

## BIOGRAPHY

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Dr. Shakira Choonara is a multi-award-winning independent public health practitioner and bold activist, recognized for her trailblazing work advancing healthcare across Africa and the globe. She holds several notable accolades including being named South Africa's 2017 Woman of the Year in Health, South Africa's National Research Foundation Next Generation Female Researcher and listed among 100 Most Influential Young Africans.



She is widely known for championing universal health coverage, gender equality, sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR), and youth development. Dr Choonara has had an illustrious decade-long career marked by significant contributions to academia, civil society, regional bodies such as the African Union and multilateral organizations such as the World Health Organization, UNAIDS and UN Women.

Her current roles include, serving as a Special Advisor for Youth, Advocacy, SRHR & Sport for Development at the Bold Alliance; a member of the Adolescent Girls Working Group, Girls Deliver Roadmap for Change geared towards Women Deliver 2026 and a member of the International Congress Council for the upcoming 18th World Congress on Public Health.

She has previously served in several leadership capacities, being an International Board Member at AMREF Health Africa; a member of the inaugural African Union Youth Council and Commissioner and Steering Group Member of the Second Lancet Commission on Adolescent Health and Wellbeing.

Dr Choonara is extremely passionate about uplifting the African continent and as a means of giving back, in 2022 she launched the annual Shakira Choonara Young African Scholarship Programme, supporting well-deserving youth to complete their final year of university.

She is a dynamic individual and an energetic all-rounder, a budding social entrepreneur and a renowned inspiring public speaker and Master of Ceremonies. In her spare time, Dr Choonara pursues volunteer work, acting, skydiving and yoga.

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Personal LinkedIn:

