

Berlin & Nairobi Roadmap Event

Data and AI: Women's Health as the #1 Investment Opportunity

9 October 2026 | German Health Alliance | Berlin

Side event ahead of the World Health Summit 2026 "From Crisis to Resilience: Innovating for Health", 11–13 October 2026

Hosted by: Berlin & Nairobi Roadmap Partners German Health Alliance and FemTech Germany

Date & Time: 9 October, 2026 | 3:00 - 5:45 p.m. CET

Location: German Health Alliance (BDI) followed by UNFPA Reception

Format: Roundtable discussion
2027

Expected Output: Agreement on an action plan for

Background

The World Health Summit is the premier global forum where leaders from politics, science, the private sector, and civil society come together to shape the future of health. The 2026 Summit—held under the theme *"From Crisis to Resilience: Innovating for Health"*—offers a critical moment to position women's health as a driver of both global health and economic resilience, while recognizing that trusted data and AI are essential to achieving these goals.

Despite growing recognition, women's health remains underprioritized and underfunded. Global R&D funding for sexual and reproductive health nearly doubled between 2018 and 2023, from \$451 million to \$889 million, though the tracking body behind those figures notes that part of the increase reflects a broader set of conditions being counted rather than genuine new investment. Beyond this specific field, McKinsey's 2021 analysis found that around 1% of healthcare research and innovation is directed at female-specific conditions outside oncology — a figure the Gates Foundation and the World Economic Forum have both used to frame the scale of the shortfall.

The evidence base is skewed at its foundation: of 720 preclinical studies published across nine disciplines in 2019, only one in five both included male and female subjects and analyzed the data by sex. That gap now propagates into the AI systems reshaping healthcare. Of 390 clinical AI models reviewed, 31% did not report the sex composition of their training data at all; where

consequences have been measured, they are severe — models detecting liver disease from routine blood tests missed 44% of cases in women against 23% in men. Meanwhile, among women aged 15–49 in low- and middle-income countries, benign gynecological conditions cause more years lived with disability than HIV/AIDS, malaria and tuberculosis combined (GBD 2019; Wijeratne et al., IJGO 2024). Yet, the datasets needed to train AI to detect, predict and manage these conditions are among the thinnest in all of medicine.

Yet momentum is building. The Gates Foundation's \$2.5 billion commitment through 2030 — its largest ever in women's health R&D, supporting more than 40 innovations across five chronically underfunded areas — promises to accelerate scientific breakthroughs. What has changed is the data itself. Femtech and molecular diagnostics have the potential to generate the first large-scale, longitudinal datasets on female biology, from menstrual and hormonal tracking to maternal cell-free RNA signatures: a Nature Communications study of more than 9,000 pregnancies validated a second-trimester blood test that identified 91% of pregnancies going on to develop preterm preeclampsia among women aged 35 and over without pre-existing risk factors — months before symptoms.

At the 2025 World Health Summit, UNFPA and its partners launched the Berlin Roadmap for Collaborative Action on Women's Health and carried forward the Equity 2030 Alliance, established at the same Summit in 2023 to advance equity by design in science, technology and financing. However, without equal focus on delivery, data governance, and equitable access, even the most transformative innovations risk stalling in the "valley of death" between discovery and real-world impact — or worse, scaling AI tools that replicate the same exclusions they were meant to correct.

This is where platforms like WomenX Collective play a catalytic role — connecting science to sustainable change by shaping markets, mobilizing financing, and building the partnerships needed to integrate data-driven and AI-powered solutions into national health systems, particularly in LMICs where the intersection of the gender data gap and the digital divide is most acute.

Objectives

This roundtable launches a monthly series in 2027 bringing together leading voices advancing women's health through data and artificial intelligence, with a particular focus on low- and middle-income countries.

The 9 October kick-off gathers senior representatives — researchers, founders, investors, policymakers and leaders in women's health networks — across sectors that rarely speak the same language. Together, participants will:

- **Name the data gap for what it is** — a structural failure with direct consequences for every AI system trained on health data, and a multiplier of the inequities women already face.

- **Identify what already works** — from RNA-based maternal risk prediction and hormone-tracking wearables to AI-powered SRH chatbots in LMICs, the field has moved from proof-of-concept to deployable solutions.
- **Interrogate the pipeline** — what it takes to move innovations from clinical validation into national health systems, including the financing, regulatory and trust infrastructure that determines whether they reach the women who need them.
- **Build the architecture for collaboration** — concrete cross-sector and cross-country opportunities where shared data standards, joint research and co-investment can close the gap faster than any single actor alone.

Each member of the Berlin and Nairobi Roadmaps will take part in online discussions across 2027, creating a year-long platform for collaboration, knowledge exchange and joint action on women's health data and AI. The full series timeline and topics will be shared during the 9 October session.

Agenda for 9 October

3:00 **Arrival** and Networking

3:15 **Formal acceptance of FemTech Germany as a roadmap member**

3:30 **Welcome & Introduction**

Lara Petersen, German Health Alliance & Christiane Hagel, FemTech Germany

3:45 **Opening Remarks: The Case for Women's Health & Data**

Deepali Sood, *Global Coordinator of UNFPA's WomenX Collective*

Prof. Dr. Frank Louwen, *President, International Federation of Gynaecology and Obstetrics (FIGO)*

4:00 **Roundtable Discussion 1: From Data Gaps to Better Health: Can AI & Data Transform Women's Health?**

The discussion will open with short impulses offering different perspectives on the topic.

- **Impulse 1: Prof. Dr. Marleen Temmerman**, *Director, Women and Child Health Centre of Excellence, Aga Khan University, Nairobi, Kenya.*

- **Impulse 2: Dr. med. Sara Nasser**, Specialist in Obstetrics and Gynecology with a focus on Gynecologic Oncology, Lead for Global Women's Health, Charité

Topics to be discussed:

- The State of Play in Health AI
- The Time is Now: Can Data Become the Catalyst for Better Women's Health?
- Research Perspective: Health Data in Europe
- Data Opportunities in LMICs: A Local Perspective

4:30 **Coffee break**

4:45 **Roundtable Discussion 2: From Pilots to Scale to Implementation: Investing in the Global Women's Health Data & AI Ecosystem**

The discussion will open with short impulses offering different perspectives on scaling, implementation and investment, including insights from SPRIND – the German Federal Agency for Breakthrough Innovation.

- **Impulse 1: Maro Bader**, Chairman of the Board, sphin-X e.V. (3 Minutes)
- **Impulse 2: Jano Costard**, Challenge Officer, Sprin-D, German Innovation Agency (3 minutes) (tbc)

Topics to be discussed:

- The Story So Far: One Boarding Ticket for All Women and Girls
- Global Data Collaboration: Accelerating Impact through Data Innovation Ecosystem
- What's Working: Lessons from Sprin-D
- Action for the Smartest Investment of Our Time

5:15 **Closing Reflections**

Lara Petersen, German Health Alliance

5:30 **A Call to Action: The Action Series 2027**

Christiane Hagel, FemTech Germany
Followed by Joint Photo

5:45 **End**

Participants are invited to join the UNFPA reception (separate RSVP needed).

Road Map Partners:

