

The Collaborative on Domestic Resource Mobilization

Under the Joint Learning Network's Revisiting Health Financing Technical Initiative

invites you to a session on:

[COVID-19 Vaccine Financing: A Domestic Resource Mobilization Perspective](#)

Thursday, April 29, 2021

9:30 am –11:00 am BKK Time | 10:30 pm – 12:00 am EST

Hosted on Zoom Platform at the below link:

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The pandemic of the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) continues to take its toll in Asia and the Pacific as well as globally. In addition to its direct impact on morbidity and mortality, the pandemic has adversely affected economic activity due to lockdowns, voluntary social distancing, and cross-country spillovers. COVID-19 vaccines are a welcome 'light at the end of the tunnel', not only in terms of their role in preventing cases and deaths, but also as a mechanism for stimulating economies. Even though economic growth is currently expected to rebound to some extent in 2021, it will do so from a lower base and it may take a couple of years to return to pre-COVID levels of economic output and fiscal tightening will pose a challenge for public financing for several years to come. Reaching 70% of the population with COVID-19 – estimated for reaching some semblance of 'herd immunity' -- will represent a high fiscal burden for most low- and middle-income countries. Given constraints associated with financing and accessing vaccines, in the near term, many countries are pursuing more limited targeted vaccination strategies based on the 20% coverage supported by COVAX. Others are pursuing more expansive vaccination strategies following a portfolio approach with multiple vaccine sourcing strategies. Relying on a vaccine alone, however, would be a mistake, because non-pharmaceutical interventions --- testing, tracing, and isolating -- greatly magnify effectiveness and cost-effectiveness. The increasing emergence of new, more infectious variants, some of which appear to have greater immune resistance, creates a shared global interest in early allocation of vaccines to countries that have high levels of infection and hence are more likely to incubate new mutations.

Given this backdrop, the Joint Learning Collaborative and the Health Financing Global Solutions Group invite you to a roundtable discussion on issues and challenges related to vaccine financing and prioritization. The roundtable will focus on the following specific questions:

- How did you design your COVID-19 vaccines strategy? What were your main considerations in doing so? In particular, how are you prioritizing populations for COVID-19 vaccines and why? Where do you anticipate procuring/ accessing vaccines from?
- What are your estimates of costs for providing coverage, and what are the main cost drivers? How is your country/ does your country anticipate financing the vaccine coverage [external assistance, domestic health spending]? What challenges do you anticipate with planning and financing COVID-19 vaccine coverage?
- What challenges do you anticipate with implementing the COVID-19 vaccine roll-out? How does the COVID-19 vaccine roll-out affect your country's national immunization program and access to other essential services?

Synopsis

In this webinar international experts from the health sector will give us an overview of the impact of the pandemic of vaccine financing in the East Asia Pacific region. The country discussions would substantiate the vaccine strategy, budgetary considerations and challenges faced in the implementation of COVID-19 vaccine financing in a country specific context.

List of Speakers

Opening Remarks



Dr. Aparnaa Somanathan is Practice Manager in the World Bank's East Asia and Pacific Human Development Unit. She has worked on health financing and health systems strengthening issues, in relation to policy and program implementation in a range of countries including Bangladesh, China, Indonesia, Mongolia, Papua New Guinea, Sri Lanka and Vietnam. Prior to joining the World Bank, she co-led a 14-country study of equity in health care in the Asia-Pacific Region. She holds a doctoral degree in International Health Economics and Policy from Harvard University.

Presenters



Mr. Tomáš Roubal is health economist at WHO WPRO since 2019. He has been working in WHO since 2013 in WHO country office in South Africa and then moving to WHO headquarters in Geneva. His work at WHO has covers a wide range of areas, spanning from national health accounts, universal health coverage and health financing, among others. He served as a consultant for the OECD in 2012. Additionally, he worked at the Ministry of Health Czech Republic, from 2007 to 2011 in various capacities, including advisor to the Minister of Health. He has a Master's degree in Economics from the Charles University in Prague.



Dr. Christoph Kurowski is the Global Lead for Health Financing at the World Bank Group. Christoph has advised governments at all stages of development in the design and implementation of health financing and health system reforms. He has researched and written on health financing and system issues and contributed to global health initiatives, among others, the Commission on Macroeconomics and Health. Prior to his career in international finance and development, he gained hands-on experience in the delivery of health services working as a pediatrician for Doctors without Borders as well as at the Children's Hospital of the University of Cologne/Germany

Country Discussants

Mongolia



Dr. Bayarsaikhan Dorjderem is the Head of Finance department for Ministry of Health. She graduated from the University of Medical Science of Mongolia in 2005 with a Bachelor's Degree in Health economics and in 2015 completed her Doctorate Degree in Education science from China.



Mr. Sukhdari Ugtakhbayar is a Junior Financial specialist at the Ministry of Health, Mongolia. He graduated from the University of finance and economics of Mongolia in 2018 with a Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration.

Solomon Islands



Dr. Divinal Ogaoga is the Director of Reproductive and Child Health Division which also looks after the National Expanded Immunization Program. He is also Chair for COVID-19 Vaccine technical working group, as well as a member of the National Coordinating Committee for COVID-19 vaccines. Dr. Divi is a medical doctor by profession at the Ministry of Health and Medical Services in the Solomon Islands.



Ms. Jenifer Anga is the National Coordinator for the Expanded Program on Immunization at the Ministry of Health and medical Services in the Solomon Islands. She is the Assistant Chair for COVID-19 Vaccine Technical Working Group and has been a key coordinator for the COVID-19 vaccine roll-out in the Solomons Islands. Ms. Anga is a Nurse by profession and recently completed her master's in international health at the University of New South Wales in Australia.

Fiji



Dr Rachel Devi, Head of Family Health Unit, Ministry of Health and Medical Services/ COVID19 Vaccine Lead for Fiji. She completed her Masters in International Public Health attained from the University of Sydney and MBBS from the Fiji School of Medicine in 2007. She is a Public Health Specialist, specializing specifically in Maternal Child Health and Sexual Reproductive Health.

Lao PDR



Mr. Suphab Panyakeo is currently the Deputy Director General, Department of Finance, Ministry of Health. He has extensive knowledge on health budgets, hospital financial management, analyzing on price structure of hospital and National Health Accounts. He holds a Master of Science in Health Economics, Chulalongkorn University, Thailand and a Bachelor from University of Health Science with a Major in Pharmacy, Vientiane Capital, Laos.

Closing Remarks



Mr. Martin Taylor has worked as strategist, adviser and manager on global health and development assistance for health for 20 years – with a strong focus on supporting countries to strengthen health systems. He has worked for the UK Department for International Development and was part of the team that established the Global Fund to fight AIDS, TB and Malaria. He studied at the University of Cambridge and the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine. From 2013 to 2017-Martin was the Head of the Division for Health Systems and Health Security in WHO Office in Beijing, China. Currently, Martin joined the WHO Western Pacific Regional Office in Manila as the Director of Health Systems and Services.

Moderators



Dr. Peter Cowley has been living and working in the developing world for over 20 years such as Uganda, Cambodia, Georgia, Barbados and now in the Philippines. He has worked for the World Bank (Washington DC) and WHO/PAHO (Barbados) where he was a senior Health Systems Strengthening advisor specializing on cost-effectiveness, public finance and insurance based issues. He has led numerous large USAID, ADB and GFATM funded projects focusing on the private sector, e-health, HIV/AIDS and TB. He is a Phi Beta Kappa graduate of the University of Texas Austin and received his MD from the Baylor College of Medicine in Houston, Texas, USA. He completed his residency at Johns Hopkins in International Health where he received an MPH and concurrently focused his studies on health economics.



Dr. Aneesa Arur is the Practice Leader for Human Development in the Pacific region at the World Bank and has worked as a global health systems practitioner and researcher for over 15 years. Her areas of expertise include health insurance, results based financing, integration of care and contracting for health services. Before joining the World Bank Group, Aneesa worked at Abt Associates Inc., a consulting firm with an international health practice. She holds a PhD in Health Systems from the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, and a Masters in Development Studies from the London School of Economics and Political Science.

For further information, to submit questions in advance, for follow up on the activities or for technical difficulties during the webinar, please reach us at jln@worldbank.org.

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