winning entries).

(5) **#MeToo in #GlobalHealth:** WGH will provide a platform for women who work at all levels of health systems - paid and unpaid - in every country to share their stories of sexual violence and discrimination in the course of their work. WGH will work with partners to pursue justice for women who have survived sexual assault and harassment as health workers and to create an environment where women and men are empowered to advocate for changes to laws and policies to reduce the incidence of sexual abuse. WGH will launch the campaign during the **16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence** from 25 November to 10 December 2020.

**Estimated Budget: \$US50,000** (includes cost of social media campaign).

Across these five initiatives at these five events, WGH will mobilize all of our assets to make sure gender equality in global health is front and center of our 2020 efforts, including by engaging:

- Eight current and 30 emerging WGH chapters in (established) Somalia, Norway, Germany, Chile, Portugal, DC, Mid-West and Pakistan, and (emerging) South Africa, Ghana, Tanzania, Nigeria, UK, Sri Lanka, Kenya, Malawi, Cameroon, Canada, Australasia, China, Finland, India, Ireland, Italy, Lebanon, Atlanta, New York, Zambia, Zimbabwe, UAE, Uganda, The Philippines, Ethiopia, Seattle, Boston, Mexico, Israel and France
- 25,000+ WGH social media followers from 90+ countries, including 19,500 on **twitter**
- WGH network of 200+ organizational partners including the Frontline Health Workers Coalition/Gavi/Global Fund/Global Health Council/Jhpiego/Johns Hopkins University/London School of Hygiene, Tropical and Medicine/NGO Alliance for Gender Equality and Universal Health Coverage/Nursing Now/Partnership for Maternal, Newborn, and Child Health/She Decides/United Nations Foundation/UNAIDS/UHC2030/UNFPA/UNICEF/UN Women/Women Deliver/World Bank/WHO/Young Leaders for Health and more.