



SESSION 6: Building Back Better in Resilience: Learning from Successes and Mistakes

Date: Thursday July 23, 2020

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

Zoom meeting (with French, Spanish interpretation)

Session connection: <https://zoom.us/j/93229894368?pwd=d1plZHVpYU1zMnJFaDV6aFFXRHBBdz09>

OVERVIEW:

The COVID-19 pandemic has caused significant disruptions to the health and economy of nations, with an increase in spending on health services needed at a time when many governments' abilities to raise tax revenues have diminished. With many low- and lower middle-income countries already at risk of not attaining the health-related Sustainable Development Goals, the impact of the pandemic could put these goals even further out of reach.

As countries begin to recover from the impacts of the pandemic and move towards a new normal, policymakers must shift the discussions from emergency response and containment to strengthening the resilience and sustainability of health financing to help move rapidly towards universal health coverage. Strengthening health financing resilience is critical for countries to increase their capacity to respond to future shocks, such as a second wave of COVID-19. Challenges and opportunities seen in countries' policy responses to the pandemic can provide guidance on how to build back more resilient and sustainable health financing. Countries can also use this opportunity to roll back policies that undermine long-term health financing resilience and sustainability; roll out policies that can improve the future of health financing; and leverage the political visibility and public support for step-change improvements to drive forward ambitious and long-needed reforms. This crisis provides a chance to rethink health financing for the new normal post COVID-19.

SESSION OBJECTIVES:

This session will draw on some of the lessons learned in the previous 2020 AHFF sessions, in addition to exploring specific takeaways on health financing resilience from country policymakers that can help us better deal with a possible second wave of COVID-19 or future pandemics.

In particular, this session will provide:

- A clear understanding of health financing policies that should be rolled back, and useful policies that could be rolled out to improve the sufficiency, equity, preparedness and efficiency of health financing.
- An early understanding of how to begin to generate consensus and drive forward momentum for a build back better agenda, leveraging the political visibility and public support for step-change improvements in health financing.

SESSION PANELISTS:

Chair and closing remarks:

- Oyebanji Filani, Health Financing Global Solutions Group, World Bank

Panelists:

- Midori de Habich, Former Minister of Health of Peru and Technical Director, Local Health System Sustainability, Abt
- Sylvana Q. Sinha, Founder, Chairman, & CEO, Praava Health, Bangladesh
- David Coady, Assistant Director Fiscal Affairs Department, IMF, USA
- Agnes Soucat, Director for Health Systems Governance and Financing at the World Health Organization, Switzerland

Moderator:

- David B. Evans, Health Financing Global Solutions Group, World Bank