

December 2nd, 2021

09:30AM local time Washington, DC

Organized by  


# Mitigating the austerity

effects of the pandemic by improving  
the efficiency in health spending

**Format:**

Three-hour seminar

**Audience:**

Internal

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09:30-09:40

**Welcome remarks**

Ferdinando Regalia, Manager of the Social Sector, *Inter-American Development Bank*

## SECTION ONE: OVERVIEW OF THE CURRENT SITUATION



09:40-09:50

**Economic and fiscal outlook and implications for governments and health spending in LAC**

Christoph Kurowski, Global Lead for Health Financing, *World Bank Group*

COVID-19 has generated a triple health, economic, and social crisis. Although the global economy is projected to bounce back strongly starting in 2021, the most recent International Monetary Fund (IMF) macroeconomic projections show a mixed picture regarding countries' capacities to return to pre-COVID-19 growth rates in per capita government spending, as well as to further build out crucial public investments in the next 5 years, including preparedness efforts. This session will discuss the implications of the current scenario, with a special focus on Latin American and Caribbean countries.



09:50-10:00

**Main challenges facing LAC countries and adding pressure to public health spending: the case of Ecuador**

Aquiles Rodrigo Henríquez, Strategic Health Development Coordinator, *Ecuadorian Ministry of Public Health*

This session will analyze some of the challenges and difficult resource allocating decisions facing countries like Ecuador, including the rising cost of medicines and other technologies, coverage decisions regarding what to finance to the population with increasingly scarce resources, and judicialization, among others.



**10:00-10:10**

**Bending the cost curve: lessons learned from previous fiscal crisis**

Amanda Glassman, Executive Vice President, *Center for Global Development*

It is not the first time that health systems around the world are confronted with tight fiscal restrictions and dire social and economic situations and are facing difficult choices on how to best manage this situation. This presentation will provide an overview of strategies that countries have used in other fiscal and economic crisis to improve the efficiency of health care spending and highlight those that have proven to be most promising.



**10:10-10:30**

**Questions and Answers**

**Moderated by:** Pablo Ibarra, Division Chief, Social Protection and Health Division (a.i.), *Inter-American Development Bank*

**SECTION TWO: LOW-HANGING FRUITS TO IMPROVE HEALTH SPENDING EFFICIENCY**



**10:30-10:40**

**“Low hanging fruit” or “Cinderella”? Addressing inefficiencies in the pharmaceutical market**

Veronika J. Wirtz, Professor of Global Health, *Boston University School of Public Health*

This session will review some of the strategies that can be implemented in pharmaceutical markets to improve resource allocation and yield better health outcomes with existing resources, such as the promotion of non-branded generics and price regulation, as well as two areas often overlooked – rational use of medicines and local production – to reach a more efficient level of pricing for on-patent and off-patent medicines.



**10:40-10:50**

**Low hanging fruits in explicit priority setting: the experience of Thailand**

Manit Sittimart, Project Associate, *Health Intervention and Technology Assessment Program (HITAP) of Thailand*

The Health Intervention and Technology Assessment Program of Thailand (HITAP) is increasingly being recognized around the world as a benchmark of what health technology assessment (HTA) can achieve to improve resource allocation in a middle-income country. This session will present HITAP’s main characteristics and methods as well as some of the results achieved by the institution in the last couple of years.

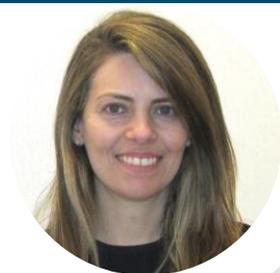


**10:50-11:00**

**Improving hospitals efficiency**

Jerry La Forgia, Chief Technical Officer, *Aceso Global*

Hospitals are known for being important sources of inefficiency in health sectors, due to many factors, such as inappropriate hospital admissions and length of stay, inappropriate hospital sizes, inadequate bed distribution, and medical errors, among others. This session will review some of these aspects as well as some of the strategies that can be adopted to achieve better value for money.



**11:00-11:20**

**Questions and Answers**

**Moderated by:** Marcella Distrutti, Red Criteria Coordinator, *Inter-American Development Bank*

**11:20-11:30**

**BREAK**

**SECTION THREE: LESSONS FROM THE GROUND**

**11:30-12:20**

**Panel discussion with policy makers and experts from LAC**



**Leonardo Arregocés**  
Director of the Health Technologies and Medicines Division, *Ministry of Health and Social Protection, Colombia*



**Valentin Diaz Garcia**  
Director of the National Health Service System, *CENABAST, Chile*



**Vanessa Teich**  
Health economics superintendent at the, *Albert Einstein Hospital, Brazil*



**Yesenia Diaz**  
Director of Contributory Health Insurance at the *Superintendence of Health and Labor Risks, SISARIL, Dominican Republic*



**Moderated by:** Ursula Giedion, Red Criteria Coordinator, *Inter-American Development Bank*



**12:20-12:30**

**Closing remarks: Key emerging messages**

Bill Savedoff, Principal Health Specialist, *Inter-American Development Bank*