



Universal health

Access and coverage for all

REGIONAL FORUM

Universal Health:

An indispensable Investment for Sustainable Human Development

AGENDA

December 7-8, 2015
PAHO/WHO Headquarters
525 23rd ST NW – Room B
Washington, DC.



**Pan American
Health
Organization**



**World Health
Organization**

REGIONAL OFFICE FOR THE **Americas**

REGIONAL FORUM UNIVERSAL HEALTH: AN INDISPENSABLE INVESTMENT FOR SUSTAINABLE HUMAN DEVELOPMENT

December 7-8, 2015, Washington DC.,

INTRODUCTION

With the approval of the Strategy for universal access to health and universal health coverage (Res. CD53/5, Rev. 2) in the 53rd Directing Council of the Pan American Health Organization, the countries of the Americas Region manifested their commitment to advance in the direction of Universal health, adopting the right to health, equity, and solidarity, as core values. Through an integral approach, the adopted Strategy articulates the conditions that will allow countries to focus and evaluate their policies and measure progress around four simultaneous, interdependent strategic lines:

1. Expanding equitable access to comprehensive, quality, people- and community-centered health services
2. Strengthening stewardship and governance
3. Increasing and improving financing with equity and efficiency, and advancing toward the elimination of direct payments that constitute a barrier to access at the point of service
4. Strengthening multisectoral coordination to address the social determinants of health that ensure the sustainability of universal coverage

Within this framework is that PAHO's Department of Health Systems and Services (HSS) develops its technical cooperation work with countries of the Region understanding that each country has the capacity to establish its own action plan, taking into account its social, economic, political, legal, historical, and cultural context, as well as current and future health challenges.

Several countries are working on the implementation of a road map for Universal health, in which the matter of health financing is critical since a minimal level of resources have to be allocated to the health sector. This effort should be reflected in a fiscal prioritization of health observed as an incremented weight of public health spending as a proportion of total public spending. The goal of public expenditure on health equivalent to 6% of GDP is mentioned in the third strategic line, as a useful benchmark in most cases. In this sense, PAHO has started a line of work on the topic of fiscal space for health in an attempt to analyze potential sources to increase public investment in health that could be considered as policy options to sustain achievements in the direction of Universal health, including priority programs.

The relation between health and development is clearly stated in the Strategy and has gained strength when the United Nations General Assembly unanimously approved the resolution on Global health and foreign policy (Res.A/67/L.36) that emphasizes health as an essential element of international development, and with the approval of the current Sustainable development

agenda this year, in which goal 3 refers to “Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages” (Res. A/69/L.85).

In this context, the proposed activity seeks to promote dialogue, advocacy and the exchange of important experiences between countries and to present a group of studies on the topic of fiscal space. Providing each countries’ participants with tools to favor the dialogue around the matter of prioritizing public investment in health in each national context is an expected outcome.

GENERAL OBJECTIVE

To promote increased public financing for health through greater fiscal space to improve investment in Universal health, analyzing challenges and opportunities of this policy option with countries, international organizations and other strategic partners.

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES

- Facilitate experience exchange between countries of the Region.
- Present and discuss a group of studies on fiscal space and analyze policy options to support decision making process.
- Provide countries with tools to favor social dialogue around the prioritization of public investment in Universal health.

METODOLOGY

The activity will develop as a forum, with presentations by professionals and academics that serve as international reference in Health Economics and Finance and with the presentation of studies on fiscal space for health by PAHO. Two panels about specific country experiences will be developed as well. Time will be given for comments by representatives of multilateral organizations together with questions and discussion among participants.

Simultaneous translation in English and Spanish will be provided.

Sessions: Monday, December 7th

Registration starts 8.30am

9.00 – 9.45 am OPENING SESSION

Carissa Etienne | Director, PAHO/WHO

Luis Almagro | Secretary General, OAS

Inés Bustillo | Washington Office Director, ECLAC

Agnes Soucat | Director, Department of Health Systems Governance and Financing,
WHO

Moderator: James Fitzgerald | Director, Health Systems and Services Dept.,
PAHO/WHO

9.45 – 10.30 am

Keynote address: “Linking Health and Development”

Vicente Ortún Rubio, PhD. | Dean, School of Economic and Business Sciences, University
Pompeu Fabra, Barcelona.

Commentator: George A.O. Alleyne, Director Emeritus, PAHO/WHO

Coffee break

Panels

11.00 – 11.10 am: Methodology and Scope of the Forum

Camilo Cid | Regional Advisor, Health Economics and Financing, PAHO/WHO

11.00 am – 12.30 pm

Panel #1: Presentation of reports on fiscal space for health

Increasing investment in health and improved solidarity: Guest | ECLAC (TBC)

Report on fiscal space for health in the Americas: Camilo Cid | PAHO/WHO

Study on fiscal space for health in Perú: Mauricio Matus | Pablo de Olavide
University, Seville.

Moderator: Claudia Pescetto | PAHO/WHO

Lunch break

Panels (cont.)

1.30 – 3.00 pm

Panel #2: Financial institutions and development partners' perspective on investing in health

Daniel Dulitzky | The World Bank
Chris James | Health Division, OECD
Sanjeev Gupta | International Monetary Fund

Moderator: Ernesto Báscolo | PAHO/WHO

Coffee break

Country experiences

3.15 – 5.15 pm

Panel #3: Investing in Universal health in the Americas I

Mexico: Eduardo González Pier | Vice-Minister for Integration and Development of the Health Sector, Ministry of Health.
Investing in health to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals.

Chile: Verónica Vargas | Alberto Hurtado University
Universal Access with Explicit Guarantees (AUGE) program: implementation and financing.

United States: Jeffrey Harris | Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Affordable Care Act

Comments: Daniel Cotlear | The World Bank

Moderator: Amanda Glassman | Center for Global Development

5.15 –6.00 pm

Launching of the Universal health day

6.00 –8.00 pm

Reception

Sessions: Tuesday, December 8th

Country experiences (cont.)

9.00 – 11.00 am

Panel #4: Investing in Universal Health in Latin America II

Caribbean Region: Karl Theodore | University of West Indies.

Costa Rica: Gustavo Picado | Costa Rica Social Security Administration (CCSS)
Challenges to sustain and increase public investment in health

Brazil: Clementina Corah Lucas Prado | Ministry of Health
Public funding challenges of the Unified Health System (Sistema Único da Saúde)

Colombia: Jairo Restrepo | Antioquia University
Recent developments in health system and financing reform

Comments: Cristian Morales | PAHO/WHO representative, Cuba

Moderator: Wesley Clerveaux | Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Health and Human Services, Turks and Caicos Islands

Coffee break

Concluding remarks

11.15am – 12.00pm

Conclusions: Amalia Del Riego | Unit Chief, Health Services and Access, PAHO/WHO

Closing: Francisco Becerra | Assistant Director, PAHO/WHO