



PARALLEL SESSION 1.4

INTERROGATING [FISCAL/PUBLIC] POLICIES AND POLITICS



| BACKGROUND

As countries pursue their journey towards Universal Health Coverage (UHC), they face an increasing burden of noncommunicable diseases (NCDs), which are now the leading cause of death in the world, killing 40 million people each year and representing 70% of all annual deaths. Eighty percent of NCD — cancer, cardiovascular disease, chronic lung disease and diabetes — deaths occur in low- and middle-income countries, straining health care systems, contributing to poverty and posing a major barrier to development. Prevention and control of NCDs requires new approaches in the health sector, including using fiscal and regulatory policy instruments and other multisectoral interventions. Tobacco use, obesity and risky alcohol abuse are three leading risk factors for the development of NCDs that are amenable to use of such fiscal and regulatory policy instruments.

Given the high human and economic toll posed by NCDs, the prevention of these conditions should be a public health imperative under the UHC agenda. The statistics on these three risk factors are staggering:

- Tobacco use contributes to 7 million deaths annually.
- Obesity contributes to 4 million deaths annually.
- Alcohol abuse contributes to 3.3 million deaths annually, and well to injuries (e.g., due to road traffic crashes).

Existing evidence from around the world, particularly on tobacco taxation, shows that taxing these products can offer a “win-win” for countries strengthening their health systems by increasing both positive health outcomes and domestic resources to fund priority investments and programs. The public health impact, revenue generation and increased equity that could result from taxing specific products all point to the value of a redoubled and sustained effort to support the utilization of this fiscal policy as a global public good. However, this fiscal measure, is underused across the world. Nothing illustrates this more than gains achieved from taxing tobacco over the past couple decades in many countries (World Bank Group Global Tobacco Control Program website: <http://www.worldbank.org/en/topic/tobacco>). The lessons learnt from the use of tobacco taxes, for instance, can also serve for other innovative uses of fiscal policy instruments for public health.

| OBJECTIVES

The objective is to share country experiences and evidence on implementing tax and other fiscal policies for public health, with a focus on experiences from tobacco, alcohol and sugary drinks tax policies that optimally address the dual goals of tobacco, alcohol, and sugary drinks use reduction and domestic resource mobilization to fund priority investments and programs that benefit all. The session will also address barriers to implementation, and focus on “how countries” can best leverage fiscal policies to yield improved health outcomes for their citizens with the added benefit of bringing in additional revenue and enhancing equity.





Moderator

Patricio V. Marquez

Lead Public Health Specialist

World Bank Group (WBG) HNP GP

United States of America

Patricio V. Marquez, from Ecuador, is a World Bank Lead Public Health Specialist, who coordinates the Global Tobacco Control Program and the Global Mental Health initiative at the World Bank Group. He has worked in more than 75 countries across different regions in the world. He co-led the WBG team that designed the Ebola Emergency Response Program for West Africa and prepared the US\$390 million Ebola Emergency Response Project for Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone. He was deployed to WHO Geneva to help coordinate the WB and WHO interface on the Global Response to Ebola over the September-December 2014 period. He also co-led with WHO the Thematic Working Group on Health, Nutrition and Water and Sanitation for the preparation of the UN/WBG/EU/AfDB multi sector Ebola Recovery Assessment Report over January-March 2015. Additionally, he was part of the core teams that prepared the US\$1.3 billion Global Avian Influenza Preparedness and Control Framework Program in 2006, and the US\$1.2 billion Global Food Response Facility in 2008--both covered more than 70 countries across the world. He served as Public Health Focal Point at the Health, Nutrition and Population Global Practice of the World Bank over June 2014-June 2015, and over 2013-2014, he served as Human Development Sector Leader for Ghana, Liberia and Sierra Leone, as well as for Malawi, Zambia and Zimbabwe, based in Accra, Ghana. Prior, he served as Health Cluster Leader for the countries in Southern Africa in 2011-12. During 2004-2011, he worked in the Europe and Central Asia (ECA) region, particularly in the Russian Federation, Georgia, Azerbaijan, and the Central Asian Republics, managing WBG-funded health system reform and disease-specific projects. Over 1988-2003, working as a lead public health specialist, he managed health systems development and science and technology projects funded by the WBG in Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Mexico, Paraguay, and Venezuela, and led the preparation and start up implementation of Multi Country HIV/AIDS Program in the Caribbean Region that covered 9 countries and CARICOM, and that introduced ARV treatment in 2002-among the first programs in the world to do so. Over 2015-2017 he was a member of the Global Work Group of the Advisory Committee to the Director of US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), providing recommendations and counsel global public health issues. He has authored reports on global mental health, tobacco taxation at global and country levels, as well as on non-communicable diseases and road traffic injuries in Sub-Saharan Africa, road safety in Europe and Central Asian countries, the economic cost of road safety globally, the demographic and health crisis, as well as health system challenges in Russia, blood transfusion systems and the spread of HIV in Central Asia, HIV/AIDS in the Caribbean, non-communicable diseases and health systems in Chile, and health system assessments in several countries in Latin America and the Caribbean, Africa, and Eastern Europe. He also co-authored a report on non-communicable diseases (NCDs) in China, a policy brief on NCDs and road traffic injuries in Cambodia, and in 2016/2017 he was part of a team that prepared a global report on the economics of anti-microbial resistance (AMR). He pursued his university studies at the George Washington University and Johns Hopkins University Bloomberg School of Public Health, and done executive program training at Harvard University and London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine.





Panelist

Abdillah Ahsan

Professor

University of Indonesia
Indonesia

Abdillah Ahsan is Associate Professor in Faculty of Economics and Business, University of Indonesia. His academic background is political economy from the University of Indonesia. His main research area is the political economy of tobacco control in Indonesia such as tobacco tax system, illicit cigarette, tobacco farming, tobacco use and poverty, and tobacco tax as innovative funding for Indonesia Universal Health Coverage Program. During his career from 2005 in the political economy of tobacco control in Indonesia, He has collaborated with several international and national partners such as The World Bank Group, World Health Organization, International Development Research Center, Indonesia Social Health Insurance (BPJS Kesehatan), South East Asia Tobacco Control Alliance, The International Union Against Tuberculosis and Lung Disease, and The Center for Tobacco-Free Kids.





Panelist

Alan Fuchs

Senior Poverty Economist

World Bank Group (WBG) Poverty&Equity GP
United States of America

Alan Fuchs is a Senior Economist in the Poverty and Equity Global Practice of the World Bank and the Lead of the Global Solutions Group of Fiscal and Social Policies. He has led operations and analytical work on social inclusion, risk management and fiscal incidence in Latin America and the Caribbean and in Europe and Central Asia. Alan's research focuses on development economics, applied microeconomics, health economics, insurance and energy and has publications at the American Economic Review, American Economic Journal: Economic Policy, American Journal of Agricultural Economics, British Medical Journal. Prior to joining the Bank Alan worked for UNDP and the Mexican Government. Alan holds a PhD from UC Berkeley, MPA/ID from Harvard and B.A. in Economics and a MPP from ITAM, México.





Panelist

Blanca Llorente

Director

Fundación Anaas
Colombia

Blanca Llorente is the research director of Fundación Anáas, a think tank in Colombia. She has more than 10 years of experience in tobacco control and earlier work in market analysis for the financial sector. She has played a key role in advocacy to advance the tobacco tax agenda in Colombia and the Latin America region. Her background includes the promotion of policies and best practices in environmental and public health policies and human rights. Ms. Llorente received her BA in Economics from Universidad Javeriana, and an MSc in Public health from LSHTM University of London. She was previously a researcher, Vice Dean and Research director at the School of Economics in Universidad Sergio Arboleda. She is currently associate researcher at Fundación Salutia and CREER. Her recent work includes: illicit cigarette trade studies in Colombia, collaboration with illicit trade measurement initiatives in the region, and the design of a monitoring system for tax policy in Colombia.





Panelist

Karl Theodore

Director

HEU, Centre for Health Economics, The University of West Indies
Trinidad and Tobago

Prof. Emeritus Karl Theodore is the Director of the HEU, Centre for Health Economics at The University of the West Indies. As a professor of economics at the Department of Economics on the St. Augustine Campus, he taught Public Sector Economics and Fiscal Policy and Development as well as Health Economics. He has also supervised research in these areas for many years. His early work focused on fiscal policy, including tax reform issues, the social sectors including health and social security, and public policy in general. As such, he has functioned in an advisory capacity to many of the regional and international agencies that operate in the Caribbean and where interest is the social sectors. Prof. Theodore over the years has worked closely with the Trade Union Movement, the Credit Union Movement and the Social Security Organizations. His professional work has been mainly directed at protecting the economic position of the ordinary people of our society. He is strong in the belief that the management of our economic affairs has been and continues to be a source of unnecessary hardship to many people. For this reason, he has in the past found it necessary to speak out publicly when economic policies, which he thought were harmful, were being proposed or adapted. In shifting his focus to health Prof. Theodore has concentrated on the efficiency of health systems and on the way these systems touch the lives of the ordinary people in these countries. In this respect much of his work has focused on the health financing system. He has led a multidisciplinary team of professionals in producing a number of technical reports for governments and international agencies and has also produced significant pieces of work on the operations of the health systems in different countries of the Caribbean region. The HEU, Centre for Health Economics (formerly the Health Economics Unit) was founded in 1995 and continues to do extensive work on Health System Strengthening Country Support and related activities in Health, Policy Design and Social Security in the region. Professor Theodore continues to lead a team of professionals with extensive experience in National Health Insurance and Social Security and has co-authored research on fiscal space for the health sector as well as on the economic impact of HIV/AIDS and non-communicable diseases.





Panelist

Lynn Silver

Senior Advisor

Public Health Institute, Berkeley, California
United States of America

Lynn Silver, MD, MPH, FAAP, is a pediatrician, Senior Advisor at the Public Health Institute and Clinical Professor at University of California San Francisco. In diverse roles as a researcher, consumer advocate, and policymaker, she has advocated for public policies for primary prevention of noncommunicable disease and universal access to quality health care. She helps design and advance successful sugar-sweetened beverage taxes in the US, and lead the evaluation of the first such tax in Berkeley, California. In New York City government, she led initiatives including the nation's first trans fat ban, calorie labeling law, active design guidelines, and national salt reduction. She serves as an advisor to PAHO and the World Bank on NCD prevention issues including fiscal policy. Silver was formerly Visiting Scholar at the Karolinska Institute in Stockholm, and professor at the University of Brasilia.





Panelist

Rong Zheng

Professor

University of International Business and Economics, Beijing
China

Dr. Rong Zheng is a tax professor, she leads the WHO Collaborating Center for Tobacco and Economics based at the University of International Business and Economics in Beijing China. She has served as a consultant for The World Bank Group and the World Health Organization and she has been working with several other major global organizations on applying fiscal policies for health promotion in developing countries, particularly on applying taxes on tobacco, alcohol and sweetened beverage. Dr. Zheng has a strong commitment to health improvement and contributed directly to the Chinese tobacco tax reforms in 2009 and 2015 through a number of research projects in collaboration with the Chinese Ministry of Finance and the World Health Organization. In addition to her research and teaching activities, she devotes herself to policy advocacy through training of various administrations, organization of seminars /conferences, and regular interviews with the medias.





Panelist

Seng-Eun Choi

Senior Research Fellow

Korean Institute of Public Finance
Republic of Korea

Seng Eun Choi - Affiliation/ position: Director, the Center for Fiscal Studies on Social Policy/ Senior Research Fellow - Organization: Korea Institute of Public Finance - Major: Public Finance, Health Economics -Fields of Study: Tax and Fiscal Policy, Tobacco Taxation, Health Expenditure, Social Policy -Ph.D. in Economics, Syracuse University -MA in Economics, New York University -B.S., Seoul National University -Member of the Finance Committee, Korean National Health Insurance Corporation -Advisory Committee member on the National Health Promotion Fund, Ministry of Health and Welfare -Member of the Social Social Security Committee, Office for Government Policy Coordination, Prime Minister's Secretariat -Member of the National Basic Livelihood Committee, Ministry of Health and Welfare -Member of Board Directors, Korean Association of Public Finance





Panelist

Sutayut Osornprasop

Senior Human Development Specialist

World Bank Group (WBG) HNP GP

Thailand

Sutayut Osornprasop (Ph.D.) is Senior Human Development Specialist in the Health, Nutrition, Population Global Practice of the World Bank. Based in Bangkok, Sutayut is the Health Cluster Leader for Thailand and has been leading World Bank projects and analytic work to promote multi-sectoral collaboration and social determinants for improved health and nutrition outcomes across the East Asia and the Pacific region. A social scientist by training, he is widely known for his leadership in promoting innovative HIV prevention interventions, promoting multi-sectoral actions to address double burden of malnutrition and the rise of non-communicable diseases and obesity in the East Asia and Pacific region, and supporting sustainable financing and resilient systems for health security and pandemic preparedness. His leadership and contribution to the post-disaster damage and losses assessment of the health sector following Thailand's devastating floods in 2011 is well recognized. He also contributed to the damage and losses assessment of the health sector following Cyclone Nargis in Myanmar in 2008. He has worked on health financing and co-authored public expenditure reviews of the health sector in Thailand and Myanmar. He has also contributed to the efforts to support Palestine on the Universal Health Coverage agenda.



