

Gender and Health Hub Virtual Forum

Evidence. Voice. Action: Catalysing Change for Gender Equality in Health **5th-7th December 2023**

Concept Note

Background

Polycrises have highlighted and exacerbated existing vulnerabilities in our health systems and further widened gender inequalities. As countries and communities continue to navigate ways forward, we must prevent complacency, ensuring the global health community makes good on its commitment to center gender and intersectional issues within health dialogues, decisions, and investments. This requires filling knowledge gaps, advancing evidence-based practices and policies, and fostering collaborations and collective action.

The United Nations University International Institute for Global Health (UNU-IIGH) Gender and Health Hub (GHH) was established with the aim to bridge the gap between people, evidence, policy, and action and contribute to more evidence-based and better-resourced integration of gender in health policies and programmes. Since its Launch at the UN Commission on the Status of Women (UN CSW) in March 2021, the GHH has been dedicated to uniting technical expertise with political leadership and consolidating evidence-based solutions, amplifying lived experience and evidence from the global south to advance gender equality in health.

The inaugural 2021 Gender and Health Hub Forum provided a crucial platform for reflection, partnership building, and setting growth priorities. Over the past two years, we've made significant strides in the face of the evolving political landscapes, rapid technological advancements, and the emergence of complex crises impinging equal rights for all. The focus of the 2023 Gender and Health Hub Forum is to spotlight advancements in the face of pushback and shrinking spaces, foster knowledge sharing, and showcase evidence and lived experience in advancing gender equality in health. In doing so, we will strengthen collective action to navigate the changing landscapes and accelerate progress towards gender equality and universal health coverage.

Objectives

1. To drive transformative change in health through evidence-informed insights on gender and intersectional issues by sharing evidence, lessons, insights and dialogue to advance evidence translation to policy and practices for gender and health equality.
2. To galvanize collective voices for change by strengthening cross sectoral and regional networks within the gender and global health community while actively promoting feminist and intersectional approaches for meaningful collaboration.
3. To shape future actions for gender responsive research, policy and investments by actively engaging the global health community in identifying specific actions, establishing priorities, and exploring potential opportunities to inform decision-making.

In line with the objectives, the Annual Hub forum is hosting 3 webinar events to provide a platform for diverse actors and partners working to advance gender equality for health to spotlight evidence-based practices, engage in interactive and critical discussions and



strategize ways to amplify our collective voice, form new partnerships, strengthen current networks and take action. Please see the links for more information on each session.