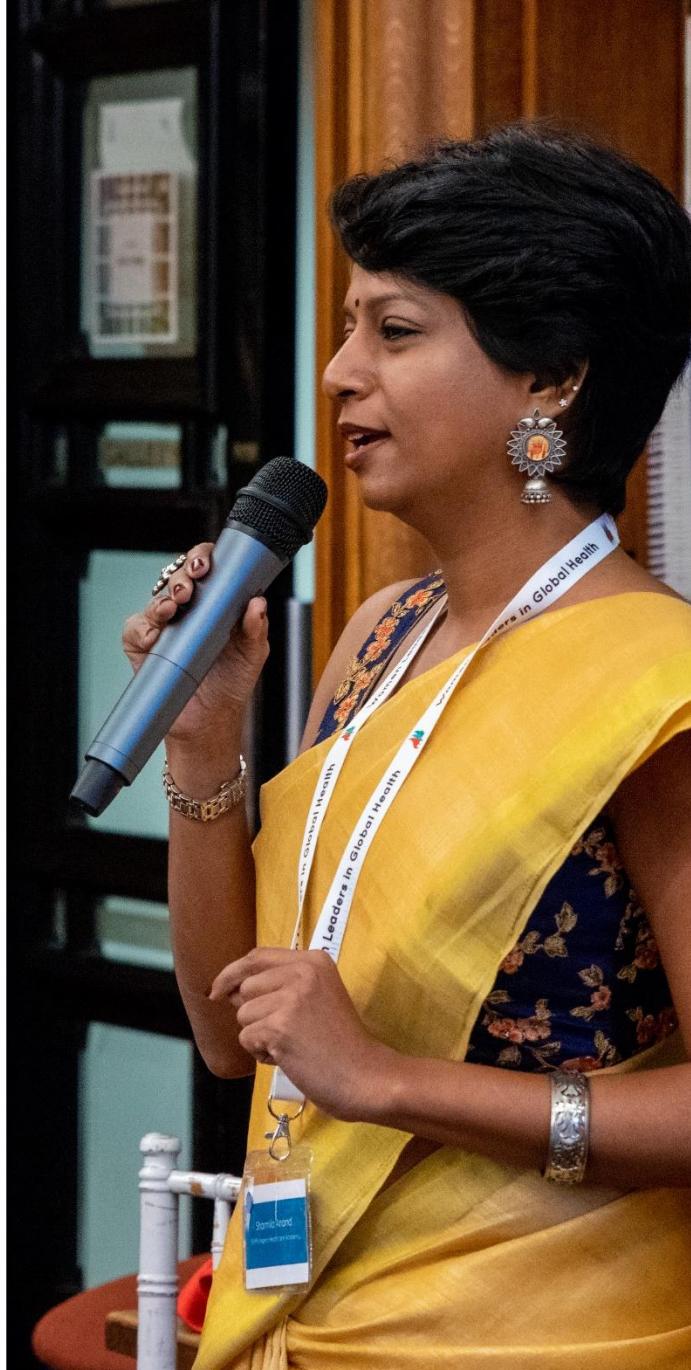


Women Leaders in Global Health 2018 Report



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Executive summary



On 8-9 November 2018 The London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine, with support from partners and sponsors, was proud to host the second Women Leaders in Global Health Conference.

The conference sought to address the barriers that prevent women from achieving gender equality in global health leadership, by bringing together global health professionals to share their projects, experience, and thought leadership.

Following feedback from last year, both mentoring and skills-based training were key areas of focus for this year's conference, and we are proud to share with you this report on the outcomes and feedback from the 2018 event.

Attendees

In total we welcomed 896 delegates to the conference, from 76 countries and over 80 nationalities. Of these 117 were speakers, moderators and facilitators, 112 were scholarship recipients, and 261 (29%) were LMIC attendees (including scholarship recipients). We also had a waiting list of 500 people after tickets for the conference had sold out.

In total LSHTM offered 138 scholarships to low and middle-income countries applicants, and whilst 112 attended the conference from 38 different countries,

19 were unable to attend due to visa refusals.

In response to the rejection of these visa applications LSHTM's Director, Professor Baron Peter Piot, corresponded with the Home Office to express the importance of international collaboration in public health, particularly in relation to education and training. LSHTM has also continued to coordinate with partners such as the Wellcome Trust to further encourage the government to support the visa requests of those wishing to travel to the UK for educational purposes. We will continue to provoke discussions on

the matter and strive to bring about meaningful change.



Throughout the conference, attendees took part in a varied programme of talks and conversations, including a plenary and panel discussions on day one, followed by parallel sessions. Day one culminated in a reception event, generously hosted by the Wellcome Trust. 500 registered to attend this event, providing guests with the opportunity to

Programme

socialise and network in a relaxed atmosphere.

The second day began with a mentoring breakfast attended by 190 delegates. This included 126 mentees and 64 mentors, providing a ratio of roughly two mentees to each mentor. The breakfast benefitted from a seating plan, which ensured that each mentor was sat between two mentees, each of whom had been selected based on information they had provided (on their interests and objectives) ahead of the event.

38% of the mentoring breakfast attendees were from academic backgrounds, whilst 33% were from non-profit organizations, and the remaining were from either the private sector, government departments or other sectors. Both established and emerging leaders from the conference programme were invited to speak at the breakfast, and

share their own personal career journeys. This event was well received, and a key area of potential future development for the series.

Day two of the conference included a plenary, and 16 parallel sessions on topics including 'Navigating Gender in the Private Sector', and 'Routes to Leadership in Global Health.' Delegates were also able to attend 'Leadership Accelerator' training tracks, which consisted of skills based training for emerging leaders. These sessions provided training on communicating with the media, and guidance on effective leadership practices. The conference ended with final remarks, and a discussion on the 'Road to Rwanda' for next year's conference.



Social media coverage

- 15k tweets about Women Leaders in Global Health seen by 50.6m people in 2018 (5,150 tweets from 1,000 participants in 2017)
- #WLGH18 hashtag used 12.7k times seen by 43.6m people
- The #SheSpeaks Twitter chat generated 525 tweets seen by 736k people
- Many of the organisations we targeted in the social media campaign, including conference sponsors, shared content via their channels (e.g. Wellcome Trust and Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation)
- Health leaders and advocates shared content on Twitter, including Dr Soumya Swaminathan, Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, Christy Turlington and Jeremy Farrar.



Media coverage

- Nearly 50 pieces of global media coverage generated
- Coverage relating to visa rejections for WLGH18 participants made the front page of the Times newspaper website. Other key online coverage included articles by Reuters, Indian Express and Devex
- Professor Heidi Larson and Dr Joanne Liu appeared on the BBC Radio 4's Woman's Hour programme, discussing issues being explored at the conference
- A Wellcome Trust spokesperson appeared on BBC Radio 4's Today programme (a highly influential news programme in the UK) to discuss the conference and the visa issues
- Journalists who attended included: Lin Taylor - Thomson Reuters Foundation, Lottie Watters - Devex, Smitha Mundasad - BBC, Nicki Stianski - BBC, Sumi Sukanya - New Indian Express, Jack Grove - Times Higher Education, Anne Gulland - The Daily Telegraph.

"As a young person (23) from the north of England, it was amazing to be in the same room as many amazing women from around the world. Truly inspiring, and only makes me more excited of what there is to come in my career."

A strategic goal of the 2018 conference was to welcome both established and emerging leaders in global health, and to support networking and mentoring opportunities.



"I didn't attend but I followed almost every activity live. Working very hard to ensure women leaders in health globally network and build each other."

In total the WLGH Conference Live Stream webpage received 1,891 visits, the majority (1,553) on Day 1.

Conference feedback

Participants completed a survey of their experiences which will be used to shape the future development of the conference series. 198 participants completed the survey (22% of attendees), of which almost 30% were aged 30 or under, 40% were aged between 31-40, and the remaining participants were over 41 years.

The majority of responses were received from participants residing in the USA (30%), the UK (24%), and Nigeria (6%), with the remaining respondents spread across 33 other countries. 86% of survey respondents hadn't attended last year's conference, however 74% planned to attend next year's event.

We were pleased to note that 85% of survey participants rated the conference as either 'very good' or 'excellent' overall, with 12% rating it as 'good' and 2% as 'Fair'. When asked about the quality of learning opportunities at the conference the majority of respondents confirmed that these were either 'good' (24%), 'very good' (44%) or 'excellent' (22%). Whilst most found the networking and collaborative opportunities to be either 'good' (33%), 'very good' (32%) or excellent (22%).

The leadership building opportunities at the conference also received positive reviews with 82% of participants rating these as either 'good', 'very good' or 'excellent'. A total of 89% of participants confirmed that they would be likely to recommend attending the conference to people in their network.

A range of sessions were singled out for praise in the survey, these include the leadership accelerator sessions, the panel discussion 'What does leadership mean in Global Health?', and the mentoring breakfast. Our request for recommendations on the format and topics of future conferences received 126 responses. Suggestions included increasing the capacity of the event as a whole, adding more lightening rounds, engaging more men in future conferences, and providing further mentoring sessions and opportunities. The results and feedback from the full survey will be incorporated into the WLGH steering committee's planning for next year's conference.

Conclusion

We are proud to report that feedback on the 2018 Women Leaders in Global Health Conference confirms that this event was widely considered to be successful and well received by participants. LSHTM, and the conference steering committee, would like to thank all of the partners and sponsors whose support has made this possible.

As well as being a successful individual event, the 2018 conference is a valuable part of a much wider movement to break down the barriers that prevent women from obtaining leadership positions in global health. As we look ahead to the next conference in November, we ask that all of the organisations involved in last year's event will continue to support the efforts of the Women Leaders in Global Health conference series as we continue this work.



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