

2017 2ND ANNUAL UHC FINANCING FORUM

Greater Efficiency for Better Health
and Financial Protection
April 20–21, 2017



WORLD BANK GROUP



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

FORUM CONCEPT NOTE

CONTEXT

The World Bank Group's Spring Meetings are a key strategic platform for finance and development leaders from the WBG's shareholder countries to engage with a wide range of stakeholders on the goals of ending extreme poverty and boosting shared prosperity by accelerating inclusive and sustainable economic growth, investing in human capital, and building resilience to global shocks and threats. Through a public program of events and related convenings, the Spring Meetings provide diverse stakeholders a platform to place a spotlight on global development priorities, catalyze political momentum, and commit to action.

EVENT OBJECTIVE AND PURPOSE

This two-day forum at the Spring Meetings builds on the success of the 1st Annual Universal Health Coverage (UHC) Financing Forum, co-hosted by the World Bank and the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) in 2016, to highlight strategic policies and practical interventions that can help governments use their health system resources and budgets more efficiently.

The vision of UHC is that all people obtain the quality health services they need, while not being pushed into poverty by paying out-of-pocket costs for healthcare. By bringing the finance and health sectors together, and by bridging policy with evidence, the UHC Financing Forum creates one of the only global spaces that convenes key actors to help accelerate progress in countries towards sustainable financing of UHC. The conversation centers around addressing controversial issues that must be resolved in order for health budgets to effectively include and sustain health coverage for all people, particularly those who need support the most, even in a tight economic and fiscal environment.

The 2017 forum follows on from last year's theme, which focused on mobilizing additional resources for health as a first step in the UHC financing journey. This year's forum will explore how governments can achieve more with available health resources. The objective of improving efficiency in lower and lower-middle income countries is not to reduce overall spending on health nor reduce the budgets of ministries of health; decreasing costs while sacrificing good health and financial protection outcomes is neither efficient nor effective. The goal of this year's discussion around efficiency is to help countries make better use of available resources to achieve faster and more sustainable progress towards UHC.

The forum offers a unique setting for diverse actors to challenge assumptions, learn, and work together to move from just agreeing on the causes of inefficiency in the health sector to forging practical and replicable solutions for overcoming inefficiencies. Forum participants will learn from global best practices and actual country experiences of reducing inefficiency in the health sector. They will leave with policy lessons and tools that will help them push forward the UHC financing agenda in their own country.

HIGHLIGHTED ISSUES

The plenaries at this year's forum will cover three key questions that countries typically face as they address the efficiency challenge:

- What are the right interventions and the combination of these interventions to invest in for the best possible outcomes?
- In which settings and how best do you deliver these interventions?
- Looking across the health system, where should reform and investment be prioritized?

The forum will have four plenaries to explore these questions:

- ***Translating priorities into practice.*** Plenary 1 will look at how health systems can actually deliver on the promise of benefits through changes in service delivery and financing arrangements. Prioritizing and deprioritizing services and organizations of care can help ensure quality care for the poorest and most vulnerable, while improving systemic efficiency overall.
- ***Balancing quality and incentives.*** Plenary 2 will address how to maintain service quality while promoting efficiency reforms. This includes looking at how payment systems, incentives, and underlying support systems can be designed and used to fulfill the promise of sustainable financing for quality health services.
- ***Bridging the health and finance divide:*** Plenary 3 will examine how to bridge the awareness gaps between ministries of health and finance by offering concrete takeaways for measuring the efficiency of health spending and ensuring transparency and accountability in the use of scarce resources.
- ***Lessons from policymakers.*** Plenary 4 will provide lessons from policymakers on the political economy of efficiency reforms, looking at which groups typically support and oppose reforms and how to identify key stakeholders to build support and decrease opposition.

AUDIENCE

This year's forum will bring together over 400 participants, including over 30 country delegations from ministries of health and finance in lower and lower middle-income countries that will bring their unique perspectives to the conversation. They will be joined by other experts in public and health finance from bi-lateral and multi-lateral institutions, civil society organizations, think tanks, and academia.

FORMAT

The forum will be highly interactive and include the four plenaries noted above as well as 15 parallel sessions, where participants will be able to deep-dive into discussion topics. The program will review current evidence in the field of health financing and assess gaps in knowledge, brainstorm new approaches and opportunities for capacity building, and debate controversial issues. A background paper on the synthesis of best-available evidence will be shared with all participants in advance of the forum.

CONTACTS: For more information on the 2nd Annual UHC Financing Forum, please contact: uhcfinancingforum@worldbank.org