



The JLN Domestic Resource Mobilization Collaborative

and The Global Fund

jointly invite you to a session on:

“Filling the Coffers Post-COVID through Pro-Health Taxes”

Thursday July 2, 2020

7:30 am –9:00 am EST

Even before the pandemic, general government revenues were relatively low in many low and middle-income countries. Tax revenue collection rates are especially low, often far below the 15% of GDP benchmark that has recently been identified as being necessary for sustainable growth and development across countries. Shortfalls in revenue collection are due to challenges in collection of both ‘direct’ taxes (e.g., taxes on income and profits) as well as ‘indirect’ taxes (e.g., taxes on consumption of goods and services). Improving tax revenue collection will require the efficient design and implementation of value-added taxes, improving property taxation, and increasing the base for taxing income from firms and individuals. It is also an opportune time for countries to consider significantly ramping up ‘pro-health taxes’ – taxes on goods and services where decreased consumption will have positive health effects. These traditionally have included tobacco, alcohol, and more recently sugar-sweetened beverages. Carbon emissions and fossil fuel subsidies easily fit under the same definition. Pro-health taxes replace the older term of ‘sin taxes’ and are focused on fiscal measures whose primary purpose is to improve health, remembering that fiscal measures are one of the most cost-effective interventions for NCDs in low and middle-income countries. Given declining GDP and government revenues resulting from the pandemic, pro-health taxes can help plug some of the shortfalls and are far less likely to face political opposition in light of the tightening fiscal environment. Given the nature of excise duties (they are taxed at production), pro-health taxes may be easier to collect than broader consumption taxes. Soft earmarks of revenues raised thus targeted towards pro-poor health programs could help offset some concerns related to the potential regressivity of some such measures. Recent analysis shows that these taxes are, in fact, progressive, if one takes into account increased health spending due to future NCDs as well as lost work and early mortality. This is a chance to get a double win of raising revenues and improving health. COVID creates a window of opportunity, why not take it?

Synopsis

In this webinar that follows from the earlier webinar on Fiscal and Monetary Policies in the COVID-19 Response: Exploring the effects on Health Financing, international experts will explore the potential of Pro-Health Taxes as a fiscal measure in meeting shortfalls in government revenues for financing health. Government experts from finance and health will share their experiences of champions and opponents of implementing Pro-Health taxes in their country.

The virtual event is co-organized by the JLN DRM collaborative and the Global Fund.

Opening Remarks

Dr. Ajay Tandon is currently Lead Economist with the World Bank. He works on several countries including most recently on India, Indonesia, Bhutan, Laos, and the Philippines. He received a PhD in economics from Virginia Tech with a dissertation that focused on the intersection of macroeconomics and population dynamics. He has held visiting research appointments at both Oxford University and Harvard University. He has written several publications on the issues of statistical methodology, health systems efficiency, health financing, domestic resource mobilization, and universal health coverage. He is co-author of several books, including most recently of 'Going Universal: How 24 Countries Are Implementing Universal Health Coverage from the Bottom-up'.

Dr. Somil Nagpal is the cluster lead for the World Bank's health and nutrition programs in Indonesia and Timor Leste. Prior to joining the World Bank in 2009, Somil has served as the health insurance regulator for India, and also in the Indian ministries of Finance and Health. He has been associated with the Joint Learning Network (JLN) for Universal Health Coverage since its inception, and part of the "Going Universal" team as well as other publications on UHC and health financing.

Presenters

Dr. Michael Borowitz is the Chief Economist with The Global Fund. Dr Borowitz holds doctorate in public policy from the Irving Harris School of Public Policy Studies as well as degrees in medicine and public health. He has worked in the US and British governments on both domestic health reform and international development; the World Bank; the OECD; and was resident in post-Soviet Central Asia working health reform.

Dr. Kate Mandeville is a Senior Health Specialist at the World Bank. She is a public health physician and has over 12 years of experience in health system strengthening. She has previously worked for the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE), Public Health England, and the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine. She joined the World Bank in 2012 as a Young Professional. Since then, she has worked in Eastern Europe, Central Asia, and Latin America, particularly on health technology assessment, value for money, and primary health care. For the last two years, she has led a Bank-wide program to

support governments in designing and implementing taxes on sugary drinks. She has a BSc and MD from Imperial College London and a MPH and PhD from the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine.

Ms. Ceren Ozer is a Senior Governance Specialist in the Fiscal Policy and Sustainable Growth Unit at the Macroeconomics, Trade and Investment Global Practice where she works on strengthening tax systems, facilitating collaboration between multilateral organizations on tax issues, fiscal policy and taxation issues with a focus on health taxes and medium-term expenditure frameworks. In her previous role at the World Bank, she worked on multi-stakeholder engagement and coalition building approaches to facilitate public sector reforms and developed the Leadership for UHC Program in cooperation with the Joint Learning Network. Ceren previously worked in the World Bank's East and South Asia Regions as an economist. Prior to the World Bank, she worked as a research analyst in the development policy think-tank, the Center for Global Development (CGD) working on estimating impacts of global trade liberalization on global poverty. While in CGD, Ceren also co-authored the book *A Better Globalization: Legitimacy, Governance, and Reform* with Kemal Dervis focusing on reform of development practice and the United Nations system. She has done further work towards a Ph.D. (stopped) in political economy from the Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS); an M.A. in international development from SAIS, and a B.A. in economics from the Bogazici University.

Dr. Evan Blecher is an Economist in the Fiscal Policies for Health team at the World Health Organization headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland. He previously led tobacco tax efforts in the African region in the Prevention of Non-Communicable Diseases department. Prior appointments include the University of Illinois at Chicago where he was a Senior Economist at Health Policy Center, Institute for Health Research and Policy. Between 2008 and 2013, he was a Senior Economist in the Health and Economic Policy Research Program at the American Cancer Society and an Affiliate in the Southern Africa Labor and Development Research Unit at the University of Cape Town where he served as the Project Director of the Economics of Tobacco Control Project. He is also an Honorary Associate Professor in the School of Economics, University of Cape Town. He received his bachelor's degree in Economics and Business Strategy from the University of Cape Town, an M.A. in Economics with Distinction from the University of the West of England, Bristol and a Ph.D. in Economics from the University of Cape Town. Evan has published articles in numerous journals including *Tobacco Control*, *Addiction*, the *South African Journal of Economics*, the *South African Medical Journal*, the *Journal of Health Economics*, *Social Science and Medicine*, *Nicotine and Tobacco Research*, *Trends in Organized Crime*, *Contemporary Economic Policy* and the *Journal of Addiction Research and Therapy*. He was a member of the expert group for the IARC Handbook on the Effectiveness of Tax and Price Policies for Tobacco Control and is a coauthor of the NCI Monograph on the Economics of Tobacco Control. Evan's research focuses on tax policy and the influence of tax policies on health behaviors, particularly in low- and middle-income countries, and covers issues including tax and price policy and illicit trade. His research has been an influence on policy globally, providing expert input to parliamentary

committees and international forums in several countries.

Country Discussants

Dr. Adolfo Martínez Valle is the professor and researcher at the Policy, Population and Health Research Center of the National Autonomous University of Mexico as well as the Convener of the JLN. Dr. Adolfo Martínez Valle has pursued a professional career both as a researcher and a policymaker. In the academic setting, he earned a doctoral degree from Johns Hopkins University on public policy and health and a master's degree on International Health from the Harvard School of Public Health. He has conducted research at the Mexican Health Foundation and the National Institute of Public Health publishing several articles, chapters and books on the social determinants of health, health care systems, as well as health policy planning and evaluation. In the policymaking arena, he has participated in the design, implementation, and evaluation of two of the most important health-related public policies in Mexico in the past fifteen years: Seguro Popular, a voluntary public insurance scheme for the population not covered by social security and Oportunidades, a conditional cash transfer program targeted to address the multidimensional extreme poverty conditions of Mexican families. Internationally, he has provided technical assistance to several countries through WHO, PAHO, the OECD and has been part of the JLN since 2014.

Dr. Eduardo P. Banzon or Dodo Banzon is a Principal Health Specialist in the Sustainable Development and Climate Change Department of the Asian Development Bank. Dr. Banzon champions Universal Health Coverage and has long provided technical support to countries in Asia and the Pacific in their pursuit of this goal. Before joining ADB in 2014, he was President and CEO of the Philippine Health Insurance Corporation, World Health Organization (WHO) regional adviser for health financing for the Eastern Mediterranean region and WHO health economist in Bangladesh, World Bank senior health specialist for the East Asia and Pacific region, and a faculty member of the University of the Philippines' College of Medicine and Ateneo Graduate School of Business. He completed BS Biology in University of the Philippines Diliman and MD Medicine in the University of the Philippines College of Medicine, and an MSc in Health Policy, Planning and Financing from the London School of Economics and the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine.

Ms. Sheena Chhabra is a Senior Health Specialist, Health, Nutrition and Population Global Practice, South Asia Region at the World Bank. She currently leads the Analytic and Advisory Services for the India Universal Health Coverage Program that primarily focuses on TA support to GOI's flagship scheme Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PM-JAY), the largest government funded health insurance scheme globally. She also leads the Bank engagement with the National Institution For Transforming India (NITI Aayog), the premier Government of India think tank on the Health Index, an annual systematic tool to rank states and union territories of India on annual incremental performance and overall performance. She also co-leads the Uttarakhand Health Systems Development Project. Prior to joining the World Bank, Ms. Chhabra was the Team Leader, Health Systems Development at the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) in India; Senior Project Director, Social and Rural Research Institute (SRI), a well-established unit of Indian Market Research Bureau; and

a Lecturer at the Lady Irwin College, Delhi University. She has a strong track record of impacting national and state health programs related to universal health coverage, health financing, monitoring and evaluation, reproductive, maternal and child health, infectious diseases (HIV/AIDS and tuberculosis), nutrition, and water and sanitation in India. Sheena has a Master's degree in Community Resource Management and Extension from the Lady Irwin College, University of Delhi.

Commentary

Dr. Meera Shekar is Global Lead for nutrition with the World Bank's Health, Nutrition and Population Global Practice. Over the last several years, she has led the repositioning of the nutrition agenda that led to the new global Scaling-up Nutrition (SUN) initiative, and was a key partner in the discussions on the Catalytic Financing Facility for Nutrition that evolved into the Power of Nutrition. Meera serves as the chair for the SUN executive committee and has been one of the principals for the emerging aid-architecture for the SUN, and the G8 and G20 agenda-setting process for food security and nutrition over the last several years. She leads the global and country-level costing and financing analyses at the World Bank, and the first ever global Investment Framework for Nutrition. She has also worked on the demographic dividend and population and development issues. Meera has lived and worked across the globe and has extensive policy and operational experience Asia, Africa, Latin America. Before joining the World Bank in 2003, she led UNICEF's Health, Nutrition and Water and Sanitation and ECD teams in Tanzania, the Philippines and Ethiopia. Meera has a PhD in international nutrition, epidemiology and population studies from Cornell University and is a Commissioner on the Lancet Commission on Obesity co-led by the University of Auckland & GW University; co-author of the Lancet Undernutrition Series; Member of the Expert Advisory Group for UNICEF's State of the World's Children report; Member External advisory board at DNS (2012-18), Cornell University; Adjunct Professor Tufts University (2012-15); She is on the Advisory panel member for Essential Living Standards index, Legatum Institute, UK; and a member of advisory group at Gates Ventures (Bill Gates's private office) and several other groups. She has authored several publications.

Closing remarks

Dr. Toomas Palu is the Adviser on Global Health Coordination in the World Bank office in Geneva. Before moving to Geneva Toomas served as the Global Practice Manager for the World Bank's US\$1.3B health portfolio of the East Asia and Pacific Region leading a team of 43 health and development professionals. Toomas is a member of the World Bank Health, Nutrition and Population Practice global leadership team. In his prior engagements, he led World Bank health programs in several countries in Eastern Europe and Former Soviet Union, served as a Director in the Estonia Social Health Insurance Fund Management Board and as a Deputy Director of the Tallinn Emergency Care Hospital in Estonia. His work has focused on health reforms and health systems strengthening in low and middle-income countries, sustainable transition of externally financed health programs, financing pandemic preparedness among others. Toomas has a cum laude Medical Doctor degree from the Tartu

University in Estonia and a Master of Public Administration degree from the Harvard University in the US. He has also studied public policy and medical sociology in the Oxford University and health economics in the University of York in the United Kingdom.

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