

GENDRO

ADVANCING SEX AND GENDER EQUITY IN RESEARCH



**Annual Report
2019**

Message

FROM THE FOUNDING PRESIDENT


2019 was a busy and productive year for GENDRO, as the first year after it was officially established. Reflecting upon 2019, I am proud of our many activities. With a view to realising our long-term aspirations, we focused on building a strong organisational foundation, by creating an accountable and transparent governance structure, developing external and internal communication channels and building strategic partnerships. Given the strength of our network and our strategic location at the heart of Global Health Capital, the Board decided to focus on health as a key strategic priority.

As such, in 2019, we raised awareness about insufficient attention to gender in health research and data analysis at various international fora, built capacity among undergraduate, post-graduate and doctoral students about the fundamental importance of gender in health and established GENDRO's Gender, Health and Evidence Network (GEH) as a think tank to facilitate collaborative actions to address the challenges with using and producing gender sensitive health data and research. Bringing together actors from different global institutions and tapping into the expertise of the network members, the think tank has created a well-needed space for partners to share ongoing efforts, brainstorm about joint project and exchange ideas about how to address some of the resistances and challenges that is commonly faced. By joining forces and sharing resources, this network has potentials to produce valuable outputs through collaborative actions and result in stronger commitment to gender-sensitive approaches to health research, policy and practice.

Key to our success in 2019 have been the many passionate and tireless advocates that volunteer their time and share expertise to support our cause. We will continue to rely on their support and dedication but welcome resources and support from additional partners and donors to sustain this momentum and expand our outcomes and impact.

In 2020 and the decade that is ahead of us, we look forward to continue working closely with you to push for gender-sensitive research and evidence as a critical path to equitable development and towards a more just world.

Dr Shirin Heidari
The Founding President of GENDRO



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At a Glance

GENDRO was established in 2018 out of a shared interest to promote and accelerate integration of sex and gender into research and data analysis in a systematic way. We believe that any evidence that is produced to advance and improve our society, be it through academic research, policy analysis or programmatic evaluation, must take into account the significance of sex and gender. GENDRO's mission is to work collaboratively with partners, identify gaps, strengthen capacity, generate evidence, and advocate for gender sensitive research, data analysis and any form of knowledge production as a way to create equitable solutions to the societal challenges of our time.

Given the strength of its network and its presence in Geneva, the Global Health Capital, GENDRO focuses on health research and data analysis as a key strategic priority in 2019-2022.



“An equitable world built on research and innovation that integrates sex and gender dimensions.”



“To advance equity through the integration of sex and gender in research.”



Activities in 2019

MARCH

GENDRO celebrates Women's Day 2019.

APRIL

Official launch of GENDRO and its Gender, Health and Evidence (GHE) Network.

JUNE

GENDRO's GHE Network was highlighted in *Les Temps*.

OCTOBER

GENDRO delivered a lecture to students of Boston University and University of Bologna.

NOVEMBER

GENDRO presented at the Global Forum for Health Promotion.

DECEMBER

By the end of 2019, GEH had more than 40 members.

GENDRO CELEBRATES INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

8 March 2019



To mark the International Women's Day, the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) brought together an international panel of global experts to discuss the gendered challenges in science and share experiences and best practices to define a path forward for a greater representation of women in science and creation of a more inclusive academic and research environment for all.

GENDRO's President, Dr Shirin Heidari, participated in a panel discussion and presented on the gender related barriers in academic research: "The productivity puzzle - Is there a gender bias in academic publishing?".

THE LAUNCH OF GENDRO AND ITS GENDER, HEALTH AND EVIDENCE NETWORK (GEH)

9 April 2019



Photo Credit: GHC / S. Deshapriya

On the occasion of World Health Day, on 9 April 2019, GENDRO and its Gender Health and Evidence Network were officially launched in an event "Making Sex & Gender Dimensions Count in Health Research and Programmes". The event was organised in collaboration with the Global Health Centre and the Gender Centre of the Graduate

Institute of International and Development Studies, Global Fund to fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, and the World Health Organization, and with the generous support of Geneva Think Tank Hub and Foraus.

Dr Shirin Heidari, together with Dr Veronica Magar from WHO, Gender, Equity and Rights Unit opened the session. Thereafter, Ms Anuradha Gupta, Deputy CEO of GAVI, Dr Carole Presern, Head of the Office of Board Affairs at The Global Fund, Dr Avni Amin, WHO Chief Scientist at the Department of Reproductive Health and Research, and Ms Francelina Romao, Health

Counsellor, Permanent Mission of Mozambique to the United Nations Office at Geneva joined the panel on “Generating evidence and translating to practice” moderated by Dr Claire Somerville, Executive Director, Gender Centre, Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies. The speakers presented their experiences and ongoing efforts, as well as their commitment to gender mainstreaming in health data and research as instrumental to addressing gender-related programmatic barriers.

The Gender, Health and Evidence Network (GEH) is a think tank dedicated to convene actors in Geneva and facilitate joint actions toward improving integration of sex and gender in health research and data analysis.

GENDRO’S GENDER, HEALTH AND EVIDENCE NETWORK *supported by Geneva Think Tank Hub* *June 2019*

As part of its efforts toward advancing equity through sex and gender sensitive research, GENDRO’s Gender, Health and Evidence Network (GHE) is a think tank where partners can exchange ideas, discuss methodological complexities and elaborate comprehensive approaches to gender mainstreaming in health data analysis and research. In 2019, we organised three Network meetings, where members presented ongoing work, discussed data challenges, and developed joint projects and actions. One of the projects is a systematic review of gender considerations in research ethics guidelines. The goal is to develop recommendations so that the ethics committees can consider gender dimensions in their review of research protocols as a matter of routine and contribute to improving ethical and equitable health research.

By the end of 2019, the number of the Network members had increased from 11 to 32 individuals from academia, UN agencies, and other international and civil society organisations. Our Network was highlighted in Les Temps on 13 June 2019, as one of the few initiatives that focuses on improving gender equity in research and evidence.



9th GLOBAL FORUM FOR HEALTH PROMOTION

12 November 2019



The President of the Alliance for Health Promotion (A4HP), Mr Bernard Kadasia, a GENDRO Board Member, opened the Forum with a statement on the importance of multi-sectoral collaboration in promoting Universal Health Care.

Dr Shirin Heidari delivered a presentation on behalf of GENDRO, where she emphasised on the importance of considering gender as a critical health determinant when formulating health policies and implementing them in real life. Dr Shirin Heidari called for a systematic integration of gender and its intersection with other health determinants to better understand women's, gender diverse persons' and men's needs, choices, access to resources, health behaviours and their response to health promotion efforts. To achieve UHC in an equitable manner, she called for a more- gender sensitive approach across all dimensions of health and across life course, starting earlier in life. This requires capacity building and investing in generation and dissemination of data disaggregated by sex, age and other social markers, better use of available data and improved translation of evidence into policy and practice.

To watch the video recording of the event, visit the [link](#).

GENDRO INVOLVED IN TRAINING AND CAPACITY BUILDING

October 2019

GENDRO supports early career researchers by providing tailored lecture and training to public health undergraduate, graduate and postgraduate students. In 2019, GENDRO delivered a lecture to Boston University public health students in Geneva, as well as to doctoral and post-doctoral students at University of Bologna.



In 2020 we will continue

Convening and connecting to promote joint and coordinated action.

Disseminating data and evidence to inform and influence policies, programmes and practices.

Developing priority research agenda to address the evidence gaps.

Creating public awareness about the implications of lack of sex and gender considerations in research and innovation.

Providing training and building capacity on gender sensitive research and data analysis.

Strengthening the Gender, Health and Evidence Network.

Board Members

Shirin Heidari

Founder and President

Dr. Shirin Heidari is Senior Research Fellow at the Global Health Centre at the Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies in Geneva and a Senior Technical Consultant on gender to WHO Gender, Equity and Human Rights Unit. [Read more](#)

Olivia Mettler

Treasurer

With more than 18 years of financial experience in multinationals and international non-profit companies, she is a Finance & Administration executive, member of the board of directors of the International AIDS Society (IAS). [Read more](#)

Emily T. Blitz

Secretary

Ms. Emily T. Blitz is the director of public health focused conferences with twenty years of experience in public relations, multicultural team leadership and stakeholder engagement. [Read more](#)

Bernard Kadasia

Member

Mr. Bernard Kadasia is a senior level professional who brings together close to forty years of experience in technical, managerial and leadership positions in government, civil society, private sector, and international non-governmental organizations. [Read more](#)

Maria Halkias

Member

Dr. Maria Halkias has worked in the promotion of arts for more than ten years, supporting the advancement of women in the art world. [Read more](#)



WE COULD NOT HAVE DONE IT WITHOUT YOU!

We would like to extend our sincere appreciation to our partners, supporters and volunteers for their dedication and for their valuable contribution to our activities in 2019. We particularly appreciate the support of Geneva Think Tank Hub / Foraus as a key ally and partner of GENDRO's Gender, Health and Evidence Network and the active engagement of the Network members. We look forward to a continued successful cooperation with you in 2020.

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