

# Civil society engagement for global women's health: learnings from the field for NTD research

**Clarissa Prazeres da Costa**

Group leader, *Infection & Immunity in Global Health*

Co-(joint)-Director, *Center for Global Health (CGH)*

Technical University of Munich (TUM)

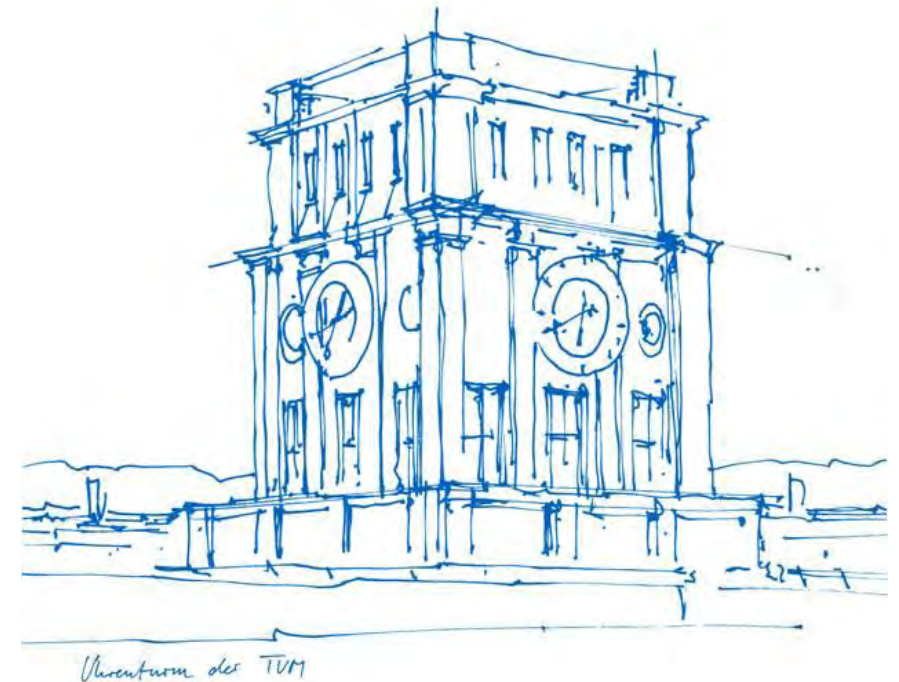
School of Medicine & Health

[clarissa.dacosta@tum.de](mailto:clarissa.dacosta@tum.de)

**Tuesday, 17th October 2023**

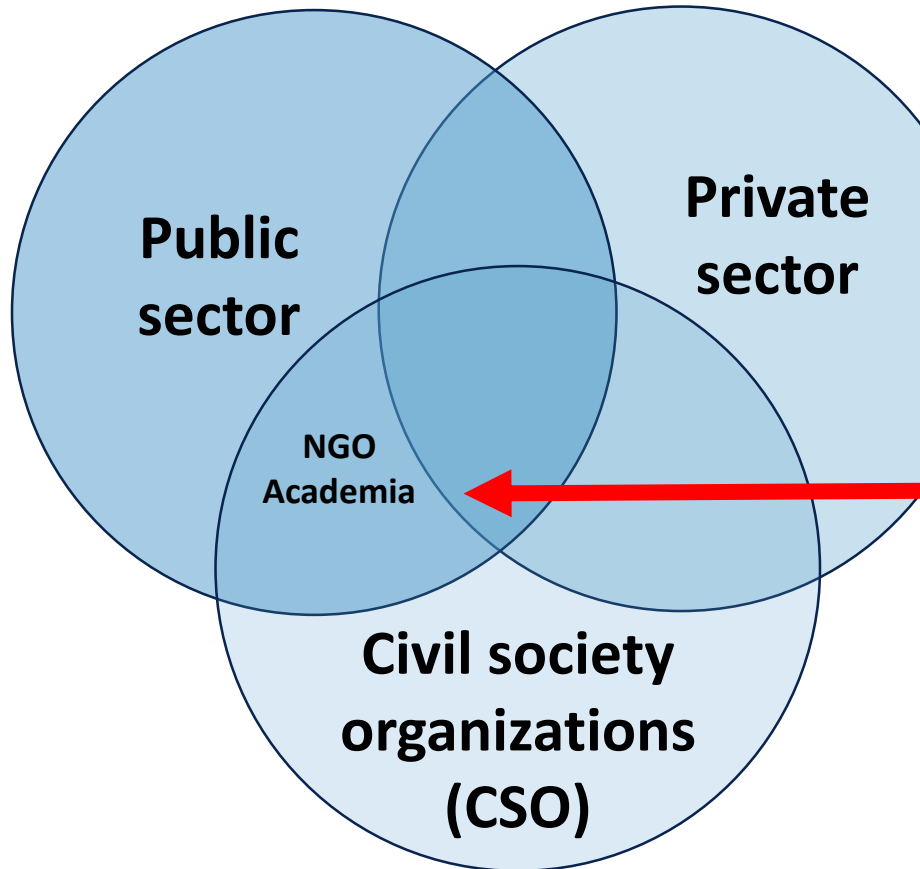
*World Health Summit, 2023*

*Berlin*



# What is civil society and what can it do for health?

The increasingly accepted understanding of the term civil society organizations (CSOs) is that of **non-state, not-for-profit, voluntary organizations** formed by people in that social sphere



The European Observatory on Health Systems and Policies 2017


**World Health Organization**  
**TERMS OF REFERENCE**  
**OF**  
**WHO Civil Society Commission (CSO Commission)**

**I. Mission**  
 To strengthen dialogue, foster collaboration and provide recommendations to support WHO on its engagement with civil society at global, regional and national levels to achieve health for all and the objectives of the WHO General Programme of Work as well as to accelerate attainment of health-related SDGs.

**II. Status**  
 The WHO Civil Society Commission is a WHO network consisting of a Steering Committee, a general meeting and working groups. It is set up to provide information and recommendations that may inform WHO's work on key issues related to interactions between WHO and civil society with the aim of strengthening these, as appropriate, including in global health governance processes where WHO is engaged.

The WHO Civil Society Commission is not a separate legal entity and derives its legal status from WHO. The Society C  
 Constitution  
 WHO's m  
 including t

The initial  
 considerat

**III. Vision**  
 The goal o  
 available t  
 civil society at global, regional, and national levels, rendering it more systematic with the aim of  
 advancing WHO's work and public health ou

**IV. Core Principles**  
 The WHO Civil Society Commission is gover

<sup>1</sup> Framework of engagement with non-State actors [http://www.who.int/publications/m/item/framework-of-engagement-with-non-state-actors](#)

**New WHO Civil Society Commission to strengthen civil society organizations' role in accelerating progress in global health**

**WHO's engagement with non-State actors**

**Framework of Engagement with Non-State Actors (FENSA)**

English

WHO 2018, WHO 2022



# CSOs have an important role in women's health



## Dialogue to accelerate CSOs' role on women's health in Ethiopia

21 February 2019

Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) had a dialogue on women's health with a theme "Meeting Women's Health Needs in Ethiopia; Challenges and Opportunities" in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia on 15<sup>th</sup> February 2019. The meeting was organized by the ECA, AU Department for Social Affairs and WHO, in collaboration with Ethiopian Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), the Ethiopian Ministries of Gender and Health, UNDP, UNICEF, UNAIDs, and UNWOMEN.



This meeting was held as part of the Africa Health Week from 11-15 Feb 2019 and at the margins of the 32nd African Union Heads of State and Government Summit at Economic Commission in Africa conference center aiming at creating a consensus on strategic interventions needed to respond to women's health needs.

WHO 2019



[Click image to enlarge](#)

**For Additional Information or to Request Interviews, Please contact:**

Yilma Selamawit  
 Tel: +251 911 671134  
 Email: [yilmas@who.int](mailto:yilmas@who.int)

UN Women 2022

## The Contribution of Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) in Advancing Women's Political Participation and Effectiveness:

### A Case of the Mon Women Movement in Myanmar

By Alice Muthoni Murage

**ACTION BRIEF**

**UN WOMEN**

**RAPID ASSESSMENT: IMPACT OF THE WAR IN UKRAINE ON WOMEN'S CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS**

Results from a UN Women Survey conducted between March 4<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> 2022

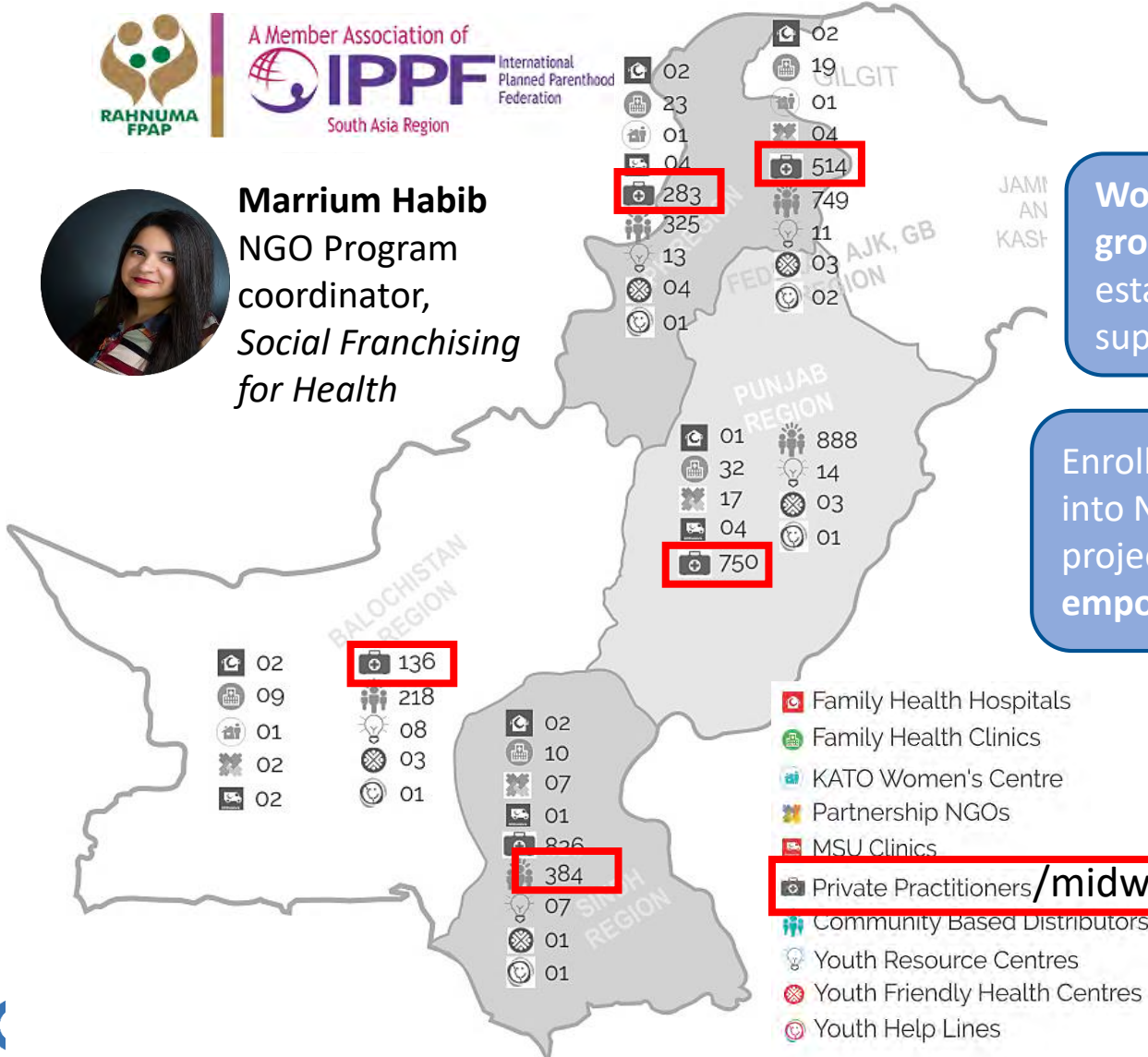
3

# Civil society engagement for women's health in Pakistan: a central role for midwives

Scaling up the basket of reproductive *and* general health services provided by midwives in peri-urban and rural catchment areas in Pakistan



**Marrium Habib**  
NGO Program coordinator,  
*Social Franchising for Health*



Women's influence groups and trust established with support of NGO

Enrollment of women into NGO skill building projects for economic empowerment

Midwives lead multi-stakeholder women forums to allow community and reproductive health awareness sessions



# The challenges for women's health in sub-Saharan Africa (SSA): Working beyond NTDs



## Workshop: Challenges for Women's Health in sub-Saharan Africa (SSA)

- **Aim 1: Embed basic science-driven research** from mother-child into the broader context of women's health
- **Aim 2: Empower the midwives** by knowledge translation using the **life-course approach** to women's health:  
female genital schistosomiasis, cesarian section, cervical cancer



# Engaging midwives for programmatic delivery



© 2021 The Author(s)  
JoGH © 2021 ISGH

Cite as: Habib M, Adegnika AA, Honkpehedji J, Klug SJ, Lobmaier S, Vogg K, Bustinduy AL, L. Reinhard-Rupp J, Esen M, Prazeres da Costa C. The challenges for women's health in sub-Saharan A. Lessons learned from an integrative multistakeholder workshop in Gabon. J Glob Health 2021;11:020.

## The challenges for women's health in sub-Saharan Africa: Lessons learned from an integrative multistakeholder workshop in Gabon

NEWS

Marrum Habib<sup>1,2\*</sup>, Ayola Akim Adegnika<sup>3,4\*</sup>, Josiane Honkpehedji<sup>1,10</sup>, Stefanie J Klug<sup>5</sup>, Silvia Lobmaier<sup>6</sup>, Kathrin Vogg<sup>6</sup>, Amaya L Bustinduy<sup>7†</sup>, Andreas Ullrich<sup>8</sup>, Jutta Reinhard-Rupp<sup>9</sup>, Meral Esen<sup>3,4,10†</sup>, Clarissa Prazeres da Costa<sup>1,2,10</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Institute for Medical Microbiology, Immunology and Hygiene, Technical University of Munich (TUM), Munich, Germany

<sup>2</sup> Center for Global Health, TUM School of Medicine, Technical University of Munich (TUM), Munich, Germany

<sup>3</sup> Institute for Tropical Medicine (ITM), University Clinic Tübingen, (UKT), Tübingen, Germany

<sup>4</sup> Centre de Recherches Médicales de Lambaréné (CERMEL), Lambaréné, Gabon

<sup>5</sup> Chair of Epidemiology, Department of Sport and Health Sciences, Technical University of Munich (TUM), Munich, Germany

<sup>6</sup> Clinic and Polyclinic for Gynecology, University Hospital, Klinikum Rechts der Isar (MRI), Technical University Munich (TUM), Munich, Germany

<sup>7</sup> Department of Clinical Research, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine (LSHTM), London, United Kingdom

<sup>8</sup> Charité – Universitätsmedizin Berlin, Germany

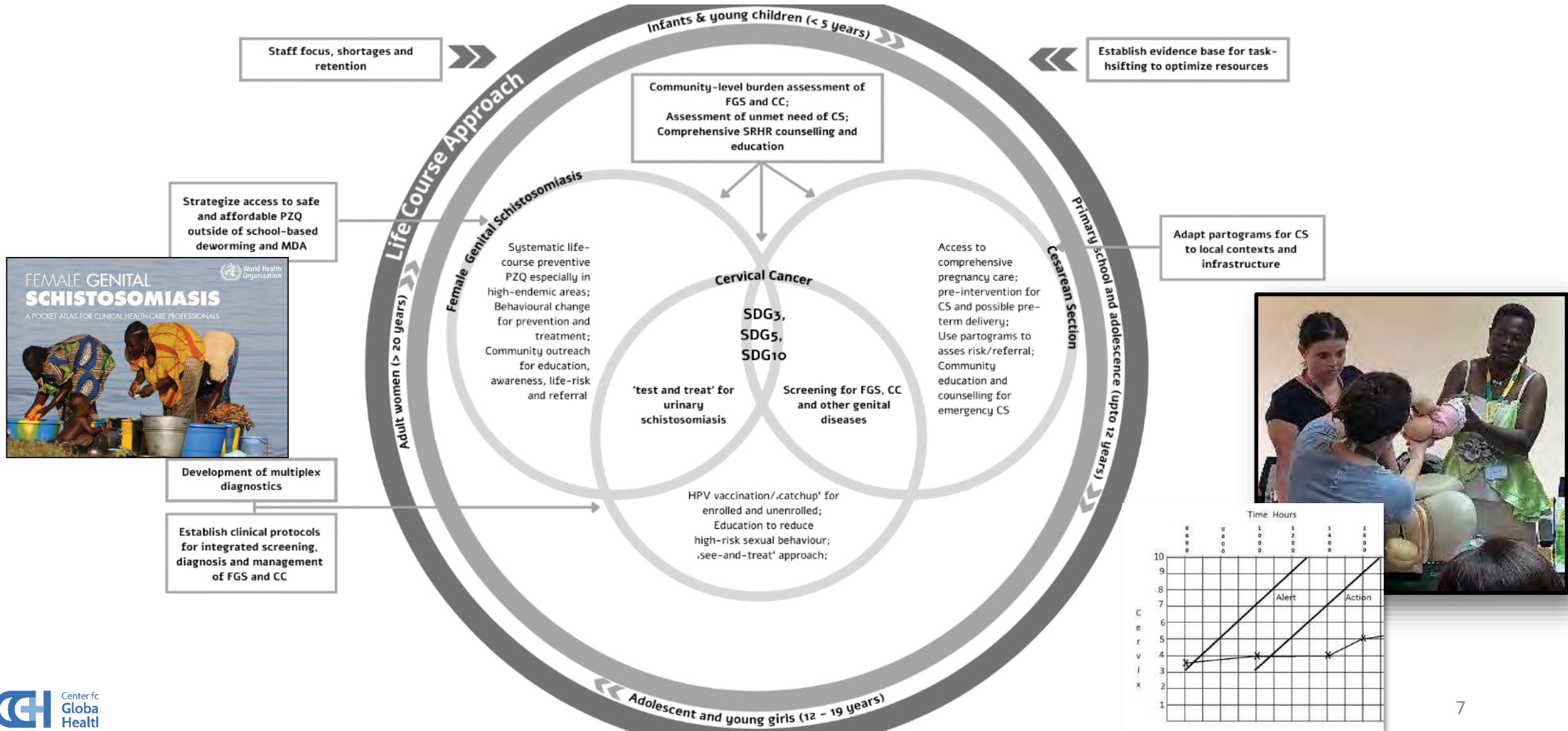
<sup>9</sup> Ares Trading S.A., Eysins, Switzerland, an affiliate of Merck

<sup>10</sup> German Center for Infection Research (DZIF), Tübingen, Germany

<sup>\*</sup> first authors.

<sup>†</sup> or authors.

# Learnings, research and delivery gaps





[Prof. Dr. Clarissa Prazeres da Costa,](mailto:clarissa.dacosta@tum.de)  
[clarissa.dacosta@tum.de](mailto:clarissa.dacosta@tum.de)

Marrim Habib, MBBS, MPH  
[marrim.habib@tum.de](mailto:marrim.habib@tum.de)



# External partners and funders

