

# *WHY GENDER MATTERS IN GLOBAL HEALTH GOVERNANCE*



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*CHAIR ELECT INTERSECTIONAL COUNCIL APHA*

# **OBJECTIVES**



- 1. DEFINE GLOBAL HEALTH GOVERNANCE***
- 2. WHY GENDER INCLUSION IS CRUCIAL IN GLOBAL HEALTH GOVERNANCE***
- 3. DISCUSS THE LINK BETWEEN EFFECTIVE GLOBAL HEALTH GOVERNANCE AND THE LEAVE NO ONE BEHIND AGENDA***

# INTRODUCTION

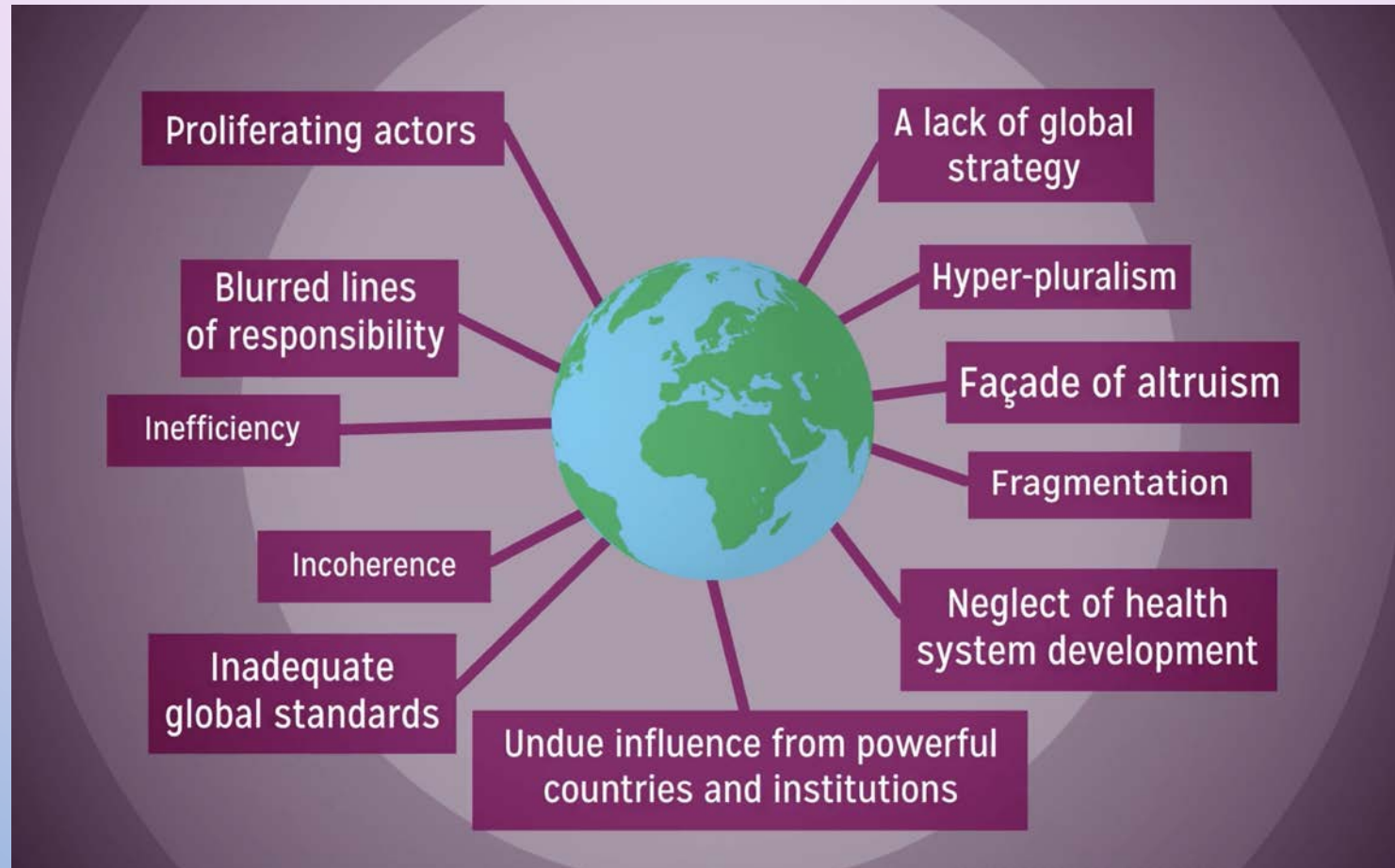


- ***DEFINITION:***
- ***GLOBAL HEALTH GOVERNANCE IS DEFINED AS “THE USE OF FORMAL AND INFORMAL INSTITUTIONS, RULES, AND PROCESSES BY STATES, INTERGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS, AND NON-STATE ACTORS TO DEAL WITH CHALLENGES TO HEALTH THAT REQUIRE CROSS-BORDER COLLECTIVE ACTION TO ADDRESS EFFECTIVELY.”<sup>1</sup>***

# GOVERNANCE

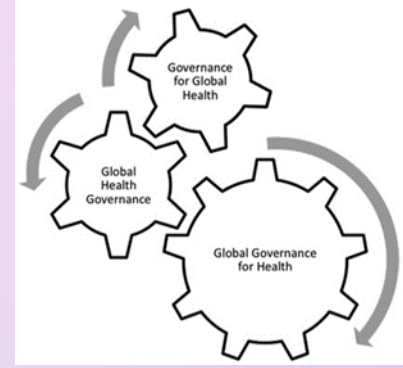


# CHALLENGES



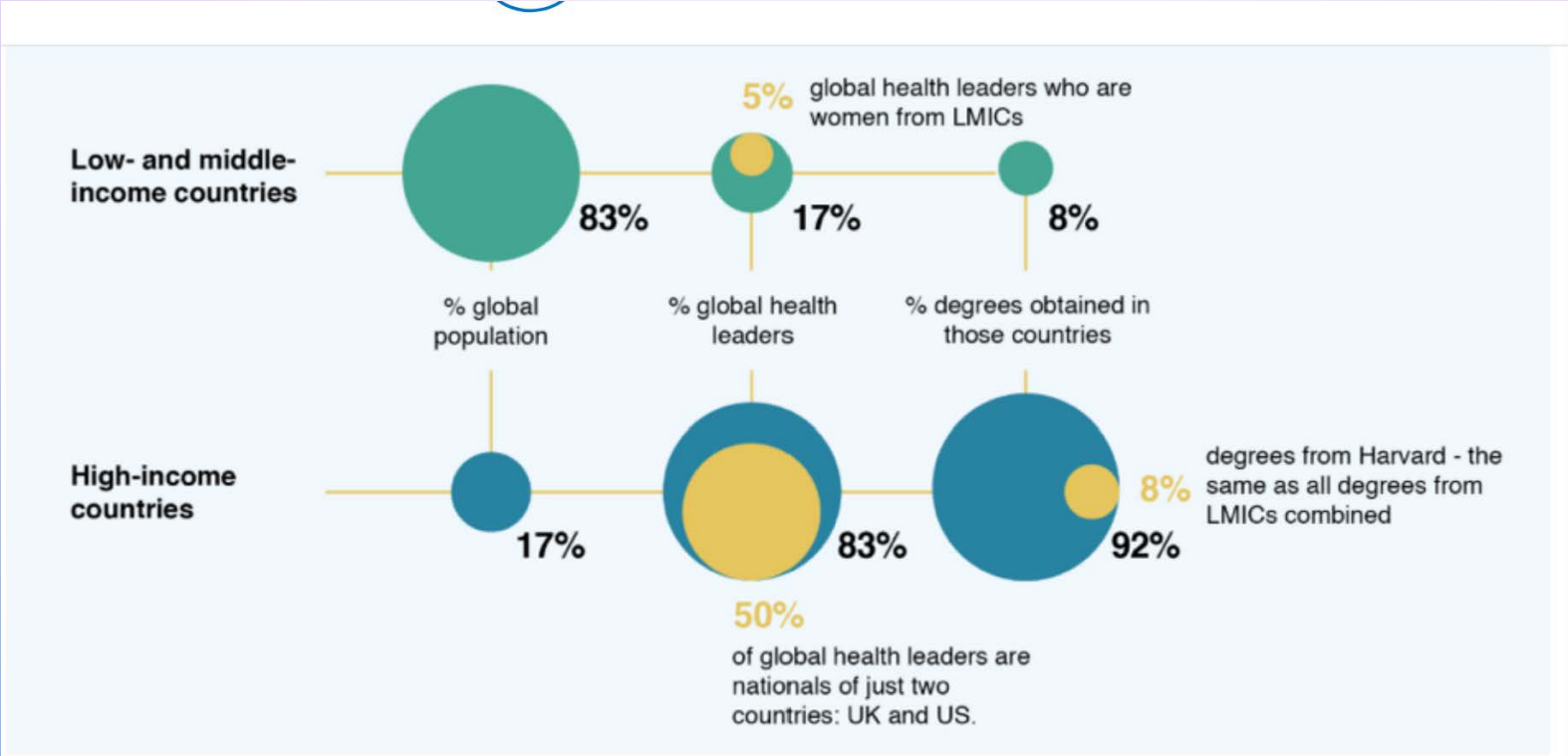
*SOURCE : PENN TODAY*

# MCA



- ***“THE CONCEPT OF MUTUAL COLLECTIVE ACCOUNTABILITY (MCA). MCA IS URGENTLY NEEDED IN GLOBAL HEALTH GOVERNANCE TO FOSTER A SENSE OF SOLIDARITY AMONGST COUNTRIES AND BRING GLOBAL COOPERATION INTO FORCE. THE RELEVANCE OF MCA IS HEIGHTENED TODAY GIVEN THE IMPERATIVES OF GLOBAL COOPERATION TO MEET THE CHALLENGES OF THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC.” ( KOHLER)***

# STARK REALITY ACCORDING TO WORLD ECONOMIC FORUM



The current global health system is failing to achieve gender equality. Image: The Global Health Report.

# *GENDER EQUALITY*





# GENDER GAP IN DECISION MAKING

## SYMPTOMS OF A BROKEN SYSTEM: THE GENDER GAP IN COVID-19 DECISION-MAKING



Despite numerous global and national commitments to gender-inclusive global health governance, COVID-19 followed the usual modus operandi - **excluding women's voices.**



A mere **3.5% of 115** identified COVID-19 decision-making and expert task forces have gender parity in their membership while **85.2% are majority men.**



Functional health systems require **radical and systemic change** that ensures gender-inclusive and intersectional practices are the norm - rather than the exception.



**Open and transparent** communication and decision-making must be prioritized over closed-door or traditional forms of governance.



Data collection and governance policies must include **sex and gender data**, and strive for an intersectionality approach that includes go beyond binary representation



#WomeninGH  
#COVID5050

Based on data for 115 task forces across 87 countries

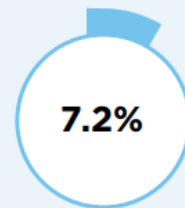
Source: Symptoms of a Broken System: The Gender Gaps in COVID-19 Decision-Making, *BMJ Global Health*  
DOI: <https://dx.doi.org/10.1136/bmjgh-2020-003549>

# WOMEN LEADERS

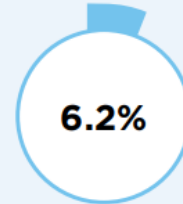


Women are under-represented in decision-making at all levels

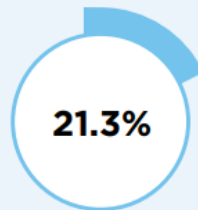
Heads of State



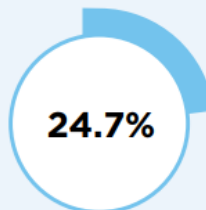
Heads of Government



Women ministers



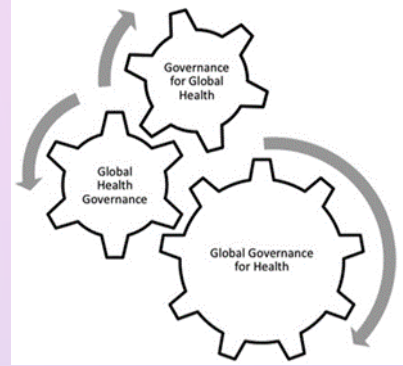
Women health ministers



Source:

UN Women calculations based on IPU-UN Women 2020.

# *WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP DURING COVID -19*



• *PRESIDENT TSAI ING-WEN*

•



*JACINDA ARDEN*



# *WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP DURING COVID -19*



- *YVONNE AKI-SAWYERR*
- *MAYOR OF SIERRA LEONE*

# WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP DURING COVID



**Archana Ghugare**

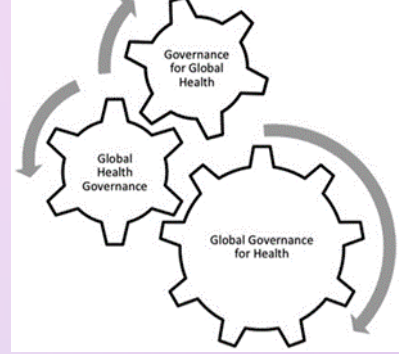
Accredited Social Health Activist  
(ASHA worker)

- *ARCHANA GHUGARE ASHA WHO AWARDEE*



*Viral immunologist Kizzmekia Corbett*

# *BEST PRACTICE EXAMPLES*



- *COURTESY :SEWA- SELF EMPLOYMENT WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION*

# *RECOMMENDATIONS*



- *1. ENSURE THAT DECISION-MAKING BODIES ARE GENDER-BALANCED.*
- *2. HARNESS EXISTING GENDER EQUALITY INSTITUTIONS AND MECHANISMS*
- *3. ENSURE THAT GENDER EQUALITY CONCERNS ARE EMBEDDED IN THE DESIGN AND IMPLEMENTATION OF NATIONAL POLICY RESPONSES AND BUDGETS*
- *4. RECOGNIZE AND REMOVE BARRIERS TO WOMEN'S POLITICAL PARTICIPATION*

# **RECOMMENDATIONS**



- ***5. IMPROVE ACCESS TO PUBLIC INFORMATION FOR WOMEN AND THEIR ORGANIZATIONS***
- ***6. INCLUDE AND SUPPORT WOMEN AND WOMEN’S ORGANIZATIONS RESPONSE DECISION-MAKING.***
- ***7. CREATING SAFE SPACES FOR WOMEN LEADERS ON- AND OFFLINE***
- ***8. TRACKING GENDER-RESPONSIVE POLICIES AND BUDGETING***
- ***( ADAPTED FROM UN WOMEN )***



# CONCLUSION



*“WOMEN’S LEADERSHIP IN GLOBAL GOVERNANCE IS CRUCIAL TO REACH 2030 AGENDA OF LEAVE NO ONE BEHIND” (QUOTE BY PADMINI MURTHY , 2023)*



# REFERENCES

- 1. KHEIR-MATARIA WA, EL-FAWAL H, BHUIYAN S, CHUN S. *GLOBAL HEALTH GOVERNANCE AND HEALTH EQUITY IN THE CONTEXT OF COVID-19: A SCOPING REVIEW*. *INHEALTHCARE* 2022 MAR 15 (VOL. 10, NO. 3, P. 540). MDPI.





# THANK YOU

