Medicus Mundi Switzerland
Health for all

SRHR Conference 2026
Speakers

Pernille Fenger
UNFPA

Pernille Fenger is the director of the UNFPA Representation Office in Geneva since August 2023, and used to be director of the UNFPA's Nordic Representation Office in Copenhagen from 2009 to 2023. With over 33 years of experience in the development sector, she has dedicated her career to addressing issues related to sexual and reproductive health and rights, gender equality, and climate and environmental concerns. Pernille Fenger's impactful contributions include shaping global policies on health and gender, establishing key partnerships in support of UNFPA's mandate, and advocating for human rights-based solutions to development challenges across diverse fields.

Vanessa Brizuela
WHO

Vanessa Brizuela is a Psychologist and Health Educator with a Doctorate in Public Health (DrPH) with a concentration in maternal and child health. She has decades-long experience in sexual and reproductive health and rights programme implementation and research, including coordinating WHO-led multi-country studies. She is currently the technical lead for climate change and sexual and reproductive health and rights at the UNDP/UNFPA/UNICEF/WHO/World Bank Special Programme of Research, Development and Research Training in Human Reproduction (HRP), and as such is leading research on the impact of climate change on SRHR. She also leads HRP's portfolio on research capacity strengthening and supports research in maternal and perinatal infections.

Jeroen de Bont
Karolinska Institute

Jeroen is an Assistant Professor at Karolinska Institute and an environmental scientist and public health specialist by training. His research focuses on the impacts of climate-related hazards, particularly heat and air pollution, on health outcomes across the life course, with a specific emphasis on maternal and newborn health. He is deeply engaged in exploring the intersections of climate change and health, applying the exposome approach to understand how multiple environmental exposures interact to influence human health. In addition, he has a strong interest in urban health and environmental justice, with a commitment to addressing health inequalities across Europe and globally.

Fatou Jeng
Terres des hommes schweiz

Fatou Jeng is the Founder of Clean Earth Gambia, one of the country's largest youth-led NGOs driving climate action through education, nature-based solutions, and gender-responsive advocacy. With 10 years of experience, her organisation's work has impacted more than 55,000 lives, and planted over 40,000 trees across The Gambia. Appointed as one of the Youth Climate Advisors to the UN Secretary-General (2023–2025), Fatou provided high-level policy guidance on youth in climate to Antonio Guttresses and the UN.

She led The Gambia's Gender Negotiator team at COP30, led the YOUNGO Women and Gender Working Group from COP23 to COP27, directly influencing the UNFCCC Gender Action Plan. Her advocacy at COP26 as the youngest speaker at the Gender high-level plenary contributed to the UK's £165 million commitment to advance gender equality in climate action. Fatou also sat on the UN Secretary General's Early Warning for All Advisory Panel with the goal of ensuring early warning systems reach every person on Earth by 2027. In 2024, Clean Earth Gambia hosted The Gambia's first-ever National Children and Youth Conference on Climate Change in partnership with UNICEF and the Government of The Gambia. A 2025 Forbes 30 Under 30 honoree and recipient of the Geneva Centre's Award for Women Championing Environmental Rights, she was named among the 100 Most Influential Africans and 100 Most Influential African Women in 2025 and received the 2020 National Student Leadership Award from the President of the Republic of The Gambia, Adama Barrow, for her election and work as the first female President of the University of The Gambia Students' Union and President of the National Union of Gambian Students, breaking 19 years of male leadership..

Alessandra Aresu
Handicap International

Alessandra Aresu is the Director of the Health and Protection Division at Humanity & Inclusion (HI), overseeing the work on SRHR, Inclusive Health, Protection, and Planetary Health, with a particular focus on inclusive SRHR and Climate Change. She has been serving with HI for the last 13 years, first as Director of the HI China Programme (2013 - 2017) and then as Inclusive Health Policy Lead based in Washington DC (2017-2021). She holds a PhD in Gender and Sexuality Education and brings nearly 20 years' experience promoting SRHR for all in the academic and NGO sectors. In the last 10 years, she's been one of the leading voices in promoting gender, age and disability inclusion in the health sector and an intersectionality approach in SRHR. She is the author of several publications on the subject. Currently, she also supports the SRH Department of the World Health Organization as Adviser to the Gender and Rights Advisory Panel (GAP) of the Human Reproduction Programme (HRP), is a Steering Committee member of the Implementing Best Practices (IBP) Network on Family Planning, serves as a Foundational Committee member and Workstream co-chair of the WHO Disability Health Equity Network, and a board member of CORE Group.

Mouna Al Amine
Enfants du Monde

Mouna Al Amine is Health Sector Lead at Enfants du Monde, a Swiss NGO working in global health across sub-Saharan Africa and Asia. With over 15 years of experience in program design, partnership management, and institutional fundraising, her work sits at the intersection of gender equity and health systems strengthening — from maternal and newborn health to sexual and reproductive rights. At Enfants du Monde, she leads the strategic and operational coordination of a multi-country health portfolio, working alongside local NGOs, ministries of health, and institutional donors. Alongside her program role, she has driven the organization's gender mainstreaming process — developing institutional gender and safeguarding policies, integrating gender-sensitive indicators into monitoring systems, and building staff and partner capacities on equity and inclusion. More recently, she has steered the integration of climate and health linkages into EdM's programming, positioning maternal health within a broader understanding of the environmental and structural factors shaping women's access to care.
Mouna holds a Master's degree in Political Sciences from the University of Geneva, a Certificate of Advanced Studies (CAS) in Gender & Development from the Geneva Graduate Institute, and a CAS in Interculturality, also from the University of Geneva..

Nicole Guillaume
University of Lausanne

Nicole Guillaume is a junior researcher working at the intersection of health anthropology and environmental change, with an interest in sexual and reproductive health and rights, informed by a feminist and gender-critical perspective on health and illness. She holds a Master's degree in social sciences from the University of Lausanne, with a specialization in bodies and medicine.Her research focuses on the intersections between environmental change, water, and SRH. She recently conducted qualitative and ethnographic fieldwork in rural Nepal, exploring how water scarcity, pollution, and climate variability shape health experiences and access to care. Her work pays particular attention to gender dynamics, social vulnerabilities, and the everyday realities of communities facing these challenges. She has collaborated with non-governmental organizations, community health workers, and local institutions, developing experience in interdisciplinary research. She is especially interested in translating research into actionable insights and fostering dialogue between communities, practitioners, and policymakers.More broadly, her work engages with questions related to care, with a focus on how bodies, illness, and wellbeing are understood and experienced in different contexts. She is particularly attentive to experiential knowledge, both among patients and healthcare professionals. Her interests also extend to masculinity studies, fertility, the body, and human–nonhuman relationships.

Emily Au-Young
Reemi

Emily is the founder of Reemi, a social enterprise creating sustainable, culturally appropriate period products for people in complex and humanitarian settings. She has led the team to focus on local partnerships, evidence-based impact in collaboration with the University of Munich, and ensuring communities have strong input into product design. Reemi has now supported more than 29,000 women with game-changing menstrual health products across contexts from South Sudan to Bangladesh to Vanuatu, and most recently over 7,000 women in Gaza and Lebanon.In 2022, Emily was named in the Forbes 30 Under 30 Asia list for Social Impact.

Tanzila Ahmed Zisa
Swiss Red Cross, Bangladesh Country Delegation

I am Dr. Tanzila Ahmed Zisa, currently serving as a Technical Health Manager with the Swiss Red Cross Bangladesh Country Program, where I provide strategic and technical oversight across public health interventions. I hold a medical degree and have over eight years of experience in public health, primarily in humanitarian, resource-constrained, and climate-impacted settings. A significant portion of my work has focused on the Rohingya refugee population in Cox's Bazar, where I contributed to the design and implementation of sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) programs targeting vulnerable women and adolescents. In my current role, I lead and support multiple health initiatives, including implementation research applying the COM-B behavioral model to address barriers to SRHR service uptake, as well as climate-sensitive health programming under the JAMUNA project in the Jamuna River Basin, focusing on marginalized, climate-affected communities. Additionally, I have been supporting to strengthening community-based surveillance systems for early detection and response to public health threats. As a public health professional, I remain committed to advancing equitable access to quality healthcare and take pride in improving the wellbeing of vulnerable populations, particularly pregnant women and children..

Pascal Frischknecht
CBM Switzerland

Pascal Frischknecht works as a project manager in CBM's advocacy team. He coordinated a project on the effects that climate change has on women with disabilities in Nepal, a joint effort by the Swiss Disability and Development Consortium (SDDC), consisting of CBM, Handicap International, FAIRMED and the International Disability Alliance (IDA). He holds a degree in sociology and political science.

Meghna Joshi-von Heyden
Women In Global Health Switzerland (WGH)

A member of the core group at WGH Switzerland, Meghna is a clinical pharmacist, specialised in global health and access to medicines. Currently completing her MBA in International Health Management at the Swiss Tropical and Public Health Institute in Basel, Meghna's research explores the sustainability challenges and climate impact of global medicines shortages, particularly on vulnerable populations. Her work spans Europe, Africa, and Asia, where she has delivered large-scale health systems strengthening programmes improving access to medicines, supply chain and care pathways; OneHealth and antimicrobial stewardship; and developed both patient and clinician-led digital health solutions that improve health data access, literacy and care outcomes. An advocate for women's health, Meghna is dedicated to tackling gaps in leadership, representation and innovation through her work with Women in Global Health Switzerland and 28X, a data-private free menstrual health app. She is driven by the belief that equitable access to good health. is created when people, purpose and technology align.

Bárbara Battistotti Vieira
Women In Global Health Switzerland (WGH) | Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF)

Women in Global Health (WGH) advocates for equal representation in global health leadership, a new social contract for women health and care workers, gender equity in emergency preparedness andresponse, and gender-responsive universal health coverage. In Switzerland, WGH advances gender-transformative health policies and equity in research. The chapter provides mentorship, leadership training, and networking, strengthens inclusive governance, and amplifies collective advocacy.Bárbara is part of the WGH Core Group. She is a psychologist and global health researcher working at the intersection of SRHR, mental health, and GBV. I am currently completing an MSc in Global Health at the University of Geneva, alongside a specialization in Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (CBT) at PUC-RS. I work in Medical Advocacy at Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) Switzerland, where I focus on sexual violence in migration contexts and mental health advocacy. My research background is grounded in mixed-methods approaches, with over 10 publications and experience in data collection and analysis (RStudio, SPSS, KoboToolbox) and qualitative methods and tools, including key informant interviews, focus group discussions, and NVivo. Beyond my professional roles, I am actively engaged in advancing gender equity through Women in Global Health Switzerland and volunteer with the Solidarity Hub on MHPSS research initiatives. Fluent in Portuguese, Spanish, and English..

Maurane Riesen
Member of the Parliament, Canton Bern

Maurane Riesen, member of the cantonal parliament in Bern, epidemiologist, PhD on HPV vaccination, member of Solidarité femmes, former member of the financial commission of the cantonal parliament..

Selina Baumberger
Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC)

Selina Baumberger is Programme Officer at the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC). Within the SDC Health Section, she is responsible for the priority area "gender equality and human rights for health" and related health priorities, especially sexual and reproductive health and rights. Before taking up her current position, she worked at the Swiss Embassy and Cooperation Office in Bolivia, where she was responsible for the SDC Cultural Fund, which mainly focussed on gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls. She has a background in sociolinguistics and literature (M.A. University of Bern, University of Seville, University Toulouse II Le Mirail), sustainable development (CAS University of Bern), diplomacy and human rights. Before joining SDC, she worked at the State Secretariat for Migration and in a Swiss NGO active in the field of One Health.

Dr Leah F. Bohle (host)
Swiss TPH

Dr. Bohle is a Maternal and Child Health Expert with a professional background in Medicine and Social Anthropology. Employed at the Digital Health Unit at Swiss TPH her recent work focused on acceptability related to digital health solutions in low-resource settings. She is equipped with 15 years of work experience in managing and coordinating projects and conducting evaluations and implementation research globally. Leah has worked in over 25 countries; clients include UN agencies, Ministries, INGOs and academia. She is also co-founder of a maternal health start-up in Kenya, providing remote digital midwifery care to pregnant women. Leah is passionate about innovation and improving maternal health; and is currently pursuing a certificate in Human-Centered Design.

Martin Leschhorn Strebel (Host)
Medicus Mundi Switzerland

Martin Leschhorn Strebel is historian and the Director of the Network Medicus Mundi Switzerland, an umbrella organisation uniting around 50 Swiss organisations working in the fields of international health cooperation and global health. He acts as well as the president of Medicus Mundi International.

Carine Weiss (Host)
Medicus Mundi Switzerland

Carine Weiss has been project leader at Medicus Mundi Switzerland since September 2014. She holds a master's degree in clinical psychology and a master's in international health from the Swiss Tropical and Public Health Institute where she worked for over seven years. She has worked in the field for three years, spending six months in Cambodia, six months in Haiti and two years in Myanmar (2010 – 2013).