



SHEM HIGHLIGHTS



Gender Equities in Health to Leave No Woman Behind

Laurenice Pires

Women in Global Health Brazil

According to the World Economic Forum report, gender equality will be achieved in approximately 134 years, or about five generations. But, after a century, will we have truly achieved gender equity?

Gender inequalities are observed in various aspects of life, and health is no exception. When we look at who holds top decision-making positions in the health sector, we need a magnifying glass to identify women. But if we zoom in to observe the details, we will see that even among women, inequalities persist. If nothing changes, 134 years from now, Black and Indigenous women will not have achieved the same progress as white women. These disparities become even greater when we consider geographic location, disability status, or compare cisgender and transgender women. Thus, achieving gender parity in leadership positions requires a multidimensional perspective on equity challenges. In this sense, we cannot speak of equity in singular terms but rather of equities—ones that account for the intersectionality shaping women's life trajectories.

Without addressing the inequities that hinder women's advancement, we will not be able to fulfill the promise of leaving no one behind. When girls and women are prevented from reaching their full potential, we weaken the foundation for sustainable development, as women represent the largest demographic group in much of the world. Therefore, men and women alike are called upon to transform this reality across all spheres.

Let's stand together in the fight for gender equity in health!

Read the full version [here](#).

REPORTS

[Global Gender Gap Report 2024](#)

[Subsidizing global health: Women's unpaid work in health systems](#)

[Feminist Insights on the Global Health Workers Compact: Women in Global Health's Perspective](#)

WEBINAR

Challenges for Women in Health: From Local to Global

Date: March 28, 2025

[Register here](#)



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News from the field

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY AMIDST DEEPENING GLOBAL CRISES

Gender equity still faces significant challenges, requiring continuous efforts to preserve the progress achieved. On International Women's Day, various civil society organizations highlighted remarkable women and actions for gender equality. The DNDi celebrated the work of two scientists, Dr. Mariame Camara, a researcher, and Oumou Camara, a diagnostics manager, who are at the forefront of eliminating sleeping sickness in Guinea. The World Organization of Family Doctors honored family doctors worldwide, emphasizing that gender equity in health and leadership is essential for a safe, healthy, and prosperous world. They paid special tribute to Dr. Anne Deborah Atai Omoruto, a family doctor from Uganda known for her courageous leadership in defending women's rights and her role during the Ebola crisis. The International Federation of Medical Students' Associations (IFMSA) recalled that 30 years ago, the world adopted a bold vision for gender equality: the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action. Since then, significant progress has been made—more women in leadership and politics, improved maternal health outcomes, increased enrollment of girls in higher education, and stronger laws against gender-based violence. However, the IFMSA emphasized that inequality persists, and Beijing+30 is a call to push for further achievements. The People's Health Movement reflected on ongoing struggles for gender justice, health equity, and non-discrimination amid deepening global crises. They highlighted the intersection of capitalism, patriarchy, and colonialism and the persistent challenges surrounding sexual and reproductive health, including maternal health, access to contraception and abortion, and the rising rates of gender-based violence.

Continue reading [here](#)

READINGS

[Iran: Authorities target women's rights activists with arbitrary arrest, flogging and death penalty](#)

[Progress and Polarisation: Global Attitudes Toward Gender Equality in 2025](#)

[International Women's Day 2025: progress and possibilities](#)

PODCAST

[International Women's Day podcast: Women as peacebuilders](#)

Global Public Health Week



Global Public Health Week (GPHW) is an annual event organized by the World Federation of Public Health Associations (WFPHA). It unites institutions, communities, and public health leaders worldwide to recognize the critical contributions of public health and its workforce in building healthier societies. The fourth edition of GPHW, held from April 7 to 11, 2025, focused on equity in public health. This year's discussions centered on "Redefining Equity: Decolonizing Public Health for a Healthier World"

[See the full schedule here!](#)

POINT OF VIEW

SHEM MEMBERS' WRITINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

'Woman, life, freedom': the Syrian feminists who forged a new world in a land of war

12 women activists and leaders making the world a better place

Why women are key to solving the climate crisis

MUST ATTEND

SHEM CURATED LEARNING EXPERIENCES

Discussion on a Fair Wellbeing Index

Join us for the April edition of the SHEM Webinar Series, co-hosted with the World Federation of Public Health Associations. Juan Garay, SHEM co-chair, and our guest, Som Kumar from the UN Human Development Report Office, will explore the intersections and differences between the UN Human Development Index and the Sustainable Health Equity Index. The latter prioritizes reducing harm to others by addressing issues such as excessive wealth accumulation, which can deprive others of essential resources, and minimizing carbon footprints, which threaten the lives of future generations. **April 10, 2025, from 2 to 3 PM UTC.**

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SustainableHealthEquity

At SHEM we link citizens, public health and healthcare advocates, scientists, academics, and related institutions from all regions, cultures, and ideologies pursuing the universal right to health. We aim to promote sustainable health equity as an ethical principle that guides all national and international economic, social, and environmental policies.

SHEM's Highlights Curators: Andre Luis Sales, Diana Zeballos, Gustavo Buss