

Proposed WHO pre-conference workshop

2016 African Health Economics and Policy Association Conference

Rabat, Morocco

Title: Why and how to approach Universal Health Coverage from a public finance perspective in Africa?

Main focus areas: fiscal space for health, public finance, UHC

Format: pre-conference workshop

Targeted audience: 50 participants (policy makers, researchers in health economics and policy analysis, post-graduate students)

Bilingual (English and French)

Proposed date: **September 25, 2016**

Main organizers: Helene Barroy (WHO/HQ) & Laurent Musango (WHO/AFRO)

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Background:

The overall objective of the 4th biennial AfHEA Conference is to promote debate and discussion among African and international researchers, experts and policy makers regarding the SDGs, the 'Grand Convergence' and the African health agenda. The organizers expect at least 200 African participants from Africa (both francophone and Anglophone) to attend the conference.

The conference themes relate to the broad theme of how the international community's post MDG agenda of SDGs might impact health in Africa. Seven themes have been pre-identified to serve as a guide for the technical organization of the conference and not as a restriction on research areas and innovation by participants: i) the unfinished MDGs agenda and the new SDGs; ii) financing the SDGs and the Grand Convergence; iii) Policies and reforms for improving health system performance; iv) priority-setting and economic evaluation; v) human resources for health; vi) key methodological changes in health economics and policy analysis specific to Africa; vii) role of research institutions and donors in building capacity in health economics.

Topic 2 (i.e. financing the SDGs) is a critical topic area for research and policy development in Africa, in a context of declining health aid and the need to re-focus on mobilizing and using better existing domestic resources. Most of the resources for universal coverage should come from public budgets to maximize financial protection. Sub-Saharan African countries have limited fiscal capacity due to structural and contextual factors. Therefore, optimizing how public funds for health are managed and flow through the system is critical for achieving universal health coverage objectives within the available resource envelop. Harmonizing public financial management systems with health financing functions can ensure that public, as well as external, funds available for health flow to and are effectively used for priority populations, programs and services to meet universal health coverage goals and to serve public financial accountability and transparency at the same time.

The objectives of the session are to:

- **Approach the UHC research and policy agenda from a public finance perspective;**
- **Provide evidence of successful public finance and budgeting reforms serving the UHC goals in Africa;**
- **Strengthen technical knowledge and capacities on how to approach, analyse and address fiscal space, public finance and budgeting challenges in the context of health financing reforms toward UHC in Africa.**

Proposed session outline:

8:30-9:00: Registration and breakfast served

9:00-9:20: Opening session

Chris Atim, Executive Director, Afhea

WHO: quick overview of the workshop

9:20-10:20: Setting the scene: Health financing, public finance and Universal Health Coverage in Africa

Joe Kutzin, Health Financing Coordinator, World Health Organization: *Why public finance matter for UHC?*

Health Barroy, Senior Health Financing Specialist, World Health Organization: *Public financing for health in Africa: from Abuja to the SDGs*

Discussion

10:20-10:40: Coffee break

10:40-12:10: Fiscal space for health in Africa: The holy grail for Universal Health Coverage?

Chair: Joe Kutzin, Health Financing Coordinator, WHO

Helene Barroy, Senior Health Financing Specialist, World Health Organization: *Taking stock of fiscal space for health in sub-Saharan Africa*

Tania Bissouma-Ledjou, Technical officer, World Health Organization/Cote d'Ivoire: *Projecting fiscal space for health in Cote d'Ivoire: Efficiency gains as the main drivers*

Jane Doherty, RESYST/LSHTM: *Documenting South Africa experience in increasing the effectiveness of domestic tax collection systems to expand sector resources (tbc)*

Ogochukwu Chukwujekwu, Technical officer, World Health Organization/AFRO: *How does decentralization drive fiscal space for health expansion in the context of Nigeria?*

Discussion

12:10-13:30: Lunch

13:30-15:00: Role of Public Financial Management in sustainable health financing reforms toward Universal Health Coverage in Africa

Chair: Renaud Seligmann, Practice Manager, Governance, World Bank

Nadia Benali, Chief, Social sectors, Ministry of Finance/Morocco: *Quality of public expenditure for health and PFM reforms in Morocco*

Grace Kabaniha, Technical Officer, World Health Organization/AFRO: *Effects of recent PFM reforms on public expenditure for health in Uganda*

Benjamin Tsofa, Director, KEMRI/Wellcome Trust Kenya: *How does decentralisation affect health sector planning, budgeting and overall PFM? A case study of early effects of devolution on Kilifi County, Kenya*

Discussion

15:00-15:30: Coffee break

15:30-16:15: Guidance and tools demo (WHO)

Quick presentation of a set of tools and guidelines developed by WHO to diagnose health financing situation, fiscal space for health and budgeting processes.

16:15-16:45: Concluding remarks: Joe Kutzin, Laurent Musango, Helene Barroy.