



SESSION 2: Getting Resources Rapidly and Flexibly to Where They Are Needed

Co-organized with the support of the Governance Global Practice, World Bank

Date: Thursday July 9, 2020

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

Session connection: <https://zoom.us/j/93229894368?pwd=d1plZHVpYU1zMnJFaDV6aFFXRHBBDz09>

OVERVIEW:

The speed and effectiveness of countries' health responses to the COVID-19 (Coronavirus) pandemic have varied widely. Part of this difference is due to pre-existing weaknesses and bottlenecks in countries' public financial management (PFM) systems. Past health crises in developing countries, including Ebola, SARS, and the swine flu, have shown that PFM systems need to be responsive and flexible, while ensuring value for money and minimizing fraud and corruption. Accountability and transparency requirements may need to be modified during emergency situations, but should not be totally eliminated.

This session will examine how countries can get resources rapidly and flexibly to where they are needed during the COVID-19 crisis, while minimizing risks related to inefficiencies, wastage, fraud and corruption, and the interplay of policy actions between ministries of finance and ministries of health from the perspective of health service delivery. In addition, based on country experiences and global knowledge the session will explore innovative methods countries can adapt for the entire PFM cycle, including budget preparation, budget execution and budget evaluation for an effective health response.

SESSION OBJECTIVES:

- a. To understand emerging health sector trends for getting funds rapidly and flexibly to where they are needed during the pandemic, while ensuring transparency and accountability.
- b. To share country experiences on related innovations, including:
 - I. Opportunities for flexibility and speed with program-based (output) budgeting and results-based financing;
 - II. Use of Financial Management Information systems (IFMIS systems), treasury single account, bank accounts, and digital payment systems to get funds to the frontlines;
 - III. Donor funding coordination in PFM systems to align around country systems; and
 - IV. Blue sky thinking of PFM systems for the health sector beyond the current crisis.
- c. To reflect on key principles and experiences of government financial management during the COVID-19 crisis. These include:
 - I. Funding for the COVID-19 response should be quick and clear;
 - II. Controls should be reoriented, not diluted;
 - III. Efficient and accountable procurement is needed;
 - IV. Payment management should be optimized; and
 - V. Timely financial reporting and oversight must be in place.

SESSION MODERATORS:

Srinivas Gurazada, Global Lead, Public Financial Management, World Bank

Moritz Piatti, Senior Economist (Health), World Bank

Conversations: *REFLECTING ON THE GLOBAL TRENDS AND OPPORTUNITIES*

Edward Olowo-Okeri, Global Director, Governance Global Practice, World Bank

PANELISTS:

- Mark Blecher, National Treasury, Chief Director for Health and Social Development and Social Services, Government of South Africa
- Anupam Raj, Assistant Controller General of Accounts, Ministry of Finance, Government of India
- Davit Gamkrelidze, State Treasury, Head of the Cash Forecasting and Management, Government of Georgia
- Soonman Kwon, Professor of Health Economics and Policy School of Public Health, Seoul National University, South Korea
- Toomas Palu, Adviser, Global Coordination, Health, Nutrition and Population, World Bank