



SESSION 3: Ensuring Continuity of Essential Frontline Services in the Face of COVID-19

Co-organized with the support of the GFF and P4H

Date: Tuesday July 14, 2020

Time: 8:00 to 9:30 am EST (USA and Canada)

Zoom meeting (with French, Spanish, Russian interpretation)

OVERVIEW:

This interactive session will explore the meaning of “frontline,” be it primary care facilities or at the community level, and how health financing arrangements are currently supporting, or hindering, frontline services to respond to the pandemic while maintaining other essential health services. It will also look at the mechanisms being used to do this, such as results-based payments, other incentives to staff and more flexible money, whether more flexible arrangements require more supervision, and lessons for the future.

The session will be kicked off with introductory remarks, followed country presentations and Q&A. The discussion will then be broken into smaller regional groups for participants to reflect on challenges and solutions that lie ahead in their regions. Participants will then come together to share their reflections on these issues at the global level.

SESSION OBJECTIVES:

In particular, this session plans to tackle the following questions:

- a. What do we mean by financing essential routine services, such as primary care facilities and those at the community level?
- a. Have health financing arrangements changed to allow frontline services to respond to the pandemic and to maintain other essential health services? If so, how did it affect resource mobilization (e.g. special emergency funds), payment (e.g. creation of DRGs/line item budget), and the purchasing of services through private providers?
- b. Do we need to finance more supervision in order to ensure any additional and more flexible funds at the frontline are used efficiently and appropriately?
- c. What role does civil society play in keeping an eye on maintaining essential service delivery and equity of service delivery?
- d. What could the role of the World Bank and development partners be during the pandemic and its aftermath (both as sources of funding and Technical Assistance)?

SESSION PANELISTS:

Session introduction and closing:



- Ellen van de Poel, Health Financing Lead, GFF

Country presentations:

- Dr. Oksana Movchan, Director, Ukraine National Health Service, Ukraine
- Dr. Nguyen Khanh Phuong, Vice-Director, Health Strategy and Policy Institute, Ministry of Health, Vietnam
- Dr. Shumona Shafinaz, Save the Children, Bangladesh

Moderators for global-level discussion:

- Jakub Kakietek, Health Economist, GFF
- Jean-Olivier Schmidt, Senior Health Economist, World Bank, P4H