November, 2025

Dear G20 Leader,

We are writing to you today due to the urgent need to prioritise women's health. Closing the women's health gap could unlock up to $1 trillion in additional global economic growth every year by 2040. Investing in health is wealth, and yet, women's health remains critically underfunded. As the COVID-19 pandemic demonstrated, health is not the responsibility of the health sector alone.

We summarise below why investing in women's health is critical. Attached is supporting information and examples of current initiatives and innovations that show what investing in women's health means in practice. It means financing research, accelerating approval and access to diagnostics and treatments, and building partnerships between governments, business, and civil society to scale what works and reach those currently left behind.

The challenge is that too many women's health conditions are diagnosed and treated late. Research delays, diagnostic gaps and limited treatment options persist. Women spend 25% more of their lives in poor health than men. Addressing nine key conditions including maternal hypertensive disorders, postpartum haemorrhage, coronary artery disease, cervical and breast cancer, endometriosis, menopause, migraine, and premenstrual syndrome could reduce the global disease burden by 27 million disability-adjusted life years (DALYs) each year, adding 2.5 healthy days per woman annually.

Several conditions such as endometriosis take on average eight years to diagnose, and there are still no universal diagnostics or treatments.

1. The Economic Case

- The G20 represents over 80% of global GDP and nearly two-thirds of the world's population, making its collective action on women's health highly influential.
- Closing the women's health gap could unlock $400 billion in global GDP annually by 2040 realized mainly within G20 economies
- For every $1 invested in women's health, there is a $3 return in economic growth, with additional savings in healthcare costs and improved outcomes for future generations.

2. Workforce Participation and Productivity

- G20 leaders committed to reducing the gender gap in labour force participation by 25% by 2025 ("Brisbane goal"), aiming to bring 100 million additional women into the workforce.
- Healthier women are more likely to participate in the workforce, pursue education, and contribute to economic growth. Investments in women's health directly support these goals by reducing absenteeism, increasing productivity, and enabling women to take on full-time employment.

SOUTH AFRICA
10 years of W20

3. Multiplier Effect

- Evidence shows that women reinvest up to 90% of their income back into their families and communities, compared to 30–40% by men. This means that when women are healthy, their earnings uplift entire communities and drive broader economic development.

4. Health Equity and Economic Returns

- Women spend 25% more of their lives in poor health than men. Addressing nine key health conditions (including maternal hypertensive disorders, postpartum haemorrhage, ischemic heart disease, cervical and breast cancer, endometriosis, menopause, migraine, and premenstrual syndrome) could reduce the global disease burden by 27 million disability-adjusted life years (DALYs) annually, adding 2.5 healthy days per woman each year.

- For every $1 invested in women's health, there is a $3 return in economic growth, with additional savings in healthcare costs and improved outcomes for future generations.

5. Policy and Collaboration

- The G20 has established a Joint Finance-Health Task Force to coordinate pandemic preparedness, health system resilience, and cross-sectoral collaboration, recognizing that women's health is central to these efforts.

- Recent G20 meetings reaffirmed commitments to empower women and girls, increase labour force participation, improve access to quality education, bridge the digital gender gap, and eliminate gender-based violence. A focus on healthcare is critical.

6. Challenges and Opportunities

- Despite progress, only nine G20 countries have met the Brisbane goal. Investments in health, childcare, and family support are critical to closing these gaps.
- Underfunding in women's health research and lack of sex-specific data in clinical trials continue to limit progress. The World Economic Forum and McKinsey Health Institute have launched the Women's Health Impact Tracking platform to monitor and address these gaps.

The Key Statistics as to why Countries should invest in Women's Health

- $400 billion in annual GDP gains by 2040 if the health gap is closed.
- 25% more time spent in poor health by women compared to men.
- 100 million women brought into the workforce through G20's "Brisbane goal".
- 90% of women's income reinvested in families and communities.

- $3 return for every $1 invested in women's health.

The Call to Action

Below are organisations across sectors that have developed programmes, initiatives, devices and technologies already having a measurable impact on women's health. We have heard the call from governments that wish to invest in and prioritise women's health.

We are calling on Parliamentarians and policy makers to develop and implement policies that will support the development of innovations such as medical technologies, medicines and therapeutics for Women's Health. This will include regulatory support, clinical trials to adoption.

We have attached case study examples of current innovations that could be scaled up. We believe the G20 countries collectively could form a working group to agree what the gaps are in Women's health such as diagnosis, treatment and management of heavy menstrual bleeding, endometriosis, adenomyosis, fibroids, menopause, cardiovascular conditions, obesity, neurology.

Conclusion

Investing in women's health is an important economic strategy for G20 countries. It will drive GDP growth, boost workforce participation, and will benefit families and communities.

Coordinated policy action, increased funding, and targeted interventions are essential to close the health gap and unlock the full economic potential of women across G20 countries and beyond.

Yours Sincerely,

Tiffany Dove-Abbam

CEO, The Dove Foundation for Global Change

THE DOVE FOUNDATION FOR GLOBAL CHANGE

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