

Evidence. Voice. Action: Catalysing Change for Gender Equality in Health

Gender and Health Hub Virtual Forum 5th-7th December 2023

Session 1: Enhancing Gender Integration at Scale in Health: Promising Practices from Africa, South Asia and Southeast Asia [Case Study Series Launch]

Date: Tuesday 5th December 2023

Time: 10:00 am-11:30 am **London**/ 1:00pm-2:30pm **Nairobi**/ 6:00 pm-7:30pm **Malaysia**

Language: English plus interpretation in French and Spanish

Organisers: UNU-IIGH, School of Public Health (SOPH) at the University of Western Cape in South Africa and Public Health Foundation of India (PHFI).

Description

Calls to strengthen health systems for improved health and gender equality outcomes necessitate robust country leadership and governance. Despite widespread commitments and guidelines for gender integration, a substantial gap remains in diverse contexts between intent, investments, evidence and action. To address this gap, the UNU-IIGH co-produced the Regional Promising Practices (RPP) project with two leading regional public health institutes, the School of Public Health at the University of Western Cape in South Africa and Public Health Foundation of India, to extensively document and analyse six diverse cases, identifying what works, where, for whom, why and how to integrate gender in government health programmes across Africa, Asia and Southeast Asia.

This event marks the launch of the RPP case study series which consists of summary reports of each of the six cases, highlighting the factors that drove the scale and sustainability of successful gender integration in government health programmes. This session will begin with an overview of key findings, followed by a panel discussion, diving deeper into three of the case studies to showcase what works to integrate gender in government health programmes at three different levels: the national policy, institutional and community levels. Throughout the event we hope to foster discussions, share lessons, and collectively strategize to inform future actions to improve gender integration in current and future health programmes.

Objectives:

- Provide snapshot of overall project and socialize the key findings among diverse audiences.
- To launch the Case Study Series and convene a panel to discuss gender integration across various program and policy levels (community, institution, national policy).
- Stimulate critical conversation around gender integration in government health programmes to advance gender-responsive health policies and practices and generate interest for future opportunities resulting from the RPP project.

Target audience

Diverse stakeholders and actors, including policy makers, academics, multilateral organisations, civil society actors, and others, who work across diverse health programmes. The aim is to share transferable lessons of how to improve gender integration in health policies and programmes at different levels.

Take Away Messages

- There are diverse contextualised pathways to policy impact to effectively integrate gender into health initiatives that are scaled and sustained.
- Dive deeper into each of the case studies (available from the case study series) to better understand the key contextual factors that facilitated gender integration, the triggers that catalysed the change, and the actions that helped scale and sustain the change within each programme or policy.