

Giving Women Annual Conference 2017

Economic autonomy for women at the bottom of the pyramid. Opportunities and barriers.

Thursday 5th October 2017, Geneva



PROGRAMME

13:00 **Registration**

13:30 **Opening remarks**

Atalanti Moquette, Founder & Vice-chair, Giving Women, www.givingwomen.ch

13:30 **Keynote**

Mary Ellen Iskanderian, President & CEO, Women's World Banking
www.womensworldbanking.org

Moderator

Katharina Samara-Wickrama, Programme office, Oak Foundation, www.oakfnd.org

14:00 **Opening Panel**

Why? In the first panel, the speakers will provide an overview of effective programmes addressing the economic empowerment of women in various contexts across the globe. How have women's lives changed and how have their families and communities benefited. We will explore the challenges, opportunities and key learnings to transform vulnerable women at the bottom of the pyramid into economic actors. We will see how giving women economic autonomy can lead to significant improvements not just for themselves, but for their families and communities.

Yves Moury, President & CEO, Fondation Capital, www.fundacioncapital.org

Theo Sowa, CEO, African Women's Development Fund, www.awdf.org

Ziad Ayoubi, Head of Livelihoods Creation, UNHCR, www.unhcr.org

15:15 **Break and Marketplace**

15:35 **Panel 1**

How? This panel will highlight some of the innovative and successful projects that have developed livelihoods for women. Our panelists will share stories from projects and women and try to distil key learnings from their work and suggest what they believe is needed to effectively empower women economically.

Moderator

Leila Delarive, Founder & Strategic Planner, Be Curious TV, www.becurioustv.com

Dorothea Arndt, Co-CEO, Head of Communications & Corporate Partnerships, Hand in Hand

Tracey Chambers, CEO, Clothing Bank, www.theclothingbank.org.za

Lindsey Nefesh Clarke, Founder & Managing Director, W4, www.w4.org

16:45 **Break and Marketplace**

17:05 **Panel 2**

What else do women at the bottom of the pyramid require to engage in economic activity?

Beyond technical support, financial services and markets, this panel will reveal some of the important obstacles that hold women back: e.g. their families, their self-confidence, appropriate infrastructure, access to healthcare and childcare, a voice in the political process, etc. How do we overcome these important barriers to truly emancipate women economically?

Moderator

Katharina Samara-Wickrama, Programme office, Oak Foundation, www.oakfnd.org

Bedriye Hulya, Founder, Be Fit, www.b-fit.com.tr

Meenu Vadera, Founder, Azad Foundation, www.azadfoundation.com/women-on-wheels/

Emmanuelle Werner, Director, Friends international, Switzerland, www.friends-international.org

18:15 **Closing Plenary**

Following the break out panels the participants will reconvene for a short film followed by testimonials from women who have benefited from economic empowerment. We will hear about one organisation that ties in many of the key elements to support sustained improvements in the lives of those at the bottom of the pyramid.

Meagan Fallone, CEO, Barefoot College International

19:00 **Closing Remarks**

Sophie Chapuisat, Chairwoman, Giving Women

19:30 **Cocktail and Marketplace**