COVID-19
Health Financing Resilience Program CoP
Community onboarding
COVID-19 has hit countries with a double shock: health and economic and countries face unprecedented health financing challenges

Help countries emerge from the crisis with more resilient and sustainable health financing

Support decision-makers to shape health financing policies based on best evidence and emerging lessons by:

- Forecasting crisis impact
- Documenting and analyzing policy responses
- Building Back Better
- Facilitating knowledge exchange

**What is resilience:** The ability to absorb and respond to shocks that increase spending needs and reduce revenue generation capacity
The CoP is an online space for policy makers and technical experts across health and finance to jointly learn and share experiences on health financing in the time of COVID-19.

The goal is to ultimately build back better in order to create more sustainable, high performance health financing systems and support movement towards Universal Health Coverage (UHC).
Welcome to the Community of Practice

On the 12th of August, CoP members conducted a roundtable to analyze CoP survey results and help to help shape the technical agenda of the CoP. Check out the Discussion Board for a digest of key themes and way forward!

Core Group Members

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Health Financing Resilience and Sustainability

Contact: Danielle Bloom
Community Manager

Riku Elovainio
Community Technical Coordinator
COVID-19 funding and external assistance in Bangladesh (Session 6)

From Hassan SEMLALI to Everyone: 08:51 AM

According to your communication, funding is certainly a determining barrier in dealing with the COVID 19 pandemic or even can compromise the efforts of the government of Bangladesh. Was there a role played by donors or by internal solidarity or through the aid of countries friendly to Bangladesh?

Response from Sylvana Sinha, Founder, Chairman, and CEO, Praava Health:

Donors such as ADB and the World Bank made allocations to the government but have not yet made any allocations to NGOs or the private sector. 3+ months into the crisis in Bangladesh, stimulus funds have been allocated by the government but very organizations have received any disbursements, although healthcare organizations were meant to receive funds on a priority basis.

Answer
What are the most pressing issues facing your country now, and what type of support would you like to see through this CoP?

Dear all,

Welcome to the CoP discussion forum. As a first topic, we would like to hear from you about your most pressing challenges related to health financing for COVID-19 and better understand what type of support you would like to see through the CoP. Please post your responses below!

Yury Dzygyr

Raising a theme based on Ukraine’s experience. In the past two years, our country made serious progress to implement a meaningful medium-term budgeting framework. We have just started working on a new three-year budget declaration when COVID sent the tsunami of uncertainty across the globe. The government decided to suspend three-year forecasting and planning rules until the situation gets clearer. What is the experience of other countries in this area? How were their medium-term budgeting approaches modified? How do we continue to budget strategically at the time of extreme uncertainty?

Kateryna Mayntzuk

Interested in the experience of other countries in COVID expenditure tagging. Tracking response measures is difficult in Ukraine as in most countries because new spending cuts across many sectors and programs (in health, social protection, emergencies, economic activities etc). On many instances, COVID expenditures are also not traceable by particular budget lines as they may be dispersed within broader programs. Moreover, COVID-related spending from sub-national budgets may be included into bespoke local programs which are not quickly identifiable as relevant to the epidemic. One possibility to collect aggregate COVID expenditure data is to tag relevant spending, but this would be a new approach to our country.

Have others tried this approach? It would be interesting to discuss expenditure tagging systems which existed before COVID as well as cases when countries adopted this technology for the first time reacting to the pandemic.
### Member portal

**More than 120 members to date**

**Ability to engage in direct member to member exchange**

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Events

• **Event materials cross-posted on platform and through document portal**

• **To include:**
  • “Ask an expert” Q&A sessions based on submitted policy priorities
  • “Peer assists” where targeted questions based on current challenges can be discussed with peers
  • Small group roundups to understand mutual priorities and hone in on areas for future learning

• **Medium term learning exchanges in the form of roundtables or working groups to hone in on policy questions that need deeper examination**
COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE - technical agenda roadmap

Milestones and activities

- **July**
  - Soft launch during AHFF

- **August**
  - Hone priorities

- **August-November**
  - Regular, ST CoP activities

- **September-November**
  - Longer term engagements

- **November**
  - AHFF part II

- **30 DAYS**
  - Provide offering during AHFF
  - Onboarding new members

- **60 DAYS**
  - Understand and respond to demand
    - Survey
    - Roundtable chats
  - Structure regular short term activities to meet needs
  - Include “Asynchronous” component for all offerings via platform
  - Lives and livelihoods
  - Earmarking, decentralization and PFM

  - Vetted as priorities by 80% of survey respondents

- **90 DAYS**
  - "build back better"
  - CoP driven sessions? Side sessions?
  - Bringing CoP solutions and recommendations to AHFF

Continual assessment of demand

**CoP outputs: technical briefs, blogs, policy recommendations; co-authorship opportunities for members**
CoP Survey - preliminary results

Ranking:

- Prioritization for resource allocation – 16 top choices
- Telemedicine – 6 top choices
- Private sector – 2 top choices

Criteria that countries are using to drive prioritization

Subtopics:

- How to direct funds to greatest social benefit
- Criteria that countries are using to drive prioritization
- Learnings about prioritization of beneficial COVID-induced investments
CoP Survey – preliminary results

Other topics (open question):

• How to use the COVID 19 Pandemic as an opportunity to make progress on UHC reforms especially in LMICs
• Incorporation of treatment of infectious disease into social health insurance.
• Purchasing of services and goods
• Decentralization in Healthcare
• Preparing for mass vaccination campaigns
• Influenza vaccination in times of COVID
• What is the long-run impact of COVID on macroeconomic and fiscal policies? Do the countries feel a shift in the role of fiscal discipline which would remain beyond the imminent economic recovery?
What other technical priorities are you and your country/organization facing?

Do you have experience that you would like to share?

Reach out to:

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Riku Elovainio, Community Technical Coordinator: reovainio@worldbank.org